26 September 2013

Our ref: 94402

Your ref:

Planning Policy
Richmondshire District Council
Swale House
Frenchgate
Richmond
DL10 4JE

localplan@richmondshire.gov

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning consultation:** Local Plan Core Strategy: Development Target Review
**Location:** Richmondshire

Thank you for your consultation dated 5 August 2013, which we received on the same day.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Having read the Development Target Review, Natural England notes Richmondshire District Council's intention to retain the housing target of 180 additional dwellings per annum (dph) and their distribution within the submitted Core Strategy.

As the submission Core Strategy development target and its distribution has been retained and Natural England has provided advice on these issues prior to submission, we have no further comments to make regarding the environmental implications of retaining this target.

Natural England welcomes the review's recognition of Richmondshire District's natural assets, including its landscapes, and the potential impacts a revised housing target would have upon them.

The review is supported by a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which examines the retained target and its distribution alongside two alternative targets (280dpa or 80dpa) and distribution patterns (centralise or disperse). Natural England considers the SA compliant with the European SEA Directive and the Government's *Practical Guidance to Strategic Environmental Assessment*.

This concludes Natural England's advice.

For any queries relating to this consultation only you are welcome to contact me directly - telephone: 0300 060 4129 or email: john.king2@naturalengland.org.uk. For all other consultations and correspondence, please contact the above address.

Yours faithfully

John King
Land Use Operations



Please send consultations via email to: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk