


Mr T Blackburn,  
Programme Officer,  
craven Local Plan Examination,  
15 Ottawa Close  
Blackburn  
BB2 7EB

Our Ref: HD/P5336/02  
Your Ref:  
Telephone:   
Fax:

03 January 2019

Dear Mr Blackburn,

**Re: Craven Local Plan – Local Green Space Sites SK-LGS64 and historic environment-LGS1**

Thank you for consulting Historic England about proposed Further Modifications to the Local Plan. We have the following comments to make regarding these proposals:-

**(a) North Skipton**

(i) Proposed Modifications to the Vision and to Policy ENV2.

We support the proposed Modifications to the Vision and to Policy ENV2.

Within the District, Castles, such as those as Skipton, emphasise the strategic importance that Craven once had on one of the main communication routes between Yorkshire and Lancashire. The early fourteenth-Century Skipton Castle is one of the most complete and best-preserved medieval castles in England.

The Skipton Conservation Area Appraisal notes that:-

*“The gateway to Skipton Castle is a memorable symbol of the town, and the walls defining the castle grounds form an easily recognised gateway approach, with buildings on the south side”.*

However, it is not simply the buildings of the Castle itself which contribute to the distinct character of the town. The Conservation Area Appraisal notes the important contribution which the landscape setting of the Castle makes to the character and distinctiveness of Skipton :-

*“The town’s setting is an important part of its character, as the rising ground on three sides and part of the south creates unique views into and out of the town. Skipton Woods rise behind the castle and tree cover in the north and west sides of the town is strongly associated with it; the trees of Holy Trinity churchyard and even the High Street provide a continuity with it”.*

It continues:-

*Skipton Castle’s setting on the highest point of the town is notable from the south, with gatehouse close to a principal access road and raised walk way. On the north side the steep quarried cliff face, with conspicuous geological folding visible, rises behind the Earl of Thanet’s ‘Springs Canal’ and Eller Beck with associated water courses and provides a memorable setting”. [Skipton Conservation Area Appraisal, Paragraph 4.3]*

Map 4 of the Appraisal identifies the most significant views and vistas across the Conservation Area. The view over the town, from Park Hill is identified as one of the most important of those views.

Map 6 of the Appraisal identifies all the land between the Castle and the A65 as making an important contribution to the character of the Conservation Area. Paragraph 4.11.1 identifies the grounds of Skipton Castle and Park Hill, specifically, as forming part of this open area which enhances the environment and character of the Conservation Area.

In view of the acknowledged importance that this area makes to the character of the town, it is wholly appropriate that the Vision and, especially, Policy ENV2 identifies this area as an element to which particular attention will be made in decision-making.

If you have any queries about any of the matters raised above or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

**Ian Smith**  
Historic Environment Planning Adviser (Yorkshire)  
e-mail: [REDACTED]