

SBI REVIEW - 2020

OLDHAM – DISTRICT SYNOPSIS



Due to Covid pandemic in the review year January – December 2020, the Ecology Unit visited 4 SBIs, representing some 10% of Oldham's SBIs.

During the review period no sites were added or removed from the Register.

Hull Brook lost 1.3ha of grassland to agricultural improvement but gain 0.7ha of additional marsh habitats, resulting in net loss of 0.6ha.

Ponds at Cowlshaw Farm gained 0.1ha due to an increase in the area of swamp present.

The following sites had no significant changes since their last review and no updated citations were required so only a monitoring form was completed: **Tame Water Woodland** and **Hey Bank**.

Technical gains and losses are often due to the increasing accuracy used to draw boundaries and measure areas. Techniques used include orthorectified aerial photographs, which can be overlaid on the GIS system with the OS map base. This enables boundaries to be drawn to the edges of habitats where a clearly definable ground feature (e.g. fences, walls, streams) is not appropriate to use. In addition site areas are automatically calculated by the GIS system and a new OS base was acquired in 2021. There were no such gains or losses in 2020.