

Date: 20 August 2009
Our ref: SBH/MH
Your ref:



David Birchall
Programme Officer
Eden Core Strategy Examination
Town Hall
Penrith
Cumbria
CA11 7QF

Regional Advocacy &
Partnerships (NW)
3rd Floor
Bridgewater House
Whitworth street
Manchester
M1 6LT

T 0300 060 1792
F 0161 237 1062

By email attachment only.

Dear Mr Birchall

**EDEN CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION – SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED
CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO THE INSPECTOR’S QUESTIONS**

Thank you for your email dated 10 August 2009, to which the schedule of proposed changes was attached.

As you know, Natural England is a statutory agency charged with the responsibility to ensure that England’s unique natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

We did, of course, comment at the various stages in the preparation of the Core Strategy, and we were pleased that a number of our comments were incorporated in the submission document. However, we considered that there were elements of the Strategy that could be improved, and therefore suggested some changes to wording which would meet our concerns.

A number of the proposed changes in the schedule do go some way towards meeting points that we made. Overall, the schedule proposes a number of changes which strengthen the references to the conservation of landscape character and quality and the conservation of the natural environment, which we very much welcome.

Ref AM5 to AM7: We welcome these changes which strengthen the wording of Policies CS1, CS12 and CS16 in relation to landscape character.

Ref AM8: We welcome acknowledgement of the high quality landscapes in Eden, both in existing nationally designated areas and elsewhere, and that Eden ‘will seek to ensure that all proposals are of a standard appropriate to the high landscape quality of the area’. Similarly, we strongly support the statement in this amendment that ‘the landscape is an important element of the district’s environment and its local character needs to be protected and enhanced.’

Ref AM11: We welcome this addition referring to the enhancement and creation of habitats within developments.

Ref AM13: We support the recognition of the outstanding natural environment of the district in Objective 2 of the Spatial Objectives.

Natural England
Head Office
1 East Parade
Sheffield S1 2ET

Ref AM27: We support the amendment which would include footpaths, cycleways, bridleways and habitat creation within policy CS6, and for which developer contributions will be sought.

Ref AM32: We support the amendment encouraging the use of the Code for Sustainable Homes, in support of sustainable design and construction.

Ref AM41: We welcome inclusion of the criterion that the design of proposed small scale housing development in rural settlements should 'respect the character and quality of the natural and historic environment' although we consider that this should read 'respect the character and quality of the *landscape and* natural and historic environment', in accordance with the statements in the earlier proposed amendments in the schedule.

Ref AM51: Design in New Development. We welcome this proposed addition which recognises and promotes the local distinctiveness of the different character areas within Eden.

Ref AM55: We agree that schemes for renewable energy need to consider landscape character (to which should be added 'quality') and habitats and species, amongst other considerations. However, 'access and recreational impacts' should also be included in the list of considerations.

Ref AM 57: We are pleased to see green infrastructure included within the proposed monitoring indicators.

Please let us know if you have any queries on our comments and we should of course be pleased to help.

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN HEDLEY

Regional Advocacy and Partnerships Team (North West)

Cc. Mark Hesketh, Natural England