



ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Panel Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 28th February 2013

Title: KINGMOOR NATURE RESERVE

Report of: THE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Report reference: LE 05/13

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.

Questions for / input required from Scrutiny: What benefits will the new status of Local Nature Reserve bring to the environment and the community of Carlisle?

Recommendations: That the Panel consider 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 and provide comments for inclusion in the forthcoming Executive report.

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

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 Housing Estate 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 and Smooth Newts, Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Tree Creepers, Squirrels, Hedgehogs and Foxes.

Kingmoor South has been managed as a nature reserve for many years. Access is open throughout the site to the public, 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.

CONSULTATION

2.1 Consultation to Date.

Natural England have been consulted and are in full support of the recommendation. Please see appendix 1.

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That the Panel consider 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 and provide comments for inclusion in the forthcoming Executive report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

4. 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.

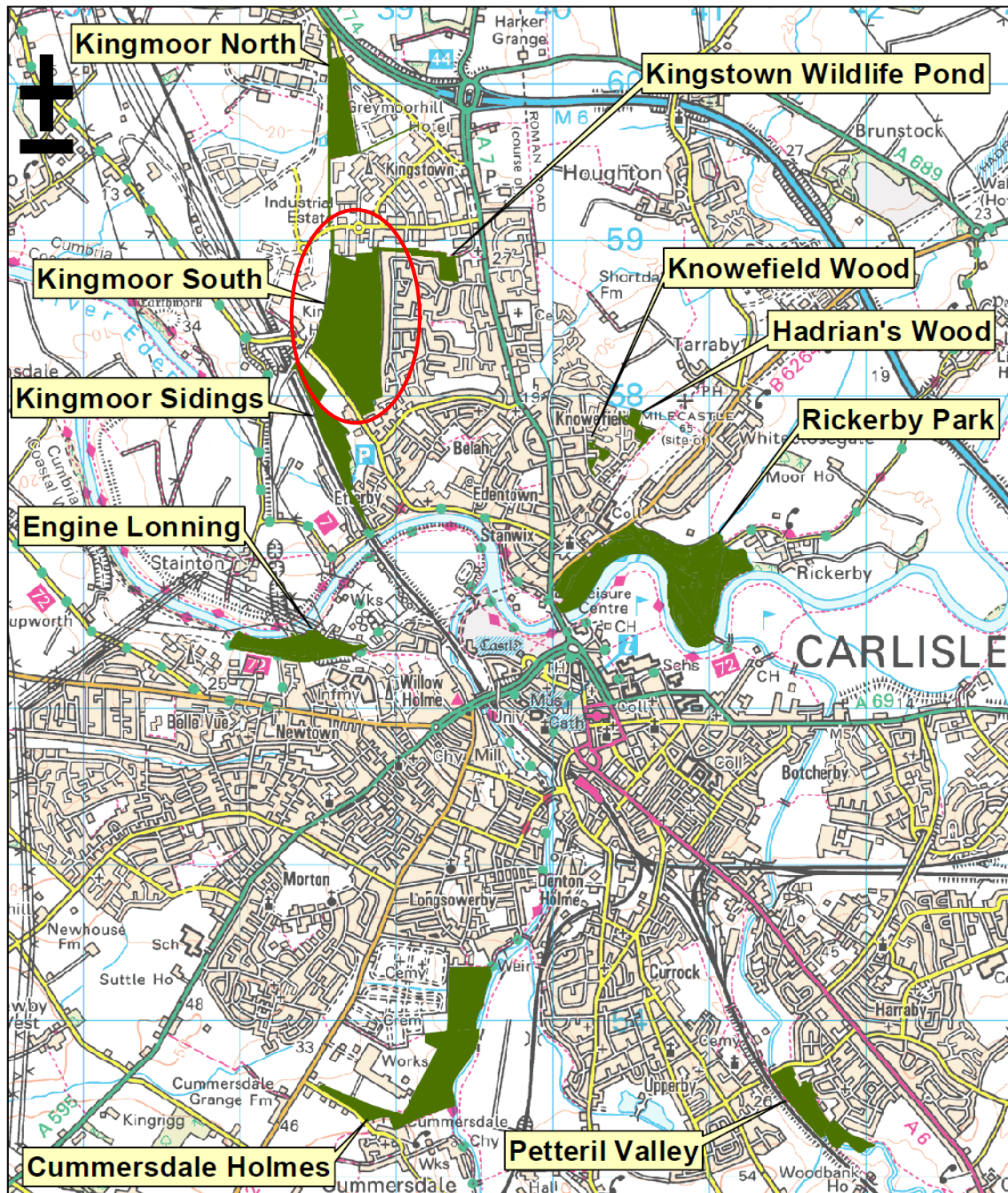
How does this fit in with Carlisle City Council?

- 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 Bats, Great Crested Newt and Damselfly and also one habitat, Wet Woodland.

Appendix 1 Location of Kingmoor South Nature Reserve within Carlisle and site map



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		
Disability		
Race		
Gender/ Transgender		
Sexual Orientation		
Religion or belief		
Human Rights		
Health inequalities		
Rurality		

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

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