

# **Habitats Regulations Assessment**

## **Final Screening matrix for**

### **Houses in Multiple Occupation and Flats Supplementary Planning Document**

#### **Appendices**

**Sefton Council  
June 2012**

## Appendices

- Appendix 1:** Extracts from the European Communities (1992) Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.
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## Appendix 1

### **The European Communities (1992) Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.**

#### **Article 6 (3) says:**

*'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.'*

#### **Article 6(4) says:**

*'If in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the member states shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, of beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.'*

## Appendix 2

### Key relevant information - Sefton Unitary Development Plan, adopted 2006

The Sefton Unitary Development Plan (UDP) was adopted in 2006. It is a 'saved' plan under the Local Development Scheme.

The adopted Unitary Development Plan – both Written Statement and Proposals Map – is available on-line at <http://www.sefton.gov.uk/UDP>. Information about the Local Development Framework is available on-line at <http://www.sefton.gov.uk/LDF>.

Three **core strategy** policies set out the overall strategy guiding development in Sefton. These are:

- **CS1 'Development and Regeneration'** which states that development should be consistent with the listed priorities for physical and economic regeneration in the period 2001-2016. This includes:
  - “(b) safeguarding existing employment and ensuring a choice of employment sites and premises to meet the needs of existing businesses and maximise inward investment.”
- **CS2 'Restraint on development and protection of environmental assets'** which states that:
  - “Development will not be permitted where it would cause significant harm to any of the following: .....
  - (d) the dune aquifer and associated coastal ecology
  - (e) the effectiveness of the open coast in forming a natural sea defence
  - (f) sites and species of nature conservation importance
  - (g) urban greenspace .....Unavoidable losses must be compensated for by equivalent benefits, and in all cases development proposals and/or management regimes should seek to enhance the above assets”.
- **CS3 'Development Principles'** which sets out general principles to be applied when development proposals are considered. For example:
  - “Development will not be permitted if it would:
    - (b) cause significant harm to amenity, or to the character or appearance of the surrounding area: or .....

### Other key policies

Other policies set out the approach in more detail. The policies of most relevance to this screening statement are:

- **Policies relating to houses in multiple occupation** - Policy H10 'Residential development and development in residential areas', Policy MD2 'Conversion to flats'; Policy MD3 'Houses in Multiple Occupation'.
- **Policies for nature conservation** - Policy NC1 'Site Protection', NC2 'Protection of Species' and Policy NC3 'Habitat Protection, Creation and Management'.

### Policies relating to houses in multiple occupation

**Policy H10 'Residential development and development in residential areas'** sets out principles for housing development in primarily residential areas and elsewhere, and non-residential development in primarily residential areas.

**Policy MD2 ‘Conversion to flats’** sets out the criteria which flat conversions should meet.

**Policy MD3 ‘Houses in Multiple Occupation’** sets out the criteria which conversions to houses in multiple occupation should meet.

### **Nature conservation policies**

**Policy NC1 ‘Site Protection’** states that development which would harm the nature conservation objectives or integrity of the sites of international, national, or local importance (shown on the Proposals Map) will not be permitted. The international sites referred to are the *Natura 2000* sites; that is, designated and proposed Ramsar Sites, designated and potential Special Protection Areas and designated and candidate Special Areas of Conservation. The policy goes on to state that “In the case of international sites, development will only be allowed where there are no alternative solutions and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest”.

**Policy NC2 ‘Protection of Species’** states that development will not be permitted which may cause harm to protected or other rare or vulnerable species of animal or plant, or its habitat, unless it can be demonstrated that the impact can be successfully mitigated. The explanation to the policy makes clear that species subject to special protection in Sefton include all wild birds, all bat species, badgers, red squirrels, water voles, great crested newts, natterjack toads, sand lizards and petalwort.

**Policy NC3 ‘Habitat Protection, Creation and Management’** deals mainly with sites other than internationally and nationally important sites.

### **Liverpool City Region Ecological Framework (2012)**

The Liverpool City Region (LCR) Ecological Framework - see <http://www.sefton.gov.uk/ecologicalframework> - sets out a strategic overview of the network of ecological resources, responsibilities and opportunities in Sefton and across the City Region. It identifies:

- The ‘core biodiversity’ areas and linking networks;
- Strategic opportunities and areas for each of the 6 main habitat types; *and*
- Priority areas for habitat creation or enhancement.

The Core Biodiversity Area is the critical biodiversity resource (habitats and species) of the Liverpool City Region, already protected by legislation. It includes:

- Designated sites - international, national and local designations;
- Priority Habitats – ‘habitats of principal importance’ as set out in section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006), plus UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats. In Sefton many of these are also designated sites-

Linking networks include:

- Search areas for potential habitat expansion (SAPHE) are buffers (50metres) around the Core Biodiversity Area (CBA);
- Connectivity zones -are further buffer (100 metres) around the SAPHE and CBA;
- Linear features are often not CBAs in their own right, but form vital links between different Core Biodiversity Areas, e.g. canals, watercourses, road & rail corridors.

The LCR Ecological Framework was approved by Sefton Council in January 2012, and forms part of the evidence for the Core Strategy and other development plan documents;

### Appendix 3: Brief description of the *Natura 2000* sites in whole or in part in Sefton

Appendix 3a - Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar Site		
Brief Description	Conservation Objectives	Vulnerability
<p>The Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar Site site comprises two estuaries, of which the Ribble Estuary is by far the larger, together with an extensive area of sandy foreshore along the Sefton Coast. The site forms part of the chain of west coast sites which fringe the Irish Sea.</p> <p>The site is formed by extensive sand and mudflats backed, in the north, by the saltmarsh of the Ribble Estuary (with areas of coastal grazing marsh located behind the sea embankments) and, to the south, the sand dunes of the Sefton Coast. The tidal flats and saltmarsh support internationally important populations of waterfowl in winter and the sand dunes support vegetation communities and amphibian populations of international importance.</p> <p>The Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar site is a wetland of international importance because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It supports up to 40% of the GB population of natterjack toads (<i>Bufo calamita</i>): which is a vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered species or threatened ecological community (Criterion 2);</li> <li>• It regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds – 324,000 in the non-breeding season and 29,000 in the breeding season (Criterion 5);</li> <li>• It regularly supports 1% of the populations of the following waterbird species or sub-species (criterion 6): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lesser Black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>);</li> <li>○ Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>);</li> <li>○ sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>);</li> <li>○ redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>);</li> <li>○ Bewick's swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>);</li> <li>○ Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus Cygnus</i>);</li> <li>○ Pink-footed goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>);</li> <li>○ shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>);</li> <li>○ wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>);</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The Conservation Objectives are to maintain in favourable condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the habitats for the populations of natterjack toads, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ dune slacks.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the habitats for internationally important (Criterion 5) waterbirds, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Intertidal sand and mudflats</li> <li>○ Saltmarsh</li> <li>○ Marshy grassland.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the habitats for internationally important (Criterion 6) waterbirds, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Intertidal sand and mudflat</li> <li>○ Saltmarsh</li> <li>○ Marshy grassland.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.</p> <p>(Source: based on pp18-19, English Nature's 'Draft Regulation 33 advice for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries European Marine Site', May 2001).</p>	<p>The only factor adversely affecting the site's ecological character which has been identified is coastal erosion at Formby Point. There is an estimated loss of 4 metres per year.</p> <p>This is a concern because pine woodland on the sand dunes is causing coastal squeeze and therefore preventing sand dune habitats from rolling back; as such dune slack habitats for natterjack toads are declining/being lost.</p> <p>While this is identified as a Category 2 adverse factor (i.e. a factor that is not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far), mitigation is in place. At Ainsdale Sand Dunes National Nature Reserve English Nature have made efforts to restore dune habitat; an Environmental Impact Assessment was carried out with a view to submitting a tree-felling application in February 2005.</p> <p>The Ramsar site is not subject to adverse ecological change.</p> <p>(Source: Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS), JNCC, 05/05/2006, via JNCC web-site).</p>

**Appendix 3a - Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar Site**

Brief Description	Conservation Objectives	Vulnerability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>);</li> <li>○ pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>);</li> <li>○ oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>);</li> <li>○ grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>);</li> <li>○ knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>);</li> <li>○ sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>);</li> <li>○ dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>);</li> <li>○ black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>);</li> <li>○ bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>); and</li> <li>○ redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>)</li> </ul> <p>The site also supports nationally important non-breeding populations of cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>), Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>), Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>), Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>), Whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>) and Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>). It also supports nationally important breeding populations of Ruff (<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>), Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) and Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>).</p> <p>The nationally rare plant Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) is found in the dune slack areas, and the nationally rare Natterjack toad (<i>Bufo calamita</i>) is also found in the dune areas.</p> <p>(Source: English Nature's 'Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar site classification citation', November 2002; and the JNCC's 'Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands', May 2006).</p>		

### Appendix 3b - Ribble and Alt Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA)

Brief Description	Conservation Objectives	Vulnerability
<p>The Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA regularly supports internationally important populations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rare or vulnerable bird species (Annex I species) such as wintering populations of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>);</li> <li>○ Bewick's swan (<i>Cygnus, columbianus</i>);</li> <li>○ whooper swan (<i>Cygnus Cygnus</i>); and</li> <li>○ bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• migratory bird species such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ pink-footed goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>);</li> <li>○ shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>);</li> <li>○ wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>);</li> <li>○ teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>);</li> <li>○ pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>);</li> <li>○ oystercatcher (<i>Haemotopus ostralegus</i>);</li> <li>○ grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>);</li> <li>○ knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>);</li> <li>○ sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>);</li> <li>○ dunlin (<i>Calidris alpine</i>);</li> <li>○ redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>); and</li> <li>○ black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Also the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA is an internationally important site for waterfowl, especially in winter (and the UK's second most important site after the Wash), regularly supporting over 20,000 birds. Nationally important populations include lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>), and curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>).</p> <p>(Source: English Nature's 'Draft Regulation 33 advice for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries European Marine Site', May 2001).</p>	<p>The Conservation Objectives are to maintain in favourable condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the habitats for the populations of regularly occurring [Wild Birds Directive] Annex I species of European importance, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Intertidal sand and mudflats</li> <li>○ Saltmarsh.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the habitats for the populations of regularly occurring migratory bird species of European importance, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Intertidal sand and mudflat</li> <li>○ Saltmarsh.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Intertidal sand and mudflat</li> <li>○ saltmarsh</li> <li>○ marshy grassland.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.</p> <p>(Source: pp18-19, English Nature's 'Draft Regulation 33 advice for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries European Marine Site', May 2001).</p>	<p>The dunes, intertidal flats and saltmarsh of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA enjoy a relatively robust status and a favourable condition although in places the site is subject to pressure from recreation, built development (including coastal defence), wildfowling and industry (including sand-winning).</p> <p>Of these vulnerabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wildfowling has an insignificant impact on direct land-take and disturbance due to effective managed through the provision of refuge areas and strict regulation on shooting activities.</li> <li>• Military activities only take place at Altcar Rifle Range, i.e. adjacent to the Alt Estuary.</li> <li>• Recreation is informal and of relatively low intensity along most of the Sefton Coast and in the Ribble Estuary.</li> <li>• Beach activities are managed by the Beach Management Plan. Sand-winning has now ceased.</li> <li>• Much of the SPA attracts beneficial land management via the implementation of agreed plans for three NNRs, two LNRs and other initiatives developed by the Sefton Coast Partnership.</li> </ul> <p>Although there is little evidence of sea-level rise so far, the extent and distribution of habitats remains vulnerable to changes in the physical environment, either natural or man-induced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formby Point and Ainsdale are suffering</li> </ul>

**Appendix 3b - Ribble and Alt Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA)**

Brief Description	Conservation Objectives	Vulnerability
		<p>intense coastal erosion, being investigated through the Sefton Shoreline Management Plan. Beach management practices have led to creation of considerable areas of embryo dunes on the upper shore elsewhere.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ribble Estuary is evolving as sediment patterns are change. Saltmarsh continues to accrete following past land-claim and the closure of Preston Docks.</li> <li>• The intertidal habitats are vulnerable to accidental pollution from the nearby Mersey Estuary and the Irish Sea oil and gas fields. Oil spill contingency plans are being updated to deal with such events.</li> </ul> <p>(Source: JNCC 'Natura 2000 Standard Data form for Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA' 5/5/06 via JNCC web-site).</p>

**Appendix 3c - Sefton Coast Special Area Of Conservation (SAC)**

Brief Description	Conservation Objectives	Vulnerability
<p>The Sefton Coast has a number of internationally important habitat types and species which have merited its designation as an SAC. It is one of the best and most important areas in the UK for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes;</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Marram (<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>) (“White dunes”);</li> <li>• Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation, which are a priority feature (“Grey dunes”);</li> <li>• Dunes with creeping willow (<i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>))</li> <li>• Humid dune slacks; and</li> <li>• Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>).</li> </ul> <p>The embryonic shifting dunes, dunes with creeping willow and the Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) – which is a priority feature and has a significant presence - are nationally rare.</p> <p>The site also supports a significant presence of Great Crested newts (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>).</p> <p>(Source: <a href="http://www.jncc.web-site">www.jncc.web-site</a> -Sefton Coast SAC site details – <i>Natura 2000</i> data form for this site).</p>	<p>The Conservation Objectives are, subject to natural change, to maintain in favourable condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following habitats in recognition of their intrinsic value; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ embryonic shifting dunes</li> <li>○ shifting dunes along the shoreline with Marram (<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>);</li> <li>○ fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>○ dunes with creeping willow (<i>Salix arenaria</i>);</li> <li>○ humid dune slacks; and</li> <li>○ Eu-Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes <i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The habitats which support the Great Crested Newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>), especially ground habitats and ponds;</li> <li>• The habitats which support Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>), especially sand dune slacks.</li> </ul> <p>Maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.</p> <p>(Source: English Nature’s ‘SAC: Component SSSI: Sefton Coast: Conservation objectives for the European Interest on the SSSI’ dated 19/7/02).</p>	<p>The Sefton Coast is primarily owned and managed by Sefton Council, with other major landowners including English Nature (Ainsdale Sand Dunes and Cabin Hill NNRs), the National Trust, Ministry of Defence, and a number of international standard golf clubs.</p> <p>Co-ordinated management of the coast is achieved through the long-standing Sefton Coast Management Scheme (now the Sefton Coast Partnership), in which all key landowners play a part.</p> <p>The extensive sand dunes and intertidal areas attract large numbers of summer tourists. This impact is addressed in Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council’s Beach Management Plan.</p> <p>Golf course management achieves a positive balance between play areas and important habitats.</p> <p>Concerns have been raised regarding water abstraction on the coast. This is being addressed through detailed modelling of the dune aquifer by the Environment Agency.</p> <p>The coniferous plantations need a careful balance between restoration of dune habitats and public enjoyment of the woodlands, and work on this is being carried out at Ainsdale Sand Dunes National Nature Reserve, the main woodland area.</p> <p>(Source: JNCC Standard Data Form for Sefton Coast SAC’ 17/506 via JNCC web-site).</p>

**Appendix 3d - Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore draft Ramsar site**

Brief Description	Conservation Objectives	Vulnerability
<p>The draft Ramsar is an internationally important feeding and roosting habitat for wintering wading birds. The site comprises intertidal habitats at Egremont foreshore, man-made lagoons at Seaforth and the extensive intertidal flats at North Wirral Foreshore. The Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore site has clear links in terms of bird movements with the nearby Dee Estuary Ramsar site, Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar site, and (to a lesser extent) Mersey Estuary Ramsar site. The most notable feature of the site is the exceptionally high density of wintering turnstones (<i>Arenaria inter pres</i>).</p> <p>The Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar site is a wetland of international importance because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds – 28,841 in the non-breeding season (Criterion 5);</li> <li>• It regularly supports 1% of the populations of the following waterbird species or sub-species in any season (Criterion 6): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>);</li> <li>○ redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>); and</li> <li>○ turnstone (<i>Arenaria inter pres</i>).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The site also supports nationally important winter numbers of cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>), oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>), grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>), sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>), dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) and bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>). It also supports a nationally important breeding colony of common terns (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>).</p> <p>(Source: English Nature's 'Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore p Ramsar site citation', July 2001).</p>	<p>The Conservation Objectives are to maintain in favourable condition, subject to natural change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the habitats for internationally important (Criterion 5) waterbirds, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Saline lagoon;</li> <li>○ Intertidal sediment communities (littoral sediment);</li> <li>○ Saltmarsh;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The habitats for the internationally important (Criterion 6) species of knot, redshank and turnstone, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Saline lagoon;</li> <li>○ Intertidal sediment communities (littoral sediment);</li> <li>○ Saltmarsh.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>(Source: based on English Nature's 'Draft Conservation Objectives for Mersey Narrows', March 2006).</p>	<p>The Seaforth part of the site lies within the Seaforth Docks area. It comprises two lagoons: a shallow water, salt-water lagoon which functions as a settlement lagoon for water pumped from the River Mersey into the Seaforth Docks and a freshwater lagoon separated from the saltwater lagoon by a wide bund. A strip of saltmarsh flanks the western edge of the saltwater lagoon. Effectively there is no public access to the site.</p> <p>(Source: English Nature SSSI Citation, undated, via web-site).</p> <p>The site is dependent on pumping operations (which for example limit inundation) and could be vulnerable to future management and pumping regime changes within the dock complex.</p> <p>The Wirral Foreshore part of the site comprises mostly intertidal flats with some rocky outcrops and shingle banks, and contains a number of man-made structures including groynes, jetties and breakwaters.</p> <p>(Source: English Nature SSSI Citation, undated, via web-site).</p> <p>Possible sources of vulnerability could include coastal processes and man-made attempts to control them, and low-level recreation pressures.</p>

### Appendix 3e - Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore potential Special Protection Area

Brief Description	Conservation Objectives	Vulnerability
<p>The potential site comprises intertidal habitats at Egremont foreshore, man-made lagoons at Seaforth and the extensive intertidal flats at North Wirral Foreshore. The Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore has clear links in terms of bird movements with the nearby Dee Estuary SPA, Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA, and (to a lesser extent) Mersey Estuary SPA.</p> <p>The Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore potential SPA regularly supports internationally important populations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rare or vulnerable bird species (Annex I species) such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)</li> <li>○ bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• migratory bird species such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>);</li> <li>○ redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>); and</li> <li>○ turnstone (<i>Arenaria inter pres</i>).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The site is also supports regularly over 20,000 waterbirds (as defined by the Ramsar Convention), including – outside the breeding season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>);</li> <li>○ oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>);</li> <li>○ grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>);</li> <li>○ sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>);</li> <li>○ knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>);</li> <li>○ dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>);</li> <li>○ bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>);</li> <li>○ redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>); and</li> <li>○ turnstone (<i>Arenaria inter pres</i>).</li> </ul> <p>Other species of interest include smew (<i>Mergellus albellus</i>) and golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) especially in winter, and ruff (<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>).</p> <p>(Source: English Nature's 'Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore pSPA citation', July 2001).</p>	<p>The Conservation Objectives are to maintain in favourable condition, subject to natural change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the habitats for the nationally important populations of regularly occurring [Wild Birds Directive] Annex I species of European importance, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Saline lagoon;</li> <li>○ Intertidal sediment communities (littoral sediment);</li> <li>○ Saltmarsh;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the habitats for the internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory bird species of European importance, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Saline lagoon;</li> <li>○ Intertidal sediment communities (littoral sediment);</li> <li>○ Saltmarsh.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the habitats for the internationally important assemblage [under the Wild Birds Directive] of waterbirds, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Saline lagoon;</li> <li>○ Intertidal sediment communities (littoral sediment);</li> <li>○ Saltmarsh.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.</p> <p>(Source: English Nature's 'Draft Conservation Objectives for Mersey Narrows', March 2006).</p>	<p>The Seaforth part of the site lies within the Seaforth Docks area. It comprises two lagoons: a shallow water, salt-water lagoon which functions as a settlement lagoon for water pumped from the River Mersey into the Seaforth Docks and a freshwater lagoon separated from the saltwater lagoon by a wide bund. A strip of saltmarsh flanks the western edge of the saltwater lagoon. Effectively there is no public access to the site.</p> <p>(Source: English Nature SSSI Citation, undated, via web-site).</p> <p>The site is dependent on pumping operations (which for example limit inundation) and could be vulnerable to future management and pumping regime changes within the dock complex.</p> <p>The Wirral Foreshore part of the site comprises mostly intertidal flats with some rocky outcrops and shingle banks, and contains a number of man-made structures including groynes, jetties and breakwaters.</p> <p>(Source: English Nature SSSI Citation, undated, via web-site).</p> <p>Possible sources of vulnerability could include coastal processes and man-made attempts to control them, and low-level recreation pressures.</p>

**Appendix 4: Planning permissions granted and lawful development certificates approved, for houses in multiple occupation developments in Sefton from 1 April 1992 to 31 March 2012 (based on planning application records)**

<b>Appendix 4: Planning permissions granted and lawful development certificates approved, for houses in multiple occupation developments in Sefton from 1 April 1992 to 31 March 2012 (based on planning application records)</b>					
<b>Ref No</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Settlement</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Description</b>
S/1996/0312	480 Stanley Road	Bootle	Approved	08/08/1996	Retrospective application for the retention of five bedsits
S/1997/0134	137-143 Knowsley Road	Bootle	Approved	07/10/1997	Change of use of the first and second floors of nos 137-143, the whole of the ground floor of no 141 and the rear of the shop premises at no 143 to a house in multiple occupation
S/1998/0175	78 Knowsley Road	Bootle	Approved	25/06/1998	Change of use to self-contained bedsit
S/1999/0480	32 Hertford Road	Bootle	Approved	14/09/1999	Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for use of the premises as a house in multiple occupation
S/2000/0937	23-25 Merton Road	Bootle	Approved	15/02/2001	Change of use of no. 25 and alterations to no. 23 to form 18 homeless persons bedsits and office accommodation and installation of skylights
S/2005/1198	53 Wadham Road	Bootle	Approved	16/01/2006	Retrospective application for the conversion of a dwellinghouse into 3 bedsits with shared facilities
S/2010/1483	3 Orrell Lane	Bootle	Approved	29/11/2010	Lawful Development Certificate for mixed use for 9 self contained flats and multiple occupation (2 units)
S/1995/0476	9-11 Victoria Road Waterloo	Crosby	Approved	22/08/1995	Change of use of part of the first floor of no 11 from 4 bedsits to one bedsit and two self contained flats
S/2007/0369	2 Alexandra Road Waterloo	Crosby	Approved	21/05/2007	Certificate of Lawfulness for the continued use of the property as four self-contained flats and two bedsits
S/2007/0829	1st & 2nd floors 19-21 Crosby Rd North	Crosby	Approved	29/10/2007	Change of use of first and second floors from offices to bedsit accommodation
N/1994/0276	8 Castle Walk	Southport	Approved	07/06/1994	Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of the property as 7 bedsits
N/1995/0131	86 Forest Road	Southport	Approved	10/04/1995	Certificate of Lawfulness for continuation of use as a house in multiple occupation (6 bedsits)
N/1995/0258	15 York Road Birkdale	Southport	Approved	29/06/1995	Continuation of use as 6 bedsits

<b>Appendix 4: Planning permissions granted and lawful development certificates approved, for houses in multiple occupation developments in Sefton from 1 April 1992 to 31 March 2012 (based on planning application records)</b>					
<b>Ref No</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Settlement</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Description</b>
N/1995/0413	11a Lathom Road	Southport	Approved	25/07/1995	Certificate of Lawfulness for continuation of use of premises in multiple occupation (5 units)
N/1996/0079	22 Lathom Road	Southport	Approved	10/05/1996	Certificate of Lawfulness for the use of the premises as two self-contained flats and four bedsits
N/1996/0155	18 Bank Square	Southport	Approved	27/06/1996	Change of use from a rest home to a house in multiple occupation
N/1996/0292	16 Saunders Street	Southport	Approved	27/06/1996	Change of use from a residential dwellinghouse to a house in multiple occupation including the insertion of a dormer window in the rear roof elevation
N/1996/0437	37 Sefton Street	Southport	Approved	15/08/1996	Certificate of Lawfulness for the use of the premises as 7 bedsits
N/1997/0120	39 Part Street	Southport	Approved	05/06/1997	Change of use from a rest home to a house in multiple occupation
N/1997/0239	67 Talbot Street	Southport	Approved	28/07/1997	Change of use from residential care home to house in multiple occupation consisting of one flat and 6 bedsits
N/1998/0662	110 Forest Road	Southport	Approved	03/12/1998	Certificate of Lawfulness for use of property as 10 bedsits
N/1999/0327	106 King Street	Southport	Approved	08/06/1999	Change of use from a boarding house to a house in multiple occupation
N/1999/0415	Birkdale 22a Broome Road	Southport	Approved	28/10/1999	Erection of 10 two-storey dwellinghouses comprising of 2 blocks of 4 terraces and a pair of semi-detached houses and a detached two-storey building comprising 6 bedsits
N/1999/0873	85 Leyland Road	Southport	Approved	20/01/2000	Change of use from a hotel to 4 self-contained flats and 8 bedsits
N/2000/0597	1-2 Royal Terrace Southport	Southport	Approved	28/09/2000	Change of use to five self contained flats and 2 bedsits involving alterations to the elevations
N/2000/0877	117 Sussex Road	Southport	Approved	31/01/2001	Certificate of lawfulness for use as 2 self contained flats and 4 bedsits
N/2003/0976	117 Portland Street	Southport	Approved	11/12/2003	Change of use from retail shop to a bedsit involving alterations to the ground floor only
N/2003/1074	117 Portland Street	Southport	Approved	11/12/2003	Certificate of Lawfulness for use of premises as 1 self-contained flat and 5 bedsits
N/2004/0177	104 Liverpool Road	Southport	Approved	19/04/2004	Change of use from dwellinghouse to dwelling in multiple occupation
N/2005/0446	1 Balfour Road	Southport	Approved	21/06/2005	Continuation of use as a house in multiple occupation
N/2005/0538	28 Leyland Road	Southport	Approved	02/08/2005	Certificate of lawfulness for use of the premises as a house in multiple occupation comprising of 9 bed-sits and 1 self contained flat
N/2006/0423	16 Knowsley Road	Southport	Approved	12/06/2006	Certificate of lawfulness for the continued use as one self-contained flat in the basement and 11 bedsits and retention of a conservatory

<b>Appendix 4: Planning permissions granted and lawful development certificates approved, for houses in multiple occupation developments in Sefton from 1 April 1992 to 31 March 2012 (based on planning application records)</b>					
<b>Ref No</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Settlement</b>		<b>Decision</b>	<b>Description</b>
S/2009/0793	9 Arnside Road	Southport	Approved	23/11/2009	The Certificate of Lawfulness for continued use as 2 (two) self-contained flats (flats 2 and 5) and as a House in Multiple Occupation (3 bedsits)
S/2010/0699	33 Talbot Street	Southport	Approved	21/07/2010	Change of use from a former hotel to a house in multiple occupation after demolition of part of the existing rear outrigger
S/2010/1337	1 Bath Street	Southport	Approved	19/11/2010	Conversion from part bedsits and part self-contained flats to a House in Multiple Occupation to the first, second and third floors
S/2011/1365	59-60 Promenade	Southport	Approved	02/12/2011	The re-arrangement of the existing layout to create four additional residential units, to increase the number of units to 14 self-contained units and 4 bedsits with shared accommodation

## Appendix 5: Assessment of impacts of the SPD on Sefton's *Natura 2000* sites

Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore proposed Ramsar Site							
Based on tables 2, 2a, 3a3b and 3c in English Nature's 'Draft Conservation Objectives for Mersey Narrows', March 2006							
Feature	Sub-Feature	Attribute	Measures	Site-specific targets	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination' effects'	Conclusion
<b>Internationally important populations of waterbirds</b>	Saline Lagoon	The basin area is defined, based on aerial photos, as approx 5.6ha.		No reduction in extent of saline lagoon area. Area (ha) measured once per reporting cycle. At least 60% of the water of the lagoon persisting at all times of year and states of tide	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Saline Lagoon	Isolating barrier (presence and nature)	Functioning of pumps and structure of the causeway	No change in measure from an established baseline	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Saline Lagoon	Salinity regime	Salinity (psu)	Average seasonal salinity, and seasonal maxima and minima, should not deviate significantly from an established baseline	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Saline Lagoon	Biotope composition of lagoon	Range of biotopes present	Maintain the variety of biotopes identified for the site, allowing for succession/ known cyclical change	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Saline Lagoon	Extent of representative/ notable biotopes	Area (ha) measured once per reporting cycle	No change in extent of the biotope(s) identified for the site, allowing for succession /known cyclical change	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Saline Lagoon	Distribution of biotopes	Biotope distribution	Maintain the distribution of biotopes, allowing for	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have	Appropriate Assessment not

**Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore proposed Ramsar Site**

Based on tables 2, 2a, 3a3b and 3c in English Nature's 'Draft Conservation Objectives for Mersey Narrows', March 2006

Feature	Sub-Feature	Attribute	Measures	Site-specific targets	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
				succession /known cyclical change		any 'in combination' effects.	required. This element can be screened out.
	Saline Lagoon	Species composition of representative or notable biotopes	Species composition/pr esence of notable (characterising) species	No decline in biotope quality due to changes in species composition or loss of notable species, allowing for natural succession/known cyclical change	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Saline Lagoon	Water depth	Average water depth (m)	Average water depth (m) within the lagoon basin at low tide (assessed at the same time of year) should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, subject to natural change	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Littoral Sediment (Intertidal sediment communities)	Based on aerial photos, area of intertidal sediment is approx 6.65ha.		No decrease in extent of littoral sediment, subject to natural change. Area (ha) measured once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Littoral Sediment (Intertidal sediment communities)	Biotope composition of littoral sediment	Biotope variety	Maintain the variety of biotopes identified for the site, allowing for natural succession / known cyclical change	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Littoral Sediment (Intertidal sediment communities)	Sediment character	Nature and distribution of sediment	No change in composition of sediment type across the feature, allowing for natural succession /known cyclical change	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.

**Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore proposed Ramsar Site**

Based on tables 2, 2a, 3a3b and 3c in English Nature's 'Draft Conservation Objectives for Mersey Narrows', March 2006

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Sub-Feature</b>	<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Measures</b>	<b>Site-specific targets</b>	<b>Possible impacts from the SPD</b>	<b>Possible 'in combination effects'</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
	Littoral Sediment (Intertidal sediment communities)	Distribution of biotopes	Biotope distribution	Maintain the distribution of biotopes, allowing for natural succession/known cyclical change	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Littoral Sediment (Intertidal sediment communities)	Presence and abundance of key invertebrate prey species	Presence (number of individuals per m <sup>2</sup> ) and biomass	Maintain the presence, abundance and biomass of key prey species, subject to natural change	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Saltmarsh	Based on aerial photos, saltmarsh extent is approx 1.6ha		No decrease in extent from the established baseline, subject to natural change. Area (ha) measured once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Saltmarsh	Physical structure: creeks and pans	Pattern of creeks and presence of pans	No anthropogenic alteration of creek patterns or loss of pans compared to an established baseline	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Saltmarsh	Vegetation structure: zonation, sward structure	Presence of different zones of saltmarsh vegetation	Maintain the range of variation of zonation typical of the site	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Saltmarsh	Vegetation composition	Diversity of species and coverage	Maintain the frequency of characteristic species of saltmarsh zones	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.

### Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore potential Special Protection Area

Based on tables 2, 2a, 3a3b and 3c in English Nature's 'Draft Conservation Objectives for Mersey Narrows', March 2006

Feature	Sub-Feature	Attribute	Measures	Site-specific targets	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
Saline Lagoon		The basin area is defined, based on aerial photos, as approx 5.6ha.		No reduction in extent of saline lagoon area. Area (ha) measured once per reporting cycle. At least 60% of the water of the lagoon persisting at all times of year and states of tide	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Saline Lagoon		Isolating barrier (presence and nature)	Functioning of pumps and structure of the causeway	No change in measure from an established baseline	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Saline Lagoon		Salinity regime	Salinity (psu)	Average seasonal salinity, and seasonal maxima and minima, should not deviate significantly from an established baseline	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Saline Lagoon		Biotope composition of lagoon	Range of biotopes present	Maintain the variety of biotopes identified for the site, allowing for succession/known cyclical change	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Saline Lagoon		*Extent of representative/not able biotopes	Area (ha) measured once per reporting cycle	No change in extent of the biotope(s) identified for the site, allowing for succession/known cyclical change	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Saline Lagoon		*Distribution of biotopes	Biotope distribution	Maintain the distribution of biotopes, allowing for succession/known cyclical	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in	Appropriate Assessment not required. This

### Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore potential Special Protection Area

Based on tables 2, 2a, 3a3b and 3c in English Nature's 'Draft Conservation Objectives for Mersey Narrows', March 2006

Feature	Sub-Feature	Attribute	Measures	Site-specific targets	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
				change		combination' effects.	element can be screened out.
Saline Lagoon		*Species composition of representative or notable biotopes	Species composition/presence of notable (characterising) species	No decline in biotope quality due to changes in species composition or loss of notable species, allowing for natural succession/known cyclical change	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Saline Lagoon		*Water depth	Average water depth (m)	Average water depth (m) within the lagoon basin at low tide (assessed at the same time of year) should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, subject to natural change	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Littoral Sediment (Intertidal sediment communities)		Based on aerial photos, area of intertidal sediment is approx 6.65ha.		No decrease in extent of littoral sediment, subject to natural change. Area (ha) measured once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Littoral Sediment (Intertidal sediment communities)		Biotope composition of littoral sediment	Biotope variety	Maintain the variety of biotopes identified for the site, allowing for natural succession/known cyclical change	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Littoral Sediment (Intertidal sediment communities)		Sediment character	Nature and distribution of sediment	No change in composition of sediment type across the feature, allowing for natural succession/known cyclical change	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Littoral		Distribution of	Biotope distribution	Maintain the distribution of	No likely	The SPD	Appropriate

**Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore potential Special Protection Area**

Based on tables 2, 2a, 3a3b and 3c in English Nature's 'Draft Conservation Objectives for Mersey Narrows', March 2006

Feature	Sub-Feature	Attribute	Measures	Site-specific targets	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
Sediment (Intertidal sediment communities)		biotopes		biotopes, allowing for natural succession/known cyclical change	impacts	will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Littoral Sediment (Intertidal sediment communities)		Presence and abundance of key invertebrate prey species	Presence (number of individuals per m <sup>2</sup> ) and biomass	Maintain the presence, abundance and biomass of key prey species, subject to natural change	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Saltmarsh		Based on aerial photos, saltmarsh extent is approx 1.6ha		No decrease in extent from the established baseline, subject to natural change. Area (ha) measured once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Saltmarsh		Physical structure: creeks and pans	Pattern of creeks and presence of pans	No anthropogenic alteration of creek patterns or loss of pans compared to an established baseline	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Saltmarsh		Vegetation structure: zonation, sward structure	Presence of different zones of saltmarsh vegetation	Maintain the range of variation of zonation typical of the site	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Saltmarsh		Vegetation composition	Diversity of species and coverage	Maintain the frequency of characteristic species of saltmarsh zones	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Redshank	Littoral Sediment	Population (mean peak count		No absolute loss of any more than 50% of the population.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have	Appropriate Assessment not

### Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore potential Special Protection Area

Based on tables 2, 2a, 3a3b and 3c in English Nature's 'Draft Conservation Objectives for Mersey Narrows', March 2006

Feature	Sub-Feature	Attribute	Measures	Site-specific targets	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
	(Intertidal sediment communities) Saltmarsh	1993/94 - 1997/98) = 1,830.		Landscape: Open terrain, relatively free of obstructions (anti-predator). Areas with unrestricted views [>200m] and an effective field size [>10ha]		any 'in combination' effects.	required. This element can be screened out.
Turnstone	Littoral Sediment (Intertidal sediment communities) Saltmarsh	Population (mean peak count 1993/94 - 1997/98) = 1,523.		No absolute loss of any more than 50% of the population.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Cormorant	Littoral Sediment (Intertidal sediment communities) Saltmarsh	Population (mean peak count 1993/94 - 1997/98) = 559.		No absolute loss of any more than 50% of the population.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.

### Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar Site

Based on English Nature's 'Draft Regulation 33 advice for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries European Marine Site', May 2001- Table 2: Favourable Condition for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries European marine site, pp 24-27; Herpetological Conservation Trust web-site; North Merseyside Bio-diversity Action Plan web-site: Species Plan: Natterjack Toad.

Feature	Sub- Feature	Measure	Attribute	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
Internationally important populations of waterbirds	All sub-features	Disturbance in feeding and roosting areas.	Reduction or displacement of wintering birds measured using 5 year peak mean information on populations. Measured periodically.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
		Absence of obstructions to view lines	Openness of terrain unrestricted by obstructions. Measured periodically.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Intertidal sand and mudflats	Extent and distribution of habitat	Area (ha), measured once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
		Food availability	Presence and abundance of surface and sub-surface invertebrates. Measured periodically.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Saltmarsh	Extent and distribution of habitat	Area (ha), measured once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.

### Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar Site

Based on English Nature's 'Draft Regulation 33 advice for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries European Marine Site', May 2001- Table 2: Favourable Condition for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries European marine site, pp 24-27; Herpetological Conservation Trust web-site; North Merseyside Bio-diversity Action Plan web-site: Species Plan: Natterjack Toad.

Feature	Sub- Feature	Measure	Attribute	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
		Vegetation Characteristics	Open, short vegetation or bare ground predominating (roosting). Measured periodically.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
		Food availability	Presence and abundance of invertebrates. Measured periodically.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Natterjack toads	Sand dune slacks	Extent and distribution of habitat	Area (ha), measured once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
		Ponds and slacks from winter through to late summer	Visual assessment.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
		Short grassland and are sand for feeding areas.	Measured periodically. Visual assessment.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
		Open sand ridges for burrows	Measured periodically. Visual assessment.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be

### Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar Site

Based on English Nature's 'Draft Regulation 33 advice for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries European Marine Site', May 2001- Table 2: Favourable Condition for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries European marine site, pp 24-27; Herpetological Conservation Trust web-site; North Merseyside Bio-diversity Action Plan web-site: Species Plan: Natterjack Toad.

Feature	Sub- Feature	Measure	Attribute	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
						screened out.
	Saltmarsh	Extent and distribution of habitat	Area (ha), measured once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.

### Ribble and Alt Estuaries Special Protection Area

Source: English Nature's 'Draft Regulation 33 advice for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries European Marine Site', May 2001- Table 2: Favourable Condition for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries European marine site, pp 24-27

Feature	Sub-Feature	Measure	Attribute	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 bird species (eg golden plover, Bewick's swan, whooper swan, bar-tailed godwit)	All sub-features	Disturbance in feeding and roosting areas.	Reduction or displacement of wintering birds. Measured periodically.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
		Absence of obstructions to view lines	Openness of terrain unrestricted by obstructions. Measured periodically.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Intertidal sand and mudflats	Extent and distribution of habitat	Area (ha), measured once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
		Food availability	Presence and abundance of surface and sub-surface invertebrates. Measured periodically.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 bird species (eg golden plover, Bewick's swan, whooper swan, bar-tailed godwit)	Saltmarsh	Extent and distribution of habitat	Area (ha), measured once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
		Vegetation	Open, short vegetation or	No likely	The SPD	Appropriate

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Feature	Sub-Feature	Measure	Attribute	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
		Characteristics	bare ground predominating (roosting). Measured periodically.	impacts	will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Internationally important assemblage including internationally important populations of migratory species.	All sub-features	Disturbance in feeding and roosting areas.	Reduction or displacement of wintering birds measured using 5 year peak mean information on populations. Measured periodically.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
		Absence of obstructions to view lines	Openness of terrain unrestricted by obstructions. Measured periodically.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
	Intertidal sand and mudflats	Extent and distribution of habitat	Area (ha), measured once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Internationally important assemblage including internationally important populations of migratory species.	Intertidal sand and mudflats	Food availability	Presence and abundance of sub-surface invertebrates. Measured periodically.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
		Food availability	Presence and abundance of eelgrass and/or green algae. Measured periodically.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.

### Ribble and Alt Estuaries Special Protection Area

Source: English Nature's 'Draft Regulation 33 advice for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries European Marine Site', May 2001- Table 2: Favourable Condition for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries European marine site, pp 24-27

Feature	Sub-Feature	Measure	Attribute	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination' effects'	Conclusion
	Saltmarsh	Extent and distribution of habitat	Area (ha), measured once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
		Food availability	Presence and abundance of invertebrates. Measured periodically.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Internationally important assemblage including internationally important populations of migratory species.	Saltmarsh	Food availability	Presence and abundance of soft leaved and seed bearing plants. Measured periodically.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
		Vegetation Characteristics	Open, short vegetation or bare ground predominating (roosting). Measured periodically.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.

### Sefton Coast Special Area of Conservation

Based on English Nature's 'SAC: Component SSSI: Sefton Coast: Conservation objectives for the European Interest on the SSSI' dated 19/7/02).

Feature	Sub- Feature	Measure	Attribute	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
Sand dune	Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation	Extent	Area (ha) of fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation measured once per reporting cycle, by analysis of aerial photographs	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation	Substrate	Presence of sand with naturally derived organic matter in surface layers. Assess once per reporting cycle by visual assessment.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation	Range and zonation of vegetation communities	Presence of vegetation communities and patterns of distribution characteristic of fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation. Sample at least once during reporting cycle with the assessment being carried out at the optimal time in the growing season (May-August). Measure by NVC survey or visual assessment.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation	Vegetation structure	Relative proportions of short to tall vegetation. Visual assessment or sampling of height measurements, measured periodically (frequency to be determined).	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation	Vegetation-negative indicators	Extent of species not typical of fixed dunes, including scrub/tree cover. Area (ha) assessed from air photographs measured once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand Dunes	Eu-Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes	Extent	Area (ha) of decalcified fixed dunes measured once per reporting cycle. Assess from aerial photography.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.

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Feature	Sub- Feature	Measure	Attribute	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
Sand Dunes	Eu-Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes	Substrate	Presence of sand with very low lime content in surface layers, (and hence a low pH, i.e. less than 6.5), with low levels of plant nutrients. Assess once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand Dunes	Eu-Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes	Vegetation composition and zonation	Presence of vegetation communities and patterns of distribution characteristic of Eu-Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes measured by visual assessment once during reporting cycle with the assessment being carried out at the optimal time in the growing season (May-August).	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand Dunes	Eu-Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes	Vegetation structure	Relative proportion (estimated % over extent of habitat) of dwarf-shrub heath in different growth phases (pioneer; building; mature; senescent) that have been previously recorded on the site. Assess at ten yearly intervals.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Dunes with <i>Salix arenaria</i>	Extent	Area (ha) of dunes with <i>Salix arenaria</i> measured once per reporting cycle. Assess from aerial photography with ground truthing exercise.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Dunes with <i>Salix arenaria</i>	Vegetation composition and zonation	Presence of vegetation communities and patterns of distribution characteristic of dunes with <i>Salix arenaria</i> sampled at least once during reporting cycle with the assessment being carried out at the optimal time in the growing season (May-August).	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Dunes with <i>Salix arenaria</i>	Vegetation structure	Density and height of <i>Salix arenaria</i> stands. Visual assessment of % cover and height once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be

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Feature	Sub- Feature	Measure	Attribute	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
					effects.	screened out.
Sand dune	Dunes with <i>Salix arenaria</i>	Vegetation negative indicators	Presence of negative indicator species including non-native species, invasive species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not characteristic of typical communities. Measured by visual assessment once per reporting cycle. Sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> , white poplar <i>Populus alba</i> , balsam poplar <i>Populus candicans</i> and pines – various species but mainly <i>Pinus nigra larcio</i>	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Humid dune slacks	Extent	Area (ha) of dune slacks measured once per reporting cycle. Can be assessed from area of slack vegetation in growing season (NVC surveys) or area of standing water at the end of a wet winter (February/March) using aerial photography. Due to the large number of slacks in the site, a sample should be assessed each reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
		Substrate	Presence of sand and naturally-derived organic matter at depths that allow the water table to influence the surface layers. Measured once per reporting cycle by visual assessment of a sample of sites across the site.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Humid dune slacks	Hydrological regime	Proportion of dune slack area with standing water in summer months (July/August). A sample of slacks should be monitored once per reporting cycle using existing dipwell system and aerial photography.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Humid dune slacks	Vegetation composition and zonation	Presence of vegetation communities and patterns of distribution characteristic of humid dune slacks sampled at least once during	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in	Appropriate Assessment not required. This

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Feature	Sub- Feature	Measure	Attribute	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
			reporting cycle with the assessment being carried out at the optimal time in the growing season (May-August). Measured by visual assessment and NVC sample surveys.		combination' effects.	element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Humid dune slacks	Vegetation negative indicators	Presence of negative indicator species including non-native species, invasive species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not characteristic of typical communities.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Embryonic shifting dunes	Extent	Length (m) or area (ha) of embryonic shifting dunes, measured once per reporting cycle in July/August, and percentage of area supporting at least sparse embryonic dune vegetation. Measured by visual assessment supplemented by aerial photography.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Embryonic shifting dunes	Substrate	Presence of exposed beach plain at low tide drying to supply blown sand on to sufficient area for deposition of sand, often associated with drift line organic debris. Assessed at least once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Embryonic shifting dunes	Mobility	Percentage of linear extent and area of substrate suitable for colonisation by embryonic shifting dunes not immediately constrained by introduced structures, landforms or management measured once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Embryonic shifting dunes	Characteristic species of embryonic shifting dunes	Presence and cover of characterising species, particularly <i>Elytrigia juncea</i> , and/or <i>Leymus arenarius</i> , with other species such as <i>Honkenya peploides</i> , <i>Cakile maritima</i> during the summer months of June, July or August.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand	Embryonic	Lack of disturbance	Proportion of the embryonic shifting dune	No likely	The SPD	Appropriate

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Feature	Sub- Feature	Measure	Attribute	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
dune	shifting dunes		areas where vegetation/colonisation is prevented by persistent human disturbance.	impacts	will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white Dunes)	Extent	Area (ha) of shifting dunes along the shoreline with, <i>Ammophila</i> measured once per reporting cycle during the summer months of June, July or August. Measured by aerial photography.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white Dunes)	Substrate	Presence of blown sand within stands of <i>Ammophila</i> . Measured by visual assessment once per reporting cycle.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white Dunes)	Mobility	Percentage of linear extent of substrate suitable for colonisation by shifting dunes not immediately constrained by introduced structures, landforms, or operations measured once per reporting cycle by visual assessment.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white Dunes)	Range of vegetation communities	Presence of active healthy marram grass ( <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ) and/or other species at frequencies which characterise this habitat including <i>Carex arenaria</i> ; <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ; <i>Elymus farctus</i> ; <i>Leymus arenarius</i> ; other drought tolerant annuals and bryophytes. Measured once per reporting cycle by visual assessment.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Shifting dunes along the	Characteristic Species	Presence of one or more of the characteristic special species which may include:	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have	Appropriate Assessment not

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Feature	Sub- Feature	Measure	Attribute	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
	shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white Dunes)		<i>Eryngium maritimum</i> ; <i>Euphorbia portlandica</i> ; <i>Euphorbia paralias</i> ; <i>Calystegia soldanella</i> . Surveys to establish presence will be required in June to August once per reporting cycle.		any 'in combination' effects.	required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white Dunes)	Lack of disturbance	Proportion of the shifting dune areas where vegetation colonisation/re colonisation is prevented by persistent human disturbance	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Great crested newts	Terrestrial habitat	Extent	1) Area of habitat around suitable waterbodies.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Great crested newts	Terrestrial habitat	Structure and Quality	2) Habitat structure and quality	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Great crested newts	Ponds	Presence of ponds	Ponds (permanent & temporary)	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Great crested newts	Ponds	Pollution	Absence of pollution	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.

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Feature	Sub- Feature	Measure	Attribute	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
Great crested newts	Ponds	Presence of ponds	Ponds (permanent & temporary)	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Great crested newts	Ponds	Extent (depth and persistence)	Ponds should be of sufficient size and depth to avoid desiccation over the course of the breeding/tadpole development season (Feb to mid-Aug) for at least 1 in every 3 years.	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Great crested newts	Ponds	Shading	Extent of shading by trees	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Great crested newts	Ponds	Fish	Absence of fish in majority of ponds	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune (slacks)	Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> )	Quantity NB: If one attribute fails, the site is not in favourable condition for petalwort.	Visual assessment between October and April (avoid dry weather or when slacks flooded)	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune (slacks)	Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> )	Sward height NB: If one attribute fails, the site is not in favourable condition for petalwort.	Visual assessment between October and April (avoid dry weather or when slacks flooded)	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.

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Feature	Sub- Feature	Measure	Attribute	Possible impacts from the SPD	Possible 'in combination effects'	Conclusion
Sand dune (slacks)	Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> )	Shade NB: If one attribute fails, the site is not in favourable condition for petalwort.	Visual assessment between October and April (avoid dry weather or when slacks flooded)	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune (slacks)	Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> )	Vegetation NB: If one attribute fails, the site is not in favourable condition for petalwort.	Visual assessment between October and April (avoid dry weather or when slacks flooded)	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.
Sand dune (slacks)	Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> )	Water table NB: If one attribute fails, the site is not in favourable condition for petalwort.	Visual assessment during winter months	No likely impacts	The SPD will not have any 'in combination' effects.	Appropriate Assessment not required. This element can be screened out.