

Site name: Grange Hill, West Kirby
Ward: West Kirby & Thurstaston
Area: 9.8 ha
Date of Notification: 1983
Date of Revision: 2017
Status: Owned by WMBC

Site code: B2
Grid Reference: SJ219871

Description:

Former remnant lowland heath (reason for citation), but now mainly a scrub of gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) with appreciable spreading amounts of bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.); some grassland, by the war memorial and kept mown. Ivy (*Hedera helix*) is spreading rapidly from the southern boundary towards the war memorial and also occurs in other currently small areas. Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), western gorse (*U. gali*) and bell heather (*Erica cinerea*) occur in very small amounts among gorse, on quarry edge and other places which are inaccessible to people. Broad-leaved woodland occurs on lower slopes and hollows, particularly west, south and old quarry (north). Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is dominant with silver birch (*Betula pendula*) and rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). Fires occur, sometimes frequently, during the summer.

Geological interest centres on the exposures showing the contact between the Bunter and Keuper sandstones, along with interesting sedimentary features.

The botanical situation no longer merits SBI classification; however a recent study by members of the University of Liverpool shows a very good number of Common Lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*); on the basis of these data Grange Hill will meet criteria for designation as a Local Wildlife Site; hence interim SBI status should be retained.

Criteria for selection: (iv)

Habitats:

Scrub
Woodland - broadleaved (plantation)
Heathland - dry heath

Percentage:

<5%

Most recent survey:

Plants	2005
Invertebrates	1988
Birds	2007
Common Lizard	2013

CONFIDENTIAL: