



Safe Places for Nature

Policy GI8: Protection of Locally Designated Sites and Natural Environment Assets

- A. Development proposals must demonstrate a clear commitment to the protection and enhancement of Trafford's locally designated sites and natural environment assets, as defined on the policies map.
- B. Planning applications must demonstrate through a supporting statement how the development proposals protect and enhance the landscape character, biodiversity, geodiversity and conservation value of its natural environment assets, having regard not only to its immediate location but its surroundings and context.
- C. Where the council considers it necessary, in order to protect the natural environment, developers will be required to provide an appropriate ecological assessment report to enable the Council to properly assess and determine the merits or otherwise of the development proposal. All planning applications submitted for development within, or in close proximity to, any of Trafford's natural environment assets, must be supported by such a report.
- D. Developers must implement measures to prevent any harm to ecological features during the construction phase. Where appropriate, this includes the preparation of Landscape and Ecological Management Plans (LEMP), which will outline clear protocols for protecting biodiversity, managing pollution risks and mitigating disturbance, as well as the monitoring of these measures, throughout the construction phase and post-development.

Habitat Connectivity and Nature Recovery Networks

- E. Development proposals must contribute positively to habitat connectivity and nature recovery networks. This includes enhancing and maintaining wildlife corridors and ecological linkages that support the movement of species across the landscape.
- F. Development proposals will be required to demonstrate how they integrate with, and strengthen, the surrounding ecological networks.



Places for Everyone Links

Policy JP-G8.

Relevant Strategic Objectives

SO3; SO7

Protection of Locally Designated Sites and Natural Environment Assets

- 8.41. National planning policy states that Plans should identify and map components of the local ecological networks in order to protect and enhance biodiversity and to increase resilience to current and future pressures. These networks include the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them.
- 8.42. Plans should also promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.
- 8.43. Trafford's natural environment and natural environment assets provide a range of services and benefits for people, places and biodiversity including ecological connectivity, habitat and species protection, nature recovery networks, place and local identity, improved health and wellbeing, mitigating climate change and improving water and air quality.

Construction and Operational Protection

- 8.44. To ensure the long-term protection of natural environment assets, developers must implement measures to prevent any harm to ecological features during the construction phase. This includes the preparation of Landscape and Ecological Management Plans (LEMP) that outline clear protocols for protecting biodiversity, managing pollution risks, and mitigating disturbance. The integrity of these natural assets should be maintained throughout the development process, and post-development management plans must ensure ongoing protection and enhancement.



Enforcement and Monitoring

- 8.45. The Council will ensure that appropriate conditions and legal agreements are imposed to guarantee that all mitigation, compensation, or enhancement measures are delivered, monitored, and maintained throughout the lifecycle of the development. Regular monitoring will be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of these measures in achieving biodiversity objectives.

Nature Recovery Networks

- 8.46. The Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) sets out an overarching vision, individual priorities and targets for both habitats and species, along with a mapped Nature Network for Greater Manchester.
- 8.47. The Nature Network sets out areas already important for nature (Core Local Nature Sites) as well as opportunity areas (Nature Recovery Opportunity Areas) where there is potential to boost connectivity for nature across Greater Manchester through habitat creation or enhancement.
- 8.48. This policy will contribute towards the headline targets of the LNRS, which are to increase the amount of land designated for nature from 11% to 15% of Greater Manchester; bring 50% of Local Wildlife Sites into active management for nature conservation; restoration and creation of 1,800ha of wildlife-rich land; delivery of new wildlife-rich land and tree planting within the Nature Network.

Consultation Question 8-8

Do you support Policy GI8? Are there any changes required which would improve the policy? Please provide any supporting evidence which you think is relevant.