

**Site Name:** Old Hey Wood

**Site Area:** 1.65 hectares

**National Grid Reference:** SJ579942

**Date of Designation:** December 1986

**District:** St. Helens

**Date of Last Revision:** December 2003

**Local Site Number:** 93

**CITATION:** A narrow strip of woodland on steep banks leading down to St. Helens canal with marginal vegetation occurring along the banks of the St. Helens canal. The site contains stands of English bluebell and is important for 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.

<b>Guideline</b>		<b>Comment</b>
<b>HABITATS</b>		
H1;	Rarity	1 regionally important habitat.
H2;	Diversity	7 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	26 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
<b>PLANTS</b>		
SP1;	Rarity	1 WCA_SC8 plant species; 1 species of conservation concern; 1 regionally important species; 5 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 162 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species.
SP3;	Naturalness	80.25% of the plants are native to the borough. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered.
SP4.	Nationally Rare	--
<b>ANIMALS</b>		
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 Regionally important habitat  
(North West Biodiversity Audit)** Standing water

#### Plants

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

**1 Species of conservation concern** English Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

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

**5 Locally rare species**  
A moss (*Calypogeia muelleriana*)  
A moss (*Fissidens taxifolius*)  
Bitter Vetch (*Lathyrus linifolius* var. *montanus*)  
Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria* Ssp. *ficaria*)  
A moss (*Ulota crispa*)

