

Appendix 2: Natural Zone

9.17 Alongside the adopted Landscape Strategy, legislation³⁶ requires the National Park Authority to identify areas which it considers are particularly important to conserve. These areas are largely underpinned by Natura 2000 sites and for spatial planning purposes the Authority calls these areas the Natural Zone³⁷. To qualify for inclusion, areas must substantially include:

a quality of 'wilderness';

relatively natural vegetation which is largely self sown;

few obvious signs of human influence such as field boundaries;

'open country' which has particular importance for certain types of recreation associated with adventure and contact with nature;

high wildlife value; comprising habitats falling within the statutory Section 3 Map (or limestone dale) definition*;

natural beauty, which in the opinion of the National Park Authority, is particularly important to conserve.

*The type of land eligible for inclusion on the Section 3 map is statutorily defined (Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Act, 1995) as "*areas of mountain, moor, heath, woodland, down, cliff or foreshore whose natural beauty it is, in the opinion of the authority, particularly important to conserve.*"