

Policy EN5: Biodiversity and Green Space

Biodiversity, geodiversity and green space will be protected and enhanced, by multi-agency working where appropriate, to:

- (i) Maintain and develop a district-wide network of green infrastructure where possible linking areas of natural green space;**
- (ii) Protect and enhance the international, national and locally designated sites, having due regard to their status;**
- (iii) Establish a major area of accessible open space at Combe Valley Countryside Park, between Bexhill and Hastings;**
- (iv) Enhance the nature conservation value and multi-functional nature of the Romney Marsh Biodiversity Opportunity Area;**
- (v) Support opportunities for management, restoration and creation of habitats in line with the opportunities identified for the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) and targets set out in the Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan;**
- (vi) Continue to develop the wetland habitat at Bewl Water Reservoir, with compatible recreational uses;**
- (vii) Increase accessibility to the countryside from urban areas, especially in the Hastings and Bexhill fringes;**
- (viii) Ensure that development retains, protects and enhances habitats of ecological interest, including ancient woodland, water features and hedgerows, and provides for appropriate management of these features;**
- (ix) Require developers to integrate biodiversity into development schemes by avoiding adverse impacts from development on biodiversity or habitat, or where wholly unavoidable, provide appropriate mitigation against or compensation for any losses. In any event, developers will also be expected to consider and promote opportunities for the creation and/or restoration of habitats appropriate to local context.**