

APPENDIX 2 – BASELINE REVIEW**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT****SA Objective 11: To maintain and improve biodiversity and natural habitats**

Indicator: Number and total area of internationally and nationally designated nature conservation and geologically important sites and reported condition

Type of Site	Number of Sites	Condition of Sites	Total Site Area (Hectares)
Special Protection Areas (EU)/	2 designated		18108.2
Ramsar sites	1 proposed		2089.41
Special Areas of Conservation (EU)	1 proposed		15,754.94
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	12	See below	7,129
Sites of Biological Importance	71	Not reported	756.7
Local Nature Reserves	5	Not reported	185.4
Site of Local Importance for Earth Science	17	Not reported	221.1

Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest as at January 1st 2007

SSSI name	Condition Status
New Ferry SSSI	100% favourable
Mersey Narrows SSSI	100% favourable
North Wirral Foreshore SSSI	100% favourable
Red Rocks SSSI	100% favourable
Dee Cliffs SSSI	13.07% unfavourable (no change) 86.93% unfavourable (recovering)
Thurstaston Common SSSI	0.71% favourable condition 99.29% unfavourable (no change)
The Dungeon SSSI	100% favourable
Dibbinsdale SSSI	8.22% favourable 91.78% unfavourable (no change)
Heswall Dales SSSI	100% unfavourable (recovering)
Meols Meadows SSSI	86.89% unfavourable (no change) 13.11% unfavourable (declining)
Mersey Estuary SSSI	99.95% favourable 0.05% unfavourable (recovering)
Dee Estuary SSSI	29.71% favourable 70.29% unfavourable (recovering)

SA Objective 12: To minimise pollution to land water or air

Indicator: Population living in air quality management areas

For the period April 1st to March 31st Wirral has declared no (zero) Air Quality management areas, therefore no person in the Wirral resides in an Air Quality Management Area.

‘Since December 1997 Wirral has been carrying out a review and assessment of air quality throughout the borough. This involves measuring air pollution and trying to predict how it will change in the next few years. The aim of the review is to make sure that the national air quality objectives will be achieved throughout the UK by the relevant deadlines. These objectives have been put in place to protect people’s health and the environment.

If a local authority finds any places where the objectives are not likely to be achieved, it must declare an Air Quality Management Area and implement a strategy in order to improve the whole of the affected area’.

(Source Local Air Quality Management Archive)

Indicator: The number of days air pollution is moderate or high.

The local air quality is measured and recorded daily on a scale of 1 –10 where 1 corresponds to ‘Low’ pollution and 10 corresponds to ‘Very High’ pollution.

Scale 1-3 corresponds to ‘low’ air pollution levels: *“Effects are unlikely to be noticed even by individuals who know they are sensitive to air pollutants”.*

Scale 4-6 corresponds to ‘Moderate’ levels: *“Mild effects, unlikely to require action, may be noticed amongst sensitive individuals”.*

Scale 7-9 corresponds to ‘High’ levels: *“Significant effects may be noticed by sensitive individuals and action to avoid or reduce these effects may be needed (e.g. reducing exposure by spending less time in polluted areas outdoors). Asthmatics will find that their ‘reliever’ inhaler is likely to reverse the effects on the lung”.*

Scale 10 corresponds to ‘Very High’ levels: *“The effects on sensitive individuals described for ‘High’ levels of pollution may worsen”.*

In 2004 Wirral experienced 63 days where the air pollution levels were described as ‘moderate’ (scale 4-6), however there were no (zero) days where the air pollution level was ‘high’ or ‘very high’ (scale 7-10). Therefore in 2004 17.3% of days Wirral’s air pollution level exceeded the low pollution scale (1-3).

Indicator: Proportion of rivers registering good or fair for chemical and biological river quality (please refer to environment agency website for river quality definition

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/yourenv/eff/1190084/water/213902/river_qual/?lang=e).

Biology

	Good (%)	Fair (%)	Poor (%)	Bad (%)	Total km
Wirral	0.00	77.04	22.96	0.00	21.75
North West	55.34	33.92	9.24	1.51	4696

Source: Environment Agency General Quality Assessment 2004.

Overall just over three-quarters (77.04%) of Wirral's river lengths measured good or fair for biological quality. However 0% of river length was classified as being in 'Good' biological condition compared to 55.34% for the North West region. Just under a quarter (22.96%) of Wirral's rivers measured 'Poor' for biological quality, this does not compare favourably with the North West figure of 9.24%, however the borough's rivers are not measured as 'bad' on any length.

Chemistry

	Good (%)	Fair (%)	Poor (%)	Bad (%)	Total km
Wirral	0.00	5.63	78.23	16.13	31
North West	60.8	30.71	6.9	1.59	5428

Source: Environment Agency General Quality Assessment 2004.

Wirral has just 5.63% of its river length classified as being in 'Good' or 'Fair' chemical condition. Wirral again has 0% of river length was classified as being in 'Good' chemical condition compared to 60.8% for the North West region. 94.36% of river length for wirral was classified as being 'Poor' or 'Bad' for chemical quality compared to 8.49% for the North West.

Indicator: Number of beaches and coastal areas gaining international blue flag status

"The Blue Flag works towards sustainable development at beaches/marinas through strict criteria dealing with water quality, environmental education and information, environmental management, and safety and other services".

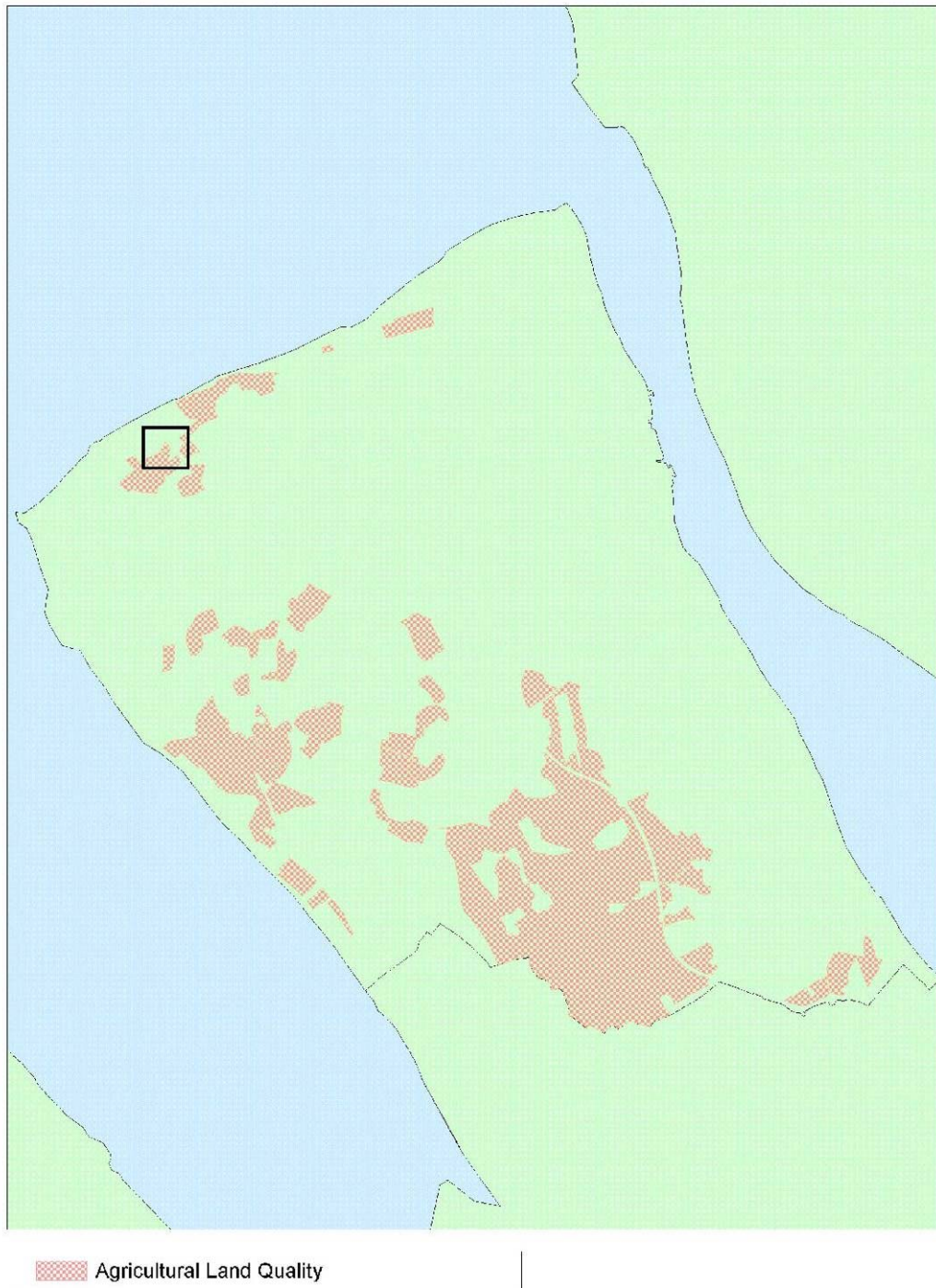
Wirral currently has no (zero) beaches that have been awarded the blue flag status from three beaches inspected.

Indicator: Number and area of Part 2A contaminated sites

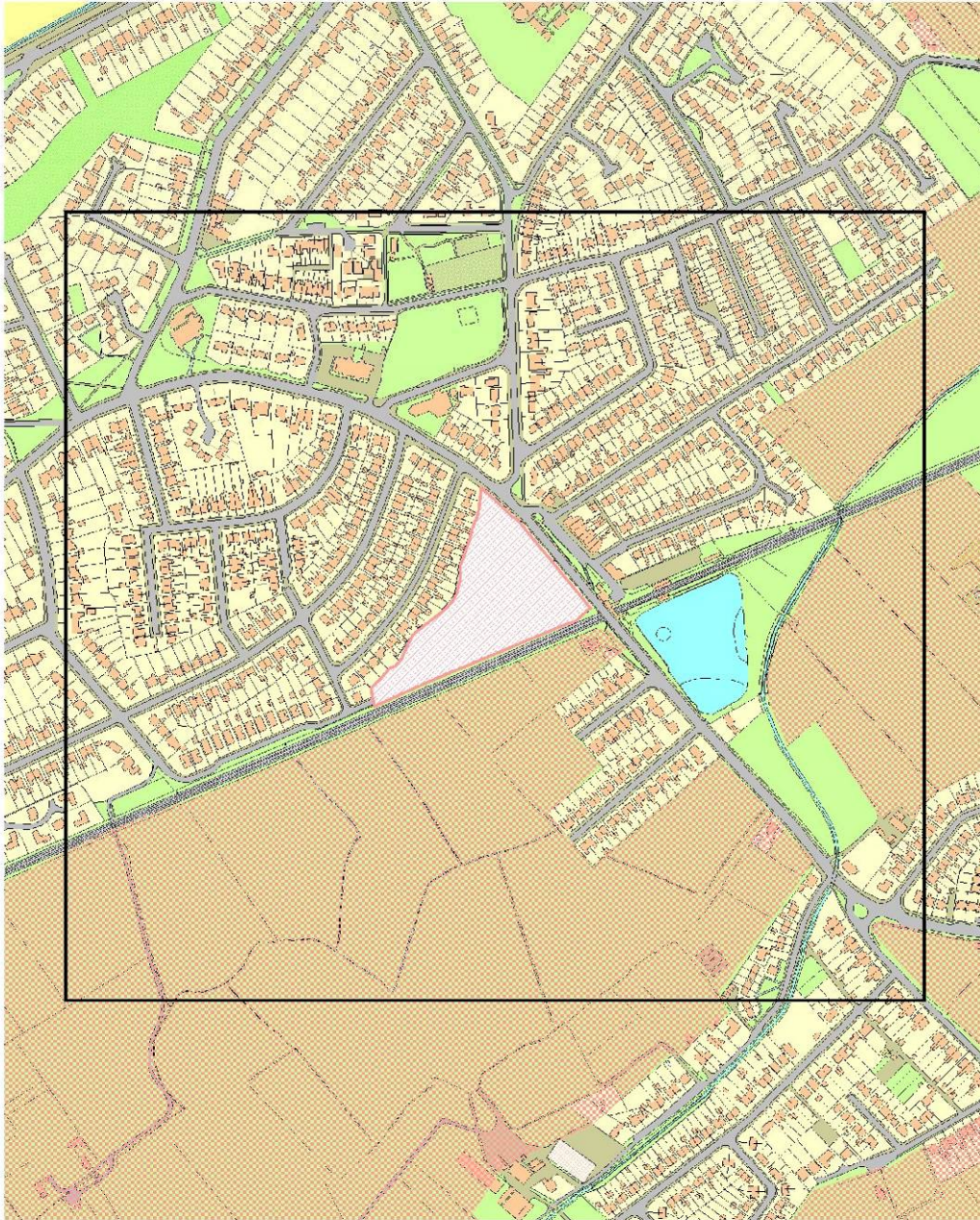
Data to be collected

Indicator: Area and percentage of high quality agricultural land lost to development

Currently the borough has 2,766 hectares of quality agricultural land. In July 1997 1.7 hectares was lost to a development of 37 residential dwellings (identified within the enlarged square refer to map below), this equates to 0.06% of the total high quality agricultural land area.



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council. Licence Number LA 100019803. Published 2005.



 Area of High Quality Agricultural Land Lost to Development (1.7 Hectares)

 Agricultural Land Quality

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council. Licence Number LA 100019803. Published 2005.