

# NORTHUMBERLAND

## Northumberland County Council

Chris Collison  
Planning and Management Ltd

By email only:  
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**Your Ref:**  
**Our Ref:**  
**Enquiries to:** David English  
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**Direct Line:** 01670 623619  
**Date:** 21 February 2018

Dear Mr Collison,

### **Independent Examination into the North Northumberland Coast Neighbourhood Development Plan.**

Thank you for your correspondence received by email on 19 February 2018 concerning the ongoing independent examination of the above neighbourhood plan. I am pleased to note that you have made good progress on the examination; that you have not identified any critical omissions or failings that would mean the Plan could not proceed to referendum; that the policies in the Plan are supported by good quality evidence; and that you are nearing completion of your report.

Firstly, I can confirm receipt of your earlier email dated 5 February 2018 setting out the procedural arrangements to be followed during the examination. I can confirm that both of your emails will be posted on the County Council's website in the interests of transparency for the examination as requested, along with this letter and associated attachments.

I note that you are seeking clarification about the settlement boundary methodology and associated settlement boundary reports referenced in the Plan and its Appendices. You will be aware that the settlement boundary methodology report is available on the website used by the Parish Council to host all documents created in support of the Plan. Unfortunately, the associated settlement specific reports explaining how settlement boundaries were defined and subsequently proposed in the Plan were removed from that website following consultation on the Pre-Submission Draft Plan (Regulation 14 stage) to allow modification in response to representations received at that stage of plan preparation.

It is evident that those reports were available on the Neighbourhood Plan website from the detailed information set out in the Consultation Statement which describes, amongst other things, a representation made by a resident in Bamburgh raising concerns about the name attributed to their property in the settlement boundary report for Bamburgh. Accordingly, that report was subsequently modified. The reports for Beadnell and Seahouses required no changes. However, an

administrative error associated with management of the website on which the Plan has been hosted has meant that the Qualifying Body did not re-post the reports on the website when the Plan and other necessary documents were submitted to the County Council.

Whilst this is an unfortunate error it is very clear that reports were presented as evidence to support the intention to define settlement boundaries in the Plan at Regulation 14 stage and comments were received on those reports. Furthermore, it is evident from the submission version of the Plan which is now the subject of the independent examination that reports to support the creation of settlement boundaries are available and are referenced in Appendix B of the Plan, in addition to the reference you point out at paragraph 4.40 of the Plan. These reports are readily available on request.

In order to aid completion of the independent examination I have enclosed copies of the original settlement boundary reports posted on the website during the Regulation 14 consultation period. I have also attached the modified version of the Bamburgh settlement report which has a minor modification reflecting the representation. This can be found in the section providing commentary on 'North West Bamburgh' in the settlement boundary report.

I trust this satisfactorily addresses your request for clarification on the matter of settlement boundary reports. I note that you intend to complete your draft report within a few days from receipt of clarification on this matter.

Finally, as requested, I can confirm that we would welcome the opportunity to undertake a fact check of your confidential draft report. We look forward to receiving that draft report at your earliest convenience. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further clarification on this or any other matter associated with the examination of the Plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David English', with a stylized, wavy line extending to the right.

David English  
**Planning Manager (Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure)**

cc Jill Hall, Parish Clerk, North Sunderland Parish Council