

Site Name: St. Helens Canal, South of Haresfinch Burgy

Site Area: 0.72 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SJ518962

Date of Designation: April 1994 **District:** St. Helens

Date of Last Revision: December 2003 **Local Site Number:** 56

CITATION: A canalised section of Rainford Brook with good water quality. The north bank and slope are composed of burgy waste from glass manufacture and contain a number of regionally and locally important species including species more usually associated with salt marshes.

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	1 Priority BAP habitat; 1 priority Habitats Directive habitat; 1 regionally important habitat; 1 locally uncommon habitat.
H2;	Diversity	6 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	15 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	3 regionally important species; 3 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 127 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species.
SP3;	Naturalness	92.91% 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

1 Priority BAP habitat	Saltmarsh
1 Priority Habitat Directive habitat	Saltmarsh
1 Regionally important habitat (North West Biodiversity Audit)	Saltmarsh
1 Locally uncommon habitat	Saltmarsh

Plants

3 Regionally important species (North West Biodiversity Audit)	Reflexed Saltmarsh-grass (<i>Puccinellia distans</i>) Northern Dock (<i>Rumex longifolius</i>) Common comfrey (<i>Symphytum officinale</i>)
3 Locally rare species	Various-leaved Water-starwort (<i>Callitriche sp. (platycarpa)</i>) Reflexed Saltmarsh-grass (<i>Puccinellia distans</i>) Northern Dock (<i>Rumex longifolius</i>)

