

Site Name: Leg O' Mutton Dam and Woodland

Site Area: 2.74 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SJ491951

Date of Designation: December 2003 **District:** St. Helens

Date of Last Revision: N/A **Local Site Number:** 77

CITATION: A disused industrial dam with aquatic, marsh and marginal habitats. The lake is surrounded by both wet and dry semi-natural woodland providing habitat for nationally, regionally and locally rare plant species as well as a breeding site for a number of damselfly and dragonfly 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	2 priority BAP habitats; 2 priority Habitats Directive habitats; 2 regionally important habitats.
H2;	Diversity	15 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	27 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	1 WCA_SC8 plant species; 1 species of conservation concern; 2 regionally important species; 3 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 132 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species.
SP3;	Naturalness	84.85% 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	Guideline met – Red-eyed damselfly.
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	--

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 species of nature conservation importance

Habitats

2 Priority BAP habitats

Single species dominant swamp
Swamp tall fen vegetation

2 Priority Habitat Directive habitats

Single species dominant swamp
Swamp tall fen vegetation

2 Regionally Important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)

Single species dominant swamp
Standing water - pond

Plants

1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 8 species

English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

1 Species of conservation concern

English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

2 Regionally important species

English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)
Common comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*)

3 Locally rare species

Grey Poplar (*Populus x canescens*)
Laurel-leaved Willow (*Salix x laurina*)
Steeple-bush (*Spiraea douglassi*)

Animals

Odonata

1 North Merseyside rare or scarce species

Red-eyed damselfly (*Erythromma najas*)

