



Rodborough Common Conservation Programme (RCCP)

Partnership Agreement

Partners: SDC, National Trust, Natural England, Stroud Valleys Project, Graziers Committee



Aim of the Partnership:

Under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, Competent Authorities have a duty to ensure that all the activities they regulate have no adverse effect on the integrity of any of the Natura 2000 sites (Together SPAs and SACs make up the network of Natura 2000 sites). Local Planning Authorities are identified as a “competent authority” for the purposes of determining whether or not a proposed development scheme or Local Plan is likely to have a significant effect upon the SAC. The effect of the Regulations is to require Local Planning Authorities to ensure that no likely significant adverse effect arises from any proposed development scheme or Local Plan. The effect of this legislation together with the Natural England and Rural Communities Act 2006 is to impose on local authorities a legal duty of care to protect biodiversity. If local authorities think harm or “likely significant effect” could occur they are legally obliged to not approve the proposed plan or project unless appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures can be put in place. The various Habitat Regulation Assessment iterations concluded that proposed residential growth in the Local Plan within the catchment could have a likely significant effect, in the absence of appropriate mitigation. Over the last year SDC has collaboratively worked with Natural England (NE), the National Trust (NT), the Rodborough Commoners and Stroud Valleys Project (SVP) to devise an agreed interim impact avoidance strategy for housing within an identified 3km catchment. The Interim Strategy for Avoidance of Likely Significant Adverse Effects on Rodborough Common Special Area of Conservation (SAC) was adopted at Environment Committee on 19th March 2015 (Agenda Item 10). This Partnership seeks to deliver the mitigation identified in that Strategy.

Key Objectives:

- The strategy seeks both to:
- Avoid an increase in recreational activity on Rodborough Common SAC, and to;
- Avoid the effects of increased recreational activity.

Delivery Tasks:

Promoters of residential development will be expected to contribute to mitigation measures necessary to make their schemes acceptable under HRA. Other work associated with the strategy, for example, further baseline studies and surveys to develop a greater understanding of recreational



activity and pressure will be funded directly by the District Council, Natural England and/or other delivery partners.

Monitoring, Reporting:& Review:

SDC Annual Monitoring Report

Bi annual reporting by Partners

Natural England SSSI Condition Monitoring