

L1: Landscape character and valued characteristics

- A. Development must conserve and enhance valued landscape character, as identified in the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan, and other valued characteristics.
- B. Other than in exceptional circumstances, proposals for development in the Natural Zone will not be permitted.

Sites of biodiversity or geodiversity importance

- 9.22 Sites of biodiversity or geodiversity importance play a vital role within the often unique ecosystems of the National Park and the region. This strong policy principle is important in supporting other areas of the plan. For example, restoring 1km² of peat moorland not only protects the eco-system but leads to a carbon saving of 609 to 1128 tonnes of equivalent CO₂/yr. Moorland management also assists water management and reduces the risk of flooding in areas such as the River Derwent as it flows through Derby and other urban areas. This is a vital contribution to the National Park's green infrastructure.
- 9.23 The 2010 National Parks Circular has a priority outcome for 2010–15 to secure a diverse and healthy natural environment, enhance cultural heritage and inspire lifelong behavioural change. Part of this aim is that biodiversity is valued, safeguarded and enhanced.
- 9.24 National policy justifies the approach in the National Park. It requires LDFs to indicate sites of biodiversity and geo-diversity designation; distinguish between national, regional, and local designations; and put in place policies to help restore or create priority habitats in line with national and regional biodiversity action plans. With the 2010 National Parks Circular, policy confirms that every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard so far is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity and should enable the conservation of sites and areas designated for the value of their biodiversity. The following policy is also necessary to aid conservation and enhancement of habitats, species and natural resources and to meet the requirements of PPS9⁴⁰.
- 9.25 PPS1⁴¹ requires local policies that conserve and enhance wildlife species and enhance as well as protect biodiversity and natural habitats. The emerging PPS: Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment states that planning should conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and ensure that the natural environment is integrated into the strategic vision of communities. Policies and decisions should ensure that construction, development and regeneration enhances biodiversity wherever possible and that there is no net loss to biodiversity.
- 9.26 Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping will be used to further identify areas with significant potential for biodiversity enhancement or habitat creation. This will add a further strategic level to land management for biodiversity.
- 9.27 The National Park Authority will consider all proposals for development individually and in combination with other proposed and previous developments, to ensure a net positive impact on sites, features or species.

⁴⁰ ODPM (2005) Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation

⁴¹ ODPM (2005) Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development; and emerging PPS: Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment