

to be of equal or greater value than that lost through development; taking particular account of appropriate levels of mitigation where development would result in habitat fragmentation

- Requiring that any green infrastructure development project that could result in adverse effects to a European site is subject to project-level HRA
- Requiring that development proposals, where appropriate, contribute towards the creation of new or enhancement of existing green infrastructure, including public and private open space, recreation areas, parks and formal outdoor sports facilities, local nature reserves, wildlife sites, woodlands, allotments, bridleways, cycle ways and local green spaces
- Requiring that through its layout and design, new development responds to the location of existing green infrastructure and ecological networks, supporting their appropriate uses and functions
- Where appropriate, ensuring that green infrastructure helps mitigate the effects of climate change including through management of flood risk and waterways
- The protection and extension of existing long distance trails and development of a network of Greenways in accordance with the West Derbyshire and High Peak Greenway Strategy
- Working with the Dark Peak Nature Improvement Area and other partners to help create better access routes linking High Peak settlements into the surrounding countryside for tourism and recreation
- Identifying and protecting key wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect sites of importance for biodiversity, including creating or restoring habitats of nature conservation value, in accordance with Local Plan Policy EQ5

Supporting Guidance and Evidence

- National Planning Policy Framework; 2012
- West Derbyshire and High Peak Greenway Strategy; 2008
- High Peak Green Infrastructure Network
- High Peak Ecological Network; Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (draft)
- High Peak Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2014-2017

Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows

5.72 Woodlands and trees are important to the quality of life and environment of the Borough. Woods, and the trees that make up a vital component of them, are essential to life. They have a myriad of different benefits for both wildlife and people. They stabilise the soil, generate oxygen, store carbon, play host to a wide variety of wildlife, as well as providing us with raw materials.

5.73 Ancient and semi-natural woodlands are not re-creatable within any practical time frame as the ecological and physical features of a site will have developed over hundreds of years. Mature and ancient woodland are an essential part of the Borough's natural capital and a significant source of biodiversity. Ancient semi-natural woodland is a priority habitat in the Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan. Trees can play a role in mitigating the effects of climate change through carbon storage and shading. They are also an important feature in creating a high quality local environment.

5 Development management policies

5.74 Ancient or veteran trees are special trees because of their history and longevity. The term "veteran tree" encompasses:

- Trees of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of their great age.
- Trees in the ancient or third and final stage of their life.
- Trees that are old relative to others of the same species.

5.75 In order to protect trees in the interest of amenity, particularly when they are considered to be at risk, the Council can make a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). The Borough Council has made over 250 such orders.

5.76 New developments will be required to ensure that any trees removed will be replaced by replanting twice the number removed. This will help to deliver net biodiversity gains, since many newly planted trees do not survive. In order to help maximise the chances of survival for replacement trees, developments should also ensure that a tree management plan is put in place.

Policy EQ 9

Trees, woodland and hedgerows

The Council will protect existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows, in particular, ancient woodland, veteran trees and ancient or species-rich hedgerows from loss or deterioration.

This will be achieved by:

- Requiring that existing woodlands, healthy, mature trees and hedgerows are retained and integrated within a proposed development unless the need for, and benefits of, the development clearly outweigh their loss
- Requiring new developments where appropriate to provide tree planting and soft landscaping, including where possible the replacement of any trees that are removed at a ratio of 2:1
- Resisting development that would directly or indirectly damage existing ancient woodland, veteran trees and ancient or species-rich hedgerows.

Supporting Guidance and Evidence

- National Planning Policy Framework; 2012
- Ancient Woodland Inventory; Natural England
- Protecting Trees: A guide to tree preservation procedures; 2012
- Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act; 2006