

Associated guidance for this document can be found [here](#). Each section has a link to the relevant section within the guidance document.

1 Details of the activity (i.e. the policy, strategy, service, project or function)

1.1 Directorate	City Development
1.2 Service	Economic Regeneration

1.3 Title of the activity (i.e. the policy, strategy, service, project or function):
Adoption of revised Local Wildlife Site boundaries

1.4 Brief description of the activity:
To adopt revised Local Wildlife Site boundaries following a public consultation exercise.

1.5 If the activity involves working with other directorates, partners or joint commissioning please state who is involved:
The proposed revisions have been endorsed by the Local Wildlife Partnership which consists of Durham Wildlife Trust (administrator), Environmental Records Information Centre North East (ERIC) and Local Authority Ecologists from Sunderland City Council, Durham County Council, Gateshead Council and South Tyneside Council.

1.6 Will all or part of the activity be delivered through a provider external to the Council? If Yes, please refer to the Corporate Procurement Processes
No

1.7 If Yes, please explain what element(s) of the activity will be delivered through an external provider:

1.8 Which areas of the city will be impacted?	
Whole City	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Coalfield	<input type="checkbox"/>
East	<input type="checkbox"/>
North	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>
West	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internal Council Activity – Impact on employees	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.9 Is the activity targeted at protected characteristics or any other key groups?	
All of the below	<input type="checkbox"/>
Age (e.g. older people, younger people/children, a specific age group)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability (e.g. mobility, long term health conditions, sensory impairment or loss, learning disability, neurological diversity or mental health)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity (including breastfeeding)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief (including no belief)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>
Care Experienced People	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other vulnerable groups and people with complex needs (e.g. veterans, children and young people who are cared for or care experienced, carers, domestic abuse victims and survivors, ex-offenders etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
People vulnerable to socio-economic deprivation (e.g. unemployed, low income, living in deprived areas, poor/no accommodation, low skills, low literacy etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Completed by: Gary Baker

Version	Status	Author	Comments	Date Issued
1	Draft	Gary Baker		12/07/2023

2 Data and Intelligence

[Guidance for this section](#)

2.1 What data and intelligence has informed the activity?

The proposed changes have been informed by site surveys. Full details of the data and intelligence used is set out within the Local Wildlife Site Report and Local Wildlife Site Evidence Report.

2.2 Summary of data / intelligence / consultation outcomes to inform understanding of differences in:

- the way people use, access or experience your activity;
- how the activity may impact; and/or
- outcomes for different groups?

All existing Local Wildlife Sites have been surveyed to ensure that they still contain qualifying features which would justify them being designated as Local Wildlife Sites in accordance with regional guidance. As part of this process, consideration was also given to any surrounding areas which also may contain qualifying features. The proposals also contain a number of new Local Wildlife Site designations, many of which have been identified as potential new Local Wildlife Sites for a number of years. All proposed new site designations have also been subject to site surveys to ensure that they meet the qualifying criteria. All revised boundaries and proposed new sites have been accepted by the Local Wildlife Partnership.

The proposed changes were also subject to an 8-week consultation process with landowners and the wider community. As a result of the consultation, a total of 15 representations were submitted regarding the proposals. The responses received to the consultation were broadly supportive of the proposed designations, however a number of landowners did raise concerns regarding the impact that the designations might potentially have upon the way that they operate or manage their land.

After giving consideration to the representations received, no changes have been proposed to those recommended by the review, as it is considered that the designations should not have an adverse impact upon the way that the sites are currently managed or operated by the respective landowners, as the designation would not require landowners to manage the site in any particular way for nature conservation. Furthermore, as evidenced within the Local Wildlife Sites and Local Wildlife Sites Evidence Reports, the sites had clearly met the qualifying criteria for designation.

A consultation statement has been prepared which sets out the representations received and the Council's response to these.

3 Equality and Human Rights

[Guidance for this section](#)

3.1 Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation

What impact will the activity have?

Not Applicable

Explain how/why:

The proposal involves designation of Local Wildlife Sites and would not have any impact.

3.2 Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
What impact will the activity have?
Positive
Explain how/why:
A number of the Local Wildlife Sites have public access and are accessible by all members of the community.

3.3 Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
What impact will the activity have?
Not Applicable
Explain how/why:
The proposal involves designation of Local Wildlife Sites and would not have any impact.

3.4 Age (older ages, children and young people, middle ages, an age range or a specific age)
What impact will the activity have?
Positive
Explain how/why:
A number of the Local Wildlife Sites have public access and are accessible by all members of the community.

3.5 Disability (mobility, long-term health conditions, sensory, learning disability, neurological diversity or mental health)
What impact will the activity have?
Positive
Explain how/why:
A number of the Local Wildlife Sites have public access and are accessible by all members of the community. Designation of these sites will ensure that they are protected and enhanced, which will improve access to nature and the health and wellbeing associated with this.

3.6 Gender reassignment (the process of transitioning from one sex to another)
What impact will the activity have?
Not Applicable
Explain how/why:
The proposal involves designation of Local Wildlife Sites and would not have any impact.

3.7 Marriage and Civil Partnership
What impact will the activity have?
Not Applicable
Explain how/why:
The proposal involves designation of Local Wildlife Sites and would not have any impact.

3.8 Pregnancy and maternity (including breastfeeding)
What impact will the activity have?
Not Applicable
Explain how/why:
The proposal involves designation of Local Wildlife Sites and would not have any impact.

3.9 Race (colour, ethnicity, country of origin, culture, etc.)
What impact will the activity have?
Not Applicable
Explain how/why:
The proposal involves designation of Local Wildlife Sites and would not have any impact.

3.10 Religion / Belief (including no belief)
What impact will the activity have?
Not Applicable
Explain how/why:
The proposal involves designation of Local Wildlife Sites and would not have any impact.

3.11 Sex (male or female)
What impact will the activity have?
Positive
Explain how/why:
A number of the Local Wildlife Sites have public access and are accessible by all members of the community.

3.12 Sexual orientation
What impact will the activity have?
Not Applicable
Explain how/why:
The proposal involves designation of Local Wildlife Sites and would not have any impact.

3.13 Will the activity impact on an individual's Human Rights as enshrined in UK law?
What impact will the activity have?
Not Applicable
Explain how/why:
The proposal involves designation of Local Wildlife Sites and would not have any impact.

3.14 Other vulnerable groups and people with complex needs (e.g. veterans, children and young people cared for and care experienced, carers, domestic abuse victims and survivors, ex-offenders, homeless or multiple complexities/characteristics)

What impact will the activity have?

Positive

Explain how/why:

A number of the Local Wildlife Sites have public access and are accessible by all members of the community. Designation of these sites will ensure that they are protected and enhanced, which will improve access to nature and the health and wellbeing associated with this.

4 Reducing socio-economic and digital inequalities

[Guidance for this section](#)

Will the activity:

4.1 Impact on residents' financial circumstances?	Not Applicable
4.2 Impact on housing, including type, range, affordability, quality and/or condition?	Not Applicable
4.3 Impact on digital inclusion or access?	Not Applicable
4.4 Impact on education, skills and lifelong learning?	Not Applicable
4.5 Impact on employment, including quality and access?	Not Applicable

4.6 Outline the impact your activity will have, including how you propose to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive outcomes

The designation of Local Wildlife sites is not considered to have any negative impacts.

4.7 Outline how you will measure the anticipated impact(s)

The designation of Local Wildlife sites is not considered to have any negative impacts.

5 Improving population health and reducing health inequalities

[Guidance for this section](#)

Will the activity:

5.1 Help promote healthy living?	Positive
5.2 Help promote safe and inclusive environments?	Positive
5.3 Impact on children, young people and families?	Positive
5.4 Impact on natural and built surroundings?	Positive
5.5 Impact on accessibility and active travel encouraging active behaviours?	Positive
5.6 Impact on living independently?	Not Applicable

5.7 Outline the impact your activity will have, including how you propose to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive outcomes

A number of the Local Wildlife Sites have public access and are accessible by all members of the community. Designation of these sites will ensure that they are protected and enhanced, which will improve access to nature and the health and wellbeing associated with this.

5.8 Outline how you will measure the anticipated impact(s)

It is anticipated that management plans will be prepared for each of the Local Wildlife Sites and the condition of

the sites will be monitored by site surveys. Accessibility of sites for all will be considered through the management plans.

6 Carbon reduction and sustainability

[Guidance for this section](#)

Will the activity:

6.1 Impact on carbon reduction or the use of renewable energy?	Not Applicable
6.2 Impact on the effects of climate change adaptation?	Positive
6.3 Impact on reducing, re-using and recycling resources?	Not Applicable
6.4 Impact on construction?	Not Applicable

6.5 Outline the impact your activity will have, including how you propose to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive outcomes

The designation of Local Wildlife Sites ensures that existing habitats will be protected and enhanced. This provides an opportunity to improve their ability to act as a carbon sink to offset carbon emissions elsewhere within the city. Management of the sites also will ensure that other climate change adaptation can be incorporated where appropriate, such as natural flood management and resilience of ecosystems to climate change.

6.6 Outline how you will measure the anticipated impact(s)

It is anticipated that management plans will be prepared for each of the Local Wildlife Sites and the condition of the sites will be monitored by site surveys. Where habitat enhancement is proposed as part of any respective management plans, where possible a carbon sequestration value will be calculated to identify the potential positive impacts.

7 Community wealth building

[Guidance for this section](#)

Will the activity:

7.1 Impact on community wealth and social value?	Positive
7.2 Impact on social inclusion, integration, and fostering good relations?	Positive
7.3 Impact on crime reduction, anti-social behaviour and community safety?	Positive and Negative
7.4 Impact on access to services?	Not Applicable

7.5 Outline the impact your activity will have, including how you propose to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive outcomes

The designation of Local Wildlife Sites ensures that existing habitats will be protected and enhanced. The management of sites may create potential volunteering opportunities to raise awareness and create a greater sense of community stewardship. These will be considered through the management plans. It is possible that increasing public access to Local Wildlife Sites may have a negative impact upon anti-social behaviour by providing enhanced access to wildlife sites which are often isolated and not overlooked. Signage and interpretation will be considered as part of the management plans, where appropriate.

7.6 Outline how you will measure the anticipated impact(s)

It is anticipated that management plans will be prepared for each of the Local Wildlife Sites and the condition of the sites will be monitored by site surveys. The impact upon community wealth building will be calculated by monitoring the number of volunteering opportunities created and the number of people who have actively engaged in these. Any potential anti-social and community safety risks will be identified and mitigated as part of

respective management plans. Through greater access to nature and opportunities for volunteering it is hoped that increased sense of ownership will gradually lead to a reduction any in antisocial behaviour that may occur.

8 Key Actions

Any key actions identified throughout the IIA should be recorded here. This will be the action plan linked to your activity and should be implemented to ensure all inequalities or negative impacts are mitigated.

Key Actions	Timescale	Responsible Officer	Review Date
Preparation/Update of Management Plans for LWS	Ongoing	Tom Stephenson	Annually

Responsible officer sign off:	
Name	Gary Baker
Job Title	Strategic and Sustainable Plans Manager
Responsible officer for reviewing actions:	
Name	Tom Stephenson
Job Title	Principal Ecologist

Once the Integrated Impact Assessment is complete, please send to IIA@sunderland.gov.uk.