

P.12 1.1.3 (emphasis altered)

Sound stewardship of this heritage (*natural landscape and historic environment*) is vital but the high environmental qualities of the region should be seen as a major contributor to quality of life and a direct or indirect source of employment for many people, rather than a constraint on development for many people

P.13 1.1.4 (new comments on rural areas and agriculture)

Among the English regions, the South West has the highest percentage of land classified as 'rural'. Similarly, a relatively high percentage of the population of the South West lives in rural districts (about 56%). More than three million people (62% of the population) live within 10 km of the coastline and the coast continues to play a pivotal role in the region's economy. Agriculture and related industries remain important for many rural areas, despite making a relatively modest contribution to regional GVA.

P. 16 1.4.1 (quality of life and environmental amendments)

The momentum of change in the South West looks set to continue. Unless it is planned for in a constructive and creative manner, with sustainable development at the heart of the strategy, growth has the potential to erode the very quality of life that makes the region distinctive. There has been much debate in the region about the direction of travel the South West should take. At the heart of this the RSS Strategy is the desire to create a region that is more sustainable than it has been, with better balanced and more sustainable communities within it. In doing so, it endorses the vision of the region's Sustainability Framework: "the South West must remain a region with a beautiful and diverse environment. By working together and applying the principles of sustainability we can achieve lasting economic prosperity and social justice whilst protecting the environment. This approach will secure a higher quality of life now and for future generations."

P.49 Development Policy D (re-phrasing)

Development Policy D – Infrastructure

The planning and delivery of development should ensure efficient and effective use of existing infrastructure and should provide for the delivery of new or improved transport, education, health, culture, sport and recreation and green infrastructure in step with development. Central Government, Local authorities, regional bodies, service providers and developers will work in partnership to identify regionally and sub-regionally significant infrastructure requirements and solutions, including funding.

P.52 Development Policy F (re-phrasing)

Development Policy F - Master Planning and delivery of major development
Major developments, including urban extensions and regeneration, should be

planned on a comprehensive and integrated basis to ensure that they contribute to the delivery of sustainable communities and a high quality of life by providing for:

- high standards of design and access and the lowest practicable levels of energy and car use;
- public transport, cultural, leisure, retail, health care, education and other services and facilities commensurate with the needs of the expected population of the area and delivered in step with growth of that population;
- sustainable transport links between urban extensions and city/town centres, with an emphasis on public transport, cycling and walking;
- amenity space and green infrastructure that meets community needs and supports improved biodiversity; and
- a range of housing types and tenures.

P.170 RSS Habitats Assessment (New supporting text with implications for site management and possibly rights of way)

The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the RSS identifies a number of international nature conservation sites which are particularly vulnerable to harm from recreational activities as a result of their proximity to urban areas or their attractiveness for recreation to local residents or tourists. The relevant authorities will need to work jointly and with Natural England to secure and implement appropriate and deliverable measures to avoid or mitigate adverse effects from recreation at these sites, such as the use of planning obligations to secure provision of alternative greenspace or improve habitat management. Providing new areas of appropriate greenspace (as set out in Policy GI1) is likely to mitigate potential adverse effects in many locations. However, management of activities and access on these sites may also be required. If following investigation of mitigation options by local authorities and partners, provision of appropriate greenspace and/or management measures is not possible, restrictions may need to be put in place on the type, scale and/or location of development (e.g. through implementation of 'no development' buffer zones) within LDDs in proximity to these sites. Particular sites at risk from recreational pressure are:

Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar site

Chesil and the Fleet SPA/Ramsar site

Dartmoor SAC

East Devon Pebblehead Heath SAC and East Devon Heaths SPA

Exe Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

Fal and Helford SAC

Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC

Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar

Salisbury Plain SAC

Severn Estuary pSAC, SPA and Ramsar site

The New Forest SAC

P.171 GI1 Green Infrastructure (New additions to policy statement. Some deletions have been made to the policy as well (not shown))

Development of networks of Green Infrastructure (GI) will be required to enhance quality of life in the region and support the successful accommodation of change. GI networks will comprise multifunctional, accessible, connected assets, planned around existing environmental characteristics.

Plans, strategies, proposals and schemes should aim to deliver wider spatial outcomes that incorporate environmental and socio-economic benefits by;

- Conserving and managing existing GI;
- Creating new GI; and
- Enhancing its functionality, quality and connectivity.

GI is required as an integral part of development and should include the identification, development and management of new areas of open space, not just more intensive use of existing areas of open space. Local Authorities and partners will:

- Draw upon existing expertise and initiatives to take forward GI planning and identify priorities and partnerships for GI.
- Incorporate GI policies setting out broad locations for GI appropriate to the extent and distribution of development proposed, coordinated across administrative boundaries as appropriate
- Integrate proposals to improve GI in the delivery of new developments, particularly through area based regeneration initiatives and major development proposals
- Ensure that a key aim of green infrastructure is the maintenance and improvement of biodiversity
- Protect the integrity of sites of international importance and provide new areas of appropriate greenspace where development would otherwise cause unacceptable recreational pressure on sites of international ecological importance
- Maximise the role of GI in mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Develop a GI Plan with a delivery programme to support GI policies.

P.239 8.5 Tourism (Wider and stronger vision now included)

8.5.1 Tourism and the wider visitor economy is a key sector of the region's economy. It is also a cross-cutting activity and is inextricably linked to a range of other issues dealt with in the RSS including culture, skills, transport and the environment. It supports regeneration, contributes towards the vitality of town and city centres and help to sustain viable rural communities. Section 7 considers the need to enhance and promote cultural life and provision, and a vibrant visitor economy impacts positively on the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of residents in the region.

P.241 New supporting text on tourism

Tourism is an important domain within the region's cultural sector and a key contributor to *People, Places and Spaces* (the regional cultural infrastructure development strategy) which takes a strategic view of cultural provision at the

regional and sub-regional levels. The match between the needs and wants of people who live in the region, and those who come and visit, is key to the region's approach to tourism development. The cultural, environmental and tourism 'offers' are inextricably linked and should be developed in tandem.

P.245 TO1 Sustainable Tourism policy (re-phrased) **Sustainable Tourism**

Local Authorities, regional partners, stakeholders and the tourism industry (particularly Destination Management Organisations) should have regard to the development of sustainable tourism by:

- embedding sustainability practices in all new tourism development;
- taking into account identified regional and sub-regional cultural needs of our visitors and local communities;
- improving the quality and diversity of existing facilities and accommodation throughout the region, particularly where this would increase out of season visits especially in the winter and spring periods;
- realising the potential of the region's environmental, cultural and heritage assets as a basis for the development of sustainable tourism, where consistent with their conservation;
- ensuring that, as far as possible, new tourism developments are accessible by public transport and supported by green transport plan and visitor management programmes. In rural areas creative and collaborative solutions may need to be found where it is difficult to meet the objectives of access by sustainable modes of transport; and,
- identifying opportunities for the development of new facilities and accommodation related to outdoor leisure pursuits and recreational cycle and footpath networks within the region.