

Policy 33

Id No Respondent

428 Campaign To Protect Rural England

Policy 33

Para 3.90

CPRE welcomes the recognition of that tranquility is a major asset of the region.

The study referred to develops a methodology for assessing and mapping relative tranquility which is intended precisely to make tranquility more easily definable. National and regional mapping is proposed.

Reference to the importance of considering tranquility should be included in Policy 33.

CPRE supports this policy but consider that a reference to tranquility recognized in para 3.90 (p103) and the Regional Image campaign as a significant regional asset should be included:

Add bullet point:

f) consider the benefits of tranquility and seek to maintain and enhance it

123 Council for National Parks

CNP welcomes the recognition in this paragraph of the need for economic and social development to take place within the framework of respecting regional and global environmental limits.

CNP supports the key objectives particularly the first and sixth bullet points.

CNP welcomes the references in this paragraph to the Northumberland National Park and its statutory purposes. We also welcome the recognition of the importance of tranquility in paragraph 3.90.

Policy 33 is supported, particularly (a) which seeks to protect the special qualities of the National Park and uphold its statutory purposes. It also clarifies that major development proposals will not be acceptable unless there are exceptional circumstances of an overriding national need and no alternative locations. However, it is considered that in order to be consistent with para 22 of PPS7 the policy should also recognize that alternative ways of meeting any proven national need - this goes wider than merely an assessment of alternative locations - should also be discounted before a major development could be considered acceptable in the National Park. We also welcome the recognition of the importance of National Park Management Plans in guiding policy formulation and development control decisions.

202 Durham County Council

Diagram Environment 1 - the labels Durham Carrs and Magnesian Limestone Enhancement in the south of the map are the wrong way round and need interchanging.

Diagram Environment 2 - the map only shows ancient woodland in County Durham. English Nature has a national dataset that shows ancient woodland across the region.

172 Durham Heritage Coast

Support . However we would ask that within Policy 33 c that the reference to "County Durham" is changed to "Durham" to accurately refer to this initiative. This is sensitive as the northern part of the Durham Heritage Coast lies in Sunderland.

95 English Nature,

Propose amend text in item a) to read :

"protect the special qualities of the environment in the nationally designated areas of the Northumberland national Park and the North Pennines and Northumberland Coast AONBs and uphold their statutory purposes, while recognizing their role in a living working and vibrant

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countryside. Major development should not take place in these areas other than in exceptional circumstances when it can be demonstrated that there is an overriding national need, it could not be located elsewhere and there is no scope for meeting the need for it in some other way

Reason: in order to be consistent with paragraph 22 of PPS7

Propose amend text in item b) to read:

"have regard to landscape character assessments and the content of AONB/Heritage Coast/ National Park Management Plans to justify the retention or creation of any local landscape designations, guide policy formulation and development control decisions and assist in targeting landscape restoration and environmental improvement schemes and green infrastructure plans.

Reason: to link the landscape character policy to green infrastructure planning and because Heritage Coast management Plans should be referred to in Policy 9(f)

propose amend text in item (e) to read:

"incorporate the findings of Shoreline Management Plans into long term planning and management of the region's coastal landscapes"

Reason: to clarify the purpose of incorporating Shoreline Management Plans in landscape character terms,

163 Friends of the Earth North East

Friends of the Earth supports this policy, with the exception of the term, 'major development' in point a) which needs to be defined in the glossary to avoid any ambiguity

8 Gateshead Council

Policy 33 and the supporting text under Landscape Character should be expanded to include the importance of townscape character as well as the rural landscape, for example, the regional and national importance of the dramatic River Tyne Gorge townscape. It has iconic station combining historic monuments such as the Tyne Bridge, High Level Bridge and Swing Bridge as well as the modern Sage and Millennium Bridge. It is a view that is recognised as a symbol of the North East. There could also be a reference to the Tyne Gorge Study that assessed the special character of this area and identified the need to safeguard it.

195 Grainger Trust

This policy is supported, specifically in relation to the last criterion, as the benefits of character based planning tools in promoting high quality development are recognised

454 Hartlepool Civic Society

Support protection of landscape character

160 Highways Agency

Protect special qualities of the environment in the national parks and AONB's, therefore no major development; promote integrated management initiatives to sustain valued landscapes; and recognise role of statements and management plans.

273 Member of Public

I am disappointed that this relates to the areas I would expect but a lot of Northumberland isn't in the National park but is nevertheless regarded as special by the very community that supports it. It seems to concentrate on character based tools around towns and villages but alas lots of them don't have one so I would suggest a greater emphasis should be placed in this policy to reinforce the role of Green Belt and the desperate need to retain identity of settlements by not intruding into the hitherto undeveloped areas.

334 Morpeth Town Council

Support policy

449 National Trust North East

Additional wording requested in part c) of this policy to read:

c) promote integrated landscape initiatives to sustain, enhance, and extend the boundaries of nationally, regionally and locally valued landscapes, including

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The National Trust manages many valuable sections of coastline which are not at present designated as Heritage Coast, and therefore do not always benefit from the protection that Heritage Coast designations and related policies in local plans bring. The Trust would therefore particularly like to see the extension to some Heritage Coast boundaries.

Paragraph 3.90 recognises the importance of tranquility in the North East region, and states that “as there is no comprehensive study of the region, the RSS does not define tranquil areas as this is more appropriately considered at the local level.”

The Trust would therefore like to see this addressed within Policy 33, to ensure that tranquility is considered at the local level in the relevant parts of the region.

121 North Pennines AONB Partnership

Para 3.87 could usefully refer to the statutory Management Plans which provide framework for the conservation and enhancement of ANOBs and National Parks. Para 3.91 attempts to address these management plans but needs rewording. It would more usefully and accurately read, "Current legislation requires that the Management Plans for National Parks and AONBs be kept updated".

136 Northumberland National Park

Para 3.87 requires the words 'and AONB' inserting after National Park in line 9.

The policy is supported. The policy seeks to protect the special qualities of the National Park and other protected landscapes, to uphold statutory purposes whilst recognising their roles as living, working and vibrant countryside. It restates national policy in that major development should not take place other than in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that there is an overriding national need and that the development could not be located elsewhere. The role of National Park and AONB statutory management plans is also recognised.

338 Northumberland Tyne & Wear NHS

Small impact on mental health.

124 South Tyneside Council

- Potential links in our coastal strategy (which affects Sunderland, North Tyneside and South Tyneside) should be drawn out.
- RSS should be informed by regional level landscape character exercise

151 Sunderland ARC

Landscape Character is supported

105 Tynedale Council

Paragraph 3.83 While para 3.83 in the strategy says that “The right of everyone to live in a clean, healthy, attractive environment is a central principle of the RSS.”, it is disappointing that there are only two other references to this in the strategy, both in the glossary of terms. Given the national agenda for Cleaner, Safer, Greener communities, a major consideration ought to be to build the objectives of CSG into the spatial strategy, since CSG is about living spaces.

Key Diagram Environment 1 The green “W”, indicating an onshore wind medium resource area, which is currently shown close to the river Tyne east of Hexham, is incorrectly shown. It should be placed further to the south and east, in accordance with the adopted Structure Plan Key Diagram, centred on the Kiln Pit Hill area, (centre approximately on grid ref. 065529).

The policy that strategies, plans and programmes should have regard to landscape character assessments to justify the retention or creation of any local landscape designations can be supported as it allows for the retention of the AHLVs albeit that they may need to be justified through reference to landscape character. This recognises the large amount of resources that that would need to be devoted to undertaking detailed landscape character assessments and that the transition to a landscape character approach could therefore take a number of years.