

**Site Name:** Haydock Cross

**Site Area:** 0.70 hectares      **National Grid Reference:** SJ573981

**Date of Designation:** April 1994 (part)      **District:** St. Helens

**Date of Last Revision:** December 2003      **Local Site Number:** 31

**CITATION:** Great crested newts were translocated to this site in 1998. Monitoring of the site has shown that the translocated Great crested newt population has established and is being maintained on this site. In addition this is a botanically diverse site with a number of nationally, regionally and locally important habitats.

**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	2 priority BAP habitats; 2 priority Habitats Directive habitats; 4 regionally important habitats.
H2;	Diversity	10 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	--
H4.	Isolation	--
<b>PLANTS</b>		
SP1;	Rarity	1 WCA_SC8 species; 1 species of conservation concern; 3 regionally important species; 3 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 126 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species.
SP3;	Naturalness	92.1% 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	Guideline met – Great crested newt.
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 tall fen vegetation

**2 Priority Habitat Directive habitats** Unimproved neutral grassland  
Swamp tall fen vegetation

**4 Regionally Important habitats  
(North West Biodiversity Audit)** Unimproved neutral grassland  
Marshy grassland  
Standing water - pond  
Swamp tall fen vegetation

#### Plants

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

**1 Species of conservation concern  
(UK Biodiversity Action Plan species)** English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)  
Western Gorse (*Ulex gallii*)

**3 Regionally important species  
(North West Biodiversity Audit)** Yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*)  
English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)  
Western Gorse (*Ulex gallii*)

**3 Locally rare species** Silver Hair-grass (*Aira caryophyllea*)  
Western Gorse (*Ulex gallii*)  
Smooth Tare (*Vicia tetrasperma*)

#### Animals

##### **Amphibians**

**1 Habitats Directive species** Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

**1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 5 species** Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

