

Site Name: Lyme Pit Tip

Site Area: 12.64 hectares

National Grid Reference: SJ565960

Date of Designation: December 1986

District:

St. Helens

Date of Last Revision: December 2003

Local Site Number:

62

CITATION: An extensive area of grassland which has developed around the foot of a disused slag heap. Both acid and neutral habitats are present. The grassland is species rich with over 200 species recorded including a number of regionally and locally important species.

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	3 priority BAP habitats; 3 priority Habitats Directive habitats; 4 regionally important habitats; 1 locally uncommon habitat.
H2;	Diversity	15 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	--
H4.	Isolation	38 sites within 1Km.
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	6 regionally important species; 7 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 218 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species.
SP3;	Naturalness	86.24% 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

3 Priority BAP habitats

Unimproved acid grassland
Unimproved neutral grassland
Swamp tall fen vegetation

3 Priority Habitat Directive habitats

Unimproved acid grassland
Unimproved neutral grassland
Swamp tall fen vegetation

4 Regionally Important habitats

Unimproved acid grassland
Unimproved neutral grassland
Marshy grassland
Swamp tall fen vegetation

1 Locally uncommon habitat

Semi-natural coniferous woodland

Plants

6 Regionally important species

Ladies mantle (*Alchemilla filicaulis* Ssp. *vestita*)
Yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*)
Northern Marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza purpurella*)
Grey Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*)
A moss (*Tamus communis*)
Field Penny-cress (*Thlaspi arvense*)

7 Locally rare species

Ladies mantle subspecies (*Alchemilla filicaulis* Ssp. *vestita*)
Black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*)
Grey Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*)
Hoary Ragwort (*Senecio erucifolius*)
Sand Spurry (*Spergularia rubra*)
Field Penny-cress (*Thlaspi arvense*)
Common vetch subspecies (*Vicia sativa* ssp. *segetalis*)

