


## What you can do to protect our wonderful wildlife

Our coastal sites are under pressure from more people – erosion, trampling and litter are particular problems that affect wildlife and detract from peoples' enjoyment.

When visiting any outdoor green space, please:

- ◆ Take care not to disturb any wildlife
- ◆ Please stay away from nesting birds
- ◆ Stay on the paths where they exist 
- ◆ Do not light fires or disposable barbeques
- ◆ Follow instructions and the guidance on signs
- ◆ Respect other visitors, facilities and park your car considerately
- ◆ Leave no trace and take any litter home
- ◆ Do not pick plants or flowers
- ◆ Respect fenced off areas especially ponds
- ◆ Take care not to venture too far out on coastal sites – the tide comes in quickly

When visiting with a dog, please:

- ◆ Keep your dog in sight or on a short lead at all times 
- ◆ Clean up after your dog and use any dog bins provided
- ◆ Please do not allow your dog to chase flocks of birds or enter dune pools used by breeding natterjack toads.

## A few interesting facts about The Sefton Coast...



Comprises 20km of sand dune system, the largest in England

Supports up to 40% of the UK's natterjack toad

Great crested newt, the biggest newt in the UK, live in coastal ponds called 'dune slacks'

**Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet and we hope you enjoy exploring your local area responsibly!**

**For more information:**

**Visit the website:** [www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk)

**Email:** [contact@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:contact@sefton.gov.uk)

**Facebook:**  
@sefton-council



**Twitter:**  
@onesefton



Sefton Council 

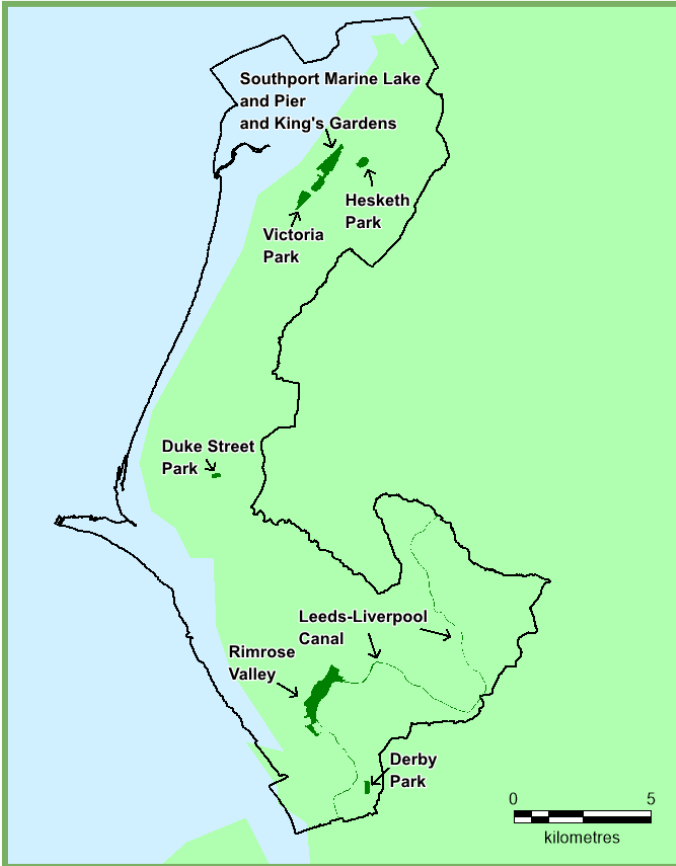
## Respecting Nature in Sefton:

*A voluntary code for responsible recreation*

## HOW YOU CAN HELP PROTECT OUR COAST & ESTUARIES



## Our Local Green Spaces



Hesketh Park

## Our coastline is of international importance, and we need your help to protect it.

Our coast and estuaries are becoming an increasingly popular destination for visitors. However, irresponsible recreational use has already caused damage to these coastal sites. These special places host an array of habitats and wildlife. These sites are important nationally and internationally for their rare and scarce habitats, birds, amphibians, reptiles and plants.

Every year thousands of migratory birds arrive on our coastlines to spend the winter. They fly great distances from Russia, Scandinavia, Greenland, Iceland and the wider Arctic to feed on shellfish, worms and plants along the coast and surrounding areas. However, birds can be easily disturbed, especially by dogs. Flying away wastes valuable energy, reducing their chances of survival.

The vast sandy expanses of the Sefton coast are a draw for residents and visitors from beyond the local area. Sefton's coastline can become very busy in the summer and over bank holidays. Please respect nature by being a responsible user.

Don't forget that rare amphibians, reptiles, birds and plants also live on our coastline!



Sand Lizard



Petalwort

## Internationally Protected Coastal Sites



Our protected coastal sites contain a range of special habitats which are home to a variety of rare and endangered wildlife, from natterjack toads to flocks of pink-footed geese. The habitats along our shorelines are essential for our protected wildlife to survive. For example, up to 40% of the UK's population of natterjack toads live along the Sefton and Wirral Coast. This highlights how important our coastline is for this rare species and why we all need to work together to conserve it. You can find out more about why our coastal sites are protected by visiting Natural England's website: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>