Site Name: Mersey Valley Golf Course

Site Area: 48.2 hectares National Grid Reference: SJ542893

Date of Designation: December 2003 District: St. Helens

Date of Last Revision: n/a Local Wildlife Site Number: 118

CITATION: A golf course containing a number of ponds and hedgerows. The ponds provide habitat for the

regionally important species Rigid Hornwort, whilst the hedgerows contain a number of locally

rare species.

APPRAISAL: This site has been evaluated against the guidelines approved by the Council for selection of Local

Wildlife Sites. The site's evaluation against the guidelines is set out below.

Guideline		Comment
HABITATS		
H1;	Rarity	1 regionally important habitat.
H2;	Diversity	8 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	20 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	1 regionally important species; 4 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 116 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100
,		species.
SP3;	Naturalness	92.2% 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	Transfiany rears	
General		
SP5;	Rare/priority	
Birds	rtare, priority	
B1;	Non-breeding	
	population	
B2;	Breeding population	
B3;	Regional rare/scare	
B4;	Breeding assemblage	
B5.	Assemblage, breeding,	
Б5.	wintering, passage.	-
Dragonflies	willtering, passage.	
Od1.	Breeding	
Od2.	Regional rare/scarce	
Butterflies	Regional rate/scarce	
Bf1;	Region rare breeding	
Bf2.		
Amphibians	Breeding assemblage	
Amphibians A1;	Rarity	
A1, A2.	Exceptional populations	
	Exceptional populations	
Reptiles R1;	Population of native	
Γ.1,	Population of native species.	
R2;	Exceptional population	
	Exceptional population	
Bats Bat1;	Roost	
Bat2.	Assemblage	
Mammals	Brooding	
Mam1.	Breeding	

SUMMARY: The combination of these factors has led to this site being identified as a Local Wildlife 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 Regionally Important habitats Standing water - ponds

<u>Plants</u>

1 Regionally important species Rigid Hornwort (Ceratphyllum demersum)

4 Locally rare species Sun Spurge (*Euphorbia helioscopia*)

Black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) Common fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis*) Hybrid willow (*Salix x reichardtii*)