

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

**Subject to the derogation tests of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, 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. – directly or indirectly, of the South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation.**

To ensure these sites are not harmed, a number of zones have been identified:

**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.**

**In Zone A No development involving a net increase in dwellings would be permitted within a suitable buffer area around the upland heath/ South Pennine Moors (normally 400m) unless, as an exception, the form of residential development and/or its use would not have an adverse effect upon the sites’ integrity of the SPA or SAC.**

~~Zone Bi~~

~~**In Zone Bi B would apply between 400m and 2.5km of the designated Site boundary. Within Zone Bi the Council will take a precautionary approach to the review and identification of potential Greenfield sites for development based on an assessment of carrying capacity using the available evidence from bird and habitat surveys and appropriate additional monitoring. The underlying principles will be to avoid loss or degradation of areas outside European Sites that are important to the integrity of sites and that sufficient foraging resources continue to be available, in order to ensure the survival of bird populations. 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.**~~

~~Zone Bii~~

~~Zone Bii would apply between 2.5km and up to 7km of the designated Site boundary~~

~~Within Zone Bii appropriate assessment is still likely to identify significant adverse effects in combination with other proposals, however appropriate avoidance or mitigation measures should allow development to take place.~~

~~Zones Bi and Bii~~

~~Within Zones Bi (taking into account the need to avoid loss or degradation of areas outside European Sites that are important to the integrity of the sites) and Zone Bii residential~~

**In Zone C, in respect of residential developments that result in a net increase of one or more dwellings, will be required to contribute to: 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) either on-site and / or deliverable off-site measures, such as the provision of accessible natural greenspace; or**

(ii) **in the form of a financial contribution from the developer to:**

1. The provision of additional natural greenspace and appropriate ~~facilities~~ **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 ~~European Sites~~ **the SPA and SAC** due to the increase in population, an approach will be adopted that sets out a mechanism for the calculation of ~~planning~~ **financial contributions**.