



LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES

Consultation Statement

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Introduction

In November 2021, the Environment Act took effect which seeks to protect and enhance our environment for future generations. The Act seeks to halt the decline in species by 2030, strengthen the biodiversity duty and require new developments to improve or create habitats for nature.

In order to help achieve these intended aims, the Act introduces a legal requirement for local authorities to prepare Local Nature Recovery Strategies and also introduces mandatory biodiversity net gain to be delivered as part of new developments from November 2023.

Between December 2020 and February 2021, the Council consulted on proposed boundary changes to existing Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and proposed new LWS designations alongside the consultation on the Draft Allocations and Designations Plan. However, following the consultation, these proposed changes have not yet been taken forward and formally adopted by the Council.

Following the establishment of the South of Tyne and Wear Local Nature Recovery partnership by Defra (which encompasses Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland), work has now commenced on the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the area, which will

- Map the most valuable existing habitat for nature;
- Map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals; and
- Agree priorities for nature's recovery.

In order to help inform the preparation of the LNRS, it is now proposed that the changes to Local Wildlife Sites within the city are formally adopted by the Council.

This Consultation statement sets out detail of the consultation Sunderland City Council has undertaken on the Local Wildlife Site Report and accompanying Local Wildlife Sites Evidence Report, which set out the proposed changes. The statement summarises the responses to the consultation and sets out the Council's response, including where any changes have been proposed as a result of the responses received.

What are the Local Wildlife Site Report and Local Wildlife Sites Evidence Report?

There are currently 63 designated Local Wildlife Sites in Sunderland, and the purpose of these documents was to review the sites in order to support the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

The review provided recommendations on currently designated sites, including minor and major boundary reviews, and also seeks to designate new sites.

The Local Wildlife Site Report sets out the proposed changes and the accompanying Local Wildlife Sites Evidence Report provides in depth information regarding each site, including maps.

The changes have been informed by local LWS designation guidance and are supported by the Local Wildlife Sites Partnership.

Consultation on the Local Wildlife Site Report and Local Wildlife Sites Evidence Report

Consultation on the proposals was undertaken between 18 December 2020 and the 12 February 2021 alongside the consultation on the Draft Allocations and Designations Plan.

The Local Wildlife Site Report and Local Wildlife Sites Evidence Report were made publicly available for comment for an 8-week period between 18 December 2020 and 12 February 2021. The documents were made available on the Council's website¹ and copies were available to view at Sunderland Civic Centre. Stakeholders were invited to make representations in writing by email or letter.

¹ [Local Wildlife Sites - Sunderland City Council](#)

Persons the local planning authority consulted

The Council wrote to all landowners affected by the proposed designations. The Council also wrote to all persons on the Local Plan Database, this includes statutory consultees, general consultation bodies and those who had previously expressed an interest in the Local Plan. Copies of the correspondence inviting persons to make representations on the LWS consultation is included in Appendix 1.

A summary of the main issues raised by those persons; and how those issues have been addressed where necessary

Consultation Responses

Name	Summary of Representations	Council Response
Simon Weightman	More needs to be done to properly fence off and protect these sites. Developers adjacent this wildlife site should provide the means.	Comments noted, no action required to update the LWS report. Management Plans will be prepared to set out the best way to manage Local Wildlife Sites.
Les Howard	High Barmston LWS, confirmation from property owner required regarding what the designation of the area means in terms of impacts of their property. Teal Farm Residents Association have accessed funding from Sunderland LA to plant wild roses and trees on that strip of land nearest our property. Previous to that the residents association also established a nature trail which starts on that area.	Comments noted, no action required to update the LWS report. The proposed LWS boundary does not extend into Mr Howard's land ownership and would not adversely impact upon the nature trail
Nicola Allen	Objection to the designation of the LWS owing to impacts on livery business.	Comments noted, no action required to update the LWS report. It is not considered that designation of the site as a LWS would adversely impact upon the existing livery business and would not require the landowner to manage the land in any specific way
Andrew Latimer	Concerns regarding consultation occurring mid-pandemic and over the Christmas period. Residents have expanded the boundaries of their properties to include the strip of land not council owned, which is proposed to be included in extended LWS.	The consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement which was updated to reflect the impacts of the pandemic and all landowners affected were consulted in writing. The consultation period covered an 8-week period rather than the normal 6-week consultation period to reflect the timing of the consultation. The proposed site boundary follows the established fence line on the Ordnance Survey baseline map and does not include residential gardens. No action required to update the LWS report.

Gill Pipes (WWT)	Support of project, further information required to understand potential implications for land the organisation manages and land adjacent to the site.	Comments noted, no action required to update the LWS report.
Heather Lyons	Further information required on several sites which are proposed for extension/new designations within close proximity/ within Highways England owned land.	Comments noted, no action required to update the LWS report. Details of the habitat and species present on these sites is included within the published report.
Tom Hutchinson	Additional information required regarding the “Woodland management guidance and monitoring notes”.	Comments noted, no action required to update the LWS report. Woodland Management Guidance refers to guidance published by the Forestry Commission which is available to view online at Managing and maintaining woodlands: overview - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Dave Hutchinson (East Boldon Neighbourhood Forum)	The Downhill Meadows Local Wildlife Site is very close to the boundary of the East Boldon Neighbourhood Plan area. The Forum supports the proposal to enlarge the area of this Local Wildlife Site. The Forum is interested in discussing whether the Downhill Meadows Local Wildlife Site could be extended north into South Tyneside. Potential inclusion of Turners Hill Local Wildlife Site.	Comments noted, no action required to update the LWS report as the actions relevant to South Tyneside are outside the scope of the Sunderland LWS review.
Mark Goodwill (Highways England)	Additional information requested regarding why the area is proposed to become a local wildlife designation site, such as what habitat is there and if there are and local BAP or UK BAP species.	Comments noted, no action required to update the LWS report. The LWS Evidence Report sets out detailed information on habitats and species present.
Fiona Braithwaite (Lichfields)	Response regarding the Pattinson South Pond Local Wildlife Site, supporting the extension of this Local Wildlife Site.	Comments noted, no action required to update the LWS report.
Sarah Smith-Vosey (Environment Agency)	Support for the extensions of Local Wildlife Sites. Recommend the LWS is widened to include a suitable buffer from top of bank. In some areas this may only be a few metres, but may be more where space allows.	Comments noted, no action required to update the LWS report - boundary selection is in accordance with the local LWS guidance.

Renata Del Luongo	Object to any extension of any sites, which may have an impact on the business from the site or which may seek to utilise land within our ownership for the proposed extension.	It is not considered that the proposed extension of the Washington Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre LWS will impact any adjacent business operation and would not require the landowner to manage the land in any specific way. The proposed boundary would follow the established fence line. No action required to update the LWS report.
Lynne Ebdale	Support for the proposed High Wood LWS.	Comments noted, no action required to update the LWS report.
Joanne Metcalfe (YoungsRPS)	Regarding the High Wood Local Wildlife Site, the extension of the boundary at the eastern side of the LWS extension includes woodland alongside farm access road. Requests that, either the LWS boundary is pulled in at point highlighted, or reassurance provided that their access route will not be restricted.	The party in question is proprietor of only part of the land and it is confirmed that LWS designation would not prevent access nor widening of the track if it were necessary. No action required to update the LWS report.
Tim Wright (Local Wildlife Partnership)	Support for the proposals. Further comments detailing how the proposals might impact upon the city, and recommendations as to how these spaces can be better utilised.	The submission encourages wider action, which is outside the scope of this consultation, therefore no further action is required to update the LWS report.

Appendix 1 – Letters

LWS Landowner Consultation Letter

Addressee
Address line 1
Address line 2
Address line 3
Address line 4
Address line 5
Address line 6
Postcode



Date: December 2020
Our ref:
Your
ref:

Dear Madam/Sir

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE DESIGNATIONS

I am writing to inform you that Sunderland City Council is consulting on changes to the boundaries of existing Local Wildlife Sites and the designation of new sites, as part of the consultation on the Allocations and Designations Plan.

Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are areas of substantive nature conservation value and make an important contribution to ecological networks in the local landscape. LWS include woodland, grassland and wetland habitats and associated species of conservation importance. They are selected and assessed following recognised criteria and Defra guidance. Details of the proposed LWS are presented in a Local Wildlife Site Review 2020 report, with location maps and supporting text for each site.

We believe that land in your ownership may include part or all of an existing or proposed Local Wildlife Site or sites, and as such we would welcome any comments you may wish to make on the proposed designation of the site/s.

Consultation will take place over an eight-week period, commencing on 18 December 2020 and closing on 12 February 2021. Due to the current situation with COVID-19, during the consultation period a copy of the Local Wildlife Site Review 2020 report will only be available in the Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN during normal opening hours (8.45am-5.15pm Mon-Thurs and 8.45-4.45pm Fri) and on the Council's website at <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/12800/Have-Your-Say>.

Please email comments to planningpolicy@sunderland.gov.uk or, if you cannot send comments electronically, please post to: Strategic Plans, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN. Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, the Council would strongly encourage representations to be submitted by email where possible.

Please note that comments cannot be treated as confidential. Your personal information, such as your postal and e-mail address will not be published, but your name and organisation (if relevant) will.

 Yours faithfully

Catherine Auld

Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration

Draft Allocations and Designations Plan Consultation Letter



Addressee
Address line 1
Address line 2
Address line 3
Address line 4
Address line 5
Address line 6
Postcode

Date: 18 December 2020
Our ref:
Your ref:

Dear Sir/Madam

CONSULTATION ON DRAFT ALLOCATIONS AND DESIGNATIONS PLAN; DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD), LAND EAST OF WASHINGTON (WASHINGTON MEADOWS) SPD SCOPING REPORT AND SUPPORTING EVIDENCE BASE

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE DESIGNATIONS

ADOPTION OF RIVERSIDE SUNDERLAND SPD AND HOMES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION SPD

I am writing to inform you that Sunderland City Council is consulting on a number of planning documents including the Allocations and Designations Plan, the draft Development Management SPD, the Land East of Washington (Washington Meadows) SPD Scoping Report and the supporting evidence base.

Consultation will take place over an eight-week period, commencing on 18 December 2020 and closing on 12 February 2021. Due to the current situation with COVID-19 our methods of engagement will differ from what we have undertaken previously. As such, during the consultation period copies of the Plan, the SPDs and key supporting documents will only be available in the Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN during normal opening hours (8.30am-5.15pm Mon-Thurs and 8.30am-4.45pm Fri) and on the Council's website at <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/12800/Have-Your-Say>.

We would welcome any comments you may wish to make on these documents. Please email: planningpolicy@sunderland.gov.uk; or if you cannot send comments electronically, please post to: Strategic Plans, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN. Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, the Council would strongly encourage representations to be submitted by email where possible.

Please note that comments cannot be treated as confidential. Your personal information, such as your postal and e-mail address will not be published, but your name and organisation (if relevant) will.

Local Wildlife Sites

Alongside the consultation on the above planning documents, the Council is also consulting on proposed Local Wildlife Sites. This includes changes to the boundaries of existing Local Wildlife Sites and the designation of new ones where appropriate. Copies of the proposals are available on the Council's website at <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/12800/Have-Your-Say> and at the Civic Centre during normal opening hours. The consultation will also take place over the same eight week period, commencing on 18 December 2020 and closing on 12 February 2021. Comments to the Local Wildlife Sites consultation should be made in writing to planningpolicy@sunderland.gov.uk or by post to Strategic Plans, Sunderland Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN. Again the Council would strongly encourage responses to be made by email where possible.

Adoption of Riverside Sunderland SPD and Homes in Multiple Occupation SPD

In accordance with Regulation 11 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) notice is hereby given that Sunderland City Council adopted the Riverside Sunderland SPD and Homes in Multiple Occupation SPD on 18 December 2020.

A number of modifications were made to the SPDs pursuant to Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (the Act). These are set out in their respective Adoption Statements. In accordance with Regulation 35 of the 2012 Regulations the following documents have been made available:

- Riverside Sunderland SPD
- Riverside Sunderland SPD Adoption Statement
- Riverside Sunderland SPD Statement of Consultation
- Homes in Multiple Occupation SPD
- Homes in Multiple Occupation SPD Adoption Statement
- Homes in Multiple Occupation SPD Statement of Consultation

The documents listed above are available to view on the Council's website at <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/14748/Adopted>. Paper copies are available to view at Sunderland City Council, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN (8.30am-5.15pm Mon-Thurs and 8.30am-4.45pm Fri).

Any person aggrieved by the decision to adopt the SPDs may apply to the High Court under Section 113 of the Act for a judicial review of the decision to adopt the documents. Any such applications must be made promptly and in any event, not later than three months after the day on which it was adopted.

If you have received this letter and no longer wish to be contacted about future planning consultations, please contact us in writing at: planningpolicy@sunderland.gov.uk or Strategic Plans, Sunderland Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN and we will remove you from the consultation database.

Yours faithfully

Catherine Auld

Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration

