

**Open Space Supplementary Planning  
Document:**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment/  
Habitats Regulations Assessment**

**Screening Statement**

**February 2026**

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been produced to determine the need for a:

- I. **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- II. **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)** in accordance with article 6 of the EC Habitats directive 1992, as interpreted by Regulation 61(1) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 as amended (the habitats regulations).

For the proposed Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

## 2. Policy context

2.1 Government policies and the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) promote and recognise that the planning system can have an important role in supporting the health and well-being of communities, and this can be achieved through planning positively for the creation of high-quality public space, and protecting open space. The NPPF has as one of its key objectives Promoting healthy and safe communities (chapter 8).

2.2 The Sefton Local Plan (2017)<sup>1</sup> includes policies EQ9 'Provision of public open space, strategic paths and trees', NH5 'Protection of open space and Countryside Recreation Areas' and HC7 'Education and care institutions'.

2.3 The Bootle Area Action Plan<sup>2</sup> has been found "sound" by the Planning Inspectorate and is due to be adopted by the Council in January 2026. This document includes policies BAAP11 'Public Green Spaces' and BAAP24 'Environmental Improvements'. Policy ESD1 'Local Green Space' of the Formby and Little Altcar Neighbourhood Plan<sup>3</sup> designates such spaces in line with the Framework. Its policies ESD2 'High Quality Design' and ESD6 'Green Infrastructure' broadly reflect the Sefton Local Plan policy.

2.4 The proposed Open Space SPD will expand upon policies EQ9 (Provision of public open space, strategic paths and trees), NH5 (Protection of open space and Countryside Recreation Areas) and HC7 (Education and care institutions) of the Local Plan. The proposed SPD will also expand upon policies BAAP11 (Public Green Spaces) and BAAP24 (Environmental Improvements) of the Bootle Area Action Plan and policies ESD1 (Local Green Space), ESD2 (High Quality Design) and ESD6 (Green Infrastructure) of the Formby Neighbourhood Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.sefton.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/localplan)

<sup>2</sup> See [https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/qdfhtv5j/draft\\_bootle\\_aap\\_document\\_withmods.pdf](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/qdfhtv5j/draft_bootle_aap_document_withmods.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/3719/neighbourhoodplan-19.pdf>

All these policies are shown in Appendix B. More detail of the scope of the SPD is shown below.

### ***Introduction and Context***

2.5 The Local Plan designates open space which is defined mainly terms of recreation: public open space (mostly; parks), and other outdoor sports and recreation facilities available to the public (such as sports club sites and allotments). Bootle Area Action Plan designates public green spaces which include parks, open spaces, playing fields and allotments. Formby and Little Altcar Neighbourhood Plan designates Local Green Space, where development should be managed in a manner consistent with Green Belt policy.

2.6 References to open space in the SPD and this screening statement should be taken also to refer to public green spaces within the Bootle Area Action Plan area, and also to refer to Local Green Space within the Formby and Little Altcar Neighbourhood Plan area.

2.7 In line with national policy, the Sefton Local Plan seeks to make sure that appropriate, high quality open space in the right location is provided to ensure appropriate access for new communities is provided.

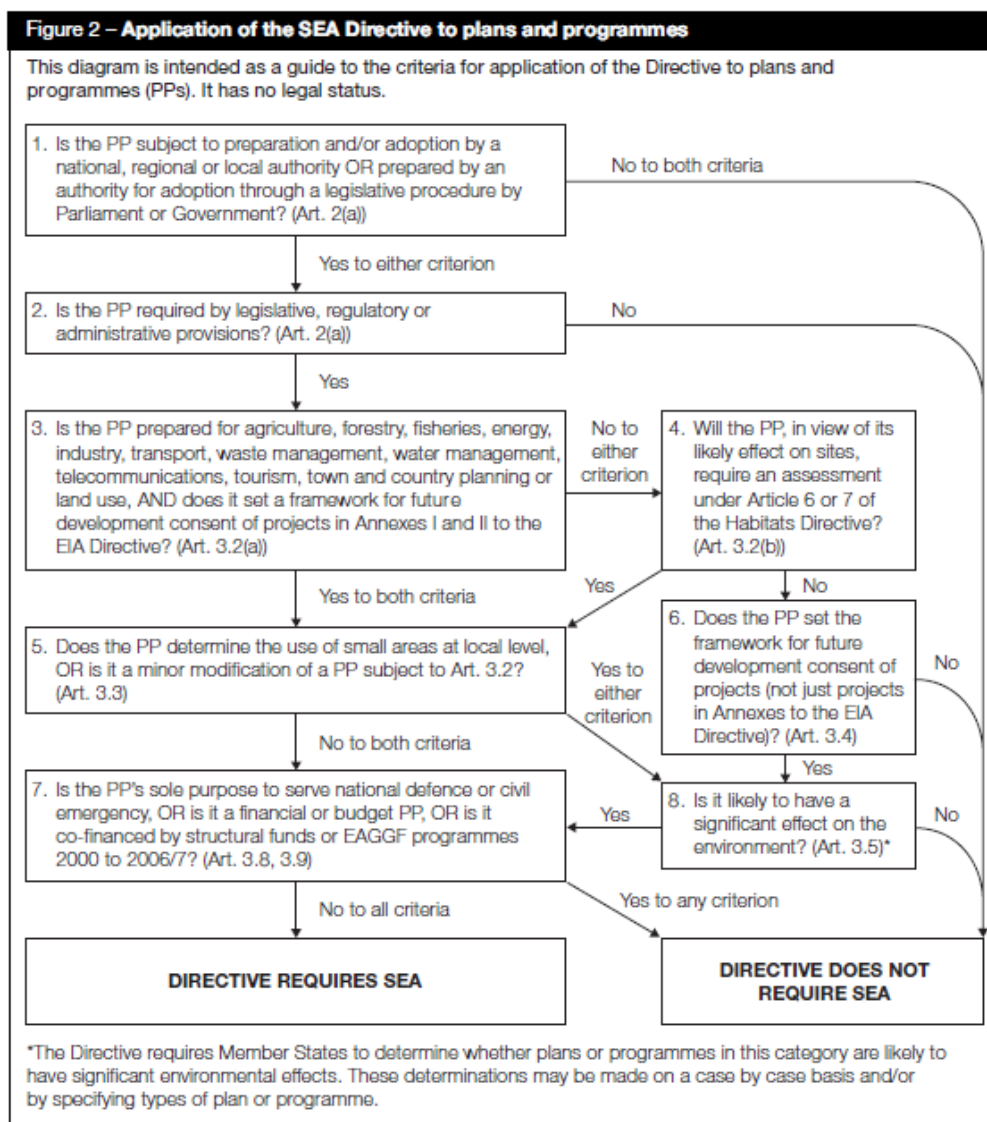
### ***Purpose and aims***

2.8 The aim of the SPD is to give clear guidance to developers, agents and others in relation to the protection, provision, enhancement and on-going management of open space.

# Part 1- SEA Screening

## 3. Screening

3.1 The 2012 regulations<sup>4</sup> are clear that sustainability appraisal is not required for supplementary planning documents (SPDs). However, the requirement for a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) is set out in the “Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004”. Despite no longer requiring sustainability appraisal, SPDs may still require SEA if it is concluded that it would have significant environmental effects<sup>5</sup>. This report screens the draft Open Space SPD to determine if it may have significant environmental effects and therefore a Strategic Environment Assessment is required.



<sup>4</sup> The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal#full-publication-update-history>, paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 11-008-20140306

**Table 1: Establishing the need for SEA**

| Stage [from the flowchart]   | Answer | Reason  |
|--|--------|---|
| 1. Is the SPD subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament of Government? (Article 2(a))   | Yes    | SPD to be adopted by Sefton Council.  |
| 2. Is the SPD required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Article 2(a))   | Yes    | The detail that the Council wish to provide to the policies found in the Local Plan, Bootle Area Action Plan and Formby and Little Altcar Neighbourhood Plan can only be given due weight if it is contained in a SPD.      |
| 3. Is the SPD prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2(a)) | No     | The SPD is for town and country planning purposes but does not set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive.   |
| 4. Will the SPD, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Article 3.2(b))   | No     | The screening statement concludes that an assessment under the Habitats Directive is not required. ( <i>*see part 2 of this report</i> )  |
| 6. Does the SPD set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Article 3.4)  | Yes    | Although the Local Plan, Bootle Area Action Plan and Formby and Little Altcar Neighbourhood Plan policies will set the overall framework, the SPD will provide additional guidance on the interpretation of these policies. |
| 8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Article 3.5)   | No     | See ' <b>Figure 2</b> ' below, 'Determining the likely significance of effects'   |

**Table 2: Determining the likely significance of effects on the environment**

| SEA Directive Annex II: Criteria for determining likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5)  | Sefton Comment  |
|--|---|
| <i>The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:</i>  |   |
| 1a) The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources | The SPD will be providing additional guidance on existing policies that set the broad framework.  |
| 1b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy   | The SPD can only expand on existing policies and should not introduce new policies not contained in higher order plans.   |
| 1c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development  | The SPD will promote sustainable development by ensuring appropriate protection of and provision of new public open space, enhancements to or replacement of existing provision and/or natural habitats, whilst seeking to minimise any potential negative effects such as on the amenity of neighbouring properties or on the natural environment.   |
| 1d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme   | The SPD will seek to minimise potential environmental impacts arising from new housing development by setting out appropriate requirements for new or enhanced open space. In many cases the impact is not likely to be significant given the local nature of the issues. In other cases the impacts are likely to be positive, as the SPD will aim to: require appropriate distances or buffers between dwellings and the open space; secure appropriate management regimes to ensure the quality of the space is maintained in the future; ensure there is an appropriate range of facilities to meet local needs including those of disabled, elderly and young people, and ensure that habitat is created or enhanced wherever practicable. |
| 1e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and  | The SPD is unlikely to be directly relevant in regard to this criterion. Overall, the impact is not likely to be significant.   |

| SEA Directive Annex II: Criteria for determining likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5)  | Sefton Comment  |
|--|---|
| programmes linked to waste management or water protection).  |   |
| <b><i>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</i></b>  |   |
| 2a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects  | The anticipated effects on the sustainability of the areas covered by the SPD are expected to be positive by limiting possible negative impacts associated with poorly designed and/or managed new or existing public open space. The duration of impacts is likely to be long term as, once completed, new public open space will be protected under Local Plan and national policy.   |
| 2b) The cumulative nature of the effects   | The cumulative nature of effects on the environment is likely to be positive although relatively minor other than at a local level.   |
| 2c) The trans-boundary nature of the effects   | None identified.  |
| 2d) The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)   | The SPD will seek to address issues of amenity for potential occupiers of houses adjacent to and users of new or enhanced public open space.  |
| 2e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)   | The SPD will cover the borough of Sefton although it is likely to be of greatest relevance on or in the vicinity of new housing sites of 150+ new homes. Therefore the impact of the SPD will be for a relatively small number of sites, and on a moderately local level.   |
| 2f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:<br>I. Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,<br>II. Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values<br>III. Intensive land-use | The principle of provision of public open space in relation to new housing development is set out in the Local Plan (policy EQ9). The SPD will simply set out guidelines on how the open space provision requirements for sites should be met, to reduce any potential negative effects. Other policies and guidance related to environmental issues are covered in the Local Plan, Bootle Area Action Plan, Formby and Little Altcar Neighbourhood Plan and other emerging SPDs. |

| SEA Directive Annex II: Criteria for determining likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5)           | Sefton Comment  |
|---|---|
| 2g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status | None identified. Any new or enhanced public open space provided in relation to new housing development will need to satisfy the relevant planning policies for protecting these areas before permission is granted. |

## 4. Consultation

4.1 The Council consulted with the three statutory environmental bodies [see below] on this screening report and the determination. The table below provides their responses.

| Statutory Body     | Comments    |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Environment Agency | No comments |
| Historic England   | No comments |
| Natural England    | No comments |

## 5. Conclusion and statement of reasons

5.1 The SPD is supplementing and will provide further guidance on policies EQ9 (Provision of public open space, strategic paths and trees), NH5 (Protection of open space and Countryside Recreation Areas) and HC7 (Education and care institutions). The proposed SPD will also expand upon policies BAAP11 (Public Green Spaces) and BAAP24 (Environmental Improvements) of the Bootle Area Action Plan and policies ESD1 (Local Green Space), ESD2 (High Quality Design) and ESD6 (Green Infrastructure) of the Formby Neighbourhood Plan. The SPD merely expands upon the policies to set out guidance on how the Council will ensure the protection, provision, enhancement and on-going management of open space.

5.2 The views of the statutory consultees are set out above

5.3 It is considered that the Open Space SPD will not give rise to any significant environmental effects. Therefore, it is considered that a Strategic Environmental Assessment **is not required** for the proposed Open Space Supplementary Planning Document.

# Part 2- HRA Screening

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## 6. HRA Screening

6.1 The requirement for a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with article 6 of the EC Habitats directive 1992, as interpreted by Regulation 63(1) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the habitats regulations). An assessment of the “likely significant effects” of a plan or project on sites of international nature conservation importance is required. These are now referred to as the national sites network<sup>6</sup>, although were formerly known as Natura 2000 sites. This part of the document sets out Sefton Council’s screening of the draft Open Space SPD in accordance with the Habitats Regulations.

6.2 The Sefton Local Plan (2017) was subject to an HRA produced by AECOM (formerly URS) (January 2015) that assessed in combination effects taking into account other plans and projects, Local Plan site allocations and policies. The Publication Draft HRA Report (January 2015)<sup>7</sup> was produced by AECOM (formerly URS) included an assessment of in combination effects taking into account other plans and projects as well as Local Plan site allocations, policies and objectives and the impact of the plan as a whole. The Sefton Local Plan (2017) was also subject to a second HRA produced by AECOM (May 2016) at Modifications Stage<sup>8</sup>.

6.3 The Bootle Area Action Plan (2025) was subject to an HRA (May 2024)<sup>9</sup> that assessed in combination effects taking into account other plans and projects, site allocations and policies.

6.4 In terms of the Open Space SPD the “parent policies” are Policies EQ9 (Provision of public open space, strategic paths and trees), NH5 (Protection of open space and Countryside Recreation Areas) and HC7 (Education and care institutions) of the Local Plan, policies BAAP11 (Public Green Spaces) and BAAP24 (Environmental Improvements) of the Bootle Area Action Plan and policies ESD1 (Local Green Space), ESD2 (High Quality Design) and ESD6 (Green Infrastructure) of the Formby Neighbourhood Plan. The policies were all “screened out” meaning that there would not need to be an additional HRA. The HRA comments on the policies are shown below.

### ***EQ9- Provision of public open space, strategic paths and trees 2015 HRA Report:***

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<sup>6</sup> See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-habitats-regulations-2017/changes-to-the-habitats-regulations-2017>

<sup>7</sup> See <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/1763/jan-2015-hra-of-submission-local-plan-web.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> See [Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan](#)

<sup>9</sup> See [https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/y5ul1h2m/07-final\\_hra\\_baap\\_may2024.pdf](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/y5ul1h2m/07-final_hra_baap_may2024.pdf)

- *“No implications.*
- *Provision of appropriate high quality new public open space will help alleviate recreational pressure upon the European designated sites*
- *There are no impact pathways.”*

**2016 HRA Report:**

- *“No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.*
- *The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA.*
- *This policy remains screened out.”*

**NH5- Protection of open space and Countryside Recreation Areas**

**2015 HRA Report:**

- *“No implications.*
- *This provides policy for the protection of public open space and other outdoor sports and recreation facilities available to the public. This is important for the integrity of European designated sites as the loss of these facilities could lead to an increase in recreational pressure on European designated sites.”*

**2016 HRA Report:**

- *“No new HRA implications identified by the Proposed Modifications.*
- *The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA.*
- *This policy remains screened out”*

**HC7- Education and care institutions**

**2015 HRA Report:**

- *“HRA implication.*
- *This policy outlines development of educational and care institute sites within the urban area.*
- *Ten housing site allocations are located at former school premises. Three of these have been screened in.*
- *As such, this policy cannot be screened out.”*

**2016 HRA Report:**

- *“No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.*
- *The proposed modifications to this policy are minor.*
- *The three previously screened in sites are not designated under policy HC7 and so do not come under the remit of this policy. They come under the remit of policy MN2.*
- *This policy can now be screened out.”*

### **BAAP11- Parks, Public Open Space and Playing Fields**

#### **2024 HRA Report:**

- “No impact pathways or LSE
- Policy is likely to have a positive effect on ecology and the environment.”

### **BAAP24- Environmental Improvements**

- “No impact pathways or LSE.
- Policy is likely to have a positive effect on the wider environment.”

6.5 The SPD is supplementing and providing further guidance on Policies EQ9, NH5 and HC7 of the Sefton Local Plan, BAAP11 and BAAP24 of the Bootle Area Action Plan and policies ESD1, ESD2 and ESD6 of the Formby and Little Altcar Neighbourhood Plan. The SPD merely expands upon the policies to set out the guidance in relation to the protection, provision, enhancement and on-going management of open space.

6.6 More generally, Local Plan policy NH2 ‘Protection of nature sites, priority habitats and species’, which has also been subject to HRA, sets out more detailed requirements in relation to national site network sites and supporting habitats and to planning application stage site-specific HRA where relevant. Sefton has also adopted (May 2023) an ‘Information Note: Managing and mitigating the impact of recreation pressure on the Sefton Coast - Sefton’s Interim Approach for housing development’<sup>10</sup>, supported by Natural England. This manages and mitigates (to ‘no adverse impacts’) the cumulative impact of housing development on recreation pressure on the Sefton Coast. It is an interim approach pending the agreement of a Liverpool City Region-wide approach.

6.7 The following national site network sites are located within Sefton:

- Sefton Coast SAC
- Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site
- Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar site (small part of site is at Seaforth Nature Reserve, the rest is approx. 1km+ away on Wirral).

6.8 In addition the following national site network sites are located outside of Sefton but were “screened in” to the HRA of the Local Plan publication.

- Liverpool Bay SPA
- Manchester Mosses SAC -  
However, Sefton’s Local Plan HRA Report concluded that Sefton is not adjacent to the M62; that the Local Plan includes proportionate measures to minimise its contribution to M62 vehicle movements; and that Sefton’s effect on atmospheric nitrogen deposition on Manchester Mosses SAC is effectively inconsequential. Thus this site is not considered further in this HRA screening document.

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<sup>10</sup> See [https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/pcuot4fe/recpressureinonote\\_25-26rates\\_rev.pdf](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/pcuot4fe/recpressureinonote_25-26rates_rev.pdf)

6.9 Below is an assessment of potential pathways for impacts to the national site network sites taking into account the HRA of the Publication version of the local plan.

**Table 3: Assessment of likely significant effects** (taking into account HRA Report for Publication Draft Local Plan (2015), HRA Assessment of the Proposed Modifications to Local Plan (2016) and HRA Assessment of Publication Draft Bootle Area Action Plan (2024))

| <b>Potential pathway and national site network sites affected</b>  | <b>HRA assessment regarding likely significant effects</b> | <b>Further comments</b>  |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Recreational pressure / disturbance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sefton Coast SAC</li> <li>• Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA &amp; Ramsar site</li> <li>• Mersey Narrows &amp; North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar site</li> <li>• Liverpool Bay SPA (in-combination disturbance of birds through increase in ship movements and recreational pressure)</li> </ul> | <p>No significant impacts.</p>                             | <p>SPD will have no additional impacts compared to its parent policies which have been screened out. The Local Plan recognises that providing additional, enhanced or replacement public open space in areas away from the Sefton Coast makes an important contribution to managing recreational pressure on the designated sites. This is also true for the Formby and Little Altcar Neighbourhood Plan area. Bootle Area Action Plan seeks to enhance existing public green spaces, which are all away from the coast. The SPD has no influence on ship movements.</p> |
| <p>Disturbance to qualifying species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sefton Coast SAC</li> <li>• Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site</li> <li>• Mersey Narrows &amp; North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar site</li> </ul>   | <p>No significant impacts.</p>                             | <p>SPD will have no additional impacts compared to its parent policies which have been screened out. .</p>   |
| <p>Coastal squeeze</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sefton Coast SAC</li> <li>• Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site</li> <li>• Mersey Narrows &amp; North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar site</li> </ul>   | <p>No significant impacts.</p>                             | <p>SPD will have no additional impacts compared to its parent policies which have been screened out.</p>   |

| Potential pathway and national site network sites affected  | HRA assessment regarding likely significant effects | Further comments   |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Direct habitat loss through expansion of the Port at Seaforth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mersey Narrows &amp; North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar site</li> </ul>  | <p>No significant impacts</p>                       | <p>SPD has no influence on Port expansion.</p>   |
| <p>Direct habitat loss through mineral extraction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.</li> </ul>   | <p>No significant impacts</p>                       | <p>SPD has no influence on minerals expansion.</p>   |
| <p>Loss of habitat / supporting habitat outside the national site network site boundary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sefton Coast SAC</li> <li>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site</li> </ul>  | <p>No significant impacts</p>                       | <p>SPD will have no additional impacts compared to its parent policies which have been screened out.</p> |
| <p>Reduction in water quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sefton Coast SAC</li> <li>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site</li> <li>Mersey Narrows &amp; North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar site</li> <li>Liverpool Bay SPA - potential for 'in combination' effects with other plans and projects (through sewage effluent discharges).</li> </ul> | <p>No significant impacts</p>                       | <p>SPD will have no additional impacts compared to its parent policies which have been screened out.</p> |
| <p>Reduction in air quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sefton Coast SAC</li> <li>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site</li> <li>Mersey Narrows &amp; North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar site</li> </ul>   | <p>No significant impacts</p>                       | <p>SPD will have no additional impacts compared to its parent policies which have been screened out.</p> |
| <p>Mineral extraction</p>   | <p>No significant impacts</p>                       | <p>SPD has no influence on minerals expansion.</p>   |

| Potential pathway and national site network sites affected   | HRA assessment regarding likely significant effects | Further comments   |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mersey Narrows &amp; North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar site</li> </ul>  |   |  |
| Dredging and disturbance of sediments/benthic habitats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mersey Narrows &amp; North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar site</li> <li>Liverpool Bay SPA (following Port expansion)</li> </ul> | No significant impacts                              | SPD has no influence on dredging or disturbance of benthic habitats, or on Port expansion. |

6.10 The SPD will not have any significant effects on a SAC or national site network sites above and beyond any significant effects that the Local Plan, Bootle Area Action Plan and Formby and Little Altcar Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects. The “parent policies” in these Plans were screened out meaning no further assessment is needed. The SPD is unlikely to give rise to impacts/significant effects on national site network sites.

## 7. Consultation

7.1 The Council consulted the statutory body for the purposes of HRA, Natural England. The table below provides their response.

| Statutory Body  | Comments    |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Natural England | No comments |

## 8. Conclusion and statement of reasons

8.1 The SPD is supplementing and will provide further guidance on policies EQ9 (Provision of public open space, strategic paths and trees), NH5 (Protection of open space and Countryside Recreation Areas) and HC7 (Education and care institutions) of the Local Plan, policies BAAP11 (Public Green Spaces) and BAAP24 (Environmental Improvements) of the Bootle Area Action Plan and policies ESD1 (Local Green Space), ESD2 (High Quality Design)

and ESD6 (Green Infrastructure) of the Formby Neighbourhood Plan. The SPD merely expands upon the policies to set out guidance in relation to the protection, provision, enhancement and on-going management of open space. There are no significant effects on national site network sites in Sefton.

8.2 The comments of Natural England are set out above.

8.3 On the basis of the above information, Sefton Council is of the opinion and concludes that the proposed plan to which this screening opinion relates – the Open Space Supplementary Planning Document - :

a) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site,

b) is not likely to have a significant effect on each of the following sites:

- Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar site
- Ribble and Alt Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Sefton Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar site
- Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Special Protection Area (SPA).
- Liverpool Bay SPA.
- Manchester Mosses SPA.

either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

And accordingly, **no “appropriate assessment” is required** to be made under Regulations 61, 62 and 63 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations (as amended) before the Council decides to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for this plan.

# Part 3- Appendices

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## Appendix A- Contact details

[local.plan@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:local.plan@sefton.gov.uk)

## Appendix B -

### Extract from Sefton Local Plan (2017):

#### **EQ9 PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE, STRATEGIC PATHS AND TREES**

##### **Public open space**

**1. Appropriate high quality new public open space of at least 40 square metres per new-build home must be provided for the following developments:**

- a. Proposals for 150 or more new-build homes,**
- b. Proposals for 11 to 149 new-build homes on sites which are more than 2 kilometres from a main park or Countryside Recreation Area.**

**2. This new public open space must be provided within the site unless it can be demonstrated that enhancement of off-site open space is more appropriate, in terms of:**

- a. The type and density of housing development and site size, or**
- b. Proximity to existing main, neighbourhood and community parks, or**
- c. Other site-specific factors.**

**3. New public open space (including outdoors sports facilities) created during the Plan period will be accorded the policy protection set out in policy NH5 'Protection of open space and Countryside Recreation Areas', even where it is not shown on the Policies Map.**

**4. Development proposals which include new public open space must incorporate suitable arrangements for long-term management and maintenance of, and public access to, the new open space. Sefton's green network of paths and cycleways**

**5. Development with the potential to adversely affect the establishment or retention of a public right of way, or Strategic Path as shown on the Policies Map, will not be permitted unless sufficient mitigation is provided to ensure that existing access is maintained, and where possible enhanced, or where an acceptable alternative path is provided.**

**6. Links to, or extensions of existing public rights of way, strategic paths or cycleways will be required where they improve the accessibility of an existing community or a development site.**

**Trees and landscaping**

**7. Development proposals must:**

- a. Not result in unacceptable loss of, or damage to, existing trees or woodlands or significant landscaping during or as a result of development,**
- b. Replace any trees lost as a result of the development at a ratio of 1:1 within the site,**
- c. Where appropriate, include an appropriate landscape scheme, showing all hard and soft landscaping and management arrangements.**

**NH5 PROTECTION OF OPEN SPACE AND COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION AREAS**

**1. The following types of development are acceptable in principle on open space:**

- a. Environmental improvements which enhance the site's environmental quality or green infrastructure benefits, including built facilities necessary for the use of the site,**
- b. Other development proposals, where:**
  - i. An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the public open space or outdoor sports facilities to be surplus to requirements, or**
  - ii. The loss of public open space or outdoor sports facilities resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location, or**
  - iii. The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.**

**2. Development in Countryside Recreation Areas should protect and enhance their informal recreation use, subject to other Plan policies.**

**Countryside Recreation Areas and Open Space in the urban area are shown on the Policies Map.**

**HC7 EDUCATION AND CARE INSTITUTIONS**

**Sites in active use as schools, colleges or care institutions**

**1. Development which is for the following uses is acceptable in principle:**

- a. Uses directly related to the existing use of the site or which sustain the viability of the existing use of the site, or**
- b. Community-based recreation or sports facilities ancillary to the existing use of the site, or**
- c. Environmental improvements which enhance the site's environmental quality or green infrastructure benefits.**

**2. Development of the site must retain key green infrastructure and minimise harm to the historic environment and its setting. Sites formerly in use as schools, colleges or care institutions**

**3. Development for an alternative use which is compatible with the surrounding area is acceptable in principle, where appropriate evidence is provided that the institution and its ancillary facilities are surplus to recreational requirements.**

**Schools, colleges and care institutions are shown on the Policies Map.**

### **Extract from Formby and Little Altcar Neighbourhood Plan (2019):**

#### **POLICY ESD1: Local Green Space**

**The sites set out in Table 1 and shown on Map 12, Page 66 are designated as local green space where development will be managed in a manner consistent with Green Belt policy.**

#### **POLICY ESD2: High Quality Design**

**To achieve high quality design, development should make a positive contribution to local character and proposals should demonstrate consideration of the following:**

- a) Scale, density, height, landscape, layout, materials, access, frontages, and residential amenity.**
- b) Retaining or creating good quality boundary and gateway features.**
- c) Safety of movement and circulation of walkers, cyclists, vehicles and people with limited mobility/disability, both within and to/from the site.**
- d) The outlook towards, within and from the development.**
- e) The delivery of high-quality green infrastructure including accessible open space commensurable with the scale of development and consistent with Local Plan policy EQ9.**

#### **POLICY ESD6: Green Infrastructure**

**New developments must be committed to the delivery and maintenance of high-quality green infrastructure including accessible open space commensurable with the scale of the development and consistent with Local Plan policy EQ9. Smaller developments as defined by EQ9 should provide appropriate mitigation. Developers should refer to the SPD open spaces.**

**The Neighbourhood Plan acknowledges the need to mitigate for any impacts of additional recreational pressure from residents of new homes on the integrity of internationally important nature sites especially those on the Sefton coast by redirecting recreation away from these fragile sensitive areas. (SPD open spaces and LP NH2).**

### **Extract from Bootle Area Action Plan (2025):**

## **BAAP11 Public Green Spaces**

### **Protecting Existing Public Green Spaces**

- 1. All existing public green spaces in the area identified on the policy map, will be protected from new development except for:**
  - **development necessary for the continued use and improvement of the site for its existing use, or**
  - **development for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.**

### **Improving Links Between Public Green Spaces**

- 2. All major proposals should consider how links to nearby public greenspace from the development can be created or improved. This could include:**
  - **Creating safe, clear and attractive routes through the development that allow people to more easily access existing services and facilities on foot or by cycle. Particular emphasis should be placed on how children and young people can safely access areas of public greenspace from new development.**
  - **Providing safe, clear and attractive access onto the priority routes for getting around as set out in Policy BAAP8.**
  - **Contributing to the improvement of these priority routes for getting around in line with Policy BAAP24.**
  - **Including well-designed signage to direct residents or users of new development to nearest public green space.**

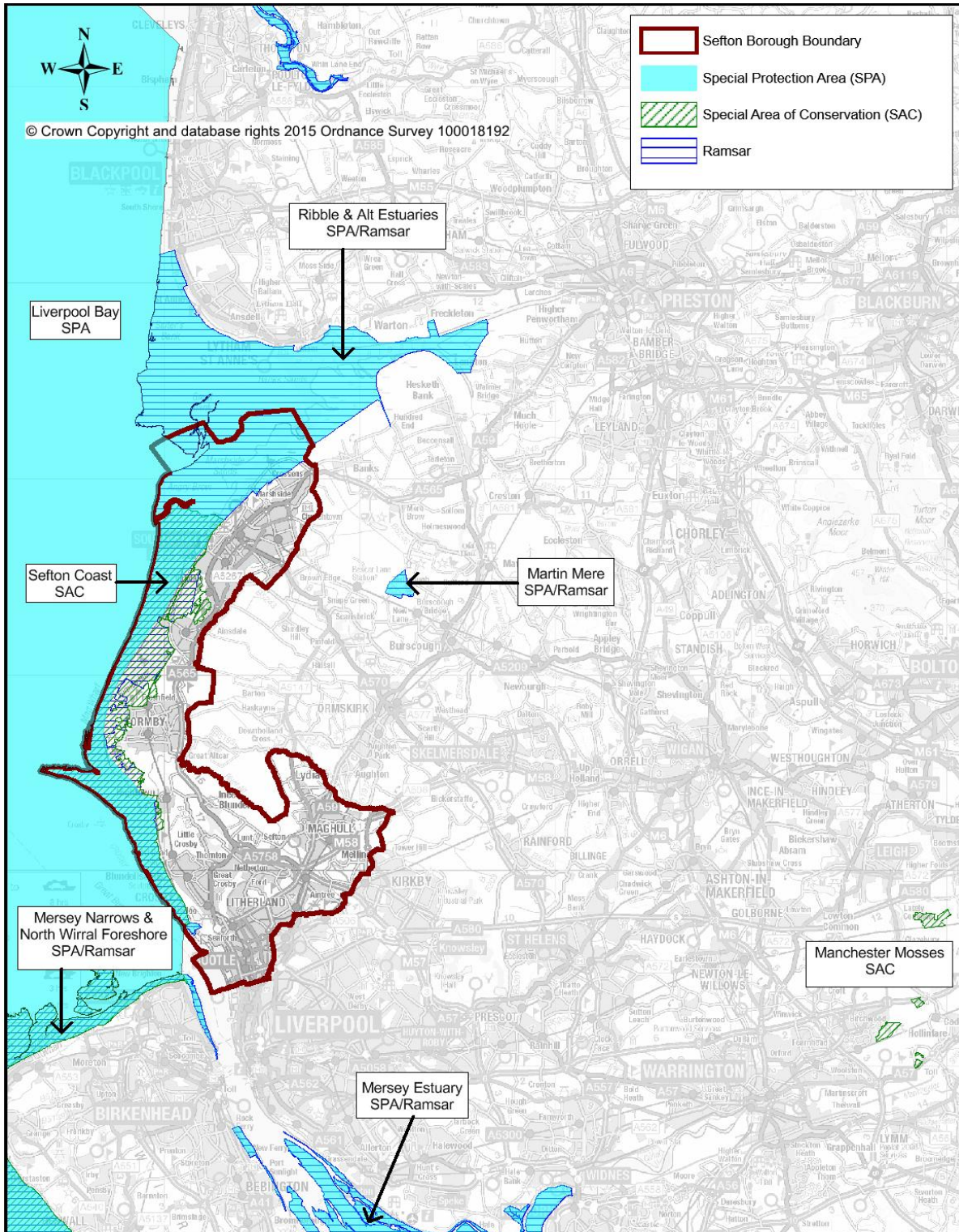
### **Securing investment in existing Public Green Spaces**

- 3. There is no requirement to provide any new formal public green space areas within new development proposals in the AAP area. Instead, a financial contribution in lieu of public green space will be secured by planning obligation towards environmental enhancements in the local area.**
- 4. All following types of development in the Bootle AAP should provide a proportionate contribution to environmental improvements in the local area, in line with Policy BAAP24, which will include investment in its public green spaces:**
  - **Residential developments (including conversions) that create 10 units or more ;**
  - **Change of use to a hot food takeaway;**
  - **Non-residential development where the floorspace created is 1,000m<sup>2</sup> or more.**

## **BAAP24 Environmental Improvements**

- 1. All following types of development in the Bootle AAP should provide a proportionate contribution to environmental improvements in the local area:**
  - Residential developments (including conversions) that create 10 dwellings or more;
  - Any change of use to a Hot Food Takeaway;
  - Non-residential development where the floorspace created is 1,000m<sup>2</sup> or more.
  
- 2. The cost in qualifying schemes is set at £2,680 (2024/25 prices) per:**
  - housing unit;
  - single Hot Food Takeaway premises;
  - 100m<sup>2</sup> of non-residential floorspace.
  
- 3. This will be secured through a planning obligation. The total financial contribution can be offset through providing environmental improvements off-site, or on-site if these are substantively over and above normal policy requirements and the Council considers that they provide clear benefits to future residents and the wider neighbourhood.**
  
- 4. The environmental improvement contribution will be required in accordance with this policy unless a robust assessment of a scheme's economic viability confirms that this cannot be achieved.**
  
- 5. The money secured through the environmental improvement contribution will be used towards one or more of the following:**
  - improving public greenspaces (see policy BAAP 11) with emphasis on facilities, equipment and activities for children and young people;
  - improving small areas of under-used land, often left over from development, for community environment projects;
  - enhancing nature, taking account of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and other Sefton priorities;
  - improving priority routes between new development and existing public greenspaces (see Policy BAAP8);
  - projects to deal with litter/fly tipping;
  - improving the streetscape;
  - planting trees in appropriate locations to support corporate environmental priorities and those of partner organisations;
  - supporting community and 'friends of' groups who help manage and maintain local parks;
  - other projects that would improve the local environment.
  
- 6. Contributions should be provided in accordance with this policy, and any subsequent inflationary change to the fee.**

# Appendix C – National site network and Ramsar (formerly Natura 2000) sites in Sefton



**Sefton Council**

Department of the  
**Built Environment**  
 Derek McKenzie  
 Interim Head of Planning Services

**Natura 2000 Sites in and around Sefton**

**Date: 1st July 2015**

**Scale @ A4: 1:250,000**