

ID/7 Matter 1F  
Respondent 821  
Cam Valley Wildlife Group

1.1 It is clear that the approach in RPG 10 is now out of date and this model is considered insufficient, following the failure to halt decline in the biodiversity of the UK by 2010. The Government now recognises that a better approach is needed. Having said that, we note that RPG 10 requires no net loss in the quality, quantity and diversity of the natural environmental resource in the Region and requires a positive contribution to biodiversity enhancement (CD3/3 - RPG 10, Paragraphs 4.3 and 4.6). B&NES has failed to deliver this.

1.2 There has been an obvious failure to consider the high local, regional and national value of RAD 1 in opposition to the value placed upon it by the Planning Inspectorate in 2006 and failure to insist on adequate mitigation and compensation on other sites through planning control. Development on other sites has also seen inadequate mitigation allowed, leading to losses of rare species.

1.3 All the indications are that reptile translocations (lizard and slow worm) allowed in anticipation of development on Radstock Railway Land have failed, as none of the 53 reptiles were recorded in the receptor area the following year - a 10% recapture rate would have shown success, according to the consultants. Failure of reptile mitigation causes loss of part of a population of protected species without commencement or the prospect of commencement of development on the site.

1.4 This does not inspire us with confidence in the political will within B&NES to deal adequately with the key matter of nature conservation. We consider that the Strategy as it stands will not allow compliance with RPG 10, Policy EN 1 (CD3/3)