



PORTFOLIO AREA: ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

Date of Meeting: 11th March 2013

Public

Key Decision: No

Recorded in Forward Plan: Yes

Inside Policy Framework

Title: KINGMOOR NATURE RESERVE

Report of: The Director of Local Environment

Report reference: LE 07/13

Summary: : The proposal is to declare Kingmoor South Nature Reserve, as a Local Nature Reserve pursuant to Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 which gives local authorities in consultation with Natural England the power to designate LNR's.

Recommendations: That Executive consider and approve the proposals to declare the land in its ownership, Kingmoor South Nature Reserve, Carlisle as a Local Nature Reserve pursuant to section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

Site history and information

Kingmoor South Nature Reserve is approximately 34 Hectares and is bounded to the south by Kingmoor Road, to the west by Kingmoor Park South (a strategic employment site), to the east by Lowry Hill Road and to the north by Kingstown Industrial Estate. The wooded area in the east and north of the site is designated as a County Wildlife Site. (This is a Cumbria Wildlife Trust designation. Please see site plan in appendix 1. The site was last surveyed by the Trust in 1999). The site is identified as a Primary Leisure Area in the current Local Plan.

The history of the site goes back a long way from the days when it was known as the 'King's moor' and it was granted to the citizens of Carlisle by Edward III in 1352. The reserve is the original venue for the world's oldest surviving horse racing prize which dates back to 1580, the 'Carlisle Bells'. The area was dedicated as a Nature Reserve in 1913 and is now the largest area of woodland left in Carlisle.

Many different habitats are present within the reserve. The main land use is pasture (22.71 ha) which are tenant farmed fields. The wooded compartments of the site form a U– shape around these fields. The woodland blocks vary in age from the mature Oak and Beech planted as part of the Enclosure Act of the 18th century, to the naturally regenerated Silver Birches along the Lowry Hill boundary, Willow Carr near to the Kingstown Industrial Estate and the relatively newly planted 20 year old coppiced woodlands.

The variety of habitats on the site include still and flowing water, wildflower meadows, woodlands, hedgerows and green tracks. Amongst the many species of wildlife found within the reserve are Great Crested Newt, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Tree Creeper, Squirrel, Hedgehog and Fox.

Kingmoor South has been managed as a nature reserve for many years, the site being managed for both leisure use and nature conservation. A number of volunteer groups work regularly within the reserve carrying out ecological work. The site also has a "Volunteer Warden", who patrols the site regularly helping to keep it tidy and well maintained and letting Green Spaces staff know of any problems.

How does this fit in with corporate priorities?

- The declaration encompasses the values of Carlisle City Council's Corporate Plan by increasing peoples pride and respect in their local area, and improving the quality of the local environment.
- The declaration also ties in very well with the Green Infrastructure Strategy, contributing towards Carlisle being a 'Big Green City' for all four of the core benefits. These include improving the image and perception of the city, by having a well publicised Local Nature Reserve contributing towards making the city a gateway to the surrounding area, with better access and interpretation for tourists and residents.
- Local Nature Reserves also help local authorities meet [Local Biodiversity Action Plan](#) (LBAP) and sustainable development targets. In particular some species named in the Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan are found present at Kingmoor South Nature Reserve, including Bat species, Great Crested Newt and Damselfly and also one habitat, Wet Woodland.

2. CONSULTATION

2.1 Consultation to Date.

Natural England (the Government's statutory adviser on wildlife conservation) have been consulted and are in full support of the recommendation. Please see appendix 1.

Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel considered the proposals at their meeting of the 28th February 2013. The Panel supported the proposal and made the following comments

- Requested a public notice be placed on the road East of the Nature reserve
- That the opportunity to apply for landfill tax credit scheme funding for pathways and improvements in the Nature reserve be followed up
- To maximise the use of volunteers from a broader range of local organisations including local schools.

2.2 Consultation proposed.

A public notice will be displayed in the information boards on site at Kingmoor Nature Reserve and a public notice published in the press. Further to feedback from Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel, a public notice will also be placed on Lowry Hill Road, east of the site.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1** That Executive consider and approve the proposals to declare the land in its ownership, Kingmoor South Nature Reserve, Carlisle as a Local Nature Reserve pursuant to section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Benefits of declaration to a Local Nature Reserve

The benefits of the declaration to Kingmoor South and the city of Carlisle would be:

- Increasing people's awareness and enjoyment of their natural environment.
- Provide an ideal environment for everyone to learn about and study nature.
- Help build relationships between local authorities, national and local conservation organisations and local people.
- Protect wildlife habitats and natural features.
- Offer a positive use for land which local authorities would prefer was left undeveloped
- Make it possible to apply bye laws which can help in managing and protecting the site.
- Would raise the profile of the site, nationally, encouraging more people to visit both the site and Carlisle.
- Contact with nature is important for people's well-being and quality of life, and everyone should be able to enjoy this contact in safety, without having to make any special effort or journey to do so.
- Because Local Nature Reserve is a statutory designation, it is a very clear signal to a local community of the local authority's commitment to nature conservation.
- Natural England recommends that there should be 1ha of Local Nature Reserve space per 1000 people in England, and so with Carlisle only having one other Local Nature Reserve, we can help meet this target.
- Increased potential for attracting external resources.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – Positive impact. Management of the site will continue as previously but it may be possible to secure external funding on the back of LNR designation. There will be a new requirement for a management plan for the site. This management plan is already in place and therefore will not have any staffing implications.

- Financial – With the exception of minimal advertising costs, which will be funded from existing base budgets, there are no financial implications of designating the Kingmoor South Nature Reserve, as a Local Nature Reserve.
- Legal – Power to designate land owned by a district council is by virtue of National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

Section 21 (Establishment of nature reserves by local authorities) provides that,

“(1) The council of a county or county borough or district planning authority shall have power to provide, or secure the provision of, nature reserves on any land in their area (not being land held by, or managed in accordance with an agreement entered into with the Nature Conservancy Council as to which it appears to the council expedient that it should be managed as a nature reserve.”

Legal have advised on and will assist with the procedural steps outlined in the body of the report (including consultation and formal notification) will follow any formal recommendation.

- Corporate – Establishes the site as a Local Nature Reserve and contributes to the green infrastructure.
- Risk Management – Positive impact in protecting this historic site.
- Environmental – Positive impact in protecting the woodland habitat.
- Crime and Disorder – Minimal impact but may assist in promoting the aims of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) in protecting wildlife habitats.
- Impact on Customers – Positive. Promotes the benefits of Local Nature Reserves as places for informal recreation and wildlife observation.
- Equality and Diversity – Positive. Promotes access for all residents to this site of local wildlife significance.

Impact assessments

Does the change have an impact on the following?

Equality Impact Screening	Impact Yes/No?	Is the impact positive or negative?
Does the policy/service impact on the following?		
Age	No	
Disability	Yes	positive
Race	No	
Gender/ Transgender	No	
Sexual Orientation	No	
Religion or belief	No	
Human Rights	No	
Health inequalities	Yes	Positive
Rurality	Yes	Positive

If you consider there is either no impact or no negative impact, please give reasons:

The designation of the Local Nature Reserve helps to ensure the site is freely accessible for all, including provision of level paths suitable for wheelchairs. It provides a safe environment for healthy exercise and helps to blur the distinction between urban and rural communities.

If an equality Impact is necessary, please contact the P&P team.

Location of Kingmoor South Nature Reserve within Carlisle and site map

