

Site Name: Windlehurst Sedgemarksh

Site Area: 1.7 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SJ508973

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

Date of Last Revision: December 2003 **Local Site Number:** 42

CITATION: The only example of a sedgemarksh in St. Helens. The site has not received any management in the last 20 years and has formed a wet woodland cover with the sedgemarksh intact beneath it.

APPRAISAL: This site has been evaluated against the guidelines approved by the Council in 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 Habitat Directive habitat; 1 regionally important habitat.
H2;	Diversity	8 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	17 sites within 1 Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	2 regionally important species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 101 plant species. One of 58 sites with 100 or more species.
SP3;	Naturalness	90.1% of the plants are native to the borough. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered.
SP4.	Nationally Rare	--
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	Swamp
1 Priority Habitat Directive habitat	Swamp
1 Regionally Important habitat (North West Biodiversity Audit)	Standing water - pond

Plants

2 Regionally important species (North West Biodiversity Audit)	Cyperus Sedge (<i>Carex psuedocyperus</i>) Common comfrey (<i>Symphytum officinale</i>)
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