

Andrea OConnor

From: Sophie Leadsom
Sent: 11 February 2016 10:20
To: Andrea OConnor
Subject: Query re: Ainsdale Hope and Sand Lizards

Andrea

Thank you for forwarding Steve White's comments regarding the feasibility of translocating sand lizard, to avoid harm, if Ainsdale Hope was allocated for residential development. MEAS discussed the principles of Sand lizard translocation with Natural England (*Telecon – Sophie Leadsom and Margaret Dickenson, 14 December 2015*). In summary, Natural England agreed that suitable receptor sites, under appropriate management, are available within Sefton Coast SAC; and that the translocation of the small Sand lizard population would be an option if it was considered necessary. I provide my comments below:

- Translocation of the Sand lizard population close the proposed site would not result in a likely significant effect on the Sefton Coast SAC European protected site as Sand lizard is not a designation feature.
- Development of the site would require the Three Test Assessment for European protected species to be met in accordance with the Habitats Regulations. This test would be conducted at the planning application stage when further detail of the proposed development, including boundary structures, would be available. If translocation of Sand lizard, a European protected species, was necessary to meet the Three Tests then, provided it was carried out following best practice guidelines, to a suitable location, with secured long term habitat management and under a European protected species licence which would be issued by Natural England, it would be unlikely to harm the Sefton Coast SSSI Sand lizard population.

Regards

Sophie

Sophie Leadsom BSc
Ecologist

Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, First Floor, Merton House, Stanley Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 3DL