

## What you can do to protect our wonderful wildlife

Our coastal sites are under pressure from more people – erosion, trampling and litter are particular problems that affect wildlife and detract from peoples' enjoyment.

When visiting any outdoor green space, please:

- ◆ Take care not to disturb any wildlife
- ◆ Please stay away from nesting birds
- ◆ Stay on the paths where they exist
- ◆ Do not light fires or disposable barbeques
- ◆ Follow instructions and the guidance on signs
- ◆ Respect other visitors, facilities and park your car considerately
- ◆ Leave no trace and take any litter home
- ◆ Do not pick plants or flowers 
- ◆ Respect fenced off areas especially ponds
- ◆ Take care not to venture too far out on coastal sites – the tide comes in quickly

When visiting with a dog, please:

- ◆ Keep your dog in sight or on a short lead at all times
- ◆ Clean up after your dog and use any dog bins provided 
- ◆ Please do not allow your dog to chase flocks of birds. Exercise your dog away from resting or feeding birds to avoid disturbance.

### Whooper Swans at Martin Mere



© Mike Beumont

**Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet and we hope you enjoy exploring your local area responsibly!**

For more information:

**Visit the website:**  
[www.westlancs.gov.uk](http://www.westlancs.gov.uk)

**Facebook:**  
@Westlancsbc



**Twitter:**  
@Westlancsbc



**Respecting Nature in West Lancashire:**  
*A voluntary code for responsible recreation*

**HOW YOU CAN HELP PROTECT OUR COAST & ESTUARIES**

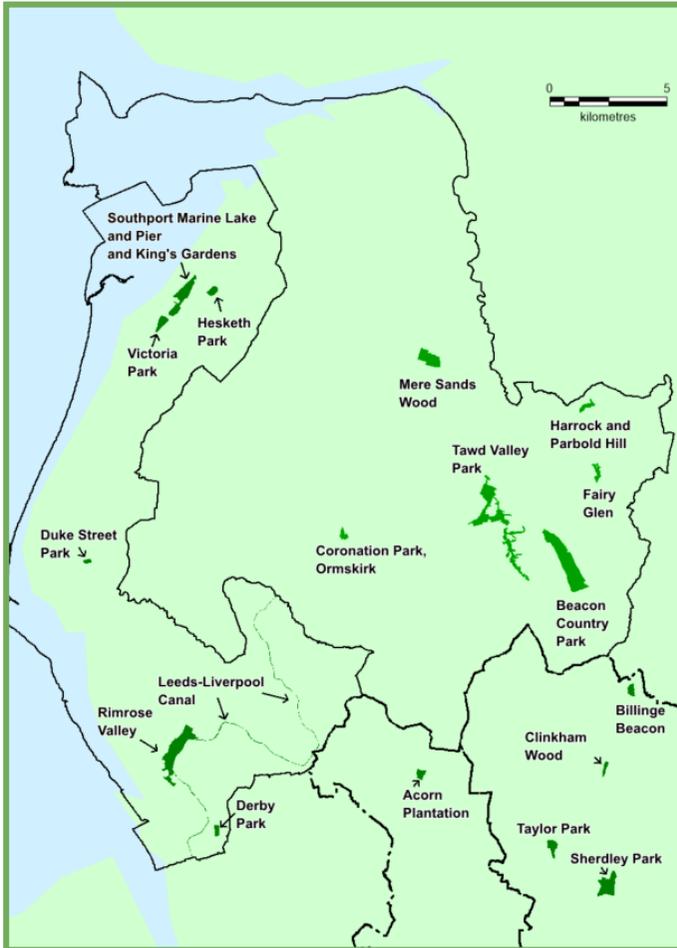


© Dr P.H. Smith

@ Funk Dooby

@ Steve McWilliam

## Our Local Green Spaces



There are some wonderful parks and outdoor green spaces you can enjoy in your local area!



Beacon Country Park



Coronation Park

## Our coastline is of international importance, and we need your help to protect it.

Our coast and estuaries are becoming an increasingly popular destination for visitors. However, irresponsible recreational use has already caused damage to these coastal sites. These special places host an array of habitats and wildlife, including some of the rarest plants and animals in the UK.

Every year thousands of migratory birds arrive on our coastlines to spend the winter. They fly great distances from Russia, Scandinavia, Greenland, Iceland and the wider Arctic to feed on shellfish, worms and plants along the coast and surrounding areas. However, birds can be easily disturbed, especially by dogs. Flying away wastes valuable energy, reducing their chances of survival.

The District's coast comprises most of the south shore of the Ribble Estuary, including one of the largest expanses of saltmarsh habitat in Britain which is internationally important for waterbirds, especially ducks, geese and swans. There is also a major RSPB reserve at Hesketh Bank. These sites interact with the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust Martin Mere reserve which is situated about 8km to the south-east of the estuary. Large flocks of Pink-footed Geese and Whooper Swans feed in winter on harvest waste on farmland in West Lancashire and North Merseyside.



## Internationally Protected Coastal Sites



The following of this guidance will help reduce any potential impact on the special habitats and wildlife for which these sites have been designated. This way both visitors and our wildlife can enjoy our great outdoors for generations to come.

You can find out more about why our coastal sites are protected by visiting Natural England's website:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>