

Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations

Rebekah Newman, PDNPA

EIA Regulations



The EIA regulations protect rural land in England that's uncultivated or semi-natural from changes in agricultural activities that might cause damage by:

- increasing productivity
- physically changing field boundaries

EIA : What's covered

1. Uncultivated Land

- Last 15 years



- Physical cultivation eg ploughing
- Chemical 'cultivation' eg use of fertilisers

EIA: What's covered

2. Semi-natural land

- Priority habitats
this includes habitats supporting priority species,
- Heritage or archaeological features
- Protected landscapes

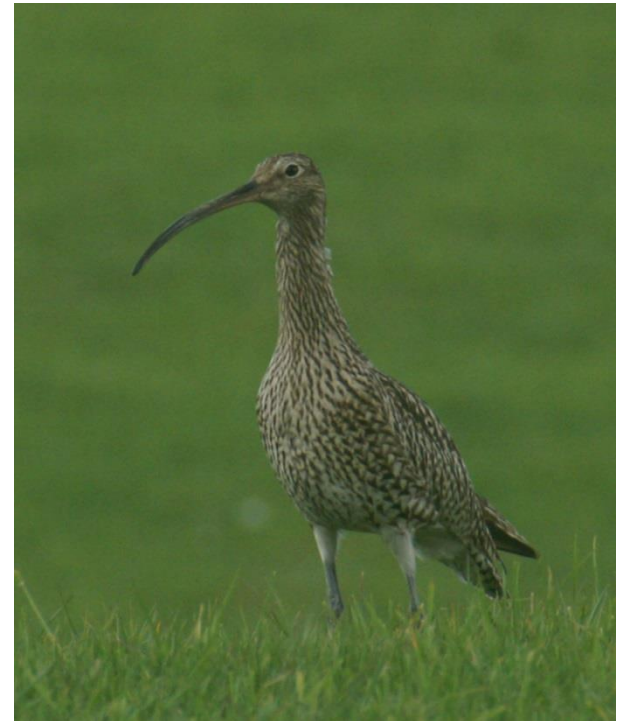


Priority Species

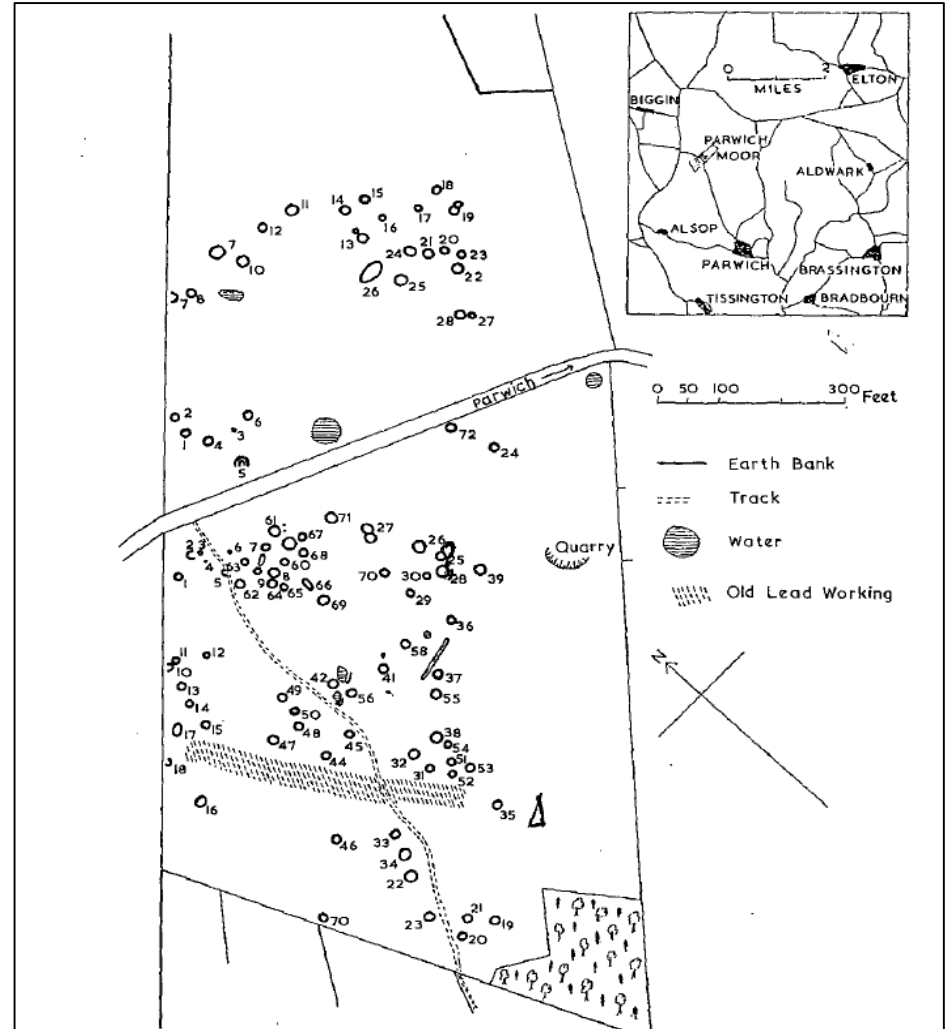
Waders: Curlew and Lapwing

Ploughing up land of value to these species may be covered by the regulations even if it is species poor.

This isn't obvious
on Defra's website



Sale of high quality archaeological landscape



EIA or Felling licence?

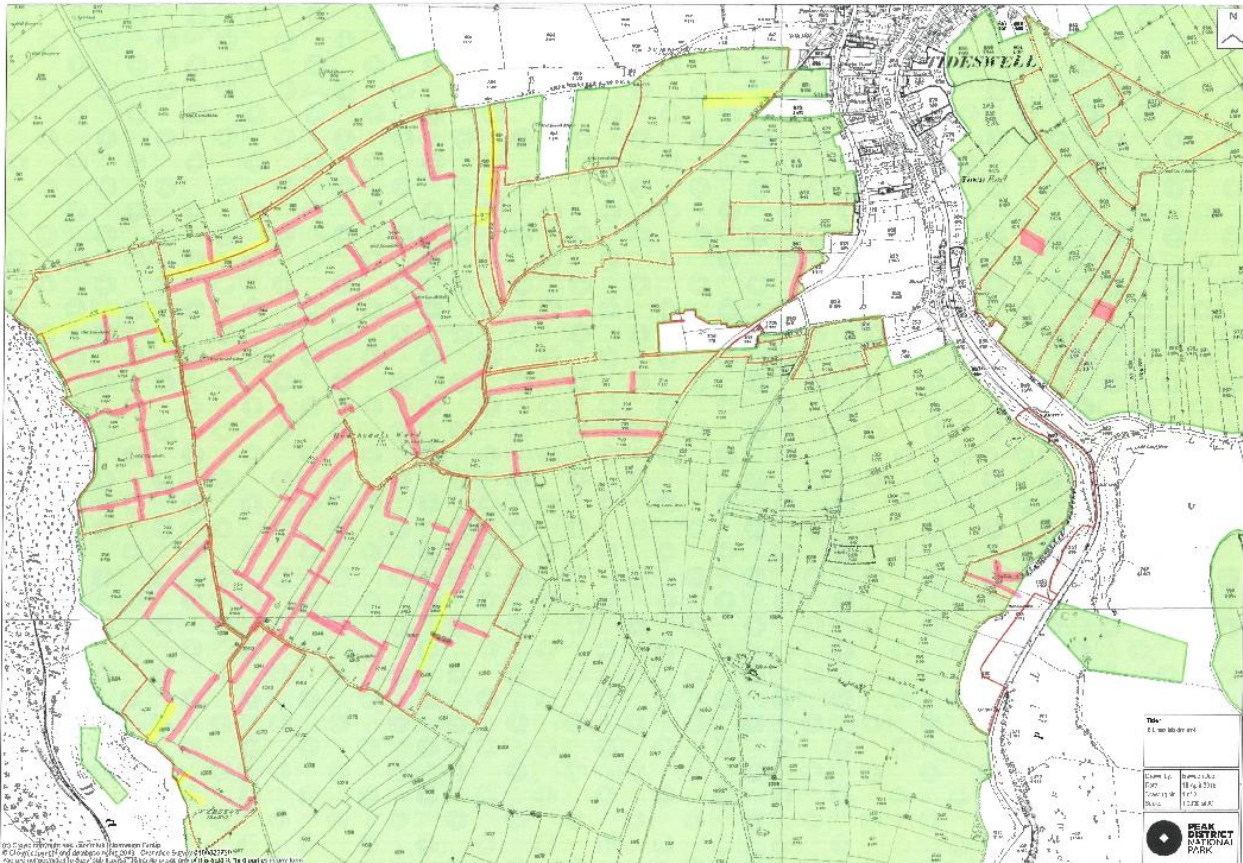
Scrub removal

- Is the aim to achieve greater agricultural productivity?
- Conflict with BPS objectives
- Landscape damage?
- Priority habitat
- damage?



EIA: Restructuring Projects

Wall removal, >2km inside NP, 4km outside
Intention?



BLACK+WHITE BASE MAPPING : OS 1ST EDITION MAP (1880), RED LINE : LAPSED ELS AGREEMENT (AG00313838) ENDED 30.06.2015, GREEN SHADING : SHINE FEATURE. PINK HIGHLIGHTING: WALLS REMOVED PRÉ 2006 EIA REGS, YELLOW HIGHLIGHTING WALLS REMOVED POST 2006 EIA REGS.

Increasing Awareness

- Flier sent to parish councils & agents
- Proactive contact with agents at time of sale

https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1564398/EIA-Advisory-note.pdf

Advisory note:

Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations in the Peak District National Park



What are the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations?

The EIA Regulations are designed to protect land that is uncultivated or semi-natural from changes in agricultural activities. Recent amendments to the regulations have clarified that upland waders, heritage features and flower-rich grasslands are covered by the Regulations.

What are upland waders and why are they important?

Around 50% of England's lapwing, curlew and snipe breed in grasslands on upland farms, most often in rush pastures and on rough grazing land.

Lapwing and curlew are considered birds of principle importance for conservation. Fields that support breeding pairs are covered by the EIA Regulations.



Heritage features

Fields that include historic or archaeological features of regional importance are covered by the Regulations. These features do not have to be designated (e.g. Scheduled Ancient Monument) to be covered by the Regulations.

This could include fields with heritage features such as ridge and furrow, remains of limestone or lead workings, significant field boundaries, and pre-historic features such as burial mounds and settlement sites.



Flower-rich grasslands



Traditional hay meadows and pastures, flower-rich fields with rush, grasslands on dalesides, rough grassland on the moorland edge, and sites associated with old mineral workings, e.g. lumps and bumps left from lead workings can all be covered by the EIA Regulations.

Reporting incidents and more information

All EIA work and queries are dealt with by the EIA team at Bristol:

eia.England@naturalengland.org.uk

Freephone 0800 028 2140

Important to report all incidents for statistics, to influence future thinking and potentially decision making on ELMS

Information on the regulations is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eia-agriculture-regulations-apply-to-make-changes-to-rural-land>