


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 barbecues
- ◆ 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. Exercise your dog away from resting or feeding birds to avoid disturbance. 

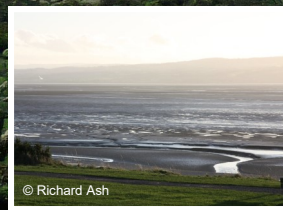
A few interesting facts about Wirral's coastal sites...



Grey seals can be seen hauled out near Hilbre islands at low tide.



Red Rocks Marsh is one of the few remaining refuges in the UK for Natterjack toad.



The Dee Estuary covers more than 12,000 hectares.



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

For more information visit:

www.wirral.gov.uk



Facebook: @wirralcouncil



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Respecting Nature in Wirral:

A voluntary code for responsible recreation

HOW YOU CAN HELP PROTECT OUR COAST & ESTUARIES



Our Local Green Spaces



There are some wonderful parks and outdoor green spaces you can enjoy in your local area!



Ashton Park



Birkenhead Park



Vale Park



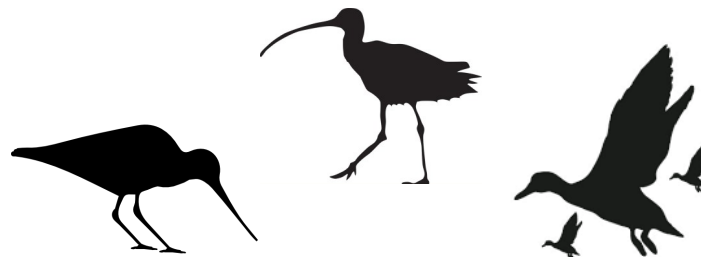
Eastham Country Park

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, including some of the rarest plants and animals in the UK.

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.

On the Wirral, you are never more than 5km from the coast. As a peninsula, Wirral has a diverse coastline from sandy open coast, seaside resorts, sand dunes to estuarine flats, marshes and coastal woodland. Being so accessible, Wirral's coast is a popular destination for both local communities and visitors from further afield. Please take care to respect nature.



Internationally Protected Coastal wildlife 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, 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/>