



NATURE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

STATEMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

This statement has been published in order to comply with the guidance provided by the Planning Advisory Service's online Plan Making Manual (updated November 2009) as well as paragraphs 5.D.4 and 5.D.5 of the Practical Guide to Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, 2005 (ODPM).

How Sustainability Issues have been integrated into the SPD

Due to the subject matter of the SPD, sustainability issues, particularly those relating to nature conservation, are embedded throughout the document.

The introduction of the SPD notes how Brighton & Hove City Council has a statutory duty to conserve biodiversity and notes that nature conservation is regarded as a key test of sustainable development.

Section 2 of the SPD describes the most important designated sites for nature conservation within the boundary of Brighton & Hove. Section 3 goes on to describe how features of nature conservation value also frequently occur outside these sites.

Sections 4 and 5 of the SPD outline the main stages of how to integrate nature conservation features into development including guidance on carrying out first impressions and nature conservation surveys, options for compensation, and information on how to deliver adequate new provision for biodiversity in all developments. Section 5 also provides details of the additional benefits that features designed primarily for nature conservation can provide, such as reducing the risk of storm water/surface water run-off, addressing water shortages through water conservation measures, and reducing energy costs through the insulating effects of features such as green roofs. The section also specifies how the effects of climate change should be fully considered.

The Annexes to the SPD provide further information on habitats and species of importance within the area, information on carrying out a first impressions ecological survey, information on creating and enhancing habitats, as well as many useful contacts.

How the Sustainability Appraisal and consultation has been taken into account.

Following the first assessment of the SPD, the Sustainability Appraisal made the following suggestions which were incorporated: to include a reference to utilising local labour sources; to include a reference to other relevant SPDs; to refer to climate change and the energy saving benefits of certain nature conservation features; to make a reference to including buffer zones around developments to prevent fragmentation; to include a link to further information on climate change; and to include examples of suitable plant species.

The first draft Sustainability Appraisal was subject to consultation in 2007. Some amendments were made to the SA following consultation including the inclusion of two indicators relating to open space and the protection of coastline for monitoring purposes.

The second draft Sustainability Appraisal was subject to consultation in 2009. Some amendments were made to the SA following consultation including the inclusion of an indicator relating to Ancient Woodland for monitoring purposes, and updating the information relating to plans, programmes and guidance that have a bearing on the SPD and SA.

The reasons for choosing the SPD as adopted

The Sustainability Appraisal considered the adoption of the SPD in the light of other reasonable alternatives and concluded that the option of producing the SPD was the preferred choice of the four possible options put forward, as it performs positively against the relevant sustainability objectives.

Monitoring arrangements

The significance of the Nature Conservation and Development SPD will be monitored on an annual basis with the findings reported in the Annual Monitoring Report produced by the Planning Strategy & Projects team. As the Nature Conservation and Development SPD was produced over some time some of the initial indicators that were proposed have become out of date and superseded. This has resulted in a slight change to some of the previously proposed monitoring indicators. The following monitoring indicators have therefore been proposed:

- % Area of SSSI land in:
 - a. a favourable condition
 - b. an unfavourable recovering condition
 - c. an unfavourable no change condition
 - d. an unfavourable declining condition
 - e. area part destroyed / destroyed

- Amount and type of open space as classified in the Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study 2009.

- Amount of semi-natural green space per 1000 population

- Amount of land under Entry level and High Level environmental stewardship schemes.
- Percentage of new developments increasing important or sensitive habitats identified in local BAP
- Achievement of specified biodiversity action plan targets
- Change in populations of SAP species
- Number and area of designated sites (SAC, SSSI, AONB, SNCI, LNR, RIGS) presented as a percentage of the total administrative area of Brighton & Hove
- Percentage of new developments with a green roof
- Percentage of new developments creating wildlife corridors to link habitats situated within or outside the site
- What parts of the coast are protected in Brighton & Hove
- What percentage of new development has provided on-site public green space

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