

Site Name: St. Helens Canal, Broad Oak Basin and Frog Hall

Site Area: 5.56 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SJ542958

Date of Designation: December 1986 **District:** St. Helens

Date of Last Revision: December 2003 **Local Site Number:** 64

CITATION: This site includes St. Helens canal and a series of three ponds which support a good range of marginal and aquatic plants. Diverse acid grassland surrounds the canal. Both the canal and grassland support a number of regionally and locally important plant 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.
H2;	Diversity	14 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	17 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	2 regionally important species; 3 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 130 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species.
SP3;	Naturalness	86.15% 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
Marsh
Eutrophic standing water

3 Priority Habitat Directive habitats

Unimproved acid grassland
Marsh
Eutrophic standing water

4 Regionally important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)

Unimproved acid grassland
Marshy grassland
Marsh
Standing water

Plants

2 Regionally important species (North West Biodiversity Audit)

Yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*)
Fan-leaved Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus circinatus*)

3 Locally rare species

Spiked Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)
Fan-leaved Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus circinatus*)
Great Yellow-cress (*Rorippa amphibia*)

