

Site Name: Whittle Brook

Site Area: 0.82 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SJ522901

Date of Designation: December 2003 **District:** St. Helens

Date of Last Revision: n/a **Local Site Number:** 117

CITATION: A stretch of Whittle Brook which provides habitat for Water voles.

APPRAISAL: This site has been evaluated against the guidelines approved by the Council for selection of Local Sites. The site's evaluation against the guidelines is set out below.

Guideline		Comment
HABITATS		
H1;	Rarity	--
H2;	Diversity	4 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	36 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	1 WCA_SC8 plant species; 1 species of conservation concern; 1 regionally important species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 25 plant species.
SP3;	Naturalness	92% of the plants are native to the borough. Colonisation has
SP4.	Nationally Rare	been aided by man and the site has been physically altered.
ANIMALS		
General		
SP5;	Rare/priority	--
Birds		
B1;	Non-breeding population	--
B2;	Breeding population	--
B3;	Regional rare/scare	--
B4;	Breeding assemblage	--
B5.	Assemblage, breeding, wintering, passage.	--
Dragonflies		
Od1.	Breeding	--
Od2.	Regional rare/scarce	--
Butterflies		
Bf1;	Region rare breeding	--
Bf2.	Breeding assemblage	--
Amphibians		
A1;	Rarity	--
A2.	Exceptional populations	--
Reptiles		
R1;	Population of native species.	--
R2;	Exceptional population	--
Bats		
Bat1;	Roost	--
Bat2.	Assemblage	--
Mammals		
Mam1.	Breeding	Guideline met – Water voles.

SUMMARY: The combination of these factors has led to this site being identified as a Local Site.

NOTE: Validated data from 1981 to December 2003 have been used in this assessment. Other data may become available to support this designation.

Status of features of nature conservation importance

Plants

1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 8 species English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

**1 Species of conservation concern
(UK Biodiversity Action Plan species)** English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

**1 Regionally important species
(North West Biodiversity Audit)** English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

Animals

Mammals

1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 5 species Water voles (*Arvicola aquaticus*)

