

Alternative Recreational Sites

There are many nearby locations that you can use to get out into the fresh air or walk your dog, where birds won't be disturbed. These include:

- The Leeds Liverpool Canal (0.5km south) – This is the longest canal in Britain built as a single waterway. It offers a relaxing walk along the towpath, where a variety of wildlife can be seen, and the section nearest to your house forms part of the Trans-Pennine Trail.
- Trans-Pennine Trail – This footpath is a fantastic long-distance route which links the North and Irish seas. The closest part is the nearby section of the Leeds Liverpool Canal (0.5km south), which it follows before heading out into the wider countryside.
- Whinney Brook Playing Field - L31 6AY (0.5km northeast) has a field for dog walking and football, as well as a newly improved children's play area.
- King George V Meadows - L36 7UN (1.1km west) has a few large fields as well as children's play area and outdoor gym.
- The Round Meade park - L31 8DZ (1.7km northwest), has a field for dog walking and a children's play area.



Codes of Conduct

Please take all of your litter home with you from the beach. If you bring dogs to the beach you will need to clean up any fouling. Please do not leave dog poo bags in the landscape and ensure your dog is kept under close control at all times.

Dogs should also be kept away from birds on the beach, especially large flocks of roosting waders, terns and gulls. Avoid letting your dog run off the lead near to the birds. Never let your dog roam around the coast unattended.

During the summer months keep to footpaths when in the marshes and do not let your dog off the lead in these areas. Rare, protected species including natterjack toads and great crested newts use the pools in the dunes – dogs must be kept out of these areas of water so that these protected species can survive.

Barbecues and fires are not allowed at the beach, this is due to the fire risk and risk to habitats and species they present.

Please respect the beaches and coastline and keep to footpaths where possible to prevent unnecessary erosion of the dunes.

Connect With Nature

There are a series of nature reserves along the coast that are managed to enable you to watch and enjoy wildlife without causing disturbance to them. These include the National Trust reserve at Formby, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' reserve at Marshside and the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside's Freshfield Dune Heath. There is also the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust reserve at Martin Mere. These areas are staffed on a regular basis and staff can answer questions, and provide advice on birdwatching and volunteering opportunities.



Welcome To Your New Home

The local area is home to a variety of wildlife in terms of habitats and species, much of which is internationally and nationally important. Their long term survival requires quiet enjoyment and sensitive management and further information is contained in this leaflet.

Designated Wildlife Site

Your new home is 8 km from the Sefton Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC). This is an internationally designated wildlife site and is also designated as the Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar and Special Protection Area (SPA). These sites support important numbers of birds that are vulnerable to disturbance and a range of sensitive habitats and wildlife that are vulnerable to fires, litter, disturbance from dogs and erosion.

The information in this leaflet advises you on how to prevent disturbance. As well as ways in which you can enjoy the benefits of the wider environment.

Site Sensitivities

Litter left on beaches, such as plastic and glass bottles can injure or kill wildlife including protected species such as sand lizard and great crested newt. Rare flora and fauna that use the pools of water or dune slacks (the dips where water gathers) are at risk of disturbance if dogs enter these areas, particularly during the spring and summer months. Breeding birds that use the dunes such as skylark and breeding waders are also at risk of disturbance from dogs and people during this time, and could cause their nests to fail.

The bird species that use the protected sites during the winter period are especially sensitive to disturbance while they are roosting or feeding in the area between September and March. During this period the birds are highly sensitive to disturbance from dogs and from people getting too close while they are feeding or roosting on the sand and mud flats. This can prevent the birds from getting enough food to survive the winter or the migration back to their breeding grounds.

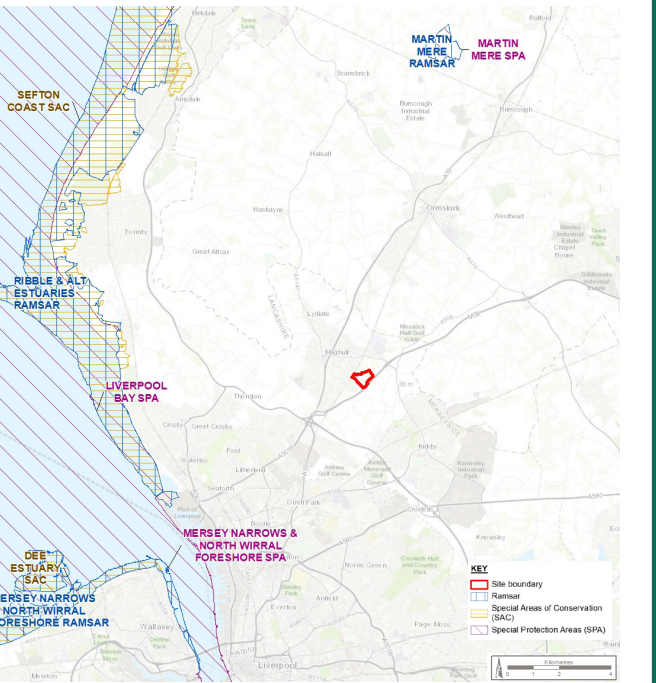
Sefton Coast

The Sefton Coast SAC is a large sand dune system stretching between Crosby and Southport. It is internationally important for the sand dune habitats it supports, with the whole range of dune types present, from shifting dunes with marram to dune grassland and dunes with creeping willow. The site holds more than 40% of England's dune slack habitat types.

There are populations of many internationally, nationally and regionally important species including natterjack toad, sand lizard, red squirrel and great crested newt. The Sefton Coast also supports a large population of the protected plant petalwort, which was first recorded on the Sefton Coast in 1861.



The Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site covers an extensive area of 12,300ha and comprises two estuaries (the Ribble estuary being by far the largest). It is dominated by mud and sand-flats, saltmarsh and coastal grazing marsh. It also supports a range of wintering birds including wildfowl such as Bewick's swan, whooper swan, pink-footed goose, and wintering wader species such as oystercatcher, redshank, dunlin and golden plover. Important numbers of some breeding birds, such as common tern also use the site during the spring and summer.



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