

NCC Response to Examiner's Questions

Q. Policy 4 - What is the basis on which an "historic core" has been defined, including the boundary shown on the Policies Map, and what evidence supports its identification and boundary?

A. The historic core was initially identified in the Draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal (July 2008). This was also appraised in the production of the background Conservation Area Heritage Paper [09-Humshaugh-NP-Conservation-Area-Heritage-Paper-FINAL.pdf \(northumberland.gov.uk\)](#) The historic core is focused on the built settlement form.

The historic core is identified in criterion 2 of draft Policy 4. There is no difference in policy approach between the historic core and the rest of the Conservation Area. It is defined to indicate the significance of the settlement form.

Q. Please can you confirm what comprises the development plan for the neighbourhood area, including the area within Northumberland National Park?

A. The development plan for the neighbourhood area (out with the National Park) is the Northumberland Local Plan, adopted March 2022, available via the following link: [Northumberland-Local-Plan-Adopted-March-2022.pdf](#)

The development plan for that part of the Parish which lies in the National Park is the Northumberland National Park Local Plan, adopted July 2020, available via the following link: [Northumberland National Park Local Plan Adopted July 2020](#)

Q. At this stage does Northumberland County Council consider the submitted Plan to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan?

A. Northumberland County Council, as the relevant Local Planning Authority, provided comprehensive representations at the Regulation 14 and Regulation 16 consultation stages of plan preparation. The question posed by the Examiner relates directly to the basic conditions defined in legislation, and specifically at Paragraph 8(2)(e) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The purpose of the examination is to provide an independent opinion on whether the

Neighbourhood Plan meets each of the basic conditions. The Local Planning Authority cannot arrive at or publish an opinion that claims that the Plan meets any of the basic conditions until they have considered any recommendations made by the Examiner. It would therefore not be appropriate to answer this question directly at this stage of the process other than by reference back to earlier representations, which the Examiner will consider through the Examination.

Q. What evidence defining the special interest and describing the character and appearance of Humshaugh Conservation Area has been adopted by Northumberland County Council and/or is used in determining relevant planning applications?

A. Humshaugh does not have an adopted Conservation Area Character Appraisal. A draft was prepared in July 2008 by the former Tynedale District Council prior to local government reorganization. The draft Appraisal informed the background Conservation Area Heritage Paper, which provides the evidence base for the Conservation Area policy in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Q. Was Natural England consulted on the SEA screening assessment and did it express a view - the submitted document only includes responses from Historic England and Environment Agency?

A. Natural England were consulted and did respond, after the deadline. The response was acknowledged but unfortunately missed from the updated SEA Screening. This has now been remedied and a revised screening is attached to this email. Their response was:

It is Natural England's advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely.

Q. Please may I have evidence that Natural England was consulted on the HRA screening report and, if so, then what was its response?

A. HRA was screened out by Northumberland County Council's Ecologist. There is no requirement to consult Natural England where a screening assessment has concluded that significant effects on European Sites are not likely (see HRA Screening Report, para 1.4).

There are a number of points on which further clarification from Humshaugh Parish Council would be helpful (and any additional comments from Northumberland County Council on these would also be welcome):

Q. Policy 1 - what is the evidence for the statement in paragraph 4.12 that wind turbines up to 25m in height "*would not be economically viable*"?

A. We have no additional comments to make on this.

Q. Policy 5 - is it the intention of the Policy that relevant planning applications should have regard to the Design Guidance and Codes document prepared by AECOM or only to the issues included in the policy text?

A. We would not object if the Parish Council wished to refer to the Design Code in this policy.

Q. Policy 6 - what is the evidence for the statement in g. that there is a particular need for one, two and three bedroom affordable homes to buy as opposed to other affordable housing options, including homes to rent?

A. No comment.