

**Site Name:** Newton Common and Pond

**Site Area:** 3.04 hectares      **National Grid Reference:** SJ559952

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

**Date of Last Revision:** December 2003      **Local Site Number:** 74

**CITATION:** Field ponds with well developed marginal vegetation. Marshy grassland including remnants of relict heath surrounds the ponds. Previous survey found Great crested newts, however further survey is required to meet amphibian criteria A1.

**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 regionally important habitats; 1 locally uncommon habitat. 5 habitats recorded. -- 5 sites within 1Km.
H2;	Diversity	
H3;	Nearness	
H4.	Isolation	
<b>PLANTS</b>		
SP1;	Rarity	2 species of conservation concern; 4 regionally important species; 6 locally rare species. Total of 62 plant species. 100% of the plants are native to the borough. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered. --
SP2;	Diversity	
SP3;	Naturalness	
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	-- Further survey required to meet criteria.
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 Regionally important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)**

Marshy grassland  
Standing water

#### **1 Locally uncommon habitat**

Wet heath / acid grassland mosaic

### Plants

#### **2 Species of conservation concern**

Ivy-leaved Crowfoot (*Ranunculus hederaceus*)  
Western gorse (*Ulex gallii*)

#### **4 Regionally important species (North West Biodiversity Audit)**

Lesser Marshwort (*Apium inundatum*)  
Bog Pondweed (*Potamogeton polygonifolius*)  
Ivy-leaved Crowfoot (*Ranunculus hederaceus*)  
Western gorse (*Ulex gallii*)

#### **6 Locally rare species**

Lesser Marshwort (*Apium inundatum*)  
Various-leaved Water Starwort (*Callitriche sp.  
(platycarpa)*)  
Bog Pondweed (*Potamogeton polygonifolius*)  
Ivy-leaved Crowfoot (*Ranunculus hederaceus*)  
Round-leaved Crowfoot (*Ranunculus omiophyllus*)  
Western gorse (*Ulex gallii*)

### Animals

#### **Amphibians**

##### **1 Habitat Regulations species**

Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

##### **1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 5 species**

Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)



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URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Newton Common Pond

PLANNING SECTION

Date: 22 January 2008  
 Scale 1:2000  
 Grid Ref: 355863, 395330  
 Drawn:

