

Liverpool City Region and West Lancashire

Recreation Mitigation on the Coast

Supplementary Planning Document

Scoping Report

July 2023

Recreation Mitigation on the Coast SPD

The Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) of the Liverpool City Region (Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton and Wirral) and West Lancashire are jointly preparing a Recreation Mitigation on the Coast Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), in partnership with Natural England and the National Trust. Once adopted, this will replace the current interim approaches several of the Councils have in place.

Recreation mitigation on the coast is a process to reduce harm arising from new housing development due to more people visiting the coastal internationally important nature sites. The SPD will set out what proposals applicants for certain new developments will have to do to meet the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations) regarding recreation pressure on the Coast.

This scoping report is the first step in preparing the SPD. The SPD will provide detailed guidance on the interpretation and implementation of policies within the Local Plans of each of the participating authorities.

The purpose of this document is to engage key stakeholders in considering the scope and content of the SPD in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

The responses on this scoping report will inform the preparation of a draft SPD, which will then be published for formal consultation together with a Consultation Statement setting out how comments received have informed the content of the SPD. All comments received will be taken into account in preparing the final version of the SPD which will then be taken forward for adoption. Once adopted the SPD will carry full weight as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Comments should be made by 08.00 Monday 09 October 2023

What is a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)?

SPDs give more detailed guidance to policies in the Adopted Local Plan, 'made' (i.e. adopted) Neighborhood Plans and a future Spatial Development Strategy for the Liverpool City Region. They are subject to public consultation under The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Once adopted SPDs are material considerations in the determination of planning applications.

Planning Policy Context

SPD Links with National Policy and Legislation

The SPD will be produced so it is consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Regard will also be had to the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations).

SPD Links with Local Plans

The SPD will be prepared to provide further guidance in relation to the interpretation and implementation of the relevant policies in each of the Local Plans of participating authorities.

Halton

Policy HE1: Natural Environment and Nature Conservation

Pages 166-168

Policy CS(R)20: Natural and Historic Environment

Pages 80-82

CS(R)21: Green Infrastructure

Page 89 of

<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Documents/planning/planning%20policy/newdalp/DALP%20Adopted.pdf>

Knowsley

Policy CS8 Green Infrastructure

Pages 81-82 [Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy](#)

<https://localplanmaps.knowsley.gov.uk/documents/knowsley-local-plan-adopted-core-strategy.pdf>

Liverpool

Policy STP3 Protecting Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Policy GI6 Protection of Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Pages 239-240 of <https://liverpool.gov.uk/media/1361302/01-liverpool-local-plan-main-document.pdf>

St Helens

Policy LPC06 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation

Pages 125-126 of [Microsoft Word - Local Plan Written Statement - FINAL adoption version 16.06.2022 \(sthelens.gov.uk\)](#)

https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/media/4315/St-Helens-Borough-Local-Plan-up-to-2037/pdf/Local_Plan_Written_Statement_-_FINAL_adoption_version.pdf?m=637940059004200000

Sefton

Policy NH2 Nature

Pages 136-137 of [Local Plan \(sefton.gov.uk\)](#)

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/1133/a-local-plan-for-sefton-for-adoption-final.pdf>

Wirral (note, Local Plan submitted for examination)

Policy WD3 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Pages <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/files/sd1-wirral-local-plan-2021-2037-submission-draft-may-2022-req-19-publication-final-260422/download?inline>

West Lancashire

Policy IF4: Developer Contributions

Policy EN2 Preserving and Enhancing West Lancashire's Natural Environment

Pages 133-136 and 141-149 of https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/media/546038/wllp_oct-2013.pdf

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Supplementary Planning Documents do not require a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) but may in exceptional circumstances require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) if they are likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been assessed during the preparation of the relevant strategic policies.

This SPD supplements policies in the Local Plans of the participating LPAs, all of which have been subject to SA and SEA and detailed scrutiny at the Examination (in the case of Wirral examination is underway). The SPD is focused on environmental mitigation measures. It is therefore considered that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

If you believe SEA is required, please set out what the exceptional circumstances are requiring one to be undertaken as part of your response.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Supplementary Planning Documents in exceptional circumstances require a Habitats Regulations Assessment where they are likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of designated nature sites of international importance or on the integrity of such a site.

This SPD is being prepared to help reduce likely significant effects on the internationally important nature sites on the Coast (shown at Appendix A) which were identified in the Habitats Regulations Assessment Reports for the Local Plans in each area. The SPD seeks the conservation management of the habitats and species for which these sites were designated. It is therefore considered that further Habitats Regulations Assessment is not required for this SPD.

If you believe further Habitats Regulations Assessment is required, please set out what the exceptional circumstances are requiring one to be undertaken as part of your response.

Scope of Recreation Mitigation on the Coast SPD

It is proposed that the SPD will cover and be organised as follows:

- **Introduction**
General introduction to the topic; what we are trying to achieve; what an SPD is; overview of the sub region
- **Legislative and Policy Context**
Overview of relevant legislation and the national planning context; summary of city region Spatial Development Strategy and individual Local Plan policies; summaries of Local Plan HRA conclusions

- **Protected areas in sub-region**
Overview of designated nature sites of international importance in the area (including map – see Appendix A); the reason for their protection; overview of how they are under threat/pressure
- **Need for sub-regional approach**
Why impacts arising from recreational disturbance is cross boundary; link to evidence and link to survey work to show how people visit from the wider area
- **Potential and likely impact of new development on protected areas**
Scale and type of new development proposed (e.g. housing, employment, visitor accommodation etc); potential impact of that growth; summary of survey work and what this shows
- **Identified mitigation measures required**
General overview of mitigation measures; introduction, definition and explanation of Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMMs) and Suitable Accessible Natural Green Spaces (SANGs); types of measures that will be acceptable
- **Securing mitigation measures**
Different options that developers have to mitigate the impact of their proposal; introduction of an approach to mitigation through a financial contribution that developers can opt in to; potential different zones for variable charging rates; charging rate to pay for mitigation measures; approach if developers do not opt in
- **Implementation and Monitoring**
How we will secure improvements; how we will collect 'opt in' fee; how will identify priorities for spend; how this will be managed; indicators

Timetable of SPD preparation and Next Steps

Note, this timetable is indicative at this stage and is subject to change.

SPD Scoping consultation starts	Monday 14 August 2023
SPD Scoping consultation end	08.00 Monday 09 October 2023
Draft SPD prepared, considering comments made to the scope, Chief Planners and Growth Director approval	October - November 2023
Political reporting / approval following consideration of comments	November 2023
Publish draft SPD for consultation	December 2023
Take account of comments made and update the SPD	Early 2024
Adopt the SPD	Late Spring - Summer 2024

This consultation (on the scope of the SPD) will run for eight weeks to take account of summer holiday period. Following this, Officers will review your comments, which will be used to inform the preparation of a draft SPD. This will then be consulted on and the responses again reviewed and appropriate amendments made to the SPD, as necessary, before the final version of the SPD is then adopted by all the LPAs.

How to get involved

This document has been prepared to identify the scope of the emerging Recreation Mitigation on the Coast SPD and raise awareness of, and interest in the document. Comments are sought on the scope that has been set out through this document.

How to comment

Comments on whether you agree with the scope of this SPD and/or whether there are other things that should be included should be sent to:

rmsconsultations@sefton.gov.uk

RMS Scoping Consultation
Merseyside EAS
The Barn, Court Hey Park
Roby Road
Huyton
Merseyside
L16 3NA

Comments must be received by **08.00 Monday 09 October 2023**

For help in completing this form, please contact rmsconsultations@sefton.gov.uk

Data Protection

The personal information provided in your consultation responses will be processed in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018.

- All comments, including personal details, received will be logged securely.
- Comments from private individuals will be published online but these will be made anonymous
- Comments from groups, organisations and companies will be published online giving name of group, organisation and company only
- No contact details (including home address, email or telephone number) will be published
- The Council may need to contact you to request further information or clarification in relation to the comment(s) made
- Personal details will be used for the purposes of SPD production only

For further information see:

Halton

[Data Protection \(halton.gov.uk\)](https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/Data-Protection.aspx)

<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/Data-Protection.aspx>

Knowsley

[Data protection | Knowsley Council](https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/your-council/data-protection)

<https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/your-council/data-protection>

Liverpool

[Privacy notice - Liverpool City Council](https://liverpool.gov.uk/privacy-notice/)

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/privacy-notice/>

St Helens

[Your data rights - St Helens Borough Council](https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/5374/Your-data-rights)

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/5374/Your-data-rights>

Sefton

www.sefton.gov.uk/PlanningGDPR

Wirral

[Data Protection Policy | wirral.gov.uk](https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/freedom-information-and-data-protection/data-protection-policy)

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/freedom-information-and-data-protection/data-protection-policy>

West Lancashire

[UK General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\) - West Lancashire Borough Council \(westlancs.gov.uk\)](https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-governance/general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr.aspx)

<https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-governance/general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr.aspx>

