

Site Name: Thatto Heath Meadow

Site Area: 4.51 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SJ507937

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

Date of Last Revision: December 2003 **Local Site Number:** 100

CITATION: A remnant meadow system within the urban area. The meadows consist of unimproved grassland with a network of hedgerows. A stream valley runs through 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	3 priority BAP habitats; 3 priority Habitats Directive habitats; 4 regionally important habitats.
H2;	Diversity	20 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	--
H4.	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	1 WCA_SC8 plant species; 1 species of conservation concern; 1 regionally important species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 149 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species.
SP3;	Naturalness	82.6% 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 habitat

Unimproved acid grassland
Unimproved neutral grassland
Single species dominant swamp

3 Priority Habitat Directive habitat

Unimproved acid grassland
Unimproved neutral grassland
Single species dominant swamp

4 Regionally Important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)

Unimproved acid grassland
Unimproved neutral grassland
Marshy grassland
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

English Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

