

Site Name: Wood Pit Covert

Site Area: 3.72 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SJ570967

Date of Designation: April 1994 **District:** St. Helens

Date of Last Revision: December 2003 **Local Site Number:** 52

CITATION: Woodland which has regenerated on a spoil heap of the former Wood Pit. The woodland has a diverse range of habitats including acid grassland, ponds and marginal vegetation and supports a large number of locally rare species, particularly bryophytes.

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	1 priority BAP habitat; 1 priority Habitats Directive habitat; 2 regionally important habitats.
H2;	Diversity	6 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	29 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	2 regionally important species; 41 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 210 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species.
SP3;	Naturalness	90.95% of the plants are native to the borough. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered.
SP4.	Nationally Rare	--
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	--

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

Habitats

1 Priority BAP habitat	Unimproved acid grassland
1 Priority Habitat Directive habitats	Unimproved acid grassland
2 Regionally important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)	Unimproved acid grassland Standing water - ponds

Plants

2 Regionally important species (North West Biodiversity Audit)	Black Bryony (<i>Tamus communis</i>) Spring Vetch (<i>Vicia lathyroides</i>)
41 Locally rare species	A moss (<i>Amblystegium riparium</i>) A moss (<i>Amblystegium serpens</i> var. <i>serpens</i>) A liverwort (<i>Aneura pinguis</i>) A moss (<i>Aulacomnium androgynum</i>) A moss (<i>Barbula fallax</i>) A moss (<i>Barbula recurvirostra</i>) A moss (<i>Barbula unguiculata</i>) A moss (<i>Bryum capillare</i> var. <i>capillare</i>) A moss (<i>Bryum pseudotriquetrum</i> agg.) A moss (<i>Calliergon cordifolium</i>) A Blue-green scale moss (<i>Calypogeia fissa</i>) A Blue-green scale moss (<i>Calypogeia muelleriana</i>) A liverwort (<i>Cephalozia bicuspidata</i>) A moss (<i>Chiloscyphus polyanthos</i>) A moss (<i>Dicranella rufescens</i>) A moss (<i>Dicranella varia</i>) A moss (<i>Drepanocladus fluitans</i>) Broad-leaved Helleborine (<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>) A moss (<i>Eurhynchium striatum</i>) A moss (<i>Fissidens taxifolius</i> var. <i>taxifolius</i>) A moss (<i>Grimmia pulvinata</i> var. <i>pulvinata</i>) A moss (<i>Gymnocolea inflata</i>) A moss (<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>) A moss (<i>Isothecium myosuroides</i>) Bulbous rush (<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>) A moss (<i>Orthotrichum anomalum</i>) A moss (<i>Plagiothecium curvifolium</i>) A moss (<i>Plagiothecium denticulatum</i> var. <i>denticulatum</i>) A moss (<i>Plagiothecium undulatum</i>) A moss (<i>Pohlia annotina</i>) A moss (<i>Polytrichum commune</i> var. <i>commune</i>) A moss (<i>Polytrichum piliferum</i>) A moss (<i>Rhizomnium punctatum</i>) A moss (<i>Schistidium apocarpum</i> agg.) A moss (<i>Sphagnum fimbriatum</i>) A moss (<i>Sphagnum palustre</i>) A moss (<i>Sphagnum subnitens</i> var. <i>subnitens</i>) A moss (<i>Tortula muralis</i> var. <i>muralis</i>) A moss (<i>Ulota crispa</i> var. <i>norvegica</i>) A moss (<i>Ulota phyllantha</i>) Spring Vetch (<i>Vicia lathyroides</i>)



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URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Wood Pit Covert

PLANNING SECTION

Date: 21 January 2008
 Scale 1:2500
 Grid Ref: 356979, 396746
 Drawn: