

Wirral Local Plan – Main Modifications Response Form

3. Data Protection Notice

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| x | Please tick this box to confirm that you understand that your name and your response will be published, that your full name and details will be passed to the Planning Inspectors, and that you have read and understood the Council's privacy notice. |
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Please note that all comments will be held by Wirral Council and made available in accordance with our privacy notice, which can be viewed at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/forward-planning-privacy-notice> or obtained from one of the addresses below.

Please read all the information related to this consultation on the Council's webpage at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/new-local-plan> or which has been placed in public libraries, and the Wirral Local Plan Modifications Response Form Background Note before you make your representations.

4. Completed Responses

Please submit your completed Response Form/s **to arrive at one of the addresses below no later than 5pm on Friday 8 November 2024.**

- by email to: localplan@wirral.gov.uk, clearly marked as 'Wirral Local Plan – Consultation on Main Modifications'
or
- by post to: Wirral Local Plan - Main Modifications, Wirral Council, PO Box 290, Wallasey CH27 9FQ

Please note that comments received after this deadline will not be accepted.

Please use a separate Response Form for each modification that you wish comment on.

If you require any further information, please contact the Council's Forward Planning Team by e-mail at localplan@wirral.gov.uk or by telephone on 0151 691 8235.

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Part B

1. To which Modification does your representation relate? (please insert as appropriate)

Main Modification Reference number: MM [43]

Policies Map Reference number: PM []

Additional Modification Reference number: AM []

2. If your comment is on a Main Modification, do you consider that the Main Modification is:

Legally Compliant – Yes / (please delete as appropriate)

Sound – Yes (please delete as appropriate)

3. Please explain why you consider a Main Modification does not assist in achieving legal compliance or soundness or provide any other comments on it in the box below. Please be as precise as possible.

MM43 Biodiversity and geodiversity

We support: A. 'Where significant harm to biodiversity resulting from development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission will be refused', because it gives complete clarity to developers, and is therefore best put at the start of the policy, not at the end.

We support: D. 'Adequate buffer zones to protect the asset must be incorporated into the design for any development adjacent to or affecting a designated biodiversity or geodiversity asset; a priority habitat or priority species of conservation concern; legally protected species; and irreplaceable habitats including ancient woodland; and ancient or veteran trees. Such buffer zones should be maintained as semi-natural vegetation ecologically appropriate to the asset concerned.'

However, it is necessary to add some guidance as to how 'adequate' is to be established, to avoid arguments at development control stage. Buffer zones are a current research area and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy development process has been examining this problem. We suggest 'Whether a proposed buffer zone is adequate will be assessed with regard to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, advice from Natural England and best scientific evidence at the time of application.'

We support 6.21 (Local Wildlife Sites review) and we hope that once this Plan is in place, there will be staff time to progress the currently proposed LWS, which have been awaiting progress for 2 or more years.

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4. Please set out in the box below the changes you consider necessary to make the Main Modification legally compliant and sound.

Add to D:

Whether a proposed buffer zone is adequate will be assessed with regard to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, advice from Natural England and best scientific evidence at the time of application.'

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5. Do you have any comments on the Sustainability Appraisal or to the Habitats Regulations Assessment in respect of this particular Main Modification? Please provide them in the box below.

Please state the document to which you refer, with the relevant paragraph, page and table number. Please be as concise as possible.

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6. Do you have any comments on a Proposed Change to the Policies Map? Please provide them in the box below.

Please state the proposed change to which you refer (in the format 'PMxx'). Please state as concisely as possible how you think the Policies Map should be changed. Please include or attach a map showing your proposed change, if you are able to do so.

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Part C

Do you have any comments on one of the Councils Additional Modifications? Please provide them in the box below.

Please state the additional modification to which you refer (in the format 'AMxx') and provide your comments as concisely as possible

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