

8.0 SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT



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Key Facts

Sustainability and the Environment

- ❑ Parts of the South Beach area lie within Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3a, as identified by the Environment Agency
 - ❑ Potential risk of flooding will be an important factor to be taken into account when planning for the regeneration of the South Beach area
 - ❑ South Beach is heavily urbanised with no meaningful green open space or recreation areas with resulting impacts on community well-being and biodiversity
 - ❑ The micro climate of South Beach, with strong salt laden prevailing winds, presents challenges with regard to the use of construction materials and landscaping works such as tree planting
- ❑ National and local planning policies require South Beach to be regenerated as a sustainable community
 - ❑ Evidence from previous sections of this profile document indicate that South Beach is not currently sustainable, for instance:
 - ❑ there is a lack of quality community facilities
 - ❑ there is limited open space
 - ❑ the housing offer is limited
 - ❑ employment is dominated by the declining tourism sector
 - ❑ there are significant social and health problems

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 The ultimate aim for the regeneration of the South Beach area will be the creation of a vibrant and successful neighbourhood based on sustainable development principles which are at the heart of recent Government Policy including Planning Policy Statement 1: Sustainable Planning (PPS1), and the Government's Sustainable Communities Plan (Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future (2003).
- 8.1.2 PPS1 provides the context for the Government's Sustainable Communities agenda, and describes a sustainability community as a *place where people want to live and work now and in the future. It should meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, be sensitive to the environment, and contribute to a high quality for life. They should be safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all.*

8.2 Setting the Agenda and Challenges for Creating a Sustainable Community in South Beach

- 8.2.1 The Government's Sustainable Communities Plan usefully summarises the key components of what a sustainable community should be and offer. It is useful to repeat this summary as a starting point for developing issues and challenges relating to creating a new sustainable neighbourhood in South Beach.

The Components of a 'Sustainable Community'

Sustainable communities embody the principles of sustainable development. They do this by:

- ❑ balancing and integrating the social, economic and environmental components of their community
- ❑ meeting the needs of existing and future generations
- ❑ respecting the needs of other communities in the wider region or internationally to make their own communities sustainable
- ❑ Sustainable communities are diverse, reflecting their local circumstances. There is no standard template to fit them all. But they should be:
 - ❑ active, inclusive and safe - Fair, tolerant and cohesive
 - ❑ with a strong local culture and other shared community activities

Sustainable communities offer:

- ❑ a sense of community identity and belonging
- ❑ tolerance, respect and engagement with people from different cultures, background and beliefs
- ❑ friendly, co-operative and helpful behaviour in neighbourhoods
- ❑ opportunities for cultural, leisure, community, sport and other activities, including for children and young people
- ❑ low levels of crime, drugs and antisocial behaviour with visible, effective and community friendly policing
- ❑ social inclusion and good life chances for all Well run - with effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership

Sustainable communities enjoy:

- ❑ representative, accountable governance systems which both facilitate strategic, visionary leadership and enable inclusive, active and effective participation by individuals and organisations
- ❑ effective engagement with the community at neighbourhood level, including capacity building to develop the community's skills, knowledge and confidence
- ❑ strong, informed and effective partnerships that lead by example (e.g. government, business, community)
- ❑ strong, inclusive, community and voluntary sector
- ❑ sense of civic values, responsibility and pride.
- ❑ Environmentally sensitive - providing places for people to live that are considerate of the environment

Sustainable communities:

- ❑ actively seek to minimise climate change, including through energy efficiency and the use of renewable
- ❑ protect the environment, by minimising pollution on land, in water and in the air
- ❑ minimise waste and dispose of it in accordance with current good practice
- ❑ make efficient use of natural resources, encouraging sustainable production and consumption
- ❑ protect and improve bio-diversity (e.g. wildlife habitats) I enable a lifestyle that minimises negative environmental impact and enhances positive impacts (e.g. by creating opportunities for walking and cycling, and reducing noise pollution and dependence on cars).

- ❑ create cleaner, safer and greener neighbourhoods (e.g. by reducing litter and graffiti, and maintaining pleasant public spaces).
- ❑ Well designed and built - featuring quality built and natural environment

Sustainable communities offer:

- ❑ sense of place - a place with a positive 'feeling' for people and local distinctiveness
- ❑ user-friendly public and green spaces with facilities for everyone including children and older people
- ❑ sufficient range, diversity, affordability and accessibility of housing within a balanced housing market
- ❑ appropriate size, scale, density, design and layout, including mixed-use development, that complement the distinctive local character of the community
- ❑ high quality, mixed-use, durable, flexible and adaptable buildings, using materials which minimise negative environmental impacts
- ❑ buildings and public spaces which promote health and are designed to reduce crime and make people feel safe
- ❑ accessibility of jobs, key services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling. Well connected - with good transport services and communication linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services.

Sustainable communities offer:

- ❑ transport facilities, including public transport, that help people travel within and between communities and reduce dependence on cars
- ❑ facilities to encourage safe local walking and cycling
- ❑ an appropriate level of local parking facilities in line with local plans to manage road traffic demand
- ❑ widely available and effective telecommunications and Internet access
- ❑ good access to regional, national and international communications networks.
- ❑ Thriving - with a flourishing and diverse local economy

Sustainable communities feature:

- ❑ a wide range of jobs and training opportunities sufficient suitable land and buildings to support economic prosperity and change
- ❑ dynamic job and business creation, with benefits for the local community
- ❑ a strong business community with links into the wider economy
- ❑ economically viable and attractive town centres. Well served - with public, private, community and voluntary services that are appropriate to people's needs and accessible to all

Sustainable communities have:

- ❑ Well-performing local schools, further and higher education institutions, and other opportunities for lifelong learning
- ❑ high quality local health care and social services, integrated where possible with other services
- ❑ high quality services for families and children (including early years child care)
- ❑ good range of affordable public, community, voluntary and private services (e.g. retail, fresh food, commercial, utilities, information and advice) which are accessible to the whole community
- ❑ service providers who think and act long-term and beyond their own immediate geographical and interest boundaries, and who involve users and local residents in shaping their policy and practice.
- ❑ Fair for everyone - including those in other communities, now and in the future

Sustainable communities:

- ❑ recognise individuals' rights and responsibilities
- ❑ respect the rights and aspirations of others (both neighbouring communities, and across the widerworld) also to be sustainable
- ❑ have due regard for the needs of future generations in current decisions and actions

8.2.2 Whilst the above components are obviously aspirational and cannot all realistically be achieved, they nevertheless set out a useful agenda for setting out potential objectives for the future development of South Beach and what kind of community we want to create. **(see also Blackpool's Sustainable Community Strategy - Section 11).**

Photo 8.1: The Blackpool Resource Centre, Lytham Road, incorporating Wind Micro-generators



8.3 Current Environmental Quality in South Beach

8.3.1 There are no green open spaces or quality public spaces, or trees! to give relief to the hard urban environment within South Beach. As is described in greater detail in **Section 5** of this document, the public realm, townscape and general living environment in South Beach is poor, with few redeeming features.

8.3.2 A key challenge for the regeneration of the area responding to the Sustainable Communities agenda will be how to transform the living environment to give quality and a sense of place to what is otherwise a bleak and unrelenting urban landscape.

Photos 8.2: Poor Environmental Quality in South Beach



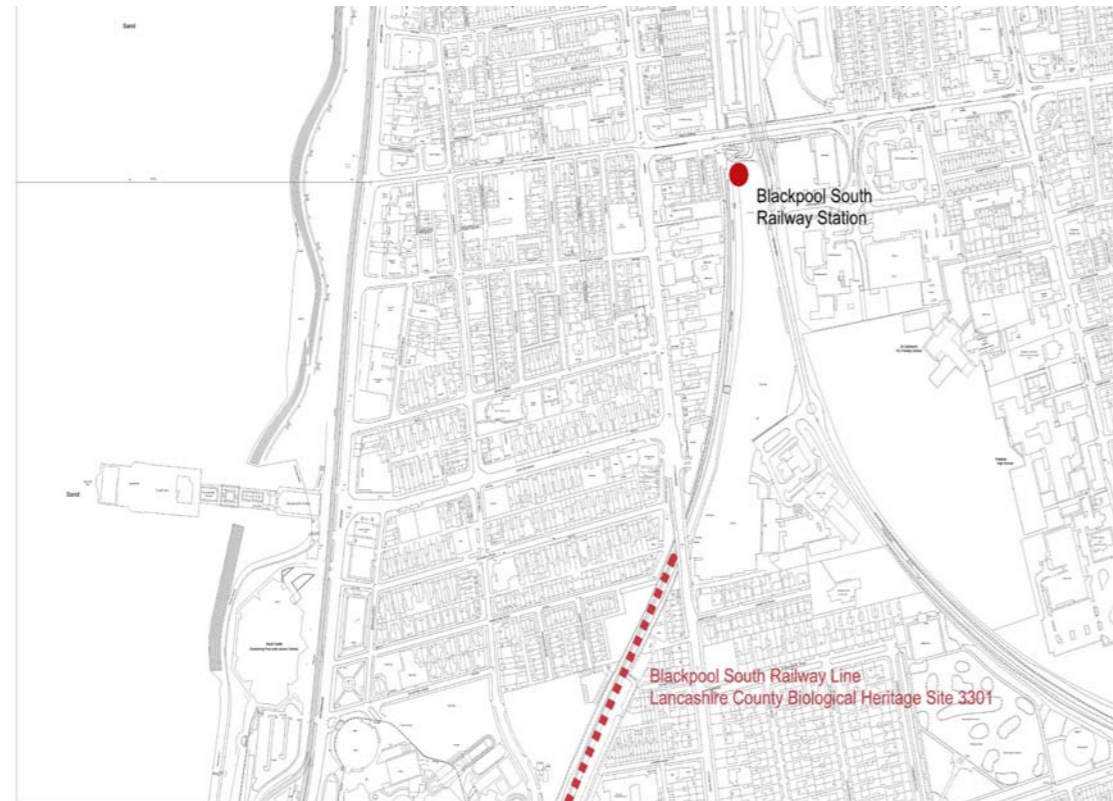
8.4 Ecology and Biodiversity

- 8.4.1 The study area is urban in nature with no formal or informal open spaces. Other than the railway line and the recently landscaped areas within the Central Corridor, there are no know green routes or pathways through the area which may support flora and fauna.
- 8.4.2 There are no statutory protected areas of ecological interest within the area, but there is one Biological Heritage Site of Local Interest as described below located in the south west corner of the study area. **(See Figure 8.1)**

Table 8.1: Biological Heritage Site

Lancashire County Biological Heritage Site	Description
Blackpool South Railway Line – Squires Gate Station to Lytham Road Bridge - Ref 3301	Relic Dune Grassland with some scrub alongside railway line. The area around SD306331 supports a number of notable species including marsh helleborine. Common spotted orchid, marsh orchid and southern mars, common spotted orchid-hybrids.
	Bog pimpernel was recorded here in 1962 at its only know location on the Fylde, but may no longer be present.
	Water Voles.

Plan 8.1:
Location of Lancashire County Biological Heritage Site 3301



8.5 Flood Risk

8.5.1 The potential for flood risk within the study area has been addressed at a strategic level by the Blackpool Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) which has been prepared in accordance with PPS25. The South Beach study area falls within the Central Flood Risk Assessment Area as defined in the study. (see Plan 8.2)

8.5.2 The SFRA sets out the following recommendations in respect of development and Flood Risk within the Central Area:

- ❑ Developments of all types should be allowed throughout most of the area which lies within Zone 1 of the EA Flood Map
- ❑ All proposed development greater than 1 hectare in Flood Zone 1 should be supported by a site-specific flood risk assessment
- ❑ All development proposals in zone 2- should be accompanied by a flood risk assessment

- ❑ Consideration to emergency warning and response including safe access routes should be given in all cases. As this area relies on flood and erosion protection consideration should be given to the policy within the Shoreline Management Plan as to the long term sustainability of the defence. The zoning is without consideration to the current Sea Defences Status
- ❑ In terms of flood risk and the sequential test, those lands within Zone 3a remain higher risk sites within Blackpool. Any development within Zone 3a should be supported by a site-specific flood risk assessment which considers a breach scenario using climate change allowances of the time
- ❑ The use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) should be considered in conjunction with the capacity of the receiving sewers to ensure that containment during exceptional rainfall is controlled

8.6 Air and Noise

8.6.1 There are no known existing air or noise pollution issues within the area although potential sources which should be considered when planning any new development are:

Table 8.2: South Beach - Potential Noise Issues

Source	Potential Air/ Noise Quality Issue
Promenade Tram and Highway	Noise issue
Lytham Road	Air and noise traffic impacts
Mixed use development	Noise impacts on residential properties from adjoining uses, eg Hotels/ Leisure/ amusements/ restaurants etc
Railway Line	Noise issue
Central Corridor	Noise and air pollution

8.7 Responding to the Local Microclimate

8.7.1 The bracing seaside winds are a feature of the English North west coastal resorts. Whereas in some resorts such as Southport, the original Victorian designers used buildings and features to provide a degree of protection from the prevailing winds, in the South Beach Area they chose to build close to the sea and maintain sea views along the numerous east west roads. Bond Street/ Bolton Street were intended to provide a protected route behind the Promenade.

8.7.2 This means that the local environment for people, buildings and landscaping can be challenging and it will be important for the emerging regeneration proposals to respond to local climatic conditions in a number of ways including:

- ❑ Provision of safe and sheltered areas for people and landscaping
- ❑ Choice of appropriate building materials suitable to withstand a seaside location

Photo 8.3: Storm at South Beach



Key Evidence Sources

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ PPS1 - Sustainable Planning❑ PPS25 - Flood Risk❑ Sustainable Communities Plan 2003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Blackpool Strategic Flood Risk Assessment❑ Lancashire County Council - Biological Heritage Records |
|--|---|

Key Issues

Sustainability and the Environment

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ There is a need to understand the potential risks, challenges and opportunities for the study area arising from global warming and environmental sustainability issues❑ Need to provide a greener living environment for current and future residents and improve opportunities for biodiversity❑ Need to develop a building and landscaping strategy to meet the challenges of the local climate❑ Flood Risk
Need to work with the Environment Agency to establish a clear understanding of flood risk within the study area and establish guidelines for future development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Adoption of Renewable Energy Technologies
Need to seek further understanding and potential for adoption of renewable energy technologies within the study area❑ Responding to the challenges of the micro climate
Further research and develop guidelines for meeting challenges of the micro climate, eg special design guidance for buildings to create sheltered spaces for people and planting including advice on appropriate building materials. |
|--|---|

Plan 8.2



KEY		Flood Zone 3a		South Beach Area Action Plan Boundary
		Flood Zone 2		
		Flood Zone 1		

Note: for illustration only - original and latest EA flood risk mapping should be consulted



Blackpool Council
BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY FOR ALL

Date: 29 May 08
Scale: NTS

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Tourism & Regeneration Div
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Flood Risk

