

# **Local Authority Roads (Wildlife Protection) Bill**

## CONTENTS

- 1 Duty on local highway authorities to safeguard wildlife
- 2 Secretary of State's duty to provide guidance on safeguarding wildlife on highways passing through, or adjacent to, specified protected areas
- 3 Interpretation
- 4 Short title, commencement and extent

A  
**B I L L**

TO

Place a duty on local highways agencies and local transport authorities to make provisions safeguarding wildlife on roads passing through, or adjacent to, specified protected areas; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

**1 Duty on local highway authorities to safeguard wildlife**

- (1) It shall be the duty of a local highway authority in England to—
- (a) review the wildlife in specified protected areas in its areas;
  - (b) assess the risks that
    - (i) traffic on highways passing through, or adjacent to, each specified protected area poses to the wildlife coming on to the highways, 5
    - (ii) the wildlife may cause traffic accidents,
  - (c) make provision to safeguard the wildlife coming on to and vehicles using the highways; and 10
  - (d) where the provision includes signage, ensure that it is and remains visible to drivers on the highways.
- (2) Provision for safeguarding wildlife and vehicles using the highways may include, and is not restricted to—
- (a) crossings for wildlife; 15
  - (b) signage;
  - (c) barriers; and
  - (d) speed restrictions.
- (3) A highway is adjacent to a specified protected area if—
- (a) it is located within 200 meters of a specified protected area; or 20
  - (b) it runs between specified protected areas which are less than 500 meters apart.

- 2 Secretary of State’s duty to provide guidance on safeguarding wildlife on highways passing through, or adjacent to, specified protected areas**
- (1) It shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to issue guidance to local highway authorities on assessing the need for measures to, and provisions on, safeguarding wildlife on highways passing through, or adjacent to, specified protected areas. 5
- (2) The Secretary of State may review and issue revised guidance from time to time.
- (3) Before issuing or revising guidance the Secretary of State must consult such persons as he or she considers appropriate. 10
- 3 Interpretation**
- In this Act –
- “local highway authority” has the meaning provided in section 329 of the Highways Act 1980; and
- “specified protected area” means 15
- (a) Sites of Special Scientific Interest as provided by section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981;
- (b) Special Areas of Conservation designated under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994; and
- (c) Special Protection Areas designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. 20
- 4 Short title, commencement and extent**
- (1) This Act may be cited as the Local Authority Roads (Wildlife Protection) Act 2017.
- (2) This section comes into force on the day on which this Act is passed. 25
- (3) Section 2 shall come into force at the end of a period of six months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.
- (4) All other sections shall come into force at the end of a period of twelve months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.
- (5) This Act extends to England and Wales. 30

# **Local Authority Roads (Wildlife Protection) Bill**

---

A

## **B I L L**

To place a duty on local highways agencies and local transport authorities to make provisions safeguarding wildlife on roads passing through, or adjacent to, specified protected areas; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Wendy Morton  
supported by  
Kevin Foster,  
Michael Tomlinson,  
Sir David Amess and Anna Turley.*

---

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,  
to be Printed, 4 July 2016.*

---

© Parliamentary copyright House of Commons 2017  
*This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament Licence, which is published at  
[www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright](http://www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright)*

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS