

Site Name: Grassland South of Towpath, Sankey Valley Park

Site Area: 2.56 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SJ567948

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

Date of Last Revision: n/a **Local Site Number:** 83

CITATION: An extensive grassland area within Sankey Valley Park which provides important butterfly habitat. Other habitats include swamp and woodland adding to the diversity of the site.

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	2 Priority BAP habitats; 2 priority Habitats Directive habitats; 2 regionally important habitats; 2 locally uncommon habitats.
H2;	Diversity	4 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	26 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	34 Locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 75 plant species.
SP3;	Naturalness	96% 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	Guideline met.
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

2 Priority BAP habitats

Unimproved neutral grassland
Swamp

2 Priority Habitat Directive habitats

Unimproved neutral grassland
Swamp

2 Regionally Important Habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)

Mixed semi-natural woodland
Unimproved neutral grassland

Plants

34 Locally rare species

A moss (*Amblystegium riparium*)
A moss (*Amblystegium serpens* var. *serpens*)
A moss (*Aulacomnium androgynum*)
A moss (*Barbula cylindrical*)
A moss (*Barbula fallax*)
A moss (*Barbula recurvirostra*)
A moss (*Barbula tophacea*)
A moss (*Barbula unguiculata*)
A moss (*Brachythecium albicans*)
A moss (*Bryum algovicum* var. *rutheanum*)
A moss (*Bryum capillare* var. *capillare*)
A moss (*Bryum microerthrocarpum*)
A moss (*Calypogeia arguta*)
A moss (*Calypogeia muelleriana*)
A moss (*Campylium stellatum* var. *stellatum*)
A moss (*Cephalozia bicuspidata*)
A moss (*Dicranella staphylina*)
A moss (*Distichium capillaceum*)
A moss (*Drepanocladus aduncus*)
A moss (*Fissidens taxifolius* var. *taxifolius*)
A moss (*Grimmia pulvinata* var. *pulvinata*)
A liverwort (*Gymnocolea inflata*)
A moss (*Homalothecium sericeum*)
A liverwort (*Metzgeria furcata*)
A moss (*Plagiothecium denticulatum* var. *denticulatum*)
A moss (*Polytrichum commune* var. *commune*)
A moss (*Pottia truncate*)
A liverwort (*Preesia quadrata*)
A moss (*Rhizomnium punctatum*)
A moss (*Riccia glauca*)
A moss (*Schistidium apocarpum* agg.)
A moss (*Tortula laevipila* var. *laevipila*)
A moss (*Tortula muralis* var. *muralis*)
A moss (*Ulota crispa* agg.)

