

Strategic Objective 5 – Environmental Quality

Summary of Comments Received	Recommended Response
Support Strategic Objective 5 but concerned at the lack of access to a dedicated Archeological Officer when determining planning applications.	No change is recommended because access to a dedicated archeological officer is not a matter for the Core Strategy and the Council has access to specialist archeological advice through its existing conservation staff.
Concerned that heritage may be demoted to a supplementary planning document which would not carry the same weight as the Development Plan.	No change is recommended, as paragraph 4.18 specifically refers to the preparation of a Heritage Local Plan, which will carry the same weight as the Core Strategy once adopted.
Biodiversity is not mentioned in any of the Strategic Objectives, and environmental assets are not defined.	No change is recommended to Strategic Objective 5 which refers to ensuring "that development will preserve and enhance locally distinctive characteristics and assets". Paragraph 4.16 already specifically refers to "wildlife", paragraph 4.17 to supporting the findings of the Wirral Biodiversity Audit and it is clear from other policies, particularly Policy CS33 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity, that biodiversity will be protected and enhanced by the Core Strategy. The range of other environmental assets is also clear from the supporting text and the scope of other policies in the Core Strategy.
The words "and other biodiversity, geodiversity and heritage assets", should be added to Strategic Objective 5 and/or to paragraph 4.16	No change is recommended, as Strategic Objective 5 already refers to preserving and enhancing locally distinctive characteristics and assets and paragraph 4.16 already highlights the national policy expectation for planning policies to conserve and enhance the natural, built and historic environment and to protect open space, wildlife, geodiversity and landscape.
It should be made clearer that biodiversity=nature=wildlife, and geodiversity=earth science, as these terms are used interchangeably throughout the Core Strategy.	No change is recommended to Strategic Objective 5 or the supporting text, as the terminology used in regard to the natural environment is considered to be understandable to the general public. The use of terminology has however been addressed in recommendations for modifications to other Core Strategy policies supported by amended entries in the Glossary.