

Site Name: Newton Brook 05

Site Area: 2.92 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SJ590947

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

Date of Last Revision: December 2003 **Local Sites Number:** 86

CITATION: A section of Newton Brook with adjacent flood plain habitat. This section of the brook is diverse and includes stream, marginal vegetation, scrub and sandstone bank habitats. The site supports a number of nationally, regionally and locally important 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	1 priority BAP Habitat; 1 priority Habitats Directive habitat; 2 regionally important habitats
H2;	Diversity	13 habitats recorded
H3;	Nearness	27 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	1 nationally rare; 1 regionally important species; 3 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 113 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species.
SP3;	Naturalness	85.84% of the plants are native to the borough. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered.
SP4.	Nationally Rare	<i>Rorippa islandica</i> - to be confirmed
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		
R2;	Exceptional population	--
Bats		
Bat1;	Roost	--
Bat2.	Assemblage	--
Mammals		
Mam1.	Breeding	Guideline met - water voles

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 Unimproved neutral grassland

1 Priority Habitat Directive habitat Unimproved neutral grassland

**1 Regionally Important Habitats
(North West Biodiversity Audit)** Unimproved neutral grassland
Natural acid exposure

Plants

1 Nationally rare species Marsh Yellow-cress (*Rorippa islandica*)

1 Regionally important species Small-flowered Crane's-bill (*Geranium pusillum*)

2 Locally rare species A Liverwort (*Conocephalum conicum*)
Small-flowered Crane's-bill (*Geranium pusillum*)
Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*)

Animals

Mammals

1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 5 species Water vole (*Arvicola aquaticus*)

