

Crosby Coastal Park: A Vision

The future for the southern gateway
to the Sefton Coast





Crosby Coastal Park: natural, artistic, historic

**Special plants and animals
such as Skylarks, migrating
birds, toads, lizards, marine
life and shifting sands and
some of the rarest plants in
the UK**

**The biggest open-air art
gallery in the country and
fabulous sunsets**

**A prehistoric forest, WWII
remains, maritime history
– we've got 10,000 years of
heritage**

Crosby Coastal Park – between land and sea

Exciting and full of surprises, always changing as the winds and tides constantly influence its contours, the Sefton coast is a dynamic landscape that shapes and inspires the borough.

Crosby Coastal Park is a key gateway to this stunning coast.

We want to explore opportunities to protect, improve and develop this area and what it can offer to residents, visitors and businesses.

We have to ensure this is done in a balanced way; a way that will conserve our precious habitats and the species they support, whilst encouraging sustainable ideas that will increase wellbeing and economic opportunities.

In 2019, a public consultation was undertaken on a Vision for Crosby Coastal Park. The feedback received from this has been incorporated into this final version of the Vision.



Sefton Coast Plan

Long term goals and key principles

We want to:

- Conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the coast
- Adapt to coastal and climate change
- Drive sustainable local economic growth
- Provide long-term health and wellbeing benefits

* The Vision is linked to the Sefton Coast Plan, adopted by Sefton Council in 2017, and will be guided by these overarching goals.

Looking forward to 2030....

Our communities said they wanted Crosby Coastal Park to:

“ Be adequately resourced ”

“ Meet the needs of young people ”

“ Be more accessible ”

“ Feel better connected with more transport links ”



“ Protect important wildlife and features ”

“ Have more facilities for visitors ”

“ Be sustainable ”

“ Have zoned areas for activities ”

“ Be safer and cleaner ”



“ Have better signage and interpretation of the area ”



HAPPY & HEALTHY

Enjoying the benefits the park has to offer for their physical and emotional health and wellbeing



CARING

Conserving and enhancing important the natural and cultural features of the park whilst adapting to future change



PROUD

Welcoming visitors to the park and surrounding area to enjoy the diverse natural, cultural and leisure attractions

Crosby Coastal Park 2030

A great place to be! Where people are...



CONNECTED

Able to access the linked open spaces in the park and surrounding area



ACTIVELY ENGAGED

Working in partnership with local organisations, communities and businesses to shape sustainable long term growth and investment in the park and the surrounding area

What will Crosby Coastal Park look like in 2030?

The park has been split into 6 zones

ZONE A: **Hightown to North of Hall Road West**

Nature reserve, erosion, heritage, quiet zone

ZONE B: **Hall Road West to Burbo Bank Road**

Gateway, parking and visitor facilities, erosion, Another Place

ZONE C: **Burbo Bank Road to Crosby Baths**

Recreation, visitor facilities, accretion, beach, access, Another Place

ZONE D: **South of Crosby Baths to North of Marine Lake/South Rd**

Nature, recreation, open space

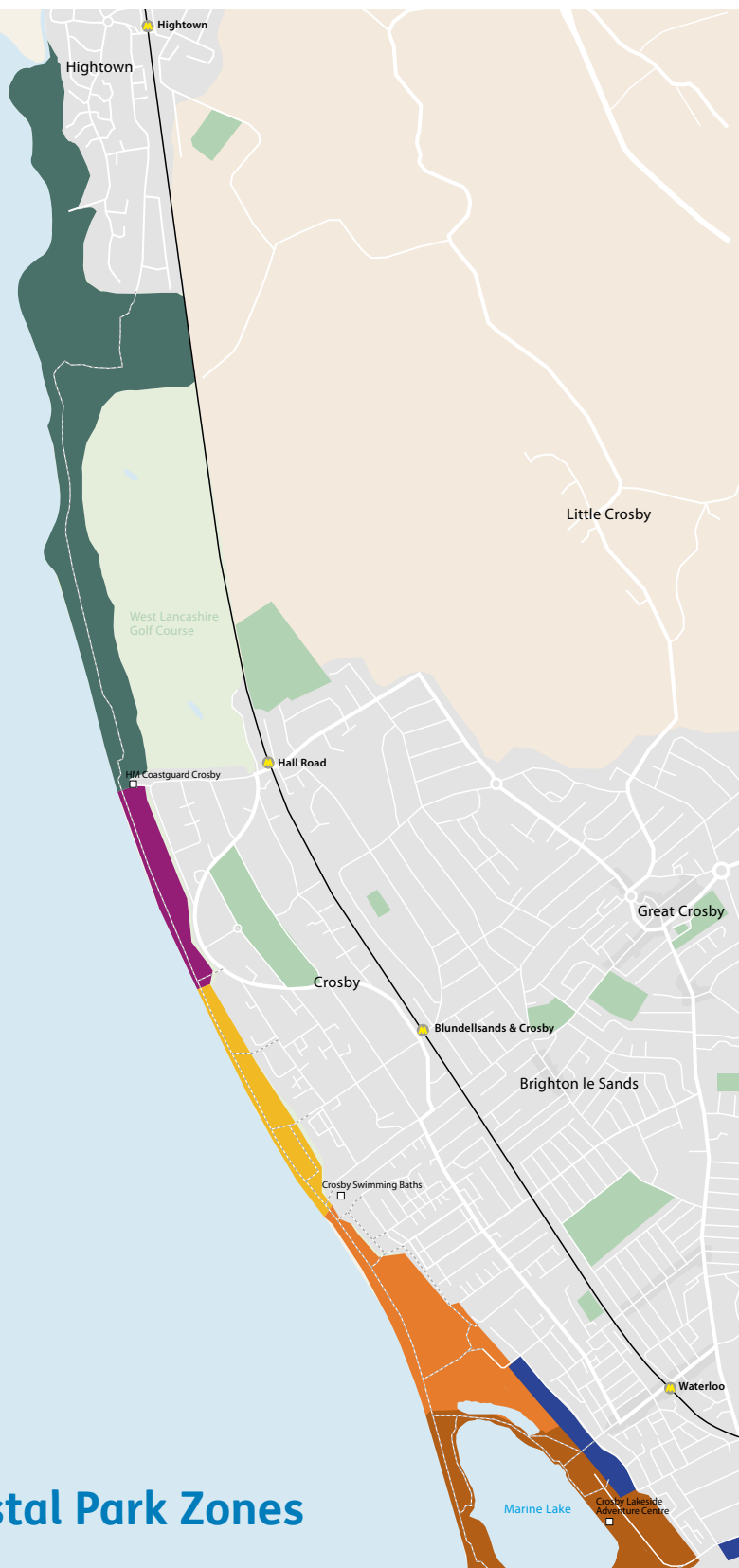
ZONE E: **South Road to Cambridge Road**

Gateway, active zone, parking and visitor facilities, Another Place, Lakeside

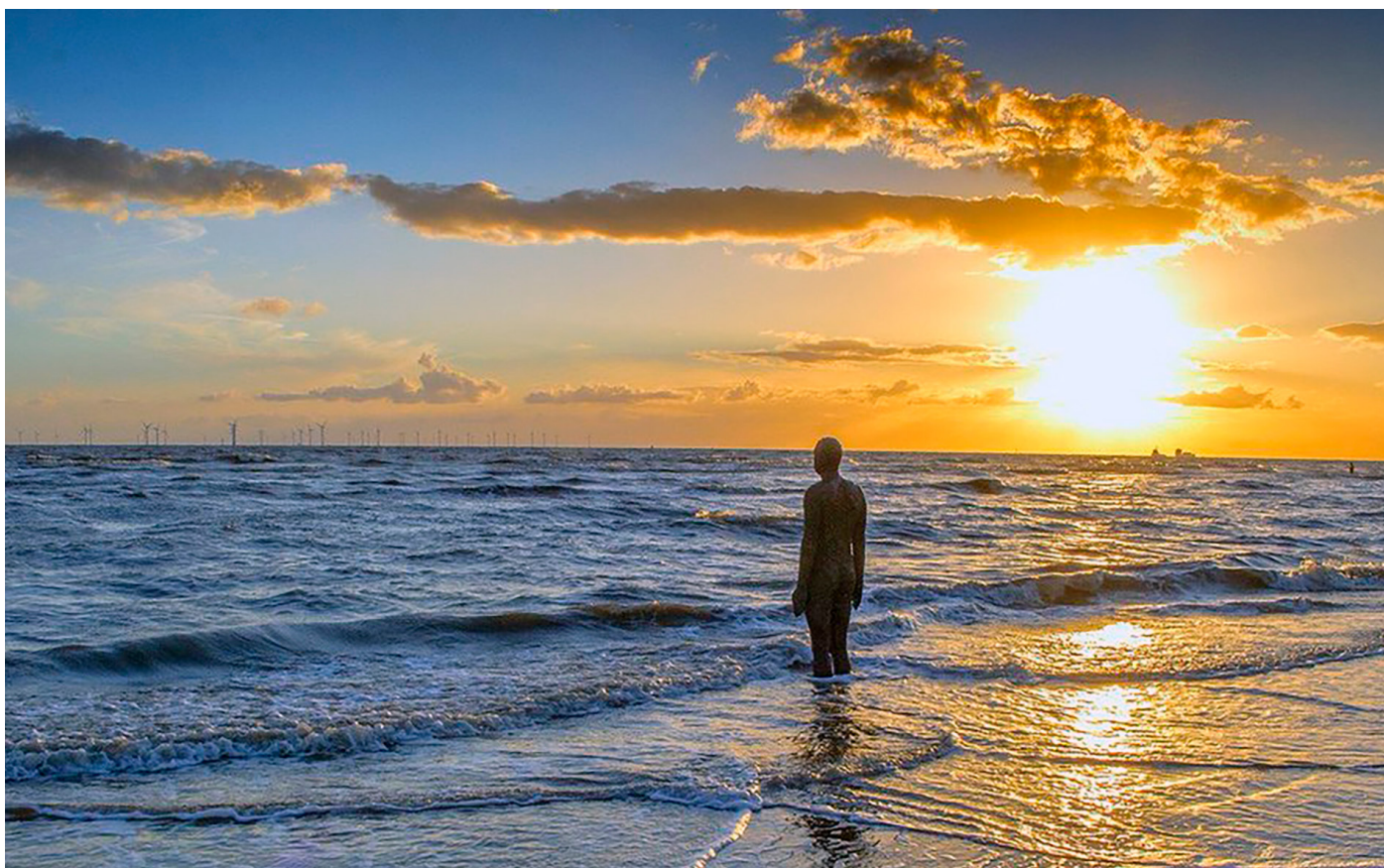
ZONE F: **Beach Lawn, Crescent, Adelaide and Marine Gardens and Potters Barn Park**

Heritage, conservation area, formal gardens

Map showing Crosby Coastal Park Zones



Not only “Another Place” – “Our Place” too!



The Iron Men

Antony Gormley's installation is acknowledged and recognised as a national visitor destination for Sefton and the Liverpool City Region.

The “Iron Men Beach” is vital in developing the visitor economy. Ensuring the best possible access for everyone to this ever changing, beautiful, yet hazardous beach, without impacting unduly on those who live nearby, will be a major challenge.



Skylark – visitor and grassland management are key to breeding success of this declining farmland bird (photo courtesy of I. Wolfenden).



Submerged Forest @Hightown- coastal change - history revealed as the sands of time are stripped away by the tide.



Orchids growing in sensitively managed dune grassland – important for pollinators – insect and plant diversity – and look just glorious!



New and interesting food and drink offers, improved facilities and infrastructure provide a better experience for visitors and the local community.



Top left – View of the beach and sea defences south of Burbo Bank.

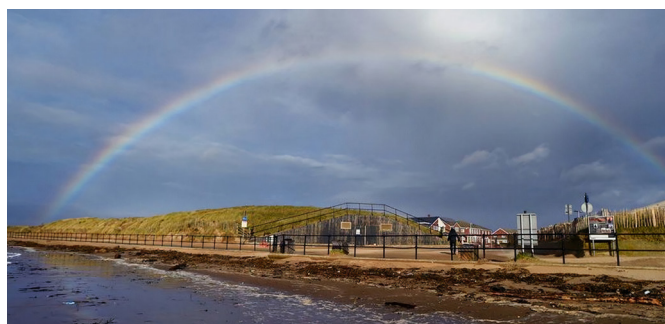


Centre – Hall Road car park, former coastguard station and 'blitz beach' – location of proposed new sea defence scheme.



Right – Sand blow south of Mariners Road creating new dunes.

Crosby Coastal Park 2030 - by all of us, for all of us, for now and future generations



Together a stronger community

In 2030 the Sefton community plays an active part in caring for the park and benefits from the opportunities of living and working in this popular and thriving area.

A borough for everyone

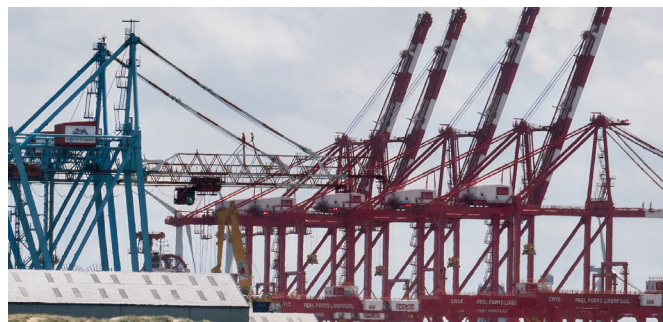
In 2030 the park is accessible to all in our community - everyone enjoys using and sharing it, and the landscape contributes to people living happy and healthy lives.

Living, working and having fun

In 2030 the park is recognised as a reason to live in the area, with superb leisure and visitor facilities for both residents and visitors to enjoy.

Visit, explore and enjoy

In 2030 the park is a “must-visit” destination, home of ‘Another Place’ (the Iron Men). Boasting sea views, vast landscapes and thriving wildlife. Transport connections are excellent and linked to the wider region through the national cycle network and England Coast Path.



A clean, green and beautiful borough

In 2030 Sefton is internationally recognised for its outstanding natural beauty and committed to being a green and sustainable borough.

The park is a key part of this, sensitively managed, conserving habitats for its important wildlife, with visitors enjoying and learning about the natural environment and taking pride in a clean, safe and attractive landscape.

Ready for the future

In 2030 we are using the latest technology to understand and protect our coast in a changing climate, preparing for the impacts of sea-level rise and changing weather patterns and supporting sustainable development and activities.

On the move

In 2030 people can easily access the park using public transport and enjoy a range of walking and cycling routes that link the park to a wider network of routes and greenspaces.

This green network is managed in a way that balances the needs of people and wildlife and helps meet climate change and biodiversity objectives.

Open for business

In 2030 local businesses are thriving. Visitors are welcomed to the park and the attractive surrounding area, supporting business and boosting the local economy, and investment into the landscape.



On the go, and in the pipeline...

- Developing a major coastal protection and flood alleviation project
- Improving the existing habitat for our spectacular flora and fauna e.g. Dynamic Dunescapes projects and Countryside Stewardship projects
- Improving accessibility for walkers and cyclists e.g. England Coast Path and national cycle network
- Boosting opportunities to increase health and wellbeing e.g. events and activities such as Park Run
- Improving visitor facilities e.g. new public toilets at South Road entrance and lighting improvements
- Working with the Antony Gormley Studio to care for the famous statues
- Refurbishment of the Lakeside centre
- Producing a costed Management / Action Plan, covering practical operations, addressing the issues raised (such as sand management, visitor management), helping ensure expectations and resources are adequately understood and managed
- Crosby Coastal Park Forum (launched in 2021) is keeping the dialogue open and meeting the first of the Vision statements, 'Together a stronger community'
- Involving Sefton's Young Advisors to help engage with Young People about the Vision and working with Sefton CVS to engage with the Schools 'Get Talking' virtual meetings
- Green Sefton continues to support the Friends of Waterloo Seafront Gardens, Friends of Crosby Beach and Hightown Beach Clean in their excellent volunteer work and encouraging more people to take part as volunteer ambassadors and in practical events and activities
- Developing new 'pop up' food and drink ideas and opportunities



Challenges:

- Need to secure necessary resources to support this vision
- All proposals need to go through appropriate assessments and gain planning permission recognising land ownership responsibilities and any other legal constraints
- Need to ensure proposals balance the social, economic and environmental needs of the site now and in the future
- Need to address negative impacts of any proposals on the environment
- Work closely with our communities, partners and organisations, understanding each others' needs

