

From: Sophie Leadsom
Sent: 17 December 2015 12:20
To: Ingrid Berry
Subject: Ainsdale Hope and Lynton Road

Ingrid

Please find below additional comments to address concerns raised at the Local Plan hearings:

Ainsdale Hope

Potential Impact Of Predation of Sand Lizard by Cats

The local sand lizard population is within 100 metres of the proposed site. It is accepted that domestic cats will often range this distance, therefore there is a risk that predation of sand lizard by domestic cats could have a significant effect on the local population. Evidence that mitigation measures (such as fitting bells to cats collars, keeping cats in at certain times of day and educating cat owners about the risk to sand lizard) is successful, is inconclusive. Therefore, on this occasion, the most appropriate mitigation to ensure the Sefton Coast Sand lizard population is not harmed by the proposals, would be to translocate the local population to alternative, suitable habitat a sufficient distance from the proposed site.

Preliminary discussions with Natural England have indicated that the translocation of this small population would be a feasible option. In addition Natural England confirmed it was confident that due to habitat management projects being implemented throughout the Sefton Coast SAC it is likely a suitable receptor site would be identified. Translocation would be required under a European protected species licence and prior to the commencement of works on the site.

Regards

Sophie

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