

Brecon Beacons Local Development Plan 2007 – 2022

Hearing Session 5: Overarching Policies (Appropriate Development and Environmental Protection)

Matters & Issues Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction

2. Procedural Matters

3. Environmental Protection

- a) Paragraph 4.6.2 (as amended by FC 4-T-15) should be amended because the features for which a SSSI is designated are not protected under the Habitats Regulations 2010. Suggest change “may have an impact on a feature of a protected site (such as SAC or SSSI) with “may have a significant impact on a European designation.”
- b) The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) suggests amending the glossary (as amended in FC 4-G-16) which defines the concept of Natural Beauty.
- c) CCW makes some suggestions regarding the New Policy ‘Sites of European Importance.’ As it stands it does not reflect the terminology or requirements of national legislation and planning policy in PPW Technical Advice Note (TAN) 5 ‘Nature Conservation and Planning’.

4. Water Quality and Resources

- a) Is Policy 5 ‘Sustainable Use of Water’ based on a credible evidence base?
- b) Is Policy 5 consistent with Policy 38 ‘Sustainable Drainage Systems’?
- c) CCW suggests that paragraph 4.x.2 is amended by inserting the word “SACs” at the end of the final sentence.
- d) Should references throughout the LDP to the objective of maintaining and improving water quality be changed? The Environment Agency Wales (EAW) suggests that it is not accurate to describe the water quality as being at a high level. The objectives should thus be re-worded so that high levels of water, soil and air quality could first be achieved and then maintained.
- e) Should the New Policy ‘Water Quality’ (FC 4-PA-25) include provision for improvements and enhancements to water quality?
- f) How realistic is the EAW’s expectation that water quality could be improved through LDP objectives and then monitored?

5. Biodiversity

- a) New Policy 'Sites of National Importance' does not accurately reflect national planning policy and CCW suggest amendments as follows:
- Delete reference to proposed SSSI in the first sentence
 - At the end of criterion ii) delete "and" and replace with "or"
 - For improved clarity move the text of criterion iv) to the end of criterion iii)
 - In the final sentence insert "mitigation and/or" before "compensatory measures".
- b) It is suggested that in the last line of the New Policy 'Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation' the words "mitigation and/or" are inserted before "compensatory measures".
- c) Suggested change to first sentence of paragraph 4.7.6.1 to say "A number of UK protected species are..." In the last sentence, delete "action on all" and insert "found locally" after the listed species and habitats.
- d) To comply with TAN 5 the sixth sentence should be amended by deleting "The NPA may" and replacing it with "Where protected species are present or likely to be present the NPA will require..."
- e) Paragraph 4.7.6.3 should refer to the "Welsh Government."

6. Trees and Development

- a) Suggested that the New Policy 'Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees' is amended so that criterion a) says "the fragmentation or loss of ancient and semi-natural woodlands".
- b) The last paragraph of this new policy should insert the words "and semi-natural" after "ancient".

7. Monitoring Framework

- a) Should the framework include measures to record improvements to water quality rather than being limited to protection only?
- b) If so, how will these be monitored and recorded?

8. Any Other Matters