



Rodborough Common Conservation Programme (RCCP)

Advice Sheet – Please keep this safe for your records

Introduction

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):

https://www.stroud.gov.uk/cmislive_public/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/68/Committee/6/Default.aspx

How does the RCCP work?

- The Basic information is provided in the Adopted Interim Strategy for Avoidance of Likely Significant Adverse Effects on Rodborough Common Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
- The RCCP Partnership currently comprises, SDC, National Trust, Natural England, Stroud Valleys Project.
- The RCCP Partnership offers a choice – that you undertake your own Habitat Regulation Assessment mitigation in accordance with the Adopted Interim Strategy for Avoidance of Likely Significant Adverse Effects on Rodborough Common Special Area of Conservation (SAC) OR the appropriate mitigation is achieved by a £200 contribution per dwelling towards the RCCP programme contained in the Adopted Interim Strategy for Avoidance of Likely Significant Adverse Effects on Rodborough Common Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The contribution towards the Strategy will be for mitigation work to be taken forward by the Partnership.



What do I (as the applicant) need to do?

- See the Process Chart.

What happens next?

- SDC accounting and monitoring undertaken.
- Project Delivery agreed at RCCP Meetings. Delivery with Project Partners agreed with timescales.
- Annual reporting. RCCP project delivery partners let us know what they have achieved over the year, and their project plans for the future by submitting to us an annual report.