

**STATEMENT FROM NATURAL ENGLAND: BRADFORD LOCAL PLAN CORE STRATEGY -
EXAMINATION**

PROPOSED MAIN MODIFICATIONS

SCHEDULE OF MATTERS, ISSUES AND QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION

MATTER 1 – SOUTH PENNINE MOORS (Policy SC8 and associated policies¹)

The Council has reviewed and updated the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and has consequently amended the approach towards the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC in Policy SC8.

Key issue:

Is the revised approach towards the South Pennine Moors appropriate, effective, positively prepared and justified with soundly based evidence, including the updated Habitats Regulations Assessment, and in line with the latest national guidance and good practice (NPPF/PPG)

- a. Is the revised approach towards new development in the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC and its Zone of Influence appropriate, effective, positively prepared, justified, soundly based and consistent with the latest national policy?

Natural England concurs with the conclusions of the Council's appropriate assessment which enable the authority to be able to ascertain that the proposal will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of any of the sites in question. Having considered the revised assessment, and the measures proposed to mitigate for all identified adverse effects that could potentially occur as a result of the proposal, we concur with the assessment conclusions, providing that all mitigation measures are appropriately developed and secured in any permission given .

- b. Is the updated HRA evidence and Sustainability Appraisal soundly based and are there any outstanding issues from Natural England or other relevant parties?

Further clarification is needed on the production of the management plan as set out in our comments on Main Modification 30. In addition a clear timescale should be set out for delivery of the Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) Strategy in support of the SPD referred to in Policy SC8 and HRA. This strategy is part of the HRA mitigation measure to be appropriately developed and secured, this is not considered a soundness issue for the HRA, rather it is to add clarity and certainty.

- c. Have the implications of the revised approach towards the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC been reflected in the proposed amendments to the text accompanying Policy SC8 and other associated policies and accompanying text (eg. Policies WD1 & EN1-EN2)?

Natural England welcomed various modifications to Policy SC8 and other associated policies as set out in our response to the Council dated 14 January 2016.

- d. Have the implications of the revised HRA evidence for the overall strategy, the settlement hierarchy, spatial location and distribution of development and other key aspects of the development strategy been fully considered and explained?

Natural England has no additional comments.

¹ including Main Modifications 19-37 & 113-120