

Site Name: Ravenhead Ponds

Site Area: 2.04 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SJ515942

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

Date of Last Revision: December 2003 **Local Site Number:** 92

CITATION: This site is part of the Ravenhead Greenway and consists of two ponds with swamp and marginal vegetation. The site contains a number of regionally and locally important species including several species associated with coastal 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.

Guideline		Comment
HABITATS		
H1;	Rarity	3 priority BAP habitats; 3 priority Habitats Directive habitats; 3 regionally important habitats.
H2;	Diversity	11 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	16 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	1 regionally important species; 5 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 142 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species.
SP3;	Naturalness	87.32% 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

3 Priority BAP habitats

Unimproved neutral grassland
Single species dominant swamp
Swamp tall fen vegetation

3 Priority Habitat Directive habitats

Unimproved neutral grassland
Single species dominant swamp
Swamp tall fen vegetation

3 Regionally important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)

Unimproved neutral grassland
Swamp tall fen vegetation
Standing water

Plants

1 Regionally important species (North West Biodiversity Audit)

Red Goosefoot (*Chenopodium rubrum*)

5 Locally rare species

Thyme-leaved Sandwort (*Arenaria serpyllifolia*)
Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*)
Red Goosefoot (*Chenopodium rubrum*)
Hybrid Willow (*Salix x reichardtii*)
Upright Hedge-parsley (*Torilis japonica*)



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URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Ravenhead Ponds

PLANNING SECTION

Date: 23 January 2008

Scale 1:2000

Grid Ref: 351444,394159

Drawn: