

Strategic Core Policy (SC8): Protecting the South Pennine Moors SPA and the South Pennine Moors SAC and their zone of influence

In this Policy:

Zone A is land up to 400m from the South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area (“**SPA**”) and South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (“**SAC**”) boundary;

Zone B is land up to 2.5km from the SPA and SAC boundary; and.

Zone C is land up to 7km from the SPA and SAC boundary.

Subject to the derogation tests of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, in all Zones development will not be permitted where it would be likely to lead, directly or indirectly, to an adverse effect (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), which cannot be effectively mitigated, upon the integrity of the SPA or the SAC.

In conducting the above assessment the following approach will apply:

In Zone A no development involving a net increase in dwellings would be permitted unless, as an exception, the development and/or its use would not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the SPA or SAC.

In Zone B it will be considered, based on such evidence as may be reasonably required, whether land proposed for development affects foraging habitat for qualifying species of the SPA.

In Zone C, in respect of residential developments that result in a net increase of one or more dwellings, it will be considered how recreational pressure on the SPA or SAC, that such development might cause, will be effectively mitigated. The mitigation may be:

- (i) such that the developer elects to offer, either on-site and / or deliverable outside the boundary of the development site, such as the provision of accessible natural greenspace and/or other appropriate measures; or
- (ii) in the form of a financial contribution from the developer to:
 1. the provision of additional natural greenspace and appropriate measures to deflect pressure from moorland habitats and the long-term maintenance and management of that greenspace;
 2. the implementation of access management measures, which may include further provision of wardens, in order to reduce the impact of visitors;
 3. a programme of habitat management and manipulation and subsequent monitoring and review of measures.

To mitigate impacts on the SPA and SAC due to the increase in population, an Environment SPD sets out a mechanism for the calculation of the financial contributions, by reference to development types, the level of predicted recreational impact on the SPA or SAC, and the measures upon which such contributions will be spent.