

## **SBI REVIEW - 2022**

### **OLDHAM – DISTRICT SYNOPSIS**



Due to the ongoing effects of the Covid pandemic in the review year January – December 2022, the Ecology Unit visited 6 SBIs and potential SBIs, representing some 15% of Oldham's SBIs.

During the review period, no sites were removed from the Register.

**Ladcastle Heath**, an area of 4.9ha of mostly upland heath and acid grassland, was added to the register.

**Medlock Headwater & Strinesdale** gained 0.4ha due to the inclusion of additional areas of woodland.

**Moorgate Quarry** gained 0.1ha due for technical reasons (see below)

**Armit Road Lodge** lost 0.3ha due the degradation of the grassland habitat due to lack of management.

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.

Ashes Clough and Thornley Brook Wood were also visited to be assessed for SBI potential but further survey is required once permitted development has been completed.