

Policy EQ2: Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation

Development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that it will not be likely to lead directly or indirectly to an adverse effect upon the integrity of the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

A net increase of housing development within the areas of Walsall that fall within the Zone of Influence around Cannock Chase SAC (as identified by current evidence and subject to further research) that is likely to have an adverse impact upon Cannock Chase SAC should mitigate for such effects, in line with the ongoing work to outline the pressures on the SAC caused by recreation and visitor pressure. This may include contributions to habitat management, access management and visitor infrastructure, publicity, education and awareness raising; and provision of suitable alternative natural green recreational space, within development sites where they can be accommodated and where they cannot by contributions to offsite alternative green space.

The effective avoidance of and/or mitigation for any identified adverse effects on the Cannock Chase SAC must be demonstrated to the Council as the Competent Authority and Natural England and secured prior to the Council giving approval of development. This Policy has jurisdiction over developments within Walsall only; however it will be implemented jointly with neighbouring authorities via the application of complementary policies in partner Local Plans.

Development proposals should be consistent with other local planning policies.