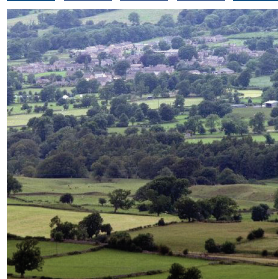


Environmental Assets



planourfuture

A Local Development Framework
Issues and Options Consultation Paper

November 2009



Foreword

What will your town or village be like by 2026? It's not an easy question, but it is one that we need to try and answer with your help. Richmondshire's Local Development framework (LDF) will help shape future development across all parts of the District outside of the National Park. This includes Richmond, Leyburn, Catterick Garrison and the villages to the north and south. The National Park Authority is responsible for development in the rest of Richmondshire.

The LDF will be a set of policy documents that shape an overall direction for development in these places. These policies will help determine future planning applications for, amongst other things, housing, economic or green energy developments, once the LDF is adopted. Before we can write these policies we must understand local conditions. We need to find out about where people live and work and how they travel. We also need to recognise the sensitivity of the local environment and our local heritage to development.

This consultation report is one in a series of ten:

1. Achieving Sustainable Communities - Settlement Hierarchy
2. Achieving Sustainable Communities in the Central Area
3. Achieving Sustainable Communities in Lower Wensleydale
4. Achieving Sustainable Communities in the A66 North Richmondshire Area.

5. Scale and Distribution of Development
6. Economy
7. Environmental Assets
8. Housing
9. Infrastructure
10. Climate Change

Each report asks a series of questions about issues we need to debate. For example, how should we treat small villages in terms of development? Or how should Richmond and Catterick Garrison grow? You can make detailed responses to any of the questions using the on-line form on our website or by writing to us using the contacts below. Or simply get in touch with us to talk about the LDF.

Please ask if you would like this document in a different format or language.

John Hiles 01748 827025,
Emma Lundberg 01748 827026

Email: LDF@richmondshire.gov.uk

Write LDF, Richmondshire District Council,
Swale House, Frenchgate, Richmond, DL10 4JE

Richmondshire District Council Website:
www.richmondshire.gov.uk



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1. Introduction

1.1 This is a strategic topic based consultation paper which aims to look in greater detail at the environmental assets of the Richmondshire Local Development Framework (LDF) plan area. It is intended to raise a series of questions which will guide the development of a sound spatial strategy for that part of Richmondshire covered by the LDF. It is part of a series of papers that are designed to initiate this debate covering :

Spatial Issues

- Achieving Sustainable Communities - Settlement Hierarchy
- Achieving Sustainable Communities in the Central Area
- Achieving Sustainable Communities in Lower Wensleydale
- Achieving Sustainable Communities in the A66/North Richmondshire Area.

Strategic Issues

- Future Economies and Tourism
- Environmental Assets
- Climate Change
- Infrastructure
- Housing
- Scale & Distribution of Development

1.2 This Environmental Assets paper deals specifically with our rural landscape; green infrastructure; heritage and culture; nature conservation; and urban and village assets. Climate change issues (including flooding) are dealt with in a separate paper. This, together with the other papers, will assist in deciding where, how and when development can best be delivered to ensure the most sustainable future for local communities.

1.3 Whilst environmental issues (landscape designations, for example), do not fully correlate with the spatial sub areas developed in the spatial issues topic papers, consideration will need to be given as the Core Strategy is developed as to how the strategic environmental asset issues of the LDF area relate to the spatial issues of the different sustainable community areas.



2. Influences on our Environmental Assets

2.1 The following documents provide a policy framework for this topic paper and for the development of options which have a bearing on the environmental assets of the LDF plan area :

- Richmondshire Sustainable Communities Strategy
- North Yorkshire Sustainable Community Strategy
- Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber
- National Planning Policy Guidance
- Richmondshire Biodiversity Action Plan

We need to build these into our discussion in relation to environmental assets to help create relevant policy for the future that is not only generally compliant with national and regional drivers, but also relevant to local conditions.

The Richmondshire Sustainable Communities Strategy

2.2 The Richmondshire 2021 Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) (2006) sets out a clear vision and direction for the District. Because part of Richmondshire falls under the responsibility of the Yorkshire Dales National Park for planning purposes, the LDF plan area only covers part of the District. The Government expects the LDF to provide the spatial dimension of the SCS for the plan area covered, and be a key means of delivery of its outcomes. The Richmondshire SCS has many significant spatial elements which are important in terms of developing the LDF's approach to

our environmental assets. In particular it, "seeks a pattern of investment that respects and uses the environmental assets of the District in a positive and sustainable way to underpin the rural economy, maintain the quality of life for residents and enhance Richmondshire's advantage over competing areas".

North Yorkshire Sustainable Community Strategy

2.3 The Environment is one of the top ten priority themes. Its vision is for communities to see their high-quality environment enhanced. In order to achieve this it is necessary to protect natural and historic assets for our future communities as they are key to the County's economic prosperity and to the quality of life it offers its residents. Amongst the aims by which this will be achieved are :

- Conserve and enhance bio-diversity, natural habitats and the natural and built environments
- Support and encourage greater involvement of commercial interests in environmental and conservation issues.

The Regional Spatial Strategy

2.4 The Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber (RSS) was approved in May 2009 and sets the regional and sub-regional policy context for this LDF Core Strategy which must be in "general conformity" with the strategic policy guidance of the RSS.



2.5 The delivery of sustainable forms of development is the key message of the RSS (Policy YH1 : Overall Approach and Key Spatial Priorities) and one of the ways in which this is to be achieved is by strengthening the role of Principal Towns (including Richmond/Catterick Garrison) as the main local focus for new development) where there is capacity to do so without harming their environment and character (Policy YH5 : Principal Towns). Local Service Centres (including Leyburn) are also to be protected and enhanced by high standards of design that protect and enhance their diversity and character as settlements along with that of their landscape (Policy YH6 : Local Service Centres and Rural and Coastal Areas).

2.6 The RSS anticipates a potential conflict with important nature conservation objectives if significant development were to take place in or around Richmond which may impact on the North Pennines Special Area of Conservation. In environmental asset terms therefore, the RSS indicates that development at Catterick Garrison may help reduce development pressure at Richmond which is close to the North Pennine Dales and Meadows SAC and would thereby be a more sustainable approach to development requirements arising from the designation of the two settlements as a "Joint Principal Town".

2.7 Other RSS policies of relevance to the future of our environmental assets are :

- Policy YH8: Green Infrastructure
- Policy VTL1: Vales and Tees Links Sub Area Policy

- Policy RR1: Remoter Rural Sub Area Policy
- Policy ENV3: Water Quality
- Policy ENV6: Forestry, Trees and Woodlands
- Policy ENV8: Biodiversity
- Policy ENV9: Historic Environment
- Policy ENV10: Landscape

National Planning Policy Guidance

2.8 The Regional Spatial Strategy has been prepared in the context of national planning policy guidance which in turn also has a bearing on the Richmondshire LDF. Equally, the LDF must also be consistent with national guidance as it continues to develop and evolve. Those areas of national planning policy guidance which are of particular relevance to the future of our environmental assets are :

- PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development
- PPS7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas
- PPS9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
- PPG15 Historic Environment/PPG16 Archaeology (Draft PPS15 Planning for the Historic Environment).

2.9 National policy guidance (PPS7) would suggest that local landscape designations as referred to in Section 3 below no longer have a role to play in the formulation of planning policy.



Richmondshire Biodiversity Action Plan

2.10 The Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Richmondshire was prepared in 2005 primarily by North Yorkshire County Council but with support and funding from Richmondshire District Council and Natural England. This covers the LDF plan area only, as there is a separate BAP for the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The Richmondshire BAP provides a great deal of detailed information which is important in terms of developing the LDF's approach to our environmental assets. In particular, it places an emphasis on "priority habitats" (woodland; lowland wood pasture, parkland and veteran trees; upland hay meadow; flood plain grassland; upland calcareous grassland; species rich grassland; upland heathland and blanket bog; moorland edge; fen; reedbed; flowing water; and standing water) and on "priority species" (otter; water vole; bats; black grouse; and curlew). Within the BAP there are individual Action Plans for these twelve types of habitat and for the five priority species.

Issue 1: Environmental Asset Influences

EA1a

Does the description above identify the main influences on the environmental assets of the area?



3. Key Features of our Environmental Assets

Landscape, Rural Heritage and Culture

- 3.1 The LDF plan area lies to the east of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the lower stretches of the Swale and Ure Valleys form natural extensions of this nationally designated landscape area. Major development in the western parts of the LDF area could potentially impact on the character and setting of the National Park itself.
- 3.2 There are two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which extend from the north west and south into small parts of the LDF area. The North Pennines AONB encompasses a very small area around the Tan Hill Inn, which is itself separated from the remainder of the LDF area by the Yorkshire Dales National Park. This is a remote area of upland landscape famous for having the highest public house in England. The Nidderdale AONB has a slightly larger area which extends into the southern part of the LDF plan area, but this is a more pastoral rural landscape extending down from Witton Moor to the ruins of Jervaulx Abbey on the south bank of the River Ure. The landscape qualities of these areas has been recognised as being of national importance and the main purpose of this designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the areas through the protection of flora, fauna and geology as well as landscape features including vernacular buildings and archaeology.
- 3.3 Within the LDF area there are other identifiable areas of landscape with their own distinctive qualities and character and these are expressed by Natural England's "Joint Character Areas". The Pennine Dales Fringe lies to the east of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and encompasses the largest parts of the LDF area, including Richmond, Catterick Garrison and Leyburn. The landscape lying broadly to the east of the A1 is part of the Vale of Mowbray, whilst the north eastern sector is part of the Tees Lowlands landscape. The key landscape characteristics of each of these landscape character areas is outlined in more detail at Appendix 1.
- 3.4 In the former Richmondshire Local Plan and stemming originally from the much earlier North Riding County Development Plan, a large part of the LDF area has been subject to a local landscape designation as an Area of Great Landscape Value. This broadly coincides with Natural England's more recent "Pennine Dales Fringe" landscape character area, but also extended right along the southern bank of the River Tees responding to a similar designation on the Durham side. Whilst not acting as a constraint to development in principle, this designation has been successful in protecting and enhancing the landscape qualities of these areas by ensuring that new development takes extra care to conserve the special qualities of the landscape. In order to respond to national planning policy advice, we now need to move away from this more locally determined approach and the "landscape character areas" could provide an appropriate means by which to achieve this.



- 3.5 The former Local Plan also identified more local areas of landscape importance in and around some historic settlements (referred to as “Landscape Zones”) as well as the undeveloped corridor of landscape running along the north bank of the River Swale to the south of Brompton on Swale and the industrial development to either side of Gatherley Road (referred to as the “Brompton on Swale Riverside Protection Area”) where the priority has been to protect the important open character of these areas from new development.
- 3.6 The present landscape of the LDF area has been influenced by the quite high number of local country estates including Aske Hall, Forcett Park, Temple Lodge, St. Nicholas, Croft Hall and Halnaby, Barningham Estate, Cliffe Hall, Bolton Estate, Constable Burton Hall, East Witton Estate, and Hornby Castle. Amongst these, Aske Hall, Constable Burton Hall, Forcett Hall, St. Nicholas and the Temple Lodge Grounds have been recognised nationally by their inclusion on English Heritage’s Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Interest. Although not conferring any statutory protection, inclusion on the register ensures that the effect of any proposed development on either the park or garden itself, or its setting, is an important material consideration in planning decision making to ensure that the special interests of these landscapes are taken fully into consideration.
- 3.7 The Ministry of Defence is the largest single landowner in the LDF area and the army training estate at Catterick Garrison covers very substantial areas of moorland extending westwards from Catterick Garrison itself across Hipswell Moor, Hauxwell Moor, Barden Moor, Downholme Moor, Halfpenny House Moor and Stainton Moor where it adjoins part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park boundary. In addition, there is the extensive area of live firing ranges at Feldom covering Gayles Moor, Marrick Moor and High Moor in the north western part of the LDF area. There is also a small “back door” training area near to Catterick Village around Oran House to the south of Marne Barracks, just to the east of the A1.
- 3.8 All of these areas are in active military use and although public access is generally limited (particularly in the ranges at Feldom, Bellerby and Wathgill) other parts are crossed or circumnavigated by well used public roads and therefore large parts of the training areas are quite prominent in the wider landscape and the ways in which they are used and managed is important to the environmental characteristics of large swathes of the LDF area.
- 3.9 The LDF area contains a number of major archaeological sites, notably Cataractonium, Stanwick Fortifications, Jervaulx Abbey, Dere Street and Scots Dyke. In addition, the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record contains over 1,200 individual recorded archaeological sites within the LDF area.



3.10 The landscape of the western upland part of the plan area is characterised by isolated traditional field barns, whilst farm groups containing traditional ranges of buildings are to be found in the more lowland eastern part. These are generally of either stone or brick construction and in many instances have fallen into disuse and have become threatened by neglect. In response to this problem and the implications of losing these important traditional buildings as features of the landscape, the Council has pursued a policy since 1984 of accepting conversion to alternative uses (including residential) which is often entirely compatible with the architectural character of this type of building in the LDF area. However, this approach does require particular care to be taken in ensuring that any conversion scheme conserves the essential character of the building(s) concerned and their setting. This policy approach has seen many hundreds of such important buildings successfully converted and retained as landscape features, but there are increasing pressures for conversion of smaller buildings, significant extension and subsequent changes despite the strong policy framework and detailed controls that have been put in place. There is a potential tension, therefore, in balancing the conservation benefits of this approach with the landscape issues that this raises alongside the desirability of ensuring that homes are provided in sustainable locations where they can be readily serviced. The Core Strategy should now take a view on whether it is still a sustainable option for the LDF area to continue with this general policy approach.

3.11 Agriculture is a major contributor to the landscape of the LDF area and although most agricultural land is Grades 3 and 4, there are pockets of the highest grades in

the north eastern part of the plan area which will act as a constraint on development.

3.12 Large parts of the LDF plan area provide sources of groundwater for Yorkshire Water Services, including the boreholes at Catterick Bridge which are of strategic importance. Water is also abstracted from the River Ure at Kilgram Bridge and there are many other private water supplies (including abstraction from the River Swale at Lowenthwaite adjoining the western boundary of the plan area by the MoD to serve Catterick Garrison) and natural springs across the area. These need to be protected from development that might cause pollution or the depletion of these resources.

Issue 2: Rural Heritage and Culture

EA2a

Does the description above identify the essential landscape, rural heritage and culture features of the area?

EA2b

How best can landscape character be taken into account to replace the current Area of Great Landscape Value and other local landscape designations as part of the Local Development Framework?

EA2c

Do the military training areas require a special policy approach?

EA2d

Is it still a sustainable approach to continue with an approach that supports the conversion of traditional barns, barn groups and other similar buildings to ensure that they remain as valuable features of the local landscape?



Green Infrastructure

- 3.13 “Green Infrastructure” is an important element of sustainable communities and although in some ways more relevant to urban areas, it also relates to the rural environment. Establishing the strategic and locally important elements of the Plan Area’s green infrastructure will be an important early task in developing the LDF. This should enable an approach to be developed which can sustain and protect existing key infrastructure assets, and suggest areas where additions and improvements should be sought.
- 3.14 Green infrastructure works at different levels so that in the wider countryside it is often viewed at a larger scale, encompassing large country or regional parks; extensive habitats, major landscape features such as river corridors and flood meadows, landscapes, along with the identification of wide green corridors and ecological networks. Green infrastructure at this level can provide the wider framework and context for planning green infrastructure at a more local level. The provision, maintenance and enhancement of a strong green infrastructure contributes to a wide range of economic, environmental and social policy objectives.
- 3.15 Because of its essentially rural and high quality landscape character, the LDF area as a whole is not deficient in green infrastructure at the strategic level. However, in order for the LDF to further define and prioritise its approach at the more local level, a more detailed analysis of green infrastructure will take place in subsequent Development Plan Documents (the Catterick Garrison Area Action Plan and the Facilitating Development Policy Document) to identify any particular local deficiencies. For the purposes of this Core Strategy it may be more appropriate for an overarching policy approach to be developed to ensure that green infrastructure is supported and enhanced, and prioritised in planning decisions.
- 3.16 Policy YH8 of the RSS states that green infrastructure in the Plan Area needs to be identified, protected, created, extended, enhanced, managed and maintained to ensure the provision of an improved, accessible and healthy environment whilst Natural England stresses that Green Infrastructure should be provided as an integral part of all new development, alongside other infrastructure such as utilities and transport networks.
- 3.17 The RSS states that LDFs should therefore define a hierarchy of green infrastructure in terms of location, function, sizes and levels of use including the identification of new assets required to deliver green infrastructure. Work and consultation is ongoing with Natural England who are developing a hierarchy of green infrastructure corridors across the Yorkshire and Humber region including detailed mapping for the emerging Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS). This information can be used as it evolves to rank the larger and strategic green corridors within the Plan Area. The green corridors of the Plan Area already identified in conjunction with Natural England include corridors along the River Ure in Wensleydale: a corridor within the Swale Valley; the section of the Tees Valley within the north-east of the Plan Area; a Skeeby-Newsham corridor; a Ravensworth-Forcett-Cliffe corridor; a Scorton-Croft corridor; and an Catterick Village-Leyburn corridor.



3.18 Supplementing these larger green corridors within the Plan Area are smaller, but significant areas of green space. Although there are no designated areas of Green Belt, both the urban and rural settlements do have a rich tapestry of green infrastructure. Green infrastructure also includes playing and sports fields and amenity space. National and RSS policies give guidance on how these should be protected, and it will be necessary for the LDF to develop the appropriate local approach.

3.19 The nationally recognised “Coast to Coast” walk passes through the LDF area between Richmond and Ellerton and the current Local Plan has sought to protect its environmental qualities and amenities. These will need to continue to be given priority as it represents a particularly important strategic green infrastructure resource. At a more local level, the character of Catterick Garrison is very much determined and influenced by the extensive areas of green space, recreation areas and trees which flow throughout this urban area and although these should be generally protected from development which erodes the contribution that they make, a detailed assessment will need to be carried out as part of the subsequent Area Action Plan. The National Trust land at Round Howe to the west of Richmond and the Batts along the river to the south of the town are very important local assets. In addition, there is a narrow “green wedge” between Leyburn and Harmby where additional development would result in the coalescence of these neighbouring but separate communities and this may also need to be addressed by the Core Strategy.

Issue 3: Green Infrastructure

EA3a

What scope is there to enhance the Plan Area’s existing Green Infrastructure?

EA3b

Are there any gaps in the existing green infrastructure networks that should be addressed?

Nature Conservation

3.20 The North Pennines Dales Meadows which lie to the west of the LDF plan area are a Special Area of Conservation which is a strictly protected site designated under Article 3 of the European Habitats Directive. This overlaps in part with the North Pennine Moors Special Protection Area designated under Article 4 of the EC Birds Directive for its rare and vulnerable birdlife. Within the LDF area itself there are 11 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (see Appendix 2) along with over 200 Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance. Foxglove Covert is an important Local Nature Reserve within the heart of the military estate at Catterick Garrison.



- 3.21 The river corridors of the Tees, Swale and Ure are important wildlife habitats as are the upland areas of Kexwith Moor, Holgate Moor, Holgate Pasture, Hurst Moor, Marrick Moor Redmire Moor, Preston Moor, Stainton Moor, and Bellerby Moor. In addition, there are numerous other features, sites and areas which provide a network of nature conservation resources spread across the LDF plan area including ancient and broadleaved woodland, unimproved and semi-improved grassland, flushes and marshy grassland, open water, hedgerows, cliffs and rock faces.
- 3.22 The Richmondshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies priority habitats and species (see paragraph 2.10 above) which the Local Development Framework should seek to support. Views are sought on what in particular the Core Strategy can do to support the BAP.

Urban and Village Assets

- 3.23 There are 41 designated Conservation Areas within that part of Richmondshire covered by the Local Development Framework (see Appendix 3) and we are working towards completing a programme of detailed Character Appraisals and Management Plans for each of them which will help to ensure that change is managed in ways which would preserve or enhance their particular character or appearance. Our Conservation Areas vary from the historic market towns of Richmond and Leyburn, through larger villages such as Brompton on Swale and Catterick, to the smallest hamlets such as Hornby and Hartforth. A number of Conservation Areas (for example Croft on Tees, Gayles, Kirby Hill, Middleham and Ravensworth) also include areas of landscape in and around the settlements which are important to their character.

Issue 4: Nature Conservation

EA4a

Does the description above pick up the essential nature conservation features of the area?

EA4b

How best can we provide protection for designated nature conservation sites along with protection and enhancement of priority habitats and priority species to support the objectives of the Biodiversity Action Plan and Action Programme?



- 3.24 In addition to the rural archaeology described in paragraph 3.9 above, there are also broader archaeologically sensitive areas in and around the urban historic cores of Richmond and large parts of Middleham which are known to be rich in hidden archaeology and where this issue requires careful assessment and consideration as part of new development proposals.
- 3.25 There are over 1,200 buildings and structures within the LDF area which are included on the statutory list of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest. These range from the iconic and imposing castles at Richmond, Middleham and Hornby (Grade 1), through country houses (Danby Hall, Hartforth Hall and Leyburn Hall), to simple cottages and other unusual entries such as mileposts and tombstones. Coupled with the other assets described elsewhere, these give our rural and urban environments a very special quality and character.
- 3.26 English Heritage maintain a Heritage at Risk Register which identifies those nationally designated sites (including Grade 1 and Grade 2* Listed Buildings) which are considered to be at risk and which require resources to safeguard this historic legacy (see Appendix 4 for details). This assessment does not include Grade 2 Listed Buildings and in order to establish the full picture additional resources would be required at the local level.
- 3.27 In addition to those buildings included on the statutory list, there are very many other buildings of genuine quality across the area which remain unrecognised and in some respects unprotected. These are an important heritage asset, especially where they contribute to the overall character of a particular area, such as within Conservation Areas. In the current Local Plan a specific policy approach sought to safeguard this finite resource through the planning process and there may be merit in continuing this approach. Many such buildings are simple domestic architecture, but there are other more distinctive landmark buildings, such as the early military buildings at Catterick Garrison (for example, the Sandhurst Blocks; Mess Buildings; and the Garrison Headquarters Buildings) which are unique to the area and worthy of protection to ensure that they are not lost through redevelopment or insensitive alterations.
- 3.28 Historic shop fronts are a special feature of the centres of Richmond, Middleham and Leyburn as well as some villages in the LDF area. In the past these have been protected from removal or the harmful loss of important detailing. Detailed guidance on this specialist topic is now contained in the recently published Richmond Design Guide which has been adopted by the Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- 3.29 In many situations, it is small features and assets such as boundary walls, hedges or railings; historic passageways and yards; village greens and common land; important trees and tree groups; as well as other individual features of historic interest such as pinfolds, troughs, pumps, mounting blocks, pillar boxes, G6 telephone kiosks, etc. which enrich the urban and rural environments and produce the character and local distinctiveness which gives large parts of the LDF area its special quality.



- 3.30 There are a number of well recognised historic public viewpoints in and around our urban areas which contribute greatly to the appreciation of their character and history. The best and most well known are from Richmond Castle Keep; Castle Walk in Richmond; Frenchgate Head and Maison Dieu in Richmond; Richmond Grandstand on the former Racecourse; Slegill, south of Richmond; Middleham Castle Keep; and the Shawl at Leyburn.
- 3.31 As part of our preliminary consultation and evidence base, a competition was jointly organised for both the Local Development Framework and the Sustainable Community Strategy to identify local scenes and views which encapsulate the concept of Richmondshire for our residents. Many of these are within the LDF plan area and emphasise the assets which are important to both the area and its residents. Further details of these are to be found in Appendix 5.

Issue 5: Urban and Village Assets

EA5a

Does the description above pick up the essential urban and village features of the area?

EA5b

Do we require any different approach towards preservation or enhancement of Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, "Heritage Assets" and other historic features, or are these sufficiently well protected by national and regional policies?

EA5c

What additional provision should be made to preserve and enhance those Heritage Assets which are not subject to any special designation?



4. Environmental Asset Issues for the Core Strategy

4.1 This consultation paper has sought to identify the environmental assets of the Richmondshire Local Development Framework Plan Area which will have a bearing on options development for the emerging Core Strategy of the LDF. We need to know whether this has identified the right issues or indeed, all of the issues which are relevant. We are also seeking responses to specific key questions which seem to arise from this work and which will guide how we approach these issues at the next stage. These questions are listed at the end of each of the earlier sections of this paper and are summarised again below:

Summary of Environmental Asset Issues for the Core Strategy

EA1a

Does the description in Section 2 above identify the main influences on the environmental assets of the area?

EA2a

Does the description in Section 3 above identify the essential landscape, rural heritage and culture features of the area?

EA2b

How best can we use the “landscape character areas” to replace the current Area of Great Landscape Value and other local landscape designations as part of the Local Development Framework?

EA2c

Do the military training areas require a special policy approach?

EA2d

Is it still a sustainable approach to continue with an approach that supports the conversion of traditional barns, barn groups and other similar buildings to ensure that they remain as valuable features of the local landscape?

EA3a

What scope is there to enhance the Plan Area’s existing Green Infrastructure?

EA3b

Are there any gaps in the existing green infrastructure networks that should be addressed?

EA4a

Does the description in Section 3 above pick up the essential nature conservation features of the area?

EA4b

How best can we provide protection for designated nature conservation sites along with protection and enhancement of priority habitats and priority species to support the objectives of the Biodiversity Action Plan and Action Programme?

EA5a

Does the description in Section 3 above pick up the essential urban and village features of the area?

EA5b

Do we require any different approach towards preservation or enhancement of Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, “Heritage Assets” and other historic features or are these sufficiently well protected by national and regional policies?

EA5c

What additional provision should be made to preserve and enhance those heritage assets which are not subject to any special designation?

EA6a

Are there any other environmental asset issues that need to be identified?



Appendix 1

Landscape Character Areas - Key Characteristics

Pennine Dales Fringe

- Side slopes of Dales uplands, predominately sloping down to east, but with locally varied topography formed by several significant river valleys running from west to east, including the Ure, Swale and the broad vale of the Tees.
- Transitional landscape lying between the upland, predominantly grassland landscape to the west and arable land to the east.
- Variation in enclosure patterns arising from different historic periods - small scale irregular field patterns, often of medieval origins, close to villages, elsewhere larger scale enclosures, sometimes creating very strong patterns.
- Transitions in type of field enclosure, from drystone walls in the west to hedges at lower elevations to the east.
- Moderate density of small villages and large farmsteads, linked by a network of minor roads.
- Limestone, sandstone and millstone grit predominantly used for buildings and walling, giving strong visual unity to villages.
- Well-wooded character, with wooded valley slopes, small woodlands, plantations and hedgerow trees.
- Generally tranquil and undeveloped with several notable historic market towns.

Vale of Mowbray

- Low lying agricultural landscape contained by the escarpment of the North Yorkshire Moors and Cleveland Hills to the east and the undulating slopes and valleys of the Yorkshire Dales to the west.

- Divided from the Tees Lowlands to the north by glacial deposits forming a minor watershed.
- Underlying Triassic sandstones and mudstones, blanketed by thick layers of glacial boulder clay (till) with subdued moraines and ridges of sand and gravel.
- More varied topography than the Vale of York with areas of rolling, undulating hills as well as flatter land.
- Fertile agricultural land used for arable crops and permanent grassland.
- Fields of medium scale enclosed by low hedgerows with scattered, small areas of woodland and some parkland.
- Low lying river valleys meandering through flood plains which become broader to the south where they traverse flat glacial lake deposits.
- Villages situated on higher ground, with an often linear form along a wide main street, and churches providing local landmarks.
- Buildings generally of brick of varying colour with pantiles for roofs.
- Influence of military installations and major transport routes, especially the A1 and the York to Edinburgh main railway line.

Tees Lowlands

- A broad low lying plain of gently undulating, predominantly arable farmland, with some pasture, and wide views to distant hills.
- Meandering, slow moving river Tees flows through the heart of the area, dividing the lowlands to north and south.
- Contrast of quiet rural areas with extensive urban and industrial development, concentrated along the lower reaches of the Tees to the east.
- Woodland cover is generally sparse, but with local variation on steep banks of the middle reaches of the Tees, and within parkland and managed estates.



Appendix 2

Designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest

A66/North Richmondshire Sub-Area

Black Scar Quarry, near Middleton Tyas - This site is identified as being of national importance in the Geological Conservation Review.

Central Sub-Area

Swale Lakes, Ellerton - Diverse population of breeding birds and large numbers of wintering wildfowl and waders.

Lower Swale Woods and Grasslands - A complex of woodlands, scrub, grasslands, limestone scar and scree.

Richmond Meadows - Unimproved neutral grassland.

Lovely Seat / Stainton Moor - Outstanding example of North Pennines Moorland, having the most extensive and complete west to east transition from blanket bog to dry heathland. Also rich assemblage of moorland breeding birds.

Lower Wensleydale Sub-Area

Leyburn Glebe - Botanically rich.

Thowker Corner, Wensley - Fine herb-rich hay meadow.

River Ure Grasslands, Coverbridge - Locality for the nationally scarce species of the burnt orchid.

Newton-le-Willows Meadows - Unimproved neutral grassland.

Bellerby Fields - Unimproved neutral grassland.

East Nidderdale Moors - A nationally important assemblage of moorland breeding birds, and the second largest continuous tract of dry heathland within a single topographic unit in the North Pennines. Supports diverse and extensive upland plant communities.



Appendix 3

Designated Conservation Areas

A66/North Richmondshire Sub-Area

Aldbrough St. John
Croft on Tees
Dalton
East Layton
Gayles
Gilling West
Hartforth
Kirby Hill
Marske
Melsonby
Middleton Tyas
Moulton
Newsham
Ravensworth
Skeeby
Whashton

Central Sub-Area

Bolton On Swale
Brompton On Swale
Catterick Village
Downholme
Easby
Hudswell
Richmond
Richmond Hill
Scorton

Lower Wensleydale Sub-Area

Bellerby
Constable Burton
East Witton
Finghall
Hauxwell
Hornby
Leyburn
Leyburn (Quarry Hills)
Middleham
Patrick Brompton
Preston under Scar
Redmire
Spennithorne
Thornton Steward
Wensley



Appendix 4

Heritage at Risk

Grade 1 and Grade 2* Listed Buildings

Courthouse to East of Colburn Hall, Colburn (Central Sub-Area)

The Old Gatehouse, Jervaulx Park, East Witton (Lower Wensleydale Sub-Area)

Ravensworth Castle and Park Wall, Ravensworth (A66/North Richmondshire Sub-Area)

Cobscar Lead Smelt Mill, Redmire (Lower Wensleydale Sub-Area)

Old Grandstand, Richmond (Central Sub-Area)

St Martins Priory Ruins, St Martins (Central Sub-Area)

Keld Heads Lead Smeltpill and Mine Complex, Preston-under-Scar (Lower Wensleydale Sub-Area)

Monuments

Section of Scots Dyke linear boundary 600m south east of Park House, Aldbrough St. John (A66/North Richmondshire Sub-Area)

Stanwick Late Iron Age oppidum, Iron Age and medieval settlement, early Christian church and sculpture and post-medieval emparkment, Aldbrough St. John (A66/North Richmondshire Sub-Area)

Section of Scots Dyke linear boundary 150m ENE of Olliver, Aske (A66/North Richmondshire Sub-Area)

Cataractonium Roman forts and town, Brompton-on-Swale (Central Sub-Area)

St Giles medieval hospital, post-medieval farmstead and Iron Age occupation site immediately north of St Giles Farm, Brough with St Giles (Central Sub-Area)

Medieval settlement of Dalton upon Tees and associated field system, Dalton-on-Tees (A66/North Richmondshire Sub-Area)

Section of Scots Dyke linear boundary and portion of field system 100m east of Whitefields Farm, Easby (Central Sub-Area)

Roman fort and prehistoric enclosed settlement 400m west of Carkin Moor Farm, East Layton (A66/North Richmondshire Sub-Area)

Two moated sites, the site of a dovecote and further associated features 120m north west and 180m north of The Old Hall, East Layton (A66/North Richmondshire Sub-Area)

Medieval village of Hunton and field system, Hunton (Central Sub-Area)

Section of Scots Dike linear boundary north west of High Merrybent, Melsonby (A66/North Richmondshire Sub-Area)

Section of Scots Dyke linear boundary east of Langdale Rush, Melsonby (A66/North Richmondshire Sub-Area)

William's Hill, Middleham (Lower Wensleydale Sub-Area)

Section of the Scots Dyke linear boundary 225m south of St Martin's Priory, St Martin's (Central Sub-Area)

Roman fort at Wensley (Lower Wensleydale Sub-Area)



Appendix 5

Local Scenes and Views Photographic Competition - Winning Entries



The Swale, Richmond by Emma Embleton



Richmond in the Evening by Allen Brindle



A Sunny Day in Richmond by Mel Harland



Richmond's Green and Pleasant Views by Carolyn Grant



Leyburn Wild Flowers by Ann Wells



This is Where I Play Hide and Seek in Easby Abbey by Daisy Coil



Richmondshire District Council

Swale House, Frenchgate, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 4JE
Tel: 01748 829100 Fax: 01748 825071 Email: enquiries@richmondshire.gov.uk

