

DMC11 Safeguarding, recording and enhancing nature conservation interests

- A. Proposals should aim to achieve net gains to biodiversity or geodiversity as a result of development. In considering whether a proposal conserves and enhances sites, features or species of wildlife, geological or geomorphological importance all reasonable measures must be taken to avoid net loss by demonstrating that in the below order of priority the following matters have been taken into consideration:
- (i) enhancement proportionate to the development;
 - (ii) adverse effects have been avoided;
 - (iii) the 'do nothing' option and alternative sites that cause less harm;
 - (iv) appropriate mitigation; and
 - (v) in rare cases, as a last resort, compensation measures to offset loss.
- B. Details of appropriate safeguards and enhancement measures for a site, feature or species of nature conservation importance which could be affected by the development must be provided, in line with the Biodiversity Action Plan and any action plan for geodiversity sites, including provision for the beneficial future management of the interests. Development will not be permitted if applicants fail to provide adequate or accurate detailed information to show the impact of a development proposal on a site, feature or species including:
- (i) an assessment of the nature conservation importance of the site; and
 - (ii) adequate information about the special interests of the site; and
 - (iii) an assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development; and
 - (iv) details of any mitigating and/or compensatory measures and details setting out the degree to which net gain in biodiversity has been sought; and
 - (v) details of provisions made for the beneficial future management of the nature conservation interests of the site. Where the likely success of these measures is uncertain, development will not be permitted.
- C. For all sites, features and species development proposals must also consider:
- (i) cumulative impacts of other developments or proposals; and
 - (ii) the setting of the development in relation to other features of importance, taking into account historical, cultural and landscape context.