

**Oldham Borough Council  
Record of Decision**



1. **TITLE:** Report on Update of Sites of Biological Importance
2. **SERVICE AREA:** Planning Services
3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

The reason for this decision is to adopt changes, which have occurred to designated Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs) within the borough. Changes are outlined in Appendix 2 and Appendix 1 provides maps of the SBIs with boundary amendments. This includes Hull Brook (Grade A) which has had a net loss of 0.6 hectares (due to agricultural improvement) and Ponds at Cowlshaw Farm (Grade B), which gained 0.1 hectares due to an increase in swamp present.

Tame Water Woodland and Hey Bank were also reviewed but had no significant changes. Oldham has a total of 38 SBIs, which has increased overtime from 18 since 1984 (please see Appendix 3 for fact sheet).

4. **DECISION MADE BY:** Director of Economy

5. **DECISION:**

RESOLVED - That:

To adopt the changes to the SBIs as outlined in Appendix 2. The advantage to this option is that the changes to SBIs will be subject to the principles set out in NPPF of avoid, mitigate and as a last resort compensate any harm.

6. **REASON FOR DECISION**

Option 1 - Option 1 - To adopt the changes to the SBIs as outlined in Appendix 2. The advantage of this option is that the changes to SBIs will be subject to the principles set out in NPPF to avoid, mitigate and as a last resort compensate any harm. There are no disadvantages to this option. If development was proposed, it would be expected to comply with NPPF and Local Plan policies.

Option 2 - Option 2 - Not to adopt the changes to the SBIs as outlined in Appendix 2. There are no advantages to this option. The disadvantage is that boundary changes will not have been adopted and therefore the full extent of the SBI's may not be given due consideration under NPPF and the Local Plan.

7. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Option 2 - Not to adopt the changes to the SBIs as outlined in Appendix 2. There are no advantages to this option. The disadvantage is that boundary changes will not have been adopted and therefore the full extent of the SBI's may not be given due consideration under NPPF and the Local Plan.

8. **INTERESTS AND NATURE OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

None



**Oldham**  
Council

9. **PRINCIPAL GROUPS CONSULTED:**  
Detailed in the report
10. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** SBI Delegated Officer Decision signed.pdf  
Appendix 1 Ponds at Cowlshaw Map.pdf  
Appendix 1 Hull Brook Map.pdf  
Appendix 2 Oldham District Synopsis 2020.pdf  
Appendix 3 Oldham Fact sheet.pdf