Wirral Council

Parks and Countryside Service
Regeneration and Environment Directorate

Hilbre Islands
Local Nature Reserve

Management Plan 2011-2016

(Updated January 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Plan written and updated by:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jo Hanik, Sarah Roberts and Christine Smyth</td>
<td>25/02/2015</td>
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<th>Management Plan authorised by:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dave Grealis, Mary Worrall and Anthony Bestwick</td>
<td>25/02/2015</td>
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1. Introduction

The plan is intended to provide a framework for the development and improvement of the park. If you wish to find out further information about this document or submit any suggestions please contact:

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Email: Streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

To support or join The Friends of Hilbre Island contact the Rangers at Wirral Country Park on: 0151 648 4371

Or visit the Friends of Hilbre website at: www.hilbreisland.org.uk
2. The Wider Policy Context

Wirral Council’s Parks and Countryside Service are based within the Regeneration and Environment Directorate of Wirral Council.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

The Council’s Vision is that Wirral will be a place where the vulnerable are safe and protected, where employers want to invest and local businesses thrive, and where good health and an excellent quality of life is within the reach of everyone who lives here.

DEPARTMENTAL OBJECTIVES

The Environment and Regulation Department’s role is to protect the environmental quality of key locations across the borough in order to influence investors to operate their businesses and encourage new investors. Parks and countryside site maintenance and land uses will be re-aligned where appropriate to achieve resource and economic efficiencies whilst promoting health, social and environmental benefits to our communities.

Parks and Countryside Service Objectives for 2014/24

The Parks and Countryside Service have produced a 10 year Parks and Open Spaces Strategy that will inform and direct the next 10 years for the service. It is available online at: https://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/leisure-and-culture/parks-beaches-and-countryside/parks-development-and-maintenance

The Strategy sets out how Wirral Parks and Countryside Service will aim to attract and retain investment in the borough through provision of attractive and well managed parks and open spaces, whilst being accessible; and providing positive and healthy activities for all local people, communities and visitors to enjoy. The service also intends to contribute to the environmental sustainability and biodiversity of Wirral to achieve a good balance by protecting habitats while supporting economic growth.

3. Site information
Official site name: Hilbre Islands Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

Site address: Telegraph House Hilbre Islands C/O The Post Office, The Crescent, West Kirby, Wirral, CH48 8BU

Grid reference: SJ 185 879

Ward: Hoylake and Meols

Site overview:

Size: 50.9 ha (120 acres)
Access:

The only recommended safe crossing point from the mainland to Hilbre LNR is Dee Lane, West Kirby.

There is good public transport available to Dee lane and a bus and train service operates from West Kirby

Beach Access
There is one only recommended safe crossing route to the Islands from the beach at Dee Lane situated within a quarter of a mile of the town centre at West Kirby.

Due to the nature of the Islands access is across the sands and is approximately 1km to Little Eye and a further 1.5km to the main Island.

Access for pedestrians around the Islands can be problematic with some soft sand uneven tracks and gradients. The islands are only really accessible for the able bodied and those with mobility problems would find difficulty in both crossing the foreshore and circulating the Islands. These same issues affect mobility scooters, wheelchairs, prams and buggies.

**Safe Routes**

The only recommended safe crossing route to Hilbre Island is to start from the slipway at Dee Lane, next to the Marine Lake, walking towards Little Eye, the smallest of the three Islands, keeping it on your right. As soon as you pass Little Eye turn right and continue on the sand passing Middle Eye on your left. Between Middle Eye and Hilbre take the rough track over the rocks towards the south end of Hilbre, or alternatively use the steps to cross over Middle Eye and continue over the rocks and sands to the main island slipway.

Do not cross direct to Hilbre Island, or Middle Eye and do not cross from Hoylake as there are deep tidal channels on the east side of Hilbre Island and Middle Eye.

Tidal information is displayed on Dee Lane notice board and Wirral Country Park on 0151 648 4371.

Please note – the islands are not generally accessible to people with limited mobility due to the rugged nature of the terrain.
Facilities and features:

- Panoramic estuarine views across the River Dee to the North Wales coast and The Wirral coastline
- Telegraph Station Information Centre
- Old Lifeboat Station and Slipway inc. Tide Observatory
- Buoy Master's House Store and Workshop
- Telegraph House (former Ranger's house)
- Composting toilet block
- Day Room with modest kitchen facility
- Other buildings with private tenants (Canoe Club, Bird Observatory, two private Cottages)
- Wind turbine
- Navigational aids/structures (Trinity House)

Summary of significant features:

- Natural area with significant wildlife
- Secluded beach and rocky shore
- Freshwater Ponds within the LNR
- Panoramic estuarine views
- Historic buildings and features
Main Features of Hilbre Island

- Tide Gauge
- Former Lifeboat Station
- Seawatching Hide
- Navigation Beacon
- Former Telegraph Station
- Mersey Canoe Club
- Telegraph House (Rangers Accommodation)
- Former Buoy-keepers House, Store & Jetty
- Bird Traps
- Bungalows
- Hilbre Bird Observatory
- Air-raid Shelter
- Pond

Key:
- Cliff
- Steep slope
- Rock
- Boulders, cobbles & shingle
- Vegetation
- Fresh Water
- Building
- Fence or Wall
- Track
- Mean High Water Mark
- Mean Low Water Mark

North

100 metres
**Environmental issues:**

The historic buildings do not meet current requirements regarding access, energy efficiency and conservation.

Although recreational use on rocky shores increases the opportunity for raising public awareness and appreciation, trampling and ad hoc collection can have an adverse effect, particularly on the more fragile and slow growing species.

Water quality, including oil pollution in some areas and, notably, sewage discharge, can affect shore communities. Increased turbidity reduces algal communities, whilst siltation leads to the smothering of animal communities.

Coastal defences can cause changes in sediment movement. This can also lead to the smothering of rocky shore communities with silt, or conversely, the scouring of sediments.

**Summary of the known challenges:**

- Erosion to the Islands and its infrastructure
- Balancing nature conservation with visitor access
- Condition and usage of buildings
- Difficulty of access
4. Natural and built heritage

Designations

Hilbre, Middle Eye and Little Eye are included in the Hilbre Islands Local Nature Reserve in the Dee Estuary.

The Dee Estuary is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It has been designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA), and a Special Area for Conservation (SAC), under the European Union’s Habitats Directive. It is a Ramsar Site under the Ramsar Convention of Wetlands of International Importance. It is primarily of importance for its assemblage of wintering waders and wildfowl and as a staging post for migrating birds.

List of the most important plant species:

- Limonium britannicum (rock sea lavender)
- Asplenium marinum (sea spleenwort)
- Cerastium arvense (field mouse ear)
- Trifolium micranthum (slender trefoil)
- Parietaria judaica (pellitory-of-the-wall)
- Chlorococcum submarinum (microscopic green algae in cave)

List of predominant plant associations, stressing the most important species:

1. Heath plant community comprising bell heather (*Erica cinerea*) and common heather (*Calluna vulgaris*).

2. Cliff-top plant community comprising thrift (*Armeria maritima*), buck’s horn plantain (*Plantago coronopus*), Danish scurvygrass (*Cochlearia danica*) and rock sea-spurrey (*Spergularia rupicola*).

List of the most characteristic and important species of fauna:
Knot (*Calidris canutus*)
Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)
Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)
Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)
Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)
Ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)
Purple sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*)
Grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)
Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)
Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)
Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)
Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)
Brent goose (*Branta bernicla*)

Listed Buildings

The main island of Hilbre has 2 listed buildings, details as follows:

**Building Name:** BUOY MASTER'S HOUSE AND BUOY STORE
**Parish:** HOYLAKE
**District:** WIRRAL
**County:** MERSEYSIDE

**LBS Number:** 443646
**Grade:** II
**Date Listed:** 20/01/1988
**Date of Last Amendment:** 20/01/1988

**Listing Text:**
SJ 1888 HOYLAKE HILBRE ISLAND
(east side) 8/25 Buoy master's house and buoy store
House and store. c.1836. Roughcast, with slate roof. L-plan; house of 2 storeys and 3 bays with adjoining one-storey wing to left. Windows are sashed with glazing bars. Central entrance to house has overlight with glazing bars and 4-panel door. Wing for buoy storage etc. now mostly converted to domestic use has gable to end bay with small bell attached. Casement windows to south facade, sashes with glazing bars to north. Entrance with C20 porch and side entrance with paired doors to store in end bay. 2 gable-end stacks to house, small stack to wing.

Listing NGR: SJ1847688020

Building Name: TELEGRAPH STATION
Parish: HOYLAKE
District: WIRRAL
County: MERSEYSIDE

LBS Number: 443647
Grade: II
Date Listed: 20/01/1988
Date of Last Amendment: 24/11/2005
NGR: SJ1842188029

Listing Text:

SJ 1888 HOYLAKE HILBRE ISLAND
(north west) 8/26 Telegraph - Station

Grade. II
Telegraph Station. 1841. For Liverpool Dock Trustees. Painted stone with
slate roof. One storey, with bowed north end. Bowed end has small-paned glazing with 4 brass gimbals for telescopes. East facade has timber platform and elliptical-headed entrance. Hipped south end. Built as part of a relay of 12 stations from Point Lynas to Liverpool transmitting information on merchant ships sailing to Liverpool.

Listing NGR: SJ1847688020

Other Relevant Documents

- Draft Hilbre Management Plan 2003
- Quality of Coastal Towns Study Sustainable Tourism on Merseyside Assessment of Coastal Facilities – Atkins 2001
- Regeneration Plan for Hoylake and West Kirby – BDP 2004
- Adopted Wirral Unitary Development Plan – February 2000
- Wirral Local Development Framework
- Building survey reports in respect of Telegraph House and the Buoy Masters Complex (October 2011)
- Buildings management plan
- Business case in relation to the repair and refurbishment of the Buoy Master’s Store and associated works.

Tenure:
Hilbre Islands LNR and the surrounding foreshores are the freehold property of the Wirral Council. A number of areas and properties on Hilbre Island are leased by the Council to private individuals - the Hilbre Bird Observatory and the Mersey Canoe Club and two private Cottages.

**Constraints of Tenure**

The Metropolitan Borough of Wirral owns the Freehold title to the Hilbre Islands LNR and the tidal foreshore within the Local Nature Reserve as shown in appendix. The Hilbre Islands LNR were purchased by Hoylake Urban District Council from the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company on 18th December 1945 subject to the following covenants.

“The purchaser hereby covenants with the Vendor that the Purchaser and its successors in title will henceforth observe and perform the conditions following:

Not use nor permit the use of the property for any industrial purposes or for the provision of entertainment by means of swings, roundabouts, sideshows or similar or other amusements of a fairground character;

Use, hold and administer the property for recreational purposes to the end that the property may be preserved for the enjoyment of the public under proper control and regulation and for no other purposes whatsoever;

Make and enforce or cause to be made and enforced byelaws for the regulation of the property and for the preservation of order and the prevention of nuisance thereon;

Not erect nor permit to be erected on the property any buildings or structures except such as may be reasonably necessary to provide facilities for the public for shelter, bathing, boating, refreshment and sanitation, all such buildings or structures to be of suitable permanent construction and of a character unlikely adversely to affect the amenities of the district;

Maintain and keep the property including all buildings and structures erected thereon at all times in good order and condition.

Provided always that the Purchaser or its successors in title shall not be precluded from temporarily closing the property to the public for such period as it shall think fit for purposes connected with the better preservation of birdlife.”

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Board at that time retained the right to keep on the islands a survey mark (now taken over by the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory), navigation light (now the responsibility of trinity House Lighthouse Authority), a Tide Gauge and any necessary buildings in connection with them. The Board also retained the right to visit the islands at any time in order to maintain or repair these facilities.
The foreshore surrounding the northerly part of Hilbre Island approximately north of a straight line between Hilbre Point and the Lighthouse at Point of Ayr is subject to certain Crown reservations. Among other things these reservations effectively give the public “full and free right to walk or otherwise, pass to and fro over and to fish and bathe upon and to gather seaweed or ware …… and to land thereon goods and passengers from vessels and boats and to embark there from goods and passengers in vessels and boats.”

The public originally also had the “full and free right to ride (or) drive over this area of foreshore, but this right was withdrawn in 1980 with the consent of the Crown Estate Commissioners. This was to prevent people claiming the right to drive motor vehicles over the foreshore.

The foreshore to the south of a straight line between Hilbre point and the lighthouse at Point of Ayre, (i.e. Bounding the southern end of Hilbre Island and surrounding Middle Eye and Little Eye) is not subject to any Crown reservations or covenants.

A number of areas and properties on Hilbre Island are leased by the Council to private persons and associations.
5. Summary of main uses

- Walking
- Bird watching
- Seal watching
- A quiet naturalised area for passive recreation
- Photography
- Natural History
- School visits/ an educational resource
- To experience the coast and countryside
- The opportunity to undertake voluntary conservation work
- History

Who uses the site?

Figures for 2006 show The Islands have an estimated 3185 local and regional visitors per year who were booked in through the permit system. A total of 129 permits were issued during 2006. The Islands host school, university and local interest group activities. A breakdown of groups by type follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group by type</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
<th>total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bird watching/wildlife</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranger Guided walks</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rambler groups</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church groups</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scouts and Guides groups</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School/college/university</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>130</strong></td>
<td><strong>3185</strong></td>
</tr>
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Casual visits

The Hilbre Islands are a well-known local landmark and a popular tourist attraction attracting over **10,000** other casual visitors each year from all over the North West and further afield.
6. History

The Island’s History – Kindly provided by The Friends of Hilbre Islands
Hilbre Island is known to have had religious associations from an early date. A stone cross-head and grave cover found in the mid nineteenth century are considered to date from the late tenth or early eleventh century. A pilgrim shrine may have existed at an even earlier date, dedicated to St Hildeburgh or St Edburge, a seventh century Mercian Saint.

In 1066, Hilbre Island was part of the manor of Caldy, held by the Englishman Leofnoth. William the Conqueror gave Leofnoth's lands to Hugh of Avranches who passed them on to his follower Robert of Rhuddlan. Some time prior to 1081 he, in turn, gave them to the Abbey of St Evroul in Normandy.

In 1140 St. Evroult transferred West Kirby and Hilbre to their Benedictine Brethren at St Werburgh's, Chester and a Benedictine cell of monks was maintained on the island until its dissolution in 1538.

During the later years of the Benedictine cell it is known that two monks lived on Hilbre Island with their servant. They had one or two small boats and fished for herrings and they had a miniature farm on the island with horses, cattle and sheep and they may have grown herbs for medicinal use.

In 1538 the islands passed to the Dean and Chapter of Chester Cathedral and remained under this ownership until 1856. It was no longer a place of worship but simply a piece of property which was leased to various people over the years.

In the sixteenth and early seventeenth century Hilbre Island was an important anchorage for shipping in the Dee Estuary. Most of the trade was with Ireland (usually Dublin). Outward cargoes included various types of cloth, manufactured articles such as nails, knives, cups, wooden plates, small quantities of sugar, raisins, pepper and occasionally coal from the Deeside seams. The return cargoes consisted predominantly of hides for Chester's flourishing leather industry.

Hilbre Island was also used as an embarkation point for shipping troops, horses and equipment to Ireland during Elizabeth 1's Irish wars and again during Cromwell's Irish campaign. During this period the island probably contained an inn and one or two houses. The residents probably kept a pony, a cow and some sheep.

From the early seventeenth century onwards the importance of Hilbre Island as an anchorage declined. This was partly due to the increasing size of boats used for trade and partly due to the gradual silting up of the channel between Hilbre Island and Hoylake.

In 1692 there was a scheme to produce salt on Hilbre Island. This probably involved boiling in seawater quantities of Cheshire rock salt brought to the island via the River Dee. The scheme was short-lived but may well have left some traces in the form of depressions in the ground outside the present bird observatory. In 1755 there was a proposal to establish an oyster fishery.
around the island but this was opposed by a combination of Liverpool Corporation, traders, shipowners, fishermen and pilots and the proposal was dropped.

The island's inn "The Seagull Inn" was first recorded in 1793. Its patrons were "the crews of some small vessels which find a harbour under one side of the Island".

A traveler recorded in 1813 the local gossip about the Hilbre innkeeper and his wife that "their riches have been gained principally by wrecking, for which business their situation is said to be admirably calculated".

In the 1820's Thomas Telford and his associates produced a scheme to construct a "Floating Harbour" along the entire length of the North Wirral coast with two sea ports, one in the mouth of the Dee and one in the mouth of the Mersey. Hilbre Island would have become the pier head of the Dee port, linked via Middle Eye and Little Eye to the mainland by an embankment and road. A further embankment from Red Rocks to the northern tip of Hilbre Island with an opening 300 feet wide would have turned the sands between the islands and the mainland into a 50-acre tidal harbour. Needless to say this scheme and a contemporary scheme to build a ship canal from Hoylake to Wallasey Pool were never implemented.

In 1828 the Trustees of Liverpool Docks acquired the lease to the islands and established Hilbre Island as a telegraph station for communicating semaphore messages from Holyhead to Liverpool. The line of stations ran through Port Lynas, Puffin Island, the Great Orme, Llysfaen near Abergele, Foel Nant, Hilbre Island and Bidston Hill. The system enabled the sighting of a ship off Anglesey to be transmitted to Liverpool within minutes. The record, set in clear weather, was claimed to be 23 seconds, but in poor visibility and at night the system was unusable. In 1861 the semaphore system was replaced by an electric telegraph system.

Hilbre Island as it appears today is almost completely the creation of the Dock Trustees and the Dock Board (the successor body after 1858) during the mid-nineteenth century. The Trustees were responsible for the building of Telegraph House (with the exception of the southern part which is thought to be the oldest building on the island) and the lookout station in 1841 and 1842. The lifeboat house and slipway were built in 1849 and the tide gauge was constructed in 1852. The Trustees also carried out all the major revetment work around the island and probably built most of the stone walls on the island. A detailed list of the dates of construction of all the buildings on Hilbre Island is given in Section 6.

The Dock Trustees sub-leased part of the island to Trinity House, who built the house and store adjacent to Telegraph House in 1850 to accommodate a Buoy Store and keeper who was charged with the job of maintaining buoys in the Dee estuary. These buildings were erected and certain associated quarrying activities took place without the permission of the owners, the Dean and Chapter of Chester Cathedral. This led to ill feelings over the leasing arrangements and in 1856 the Trustees purchased the islands outright.
The Telegraph keepers of Hilbre Island all appear to have kept a horse or pony for transport and sheep and some kept a cow, a pig and poultry. The sheep are said to have been kept in order to keep the grass short rather than for profit.

Hilbre Island and Middle Eye were also divided into fields and corn was grown on the south end of Hilbre Island. Hay was cut in the paddocks and vegetables were grown in the garden.

With the growth in population of Hoylake and West Kirby towards the end of the nineteenth century and more particularly the completion of the Liverpool to West Kirby railway in the 1880's Hilbre Island became a popular destination for day-trippers. The following is an extract from R Anderson's chapter on the history of the Hilbre Islands in Hilbre, The Cheshire Island, edited by J D Craggs (1982):-

"As early as 1885, solicitors acting for an anonymous client with an eye to the new possibilities created by the railways attempted to purchase the property 'to form a Marine Establishment on Hilbre Island for the purposes of recreation, boating and bathing, and to connect the same with Hoylake Railway by means of a tramway'. A similar scheme was put forward by a Mr. Henry Summers, an Architect, a decade later; his ideas focused on the Little Eye, and involved 'the formation of a Promenade Pier constructed upon light iron stanchions or pillars starting from a station on the mainland.' The pier was to run to the Eye, where there would be 'suitable and ornamental pavilion buildings comprising assembly room, reading and refreshment rooms... (and) well-constructed sea-water bathing accommodation'."

The Dock Board resisted these ambitious schemes and more modest ones to extract rock and minerals from the islands, although it did approve another oyster-farming scheme which was short-lived. The property built by Trinity House was leased to a succession of individuals after the buoy store was discontinued in 1876. A lease was granted for the construction of a clubhouse for the Mersey Canoe Club in 1896 and leases were also granted for the construction of holiday bungalows in 1897, 1905, 1908 and 1923.

The Dock Board and their various tenants became increasingly concerned at the number of day-trippers. August Bank Holiday of 1911 brought 2,000 visitors. There were a number of attempts to prevent public access but the public outcry was such that the Dock Board eventually settled on a method of controlling the number of visitors by issuing tickets that had to be obtained in advance. Even this system was not introduced without local opposition. As an aid to control, iron railings and gates were erected around Hilbre Island and Middle Eye in 1911 and a Dock Board Policeman was employed on Sundays to enforce regulations.

During the First World War Hilbre Island was occupied by the Army. During the Second World War it was occupied by the RAF who used the islands as part of a decoy system to try and confuse enemy bombers attacking Liverpool. The use of the lifeboat station and Telegraph Station was
continued in 1939, the railings gradually disintegrated from neglect and disappeared and an air-raid shelter was built in the middle of the Island.

In 1945 the islands were sold to Hoylake Urban District Council with a number of covenants designed to safeguard them from undesirable development.

In 1974 when local government was reorganized, Hoylake UDC considered handing over the islands to the National Trust. The newly elected Wirral Borough Council, however, placed on record its determination to pursue a policy safeguarding the islands from undesirable development and to preserve and maintain their character for the enjoyment of the public (Leisure Services Committee Minute 13 - 29.5.1974).

Since 1945 the only developments have been the construction of the former bird observatory hut in 1962 and the adaptation of the lifeboat station in 1975 to make a "sea-watching" hide for ornithologists, a bird hide, Dragonfly pond and composting toilets. The Local Authorities have appointed a succession of Custodians to live in Telegraph House and to look after the interests of the islands. They have kept a variety of animals including a horse, ponies, goats, chickens, geese and turkeys, although there has been no grazing of the unenclosed areas of the islands since 1976.

In 1985 the post of Custodian was changed to Countryside Ranger with wider responsibility for the Dee Estuary. In 2010 the Hilbre Island Ranger post was lost as part of a cost cutting exercise and the islands are now managed by the team of Coastal Rangers based at Wirral Country Park, Thurstaston, and supported by volunteer Coastal Wardens who spend time in residence on the main island.

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**Natural landscape features**

**Geology**
The Hilbre Islands LNR consists of a ridge of Bunter sandstone of the Triassic period (180 million - 225 million years old). The ridge continues to the south and is visible at low tide at the Tanskeys, Seldom Seen Rocks and Caldy Blacks on the West Kirby and Caldy foreshore. Around the cliffs of the islands a number of small "faults" can be observed and there are numerous interesting features such as "cross bedding" and "pebble beds". The pebble beds contain fossils from a much earlier date (up to 259 million years old), which give geologists an indication of how rocks of the Triassic period were formed. Hilbre Island is the most northerly exposure of pebble beds with these types of fossils.

When the Ice Age ended about 25,000 years ago, the islands were probably attached to the mainland of Wirral. As the climate became warmer and the ice caps continued to melt the sea level rose. The islands were probably separated from the mainland around 5500 BC at about the same time as the British Isles were separated from the continent.

**Geomorphology**

The topography of the Hilbre Islands LNR can be attributed to a combination of the underlying geology of the area and the effects over several thousand years of continuous erosion by the sea. The islands themselves consist of low plateaux with a maximum height on the West side of Hilbre Island of 56 feet (17 metres) above mean sea level. The plateau reflects the underlying layers of Bunter sandstone rock, which dip in an easterly direction at an angle of about 10°.

The islands are known from historical and archaeological records to have reduced considerably in size in the last 2,000 years due to erosion by the sea. Bearing in mind that the islands were only separated from the mainland some 7,500 years ago, it seems fair to speculate that the next thousand years could witness the virtual disappearance of the islands. The revetment works of the past 150 years and the construction of the former Lifeboat Station have done much to prevent erosion at the north end of Hilbre Island. However, Little Eye has now been almost completely eroded away.

The process of erosion by the sea creates many features of geomorphologic interest such as cliffs, caves, stacks, wave-cut platforms and small sandy beaches. Much of the erosion is caused by the waves undercutting soft seams in the rock on the west sides of the islands, eventually causing the cliffs to fall. Fresh water draining through the rock to the east sides also gives rise to erosion and cliff falls aided by frost action in severe winters.

**Meteorology**

There are no reliable weather records for the Hilbre Islands LNR but Meteorological Office records are available from 1945 to 1970 for Ashton
Park, West Kirby. Ashton Park has an average annual temperature of 9.9°C ranging from a monthly average of 3.8°C in January to 16.1°C in July and August. It has an average of 4.03 hours sunshine per day ranging from 1.41 hours per day in December to 6.94 hours in June. The average annual rainfall is 29.1 inches (740mm). In relation to the North West of England in general, West Kirby is warmer, sunnier and drier than average. It is also relatively snow and frost free.

As the islands are only two miles or so from Ashton Park, the weather there should be similar. There may be slight differences, however, due to the influence of the sea, which for five hours in twelve surrounds the islands. The temperature of the sea at this part of the coast ranges from 8°C (46°F) in February to 14°C (57°F) in August. In Winter, therefore, temperatures on the islands may be slightly higher than at West Kirby and extremely low temperatures may be less frequent due to the warming influence of the sea. The islands may have a relatively long growing season for plants compared with inland areas but they are exposed to strong winds, sea spray and airborne salt. These conditions seriously limit the range of plants that can grow on the islands.

An alternative source of weather information is from the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory, 6 Brownlow Street Liverpool, 0151 795 4800

www.pol.ac.uk/appl/met.htm

This weather data from Bidston will be similar to that at Hilbre and West Kirby.

Hydrology

Apart from two plastic lined ponds, wells and an artificially created pond of uncertain age on Hilbre Island, the islands probably have little hydrological interest due to their small size.

Soils

The soil on Hilbre Island is, for the most part, a free draining very sandy loam. Although a detailed survey has not been carried out, the distribution of plant species indicates a wide range of pH values.

The soil on Middle Eye has been the subject of more detailed study, particularly in relation to pH and conductivity. It consists in part of well drained sandy loam and in part a poor draining much peatier soil. The range of pH is between pH 4.0 and pH 8.4. This variation partly accounts for the great diversity of plant species found in such a relatively small area.

The soil on Little Eye consists of almost pure blown sand with low humus content and a limited range of plant species.

Biological
Flora

The vegetation of the islands consists of open grassland plant communities that vary in composition according to variations in exposure to the sea and wind, soil characteristics and human interference. The extent to which the land had been grazed in the past is also an important factor (NB grazing is currently restricted to enclosed areas).

Patches of heath vegetation exists in places comprising species such as bell heather (*Erica cinerea*) and common heather (*Calluna vulgaris*). On the western sides of Hilbre Island and Middle Eye the grassland and heath gives way to cliff-top vegetation characteristic of sub-maritime heaths found in Western Britain. Typical species include thrift (*Armeria maritima*), buck's horn plantain (*Plantago coronopus*), Danish scurvygrass (*Cochlearia danica*) and rock sea-spurrey (*Spergularia rupicola*). Hilbre holds about 10% of the world population (one of only 5 sites) of a rock sea lavender subspecies (*Limonium britannicum ssp. celticum*), this is an endemic and a Red Data Book species. Sea spleenwort (*Asplenium marinum*) is a regionally scarce species. Locally important plants such as field mouse ear (*Cerastium arvense*), slender trefoil (*Trifolium micranthum*), and pellitory-of-the-wall (*Parietaria judaica*) are present. Many species of plants, which had been recorded in the past, were found to be absent. These may have been lost due to erosion or grazing but in some cases the plants may have been artificially introduced and may have failed to naturalize.

What the vegetation of the islands would have been like without the influence of man is a matter of speculation. The "native" or "climatic climax" vegetation of the British Isles evolved in the period 5500 BC to 3000 BC following a gradual improvement in climatic conditions after the Ice Age. The climatic climax vegetation of much of mainland Britain was mixed oak woodland. Because of its proximity to the sea, however, the Hilbre area probably would have supported a sub-maritime heath with possibly some scrubby woodland in more sheltered parts. However, since man may have inhabited the Hilbre area since 8000 BC or earlier and the islands were not separated from the mainland until 5500 BC the islands may never have developed a truly "natural" vegetation free from human interference.

The islands are also important for marine life supported by the 38 hectares (95 acres) of tidal rocks. There are very few examples of rocky shore in the long coastline of sand and mud flats of North West England and North Wales. Although species diversity has decreased here this century (partly attributed to an increase in silt deposition and sediment scour around the islands), the Hilbre shore still possesses a great variety of microhabitats such as crevices, gullies, rock pools, vertical faces and overhangs, each of which tends to support a different kind of seaweed community. In all 150 species of algae have been recorded, some of these being regionally, and in one case nationally, rare.

Fauna
The Hilbre Islands LNR, particularly Little Eye and Middle Eye, are a roost site for internationally important wading birds wintering in the Dee Estuary. The most common species are knot, dunlin, redshank, turnstone, sanderling and oystercatcher. Most of the wading birds feed on the plentiful supply of invertebrates concentrated in the alluvial sediments of the estuary. A few waders, however, notably the purple sandpiper, feed on invertebrates from the seaweed covered rocks surrounding the Hilbre Islands. These islands become particularly important roost sites on high spring tides and in storm conditions when other roost sites in the estuary (beach and saltmarsh) are completely covered. The islands can be carpeted with waders at these times.

The islands are also an important staging post for migrating passerine (i.e. perching) birds during both spring and autumn. These feed on the invertebrate population of the island plateau before setting off on the next leg of their journeys. As with the waders, the main attraction of the islands is probably their strategic position and the fact that the birds are relatively undisturbed.

The Hilbre Bird Observatory was formed in 1957. Detailed observations of birds have been made since that time and about 1,000 birds are ringed annually. In all, 223 species have been recorded on the islands. Full details of observations including frequencies of sightings are given in the annual Hilbre Bird Observatory Reports and Chapter 12 of Hilbre, The Cheshire Island edited by J.D. Craggs (1982).

Despite the large numbers of birds observed on the Hilbre Islands there have only been five species which have nested regularly on the islands in recent years. These are skylark, meadow pipit, starling, linnet and shelduck. Whilst these species are all fairly common the islands do present an interesting opportunity for the study of isolated breeding colonies. Skylark and Linnet are National Biodiversity Priority species. A detailed study has been made of the house sparrows on the island. pied wagtail, wren and robin

The islands contain one of the most studied populations of invertebrate fauna in the North West of England. There are over 700 species (mainly insects). The distribution of species is related to the vegetation type, tolerance of sea spray and the incidence of occasional inundation by waves. Some of the species found in the heath and open grassland plant communities are regionally rare but most of those in the paddock and garden areas are locally common. The spider and harvestmen populations are similar to those found on mainland heaths, such as Thurcaston Common, whilst the land molluscs are common or garden varieties.

The only mammals that regularly breed on the islands are field voles. Many other mammals have been observed, having crossed from the mainland, these include rabbits, hedgehogs, foxes, stoats, rats, mice, otters, a grey squirrel and even a fallow deer which was thought to have crossed the River Dee from North Wales.
The Hilbre Islands are of particular interest as a platform from which to observe grey seals, either swimming around the islands or on the West Hoyle Bank to the west of Hilbre Island which the seals have used as a haul-out site for the last 70 years. The colony which numbers over 500 at their annual maximum, spends most of the year around the mouth of the Dee and is considered to be of regional interest. Most return to their breeding grounds in autumn. Additionally rare sightings are made on occasions of common seals and species of porpoises, dolphins and whales. The Dee Estuary is also estimated to support 93 species of fish including the uncommon anadromous fish, smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus*).
It is the intention of the Parks and Countryside Service that the Islands to continue to achieve high standards as defined by the Green Flag Award Scheme. The current condition of the islands has been assessed using criteria as defined by the scheme’s criteria as follows:

- A welcoming place
- Healthy, safe and secure
- Well maintained and clean
- Sustainability
- Conservation and heritage
- Community involvement
- Marketing
- Management

7.1 A welcoming place

Dee Lane

The only recommended safe access to the Islands is via the slipway at Dee lane West Kirby to the north of the Marine Lake. There is a large three-sided notice board with information on Hilbre and the surrounding area, and there is a public safety notice on the main island slipway.

![Dee Lane Notice board](image)

A public toilet block is contained within the sailing school complex and is serviced regularly.

A small kiosk in private ownership serves ice cream and refreshments. Car parking is on the main highway and in adjacent public pay and display car park.

![Dee Lane slipway](image)
Hilbre Island

Access to the main Island is via a slipway / track with a small notice board with information.

The main information point for Hilbre is within the Telegraph Station. The Telegraph Station is a significant feature in itself and contains information on the islands natural and maritime history. The Telegraph Station is not open to the public at all times but at times by arrangement with the Coastal Rangers, volunteer Coastal Wardens or when staffed by the friends.

Telegraph Station

7.2 Healthy, safe and secure

The LNR is covered under the Fouling of Land Act 1996 and is designated a ‘canine faeces removal area’. The act makes it an offence not to clean up in a public area if a dog under your control does foul.

Dog fouling is however not a considerable problem within the islands. It is difficult to enforce the ‘clean it up’ policy. There are no bins on the islands.

Wirral Council operates a 24 hour Community Patrol force, established to provide a response to any concern notified to them regarding anti-social behaviour occurring within Council owned land. The Patrol can be contacted on telephone number 666 5265

The Parks and Countryside Service are represented on the Junior Joint Agency Group (Junior JAG), a forum consisting of Merseyside Police, Community Safety, and Youth workers. Issues regarding security in parks are
raised at the meeting with the intention of providing a multi agency approach to addressing problems.

The park is covered by Byelaws, made under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, and in accordance with Section 236 of the Local Government Act, 1972. See Appendix.

The Islands at night –

The islands do not have lighting. Information on notice boards request visitors leave the islands by 20-00hrs in the summer months and earlier in winter.

Pathways, pedestrian routes –

Surfaced paths

- main track/slipway that runs north/south across Hilbre (made up of concrete at southern slipway end then consolidated infill and finally flagstones leading to a concrete base adjacent to the toilets
- pedestrian path leading from Telegraph Station towards the old Lifeboat Station
- slipway on the eastern side of the island
- steps that lead to the foreshore
- steps leading off the old lifeboat slipway
- metal ladder leading from the slipway
- steps on Middle Eye

7.3 Clean and well maintained

The Area Manager for Wirral West is responsible for the management and maintenance of the Hilbre Islands. The Senior Area Ranger and Coastal Rangers prepare a programme of works and conservation management tasks each year to be undertaken each year staff, the Friends and volunteers.

The Senior Area Ranger and Coastal Rangers, and voluntary Coastal Wardens organise a programme of conservation management tasks, undertaken each year by staff, the Friends and other volunteers.

The Hilbre Ranger carries out regular inspections to identify defects within the islands that present a safety problem for staff and visitors. The following items are appraised:

1. Paths, steps, ramps, slipways
2. Walls, fences, gates
3. Buildings and structures
4. Furniture – signs, litterbins etc
5. Soft landscape – grass, planted areas, water features etc
6. Habitat surveys/inspections
Responsibility for the maintenance of the buildings on Hilbre transferred to the Department of Universal and Infrastructure Services on 1st April 2011.

As part of a property review, it has been established that the main cluster of buildings are in need of urgent repair and restoration to prevent further decline and maximise their potential.

A building management plan and business case were developed in respect of a scheme of repair and refurbishment to the Buoy Masters complex in order to preserve them in a reasonable safe and weatherproof condition and provide basic accommodation for residential study groups and day visitors to the Island.

During 2013:

Repair works were carried out to Telegraph Wall East and the Buoy Master’s passageway wall.

- Part of Telegraph wall East was rebuilt as it collapsed
- A further section of Telegraph wall East was inspected to assess its condition
- Repair works were carried out to unstable chimney stacks to the Buoy Masters complex.
- The wind turbine was taken down for safety reasons as the head requires replacement and base needs attention
- The doors of the composting toilets were replaced
- Minor repairs and maintenance work were carried out to the day room
- Essential internal repair works carried out to the Buoy Masters Store
- Essential roof repairs carried out to the Buoy Masters Store
- The process of removing the external render from the Buoy Masters Store began

The following improvement works took place in 2014:

- Removal of the remainder of the render and the application of new render to the Buoy Masters Store
- Replacement of the windows of the Buoy Masters Store
- Replacement of the Buoy Masters Workshop doors (funded by the Friends of Hilbre)
Telegraph House has been vacant since December 2010 when the resident Hilbre Ranger's post ceased. A detailed proposal has been received from HiBO which has been considered, however, a decision has not yet been made. If approval to a lease of Telegraph House to HiBO is obtained, HiBO are proposing to carry out a comprehensive renovation scheme at their own expense.

The Friends of Hilbre have been exploring the possibility of grant funding for the Victorian cluster of buildings.

A master plan for the islands, its buildings and important biological and geological features is being developed.

7.4 Sustainability

There are numerous examples of good practice for sustainability on Hilbre. These examples are used to promote sustainability to the public.

There is no mains water, gas, or electricity on Hilbre. Gas has to be transported to the island by vehicle.

Electricity is generated by a wind turbine and stored in a battery bank. A diesel generator provides back up as required.
A composting toilet for public use was installed in 2008. A telephone landline links the island to the mainland.

Chemical use on the Island is kept to a minimum, C.O.S.H.H. assessment records of any chemical based products used within the Island are available to all staff and chemical usage conforms to the requirements defined within the current pesticide handling regulations.

Vehicle and mowing equipment are checked for emission levels.

Leaving waste and litter on the islands is discouraged. Litter items collected by volunteers and friends is taken to the mainland and recycled where appropriate in recycling bins located on the shore at West Kirby promenade.

7.5 Conservation and heritage

The islands represent the only natural hard rocky coast within the estuary and are the only examples of this habitat between the limestone cliffs of the Creuddyn Peninsula in North Wales and the sandstone cliffs of St Bees Head in Cumbria. The supporting vegetation i.e. maritime heath land/grassland and hard cliff/ledge vegetation are thus of significant interest.

The ecological communities on the islands include two major and largely separate habitats. One is a form of dry maritime heath and grassland on the plateau areas and the other is the tidal rocky shore. They can in turn be subdivided into numerous micro-habitats where different species of flora and fauna predominate in response to variations in the degree of exposure to sea, salt, wind, trampling and (on the plateau) grazing and cultivation. In both habitats the invertebrate fauna and mollusk populations appear to be closely related to the types of plant communities present.

The islands’ only resident land mammal, the field vole, is commonly found in rough ungrazed grasslands.

The wading birds that use the islands as a high tide roost feed mainly on invertebrate fauna in the tidal sands of the estuary. Their relationship with the ecology of the islands is not fully understood.

Similarly, it is not clear what effect, if any, the large numbers of migrating passerine birds have on the flora and other fauna of the islands. To the waders and the migrating passerines the islands are primarily a resting place for which purpose the islands are strategically located and relatively free from human disturbance.

The seals that use the West Hoyle Bank as a haul-out site feed on the fish of the Irish Sea and the Dee Estuary. The West Hoyle Bank has probably been selected for the accessibility it affords to their feeding grounds, shelter from the prevailing westerly winds and its relative safety from human interference.
It is difficult to determine precisely the human influence on the ecology of the islands; humans have had some influence on the islands for as long as 10,000 years. Man has farmed and grazed the islands with stock for over 1000 years and has visited the islands in large numbers for 100 years. Even those areas that appear at first glance to be “natural” are in fact the result to a certain extent of earlier farming or grazing practices.

The building of the Lifeboat Station and extensive revetment work has prevented some parts of Hilbre Island from erosion by the sea. Conversely, by the quarrying of other areas the erosion process has been accelerated.

By growing various crops, grazing various animals and gardening, man has influenced the range of plants that grow on the islands. Some species of flora and fauna have been deliberately introduced, whilst others have arrived accidentally.

Overgrazing and excessive trampling by visitors in sensitive areas can cause the destruction of vegetation and accelerate erosion, while the disturbance of roosting birds, by recreational users can deplete the birds' energy reserves and reduce their ability to survive the winter.

**Actions**

- Control invasive & alien species where they are a threat to the important native species or habitats
- Promote and co-ordinate research on the important habitats and species
- Encourage the spread of the maritime flora (e.g. heather, scurvy grass, thrift and sea plantain)
- Increase floristic diversity in the paddocks
- Propagate heather species on western cliff tops
- Encourage bird life and dragonflies by maintaining open water habitats
- Retain soil and vegetation along cliff-tops
- Maintain present shelter for the benefit of perching birds (passerines)
- Introduce artificial bird nesting holes
- Maintain field vole population
- Maintain bristly millipede population
- Maintain Montane Heath Bee population
- Maintain maritime heath and grassland communities by control of bracken
- Disperse erosion and trampling pressure

**7.6 Community involvement**

**Partners and stakeholders:**

- Hilbre Islands Management Committee
• Parks and Countryside Service
• Hilbre Advisory Committee
• The Friends of Hilbre
• Councillors and MPs
• Natural England
• Cheshire Wildlife Trust
• BTO/ Hilbre Island Bird Observatory
• RSPB
• Dee Estuary Voluntary Wardens

The Islands have a Friends Group with a current membership of 150. The group meet on a regular basis and invite Council Officers and management to attend their meetings. The Friends produce leaflets, assist in guided walks and events, staff the Telegraph Station Visitor Centre and mobile information unit, undertake conservation tasks, seal watching events and actively seek funding opportunities.

The Friends of Hilbre was formed in 2001. Their intention is to help Wirral Council maintain the islands.

Aims of The Friends of Hilbre are:

• To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Hilbre Islands Local Nature Reserve for the benefit of the public.
• To provide funds, volunteer help, educational facilities and other related charitable goods and services
• To offer practical help under the guidance of the appropriate officer of the Local Authority.

The Friends group and other partners are involved in management decisions affecting the Islands through the Hilbre Islands Advisory Committee (see below).

7.7 Marketing

The Islands are used mainly by the local community who account for about 75% of its use but has other regular visitors from the Liverpool, Chester and Manchester areas. Regular users include walkers, bird and wildlife watchers and people who visit for peace and tranquillity. The peak use is at weekends during the summer months although the Islands are well used throughout the year.

The islands have a large catchment area and proved popular, initially attracting over 25,000 visitors per annum in the 1970’s. These numbers have since fallen to around 10,000 –15,000.
Wirral Parks Survey

This was undertaken in 2012 to find out what visitors think about their parks, beaches and countryside, and to inform management of Wirral’s Parks. The Wirral Parks Survey Consultation Summary can be viewed here.

Important general information was learned from the survey including the following:

Peak times for use are afternoons, followed by mornings and evenings. Evening use is greater on weekdays than at weekends. The majority of visits are from half an hour to two hours. Around one in five people visit for more than two hours.

One sixth of Wirral people visit parks, beaches and open spaces for events. A quarter said more events would encourage them to use these places more.

Less dog fouling and more and better toilet provision stand out as the top two things that people say would encourage them to use parks, open spaces and beaches more, with 53.7% and 46.5% of responses respectively.

Almost three quarters of people rate Wirral’s parks, beaches and open spaces as having a very good or good standard of cleanliness and being maintained in a very good or good condition.

It is now proposed to build on the knowledge learned from the consultation by exploring with Friends groups the possibility of a regular visitor surveys for Hilbre.

Marketing information:

- Wirral Council’s Internet website www.wirral.gov.uk
- Hilbre Bird Observatory website: http://www.hilrebirdobs.blogspot.com/
- Dee Estuary website http://www.deeestuary.co.uk/
- Telegraph Station visitor centre
- Notice boards (3)
- A range of widely available literature, leaflets, booklets etc
- Walks and Talks /events
- Ranger Service Mobile Information Unit

7.8 Management

The Area Parks Manager is responsible for the management and maintenance of the site.
Enquiries about the management of the park should be directed to the Wirral West Area Parks Manager on: 0151 606 2004. Email: streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

The Parks and Countryside Service like other public services around the country is experiencing budgetary pressure and face challenging times to deliver service improvements.

**Current Wirral Parks and Countryside Service organisation chart** (due to change in 2015 to accommodate reorganisation and budget reduction measures).

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**Resources available for managing the site:**

- Team of Rangers who maintain the Islands, manage visitors, take school parties, lead guided walks, give talks, attend meetings and produce interpretive material
- Access to fleet of vehicles including 4x4 vehicles
- Parks Development Officers
- Range of machinery and tools
- Asset Management Officers are responsible for buildings

**What responsibility do stakeholders have?**

The Hilbre Islands LNR have an advisory committee made up of elected members, Council officers, Natural England, Hilbre Bird Observatory and The Friends of Hilbre Islands.
Hilbre from Middle Eye
8. Appendices

Appendix a: Action Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Target Date</th>
<th>Lead Officer</th>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Target achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. A Welcoming Place</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Promote events and activities organised by the Friends of Hilbre</td>
<td>Twice per year</td>
<td>Senior Ranger</td>
<td>Within existing resources</td>
<td>√ 2011 √ 2012 √ 2013 √ 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Replace information when it becomes out of date, damaged or worn.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Coastal Rangers</td>
<td>Within existing resources</td>
<td>√ 2011 √ 2012 √ 2013 √ 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Provide public toilet</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Senior Ranger</td>
<td>Grant Aided</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Senior Ranger</td>
<td>Additional funding required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Healthy, safe and secure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Undertake Risk Assessments to identify risks and take appropriate action.</td>
<td>As Required</td>
<td>Coastal Rangers</td>
<td>Within existing resources</td>
<td>√ 2011 √ 2012 √ 2013 √ 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Display tide and safe crossing information for visitors in the Dee Lane notice board.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Coastal Rangers</td>
<td>Within existing resources</td>
<td>√ 2011 √ 2012 √ 2013 √ 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Display information on safety on the reserve at main access points.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Coastal Rangers</td>
<td>Within existing resources</td>
<td>√ 2011 √ 2012 √ 2013 √ 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Maintain lifesaving equipment on the island and in the Rangers vehicle.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Coastal Rangers</td>
<td>Within existing resources</td>
<td>√ 2011 √ 2012 √ 2013 √ 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 Provide lifeguard cover on the reserve, every day during the school summer holidays and at weekends from May to September.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Chief Lifeguard</td>
<td>Within existing resources</td>
<td>√ 2011 √ 2012 √ 2013 √ 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6 Produce &amp; promote a</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Senior Coastal Ranger</td>
<td>Within existing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Produce &amp; circulate a water sports code of conduct</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Senior Coastal Ranger</td>
<td>Within existing resources</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3. Clean and well maintained

| 3.1 | Consult appropriate archaeology experts in advance of major excavations | Ongoing | Coastal Rangers & Conservation Officer | Within existing resources | √ 2011 √ 2012 √ 2013 √ 2014 |
| 3.2 | Maintain use of the existing buildings that is consistent with the character of Hilbre | As required | Parks Service | Within existing resources | √ 2011 √ 2012 √ 2013 √ 2014 |
| 3.3 | Undertake repair works to Telegraph Wall East and the Buoy Master’s passageway wall. | April 2013 | Asset Management Team | Within existing resources | √ 2013 |
| 3.4 | Seek council approval for the proposed works to the Buoy Master’s Store | April 2013 | Asset Management Team | Within existing resources | √ 2013 |
| 3.5 | Oversee minor repairs to the Day Room and Buoy Master’s Store. | April 2013 | Asset Management Team | Within existing resources | √ 2013 |
| 3.6 | Removal of the render and the application of new render to the Buoy Masters Store | October 2014 | Asset Management Team | Within existing resources |
| 3.7 | Replacement of the windows of the Buoy Masters Store | October 2014 – April 2015 | Asset Management Team | Within existing resources |
| 3.8 | Paint and repair remaining windows in the Buoy Masters Store | April 2015 | |
| 3.9 | Replacement of doors to the Buoy Masters Workshop | October 2014 | Asset Management Team | Within existing resources | √ 2015 |
| 3.10 | Contact Mersey Docks and Harbour Company to discuss the possibility of relaxing covenants attached to Hilbre | Dec 2011 | Asset Management Team | Within existing resources | √ 2011 |
| 3.11 | Apply for SSSI permission to undertake external works to Buoymaster's Store | July 2014 | Asset Management Team | Within existing resources |
| 3.12 | Oversee the internal refurbishment works to the Buoy Master's Store | October 2014 | Asset Management Team | Subject to internal funding decisions |
| 3.13 | Oversee the external repairs and upgrading works to the Buoy Master's Store | October 2014 | Asset Management Team | £100,000 capital project |
| 3.14 | Drain water storage tanks and consider alternative systems to supply and sterilise water | April 2013 | Asset Management Team | Within existing resources | √ 2012 |
| 3.15 | Renew electrical supply to Telegraph House | Oct 2011 | Asset Management Team | Within existing resources | √ 2011 |
| 3.16 | Decide whether a lease of Telegraph House should be granted to HiBO and monitor any subsequent refurbishment works. | April 2014 | Asset Management Team | Friends of Hilbre seeking grant funding for feasibility report |
| 3.17 | Maintain main track, clifftop fences and existing sea walls | Ongoing | Coastal Rangers Coast Engineer | Within existing resources |
| 3.18 | Renovate the ‘Gazebo’ site | 2014 | Senior Ranger | Within existing resources | √ 2011 √ 2012 √ 2013 √ 2014 |
| 3.19 | Remove litter regularly | Ongoing | Coastal Rangers Volunteers | Within existing resources | √ 2011 √ 2012 √ 2013 √ 2014 |

4. Sustainability

<p>| 4.1 | Ensure that the wind turbine is well maintained to reduce the amount of time the generator is required | Monthly check – turbine replacement under consideration | Coastal Rangers | Within existing resources | √ 2011 √ 2012 √ 2013 √ 2014 |
| 4.2 | Develop the use of a separate battery bank to power the | Ongoing | Senior Ranger | Within existing resources |</p>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buoymasters complex of buildings from the wind turbine and solar panels.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Keep battery in good condition</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Senior Ranger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>Check septic tank for leaks</td>
<td>Twice per year</td>
<td>Coastal Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Keep all vehicle journeys to a minimum</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Coastal Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>Ensure that visitors to the privately leased buildings on Hilbre do not bring more than one vehicle at a time on to Hilbre and that vehicle journeys are kept to a minimum</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Coastal Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>Recycle as much of the materials brought on the reserve as possible</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Coastal Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>Encourage visitors to take their litter home</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Coastal Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>Review visitor permit scheme</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Senior Ranger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5. Conservation and Heritage

<p>| | | | |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Undertake species monitoring</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>Coastal Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Encourage species monitoring</td>
<td>Each year</td>
<td>Coastal Rangers/ volunteers /placements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>Have a National Vegetation Classification Survey undertaken</td>
<td>Dec 2014</td>
<td>Senior Ranger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>Provide details of any species recording to the Local Record Centre</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>Coastal Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>Liaise with the HIBO</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Coastal Rangers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visitor Permit Scheme discontinued
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Task Description</th>
<th>Responsible Party</th>
<th>Additional Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>Investigate sources of funding to assist in the management of biodiversity species and habitats.</td>
<td>Dec 2014, Biodiversity Officer</td>
<td>Additional resources to be identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>Mow areas of long grass adjacent to existing maritime flora on Hilbre and Middle Eye.</td>
<td>Every year in May, Coastal Rangers</td>
<td>Within existing resources, √ 2011, √ 2012, √ 2013, √ 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>Allow sheep grazing in the paddocks.</td>
<td>Every year except during the bird nesting season, Coastal Rangers</td>
<td>Within existing resources, Sheep grazing discontinued from 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.10</td>
<td>Using seed collected from Hilbre replant as required</td>
<td>Every year in March, Coastal Rangers/ Volunteers</td>
<td>Within existing resources, √ 2012, √ 2013, √ 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.11</td>
<td>Artificially maintain water levels in the ponds.</td>
<td>As required, Coastal Rangers</td>
<td>Within existing resources, Not considered possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.12</td>
<td>Repair any leaks in the ponds.</td>
<td>As required, Coastal Rangers</td>
<td>Within existing resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.13</td>
<td>Seed bare areas</td>
<td>As required, Coastal Rangers</td>
<td>Within existing resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.15</td>
<td>Maintain garden fences</td>
<td>On-going, Coastal Rangers</td>
<td>Within existing resources, √ 2012, √ 2013, √ 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.16</td>
<td>Construct nest boxes for Shelduck on the eastern cliff edge.</td>
<td>Dec 2014, Coastal Rangers</td>
<td>Within existing resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.17</td>
<td>Allow some areas of long grass to develop</td>
<td>On-going, Coastal Rangers</td>
<td>Within existing resources, √ 2012, √ 2013, √ 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.18</td>
<td>Use corrugated sheets or similar to provide an artificial habitat allowing mammal populations to be monitored without trapping.</td>
<td>On-going, Coastal Rangers</td>
<td>Within existing resources, √ 2012, √ 2013, √ 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.19</td>
<td>Undertake seal watching activities to</td>
<td>On-going, Coastal Rangers, Hibo,</td>
<td>Within existing, √ 2011, √ 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.20</td>
<td>Have autopsies undertaken on dead seals where there is an increase in the number of incidents</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>Senior Ranger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.21</td>
<td>Monitor the areas of Sea Rush</td>
<td>Every year in June</td>
<td>Coastal Rangers/ Volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.22</td>
<td>Cut back areas of bracken</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Coastal Rangers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 6. Community involvement

| 6.1 | Support the Friends of Hilbre on the Open Days by staffing the Centre and assisting in the provision of the Parks & Countryside Mobile Information Unit at West Kirby Marine Lake | Once per month from April to October | Coastal Rangers | Within existing resources | √ 2011 | √ 2012 | √ 2013 | √ 2014 |
| 6.2 | Refurbish former bunk house and convert to day room | Dec 2008 | Senior Ranger | Grant aided by Teachers Resource Guide produced in 2012 |
| 6.3 | Liaise with user and current non-user groups to enable conservation activities | On-going | Senior Ranger | Within existing resources | √ 2011 | √ 2012 | √ 2013 | √ 2014 |
| 6.4 | Provide assistance for volunteers task days and other Friends projects | On-going | Senior Ranger | Within existing resources | √ 2011 | √ 2012 | √ 2013 | √ 2014 |
| 6.5 | Attend the Friends of Hilbre Annual General Meeting and other meetings | Once per year | Senior Ranger | Within existing resources | √ 2011 | √ 2012 | √ 2013 | √ 2014 |
| 6.6 | Develop links with local schools to enhance educational opportunities | Ongoing | Coastal Rangers | Within existing resources | √ Teachers Resource Guide produced in 2012 |

### 7. Marketing

| 7.1 | Open the Visitor Centre on busy days and at the request of visiting groups | Annual | Coastal Rangers/ Volunteers and Friends | Within existing resources | √ 2011 | √ 2012 | √ 2013 | √ 2014 |
| 7.2 | Produce information leaflets | Ongoing | Senior Ranger/ Friends of Hilbre | Within existing | √ 2013 |
| 7.3 | Organise ‘Sunset Walks to Hilbre’ event | Once per month from April to Sept. | Coastal Rangers | Within existing resources | Discontinued – possibility of re-introduction 2014? |
| 7.4 | Promote events and activities organised by the Friends of Hilbre in the Wirral Parks & Countryside Events and Activities Programme | Twice per year | Senior Ranger | Within existing resources | √ 2011 √ 2012 √ 2013 √ 2014 |
| 7.5 | Reprint the free Hilbre Information Leaflet once stocks being to run low | 2009 | Senior Ranger | Within existing resources | √ New leaflet produced and printed through Heritage Fund |
| 7.6 | Develop links with local schools and the teacher’s professional centre to enhance educational opportunities | 2010 | Coastal Rangers | Within existing resources | √ 2011 √ 2012 √ 2013 √ 2014 |
| 7.7 | Improve information provided on Council’s internet site for visitors and teachers | 2014 | Senior Ranger | Within existing resources | |
| 7.8 | Gain Beach School accreditation for the Coastal Team | 2014/15 | Senior Ranger and team | Within existing resources | √ 2014 |
| 7.9 | Produce teacher’s resource guide | 2012 | Senior ranger and team | Within existing resources | √ 2012 |
| 7.10 | Build on the knowledge learned from the Wirral Parks Survey by repeat | 2016 | Parks Service | Within existing resources | |

8. Management

| 8.1 | Provide status reports via the ranger team briefings through the management chain | Monthly | Senior Ranger | Within existing resources | √ 2012 √ 2013 √ 2014 |
| 8.2 | Regular updates to the Hilbre Advisory Committee to reflect progress | Quarterly | Senior Ranger | Within existing resources | √ 2012 |
| 8.3 | Committee reports of the activities and work products under development to the Hilbre Islands | As required | Senior Ranger | Within existing resources | √ 2012 |
| Advisory Committee, and others as appropriate | 8.4 Actively seek funding or other resources to implement a planned programme of inspection to buildings and structures | Ongoing | Senior Ranger/Asset Management Team/Building Conservation Officer | Funding required |
| 8.5 Develop vision and master plan for the islands for 2016-21 | 2015 | Parks and Countryside Management team with input from advisory committee | Additional funding may be required |

**Appendix b: Response to Green Flag Judge’s Feedback 2014/15**

**Name of Green Flag Park: Hilbre Islands LNR**

**Desk Assessment Feedback**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health, safety and security</td>
<td>Check and document what happens to your waste when it leaves your site</td>
<td>Will need to include litter, composting toilets and building works. Environmental Agency Permitted Activities on Hilbre until 2017 2.1.1 U4 - Burning of Waste as a Fuel in a Small Appliance (Both agricultural and non-agricultural waste) 2.1.2 D3 - Deposit of Waste from a Portable Sanitary Convenience (Both agricultural and non-agricultural waste)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance of equipment, buildings and landscape</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litter, cleanliness, Vandalism</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental sustainability</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conservation of heritage and nature</strong></td>
<td>Do not increase it</td>
<td>Recommendation to be fed back to the Hilbre Advisory Group/Hilbre Vision group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Involvement</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marketing strategy</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall management</strong></td>
<td>Check and document what happens to your waste when it leaves your site</td>
<td>Noted – see page 34 in the 2015 update of the plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additional comments</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Field Assessment Feedback**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A Welcoming Place</strong></td>
<td>None do not increase or go to excessive publication on the WEB to encourage more visitors as it might damage the site and the work it does.</td>
<td>'Hilbre Vision' group established to formulate a long term strategy for the islands. This will include marketing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Healthy, safe and secure</strong></td>
<td>The whole site is too dangerous and the topography is unstable to put in pathways conforming to DDA requirements</td>
<td>Noted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clean and well maintained</strong></td>
<td>Tides cause much damage – is there adequate provision for extreme damage?</td>
<td>To be discussed through the Hilbre Island Management Advisory Group. Repairs to Lifeboat Slipway to be undertaken in Spring 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sustainability</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conservation and heritage</strong></td>
<td>Interpretation boards at the appropriate site need to be installed</td>
<td>Interpretive panels prepared for Day Room and main slipway access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community involvement</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marketing</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Management</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additional comments</strong></td>
<td>This is a very impressive site and should be managed along the lines of a SSSI. It provides a haven for natural habit and Flora and Fauna as well as visiting birds, seals, and dolphins. It has excellent facilities for study groups and can also accommodate students from Universities who wish to undertake Field Studies. Its wild rugged appearance adds to</td>
<td>Hilbre Island Management Advisory Group re-established to bring together managers and stakeholders every six months. 'Hilbre Vision' group also established to formulate a longer term strategy for the islands. Proposal is to have five or six themes including history and heritage, the protected status of the Local Nature Reserve within the Dee Estuary, geology etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
its distinctive variety of Birds, Insects and Flowers and should not be changed to allow more people onto the site. This little Island has so much history, part of a semaphore network, a life boat station, stories of ‘Wreckers’ and lookouts. This site should be entered into **Green Flag Heritage**.

It also has an Invaluable ornithologist clubs which is collecting data as well as ringing young birds and plotting there migration routes. They also keep an eye on the local seal colonies as well as recording there data. It was a pleasure to inspect this site it was bussing with so much interest and activity. A wonderful site providing great educational value and a very peaceful retreat.

**Well Done to all of you, you deserve the Green Flag.**

**Next year Heritage**

| Green Flag Heritage application to be considered as part of the master plan development process 2015-16 |
| Thankyou for your comments |
Appendix c: Bylaws

The Metropolitan Borough of Wirral in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by Sections 20, 21 (4) and 106 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, and in accordance with Section 236 of the Local Government Act, 1972, hereby make the following Byelaws for the protection of the Hilbre Islands Local Nature Reserve in Wirral in the County of Merseyside.

1. In these Byelaws "the Reserve" means the pieces or parcels of land containing in the whole 49 hectares or thereabouts and situated in the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral declared to be managed as a Nature Reserve by the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral on the 26th day of July 1983, in pursuance of Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, and the Reserve is for the purpose of identification shown as nearly as may be in the map annexed to these Byelaws and therein coloured pink.

2. Throughout these Byelaws the expression "the Council" means the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral.

3. "Firearm" shall have the same meaning as in Section 57 of the Firearms Act, 1968.

4. An act necessary to the proper execution of his duty in the Reserve by an officer of the Council or by any person or servant of any person employed or authorised by the Council shall not be deemed an offence against these Byelaws.

5. No person shall be allowed access to the Reserve without a permit issued by the Director of Leisure Services and Tourism for the time being of the Council.

6. No person under the age of 16 shall be allowed access to the Reserve unless accompanied by a person aged 16 or over who has been issued with an appropriate permit.

7. Within the Reserve the following acts are hereby prohibited, except insofar as they may be authorised by the written permission of the Director of Leisure Services and Tourism for the time being of the Council, or insofar as they may be in accordance with Byelaw 4 above;

i) Taking, molesting or intentionally disturbing, injuring or killing any living creature;

ii) Taking or intentionally disturbing or destroying the eggs, larvae, pupae or other immature stages, or the place used for the shelter or protection of any living creature;

iii) Spreading or using any net, or setting or using any lamp or other instrument, or any snare or lure, for the taking, injury or destruction of any living creature;

iv) Intentionally removing any material from any area of the Reserve;

v) Intentionally removing, displacing, damaging or defacing any tree, shrub, plant, fungus or part thereof, or any unfashioned mineral including water;

vi) Intentionally bringing or permitting to be brought into the Reserve any living creature, or the egg of any living creature, or any plant, or any seed or any other part of any plant, in such circumstances that it is likely that such creature or plant will reproduce or propagate itself, or such egg will hatch, or such seed will germinate;
vii) Driving, riding, propelling or leaving any mechanically propelled vehicle (including hovercraft);

viii) Bringing into or permitting to remain any animal. Provided that this Byelaw shall not apply to any dog kept on a lead and under proper control and effectively restrained from injuring or disturbing any person, animal or bird or damaging or defacing any tree, shrub, plant, fungus or part thereof;

ix) Erecting, occupying or using any tent, shed, hide, van or other structure;

x) Lighting any fire, stove, heater, firework or other appliance capable of causing fire or discarding or throwing any lighted match or lighted substance in a manner likely to cause a fire;

xi) Boating, bathing or wading in any water body other than the sea;

xii) Any act which pollutes or is likely to pollute any water;

xiii) Intentionally or recklessly removing or displacing any notice board, notice, fence, barrier, post, boardwalk, bridge, hide or other structure;

xiv) Being in possession of a firearm, catapult, bow and arrow or a crossbow;

xv) Discharging a firearm, catapult, bow and arrow or a crossbow;

xvi) Flying any model aircraft or sailing any model boat in any water body other than the sea;

xvii) The use of any apparatus for the transmission, reception, reproduction or amplification of sound, or images by electrical or mechanical means, except apparatus designed and used to aid defective hearing, in such a manner as to cause annoyance to or interfere with the quiet enjoyment of the Reserve by any other members of the public or to cause harm to any living creature or plant in the Reserve;

xiii) Intentionally or recklessly obstructing any officer of the Council or any person or the servant of any person employed or authorised by the Council in the execution of any works, including research or scientific work connected with the laying out, maintenance or management of the Reserve;

xix) Intentionally leaving items in a place other than a receptacle provided by the Council for deposit of litter or refuse;

xx) Entering at any time any part of the Reserve where notice to keep out has been posted by order of the Council;

xxi) Turning out any animal or poultry to feed or graze;

xxii) Landing any aircraft except in emergency;

xxiv) Using any device designed or adapted for detecting or locating any metal or mineral in the Reserve;

xxv) Riding any bicycle, tricycle or similar machine elsewhere than in a place indicated by a notice as being available for the purpose.
8.  
 i) The Director of Leisure Services and Tourism for the time being of the Council may give written permission authorizing any person or persons to do any act or class of acts (subject to general legislation in force at the time of issue), within the Reserve or any part thereof which would otherwise be unlawful under these Byelaws.

 ii) Any such written permission shall be given subject to such conditions as may from time to time be laid down by the Director of Leisure Services and Tourism for the time being of the Council and shall include the following conditions:

 a) that such written permission be carried whenever a visit is made to the Reserve by the person or persons specified therein and produced for inspection when required by any officer of the Council, or by any other duly authorised person, and

 b) that it may be revoked by the Director of Leisure Services and Tourism for the time being of the Council at any time.

9.  
 Any person who offends against any of these Byelaws shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale, and in the case of a continuing offence to a further fine not exceeding £5. for each day during which the offence continues after conviction therefore.

10.  
 Every person who shall infringe any Byelaw for the regulation of the Reserve may be removed therefrom by any officer of the Council, or by any constable, in any one of the several cases hereinafter specified, that is to say:-

 i) Where the infraction of the Byelaw is committed within the view of such officer or constable, and the name and residence of the person infringing the Byelaw are unknown to and cannot be readily ascertained by such officer or constable;

 ii) Where the infraction of the Byelaw is committed within the view of such officer or constable and, from the nature of such infraction, or from any other fact of which such officer or constable may have knowledge, or of which he may be credibly informed, there may be reasonable ground for belief that the continuance in the Reserve of the person infringing the Byelaw may result in another infraction of a Byelaw, or that the removal of such person from the Reserve is otherwise necessary as a security for the proper use and regulation thereof.

THE COMMON SEAL OF METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL was hereunto affixed this 15th day of December 1986 Seal No. 15937 in the presence of:

J T Goodacre
Authorised Officer

Please note that the Post of Director of Leisure Services and Tourism no longer exists. The Head of Department is now the Director of Regeneration and Environment.
Appendix d: The designed or manmade features (paths, buildings/structures their condition and comments):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Telegraph Station Interpretive Centre</strong></td>
<td>The Hilbre Island Telegraph Station is a Grade II listed building and appears to be in good condition. The station is used as a visitor information and contains historical artifacts, it is one of the last examples of the Holyhead to Liverpool optical telegraphs. There is a lookout tower attached to the building</td>
<td>Future use to be considered as part of master plan development in 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telegraph House</strong></td>
<td>Former Ranger’s house</td>
<td>Lease to HiBO is under consideration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Buoymasters house</strong></td>
<td>The Buoy-masters house is a two-story building consisting of an entrance hall and hallway from which there are two reception rooms, one pantry with access to the west garden, one kitchen and under stairs storage. Stairs lead from the hallway to the first floor landing. On the first floor, from the central landing there are four bedrooms and one room with an obsolete chemical toilet. The building appears to be structurally sound but is in a poor state of repair and is showing sign of damp</td>
<td>Structural building report carried out in 2011 Refurbishment works identified and costed in 2011 Works to be identified and a specification prepared after a further survey. Future use to be considered as part of master plan development in 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buoy Master Store and Workshop</strong></td>
<td>The <strong>Buoymasters workshop</strong> consists of a large single room with space extending upwards to the roof slates. There is a pair of large entrance doors with a central pillar and a small access door leading to the Buoy-masters store. <strong>Buoymasters store</strong> – a mostly single story building with loft space accessed via the Buoy-masters workshop and extra two rooms above the kitchen accessed via a bridge from the south garden.</td>
<td>Structural building report carried out in 2011 Refurbishment works identified and costed in 2011 Doors to be replaced in 2014 Structural building report carried out in 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature</td>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buoys Master Store and</td>
<td>The main entrance leads into the ‘L’-shaped recreation room and then into</td>
<td>Refurbishment works identified and costed in 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop cont.</td>
<td>The second, central recreation room from which the three bedrooms can be accessed. A corridor from the central recreation room leads into the kitchen and then onto a small bathroom. Access to the outside can be via doors in the corridor, kitchen and bathroom. The access to the outside from the bathroom leads to an outside toilet in a converted pigsty. There is an outside passageway around two and a half sides of the building from the paved area below the south garden to the back of the Buoys-masters house. This passageway gives access to a store room next to the Buoys-masters store kitchen and within the retaining wall there is the remains of a cold storage cupboard. One end of the passageway leads to an outside shower room and steps up to the west garden</td>
<td>Essential internal and external repair works carried out in 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SSSI approval to be sought in respect of the external works in Spring 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Replacement of windows 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bunkhouse (Old Stable)</td>
<td>The conversion of the bunkhouse into a day/meeting room was completed in 2008 including the fitting of a new heating system and kitchen</td>
<td>Good condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Minor repairs and maintenance work identified and carried out in 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifeboat Station</td>
<td>The lifeboat station was constructed in 1849. A bird-watching hide has been constructed over the beginning of the old slipway As a sea-watching hide. The building also contains the tide gauge monitoring equipment, which is not accessible to the public</td>
<td>This property will be looked at once works have been completed on the main complex of buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature</td>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Situated in part of the old lifeboat Station, is an automatic tide gauge operated by the Port of Liverpool. This has been in operation for more than 130 years.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifeboat Slipway</td>
<td>The lifeboat slipway has suffered significant storm damage and is in poor condition. A number of emergency repairs have been carried out. The slipway has been breached in the centre with a gap of approx 10metres. The sandstone blocks lie strewn nearby.</td>
<td>Future actions to conserve the slipway are being considered and repair work is scheduled for spring 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slate Shed</td>
<td>Opposite old stable This is now quite poor and props have been inserted to stabilise the building</td>
<td>This property will be looked at once works have been completed on the main complex of buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat Shed</td>
<td>Store room attached to the old stable</td>
<td>This property will be looked at once works have been completed on the main complex of buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telegraph Pigsty</td>
<td>Attached to goat shed covered and uncovered areas with sandstone trough and ornamental gate</td>
<td>This property will be looked at once works have been completed on the main complex of buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fog Cottage</td>
<td>Storage outbuilding, storage in roof, fireplaces and the remaining of 3 out of 15 bunk beds</td>
<td>This property will be looked at once works have been completed on the main complex of buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hothouse</td>
<td>One wall remains of the heated greenhouse type building. Includes fire grate</td>
<td>This property will be looked at once works have been completed on the main complex of buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boathouse</td>
<td>Brick and sandstone building at the top of telegraph slipway</td>
<td>This property will be looked at once works have been completed on the main complex of buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buoymasters Pigsty</td>
<td>Attached to west end of the buoy masters store</td>
<td>This property will be looked at once works have been completed on the main complex of buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhouse</td>
<td>Wooden framed glasshouse in telegraph house garden</td>
<td>This property will be looked at once works have been completed on the main complex of buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature</td>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>east</td>
<td></td>
<td>completed on the main complex of buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race Viewing Platform</strong></td>
<td>Wooden structure with metal ladder to roof in buoy masters garden – east</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Air Raid Shelter</strong></td>
<td>Buried brick structure with central corridor and two rooms to north and south</td>
<td>This property will be looked at once works have been completed on the main complex of buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cart Shed</strong></td>
<td>Three sided sandstone building with No roof</td>
<td>This property will be looked at once works have been completed on the main complex of buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>North Bridge</strong></td>
<td>Solid sandstone crossing point</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Window Bridge</strong></td>
<td>Historic sandstone bridge constructed from windows partly from an old church</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wind Turbine</strong></td>
<td>2.5 KW turbine with 1.5m² base</td>
<td>Service and repair identified as turbine not working effectively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In a poor condition. Head requires replacement and base needs attention. It has been taken down for safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telegraph Walls West</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telegraph Walls East</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Repair works carried out February 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buoy masters Wall East</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buoy masters passageway walls</strong></td>
<td>Sandstone retaining wall approx. 4m high</td>
<td>Repair works carried out February 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telegraph Water Well</strong></td>
<td>Excavated well approx. 10 metres deep 1.5metres diameter</td>
<td>Reasonable condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature</td>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stable Water Well</td>
<td>Excavated well approx. 1 metre diameter</td>
<td>Reasonable condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Eye Navigation Mast Base</td>
<td>Sandstone and concrete base to now unused mast</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Eye South Steps</td>
<td>Sandstone steps – Reasonable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Eye North Steps</td>
<td>Sandstone steps</td>
<td>Reasonable condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilbre West Steps</td>
<td>Wooden and sandstone steps</td>
<td>Reasonable condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilbre South East Steps</td>
<td>Sandstone steps</td>
<td>Reasonable condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Slipway and Wall</td>
<td>Concrete and sandstone slipway with sandstone wall on its east side</td>
<td>Reasonable condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Pond and Spoil Heap</td>
<td>Hand dug pond with island and mounded spoil heap – Reasonable</td>
<td>Reasonable condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WW 2 Concrete Junction Box and additional feature</td>
<td>Concrete block in south beach with old frayed cabling</td>
<td>Reasonable condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Works – Saltwater Wells and Channels</td>
<td>Excavated wells and sluice gates with associated channels</td>
<td>Reasonable condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tide Gauge Bridge</td>
<td>Solid concrete bridge – Victorian?</td>
<td>Reasonable condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tide Gauge Cutting</td>
<td>Hand excavated channel</td>
<td>Reasonable condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature</td>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telegraph House steps</strong></td>
<td>Sandstone steps with ornamental gate</td>
<td>Reasonable condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jetty Supports</strong></td>
<td>Metal supports for disused wooden jetty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Original Jetty cutting</strong></td>
<td>Channels cut into sandstone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Top paddock flag pole</strong></td>
<td>Concrete base with wooden flag pole</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Niffy Bay bird hide</strong></td>
<td>Wooden structure with 2 doors and one window – Poor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>West side soil retention wall</strong></td>
<td>Low sandstone wall</td>
<td>Reasonable condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>North end Rock Sea Lavender wall</strong></td>
<td>Low sandstone wall</td>
<td>Reasonable condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Various sea defence walls</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Composting Toilets for public use</strong></td>
<td>New facility opened 2008</td>
<td>Good condition, doors replaced in 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Appendix 8: Project Bank

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>‘Ballpark’ cost estimate (inc design and contract management fee)</th>
<th>Justification, policy fit and evidence of need</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investigate use of mobile downloadable information for visitors in conjunction with the ‘Learning Lighthouse’</td>
<td>tbc</td>
<td>Keep up with advances in technology and minimise signage while providing detailed information capable of being interrogated by visitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of Hilbre Islands master plan 2016-2021 and beyond</td>
<td>2.5k</td>
<td>Additional specialist input may be required to carry out work to support the development of the master plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>