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Bassetlaw Publication Core Strategy and Development Management Policies

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. We are working towards the delivery of four strategic outcomes:

- A healthy natural environment;
- People are inspired to value and conserve the natural environment;
- Sustainable use of the natural environment;
- A secure environmental future

Natural England is pleased to see that some of our previous comments have been taken on board especially in relation to sustainable travel through the inclusion of policy DM 13 which is supported. Natural England also supports policy DM9 which identifies the need for Green Infrastructure.

Natural England considers that further work could **improve implementation of the following:**

Green Infrastructure Strategic approach

Natural England notes the findings of Bassetlaw's Green Infrastructure study which identifies a Green Infrastructure Vision for Bassetlaw. It would greatly add to the effectiveness of the core strategy if the supporting text to Policy DM9 could refer to the implementation of the vision articulated in the Bassetlaw Green Infrastructure study. Without such a reference it is unclear as to what the Council's strategic approach to Green Infrastructure would be.

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Similarly it would also add to the effectiveness of the core strategy if the key recommendations set out in the Green Infrastructure Study relating to particular settlements were identified in the relevant settlement policy or its supporting text. As a minimum the relevant supporting text could cross refer to the Green Infrastructure Study so that links are made to the evidence of need for suitable Green Infrastructure to support necessary development.

Landscape Character

Natural England welcomes references in DM9 that makes new development proposals in and adjoining the countryside contribute to enhance the landscape character. In this context, DM9 refers to the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment as a means of implementation as new development would be expected to contribute to the recommendations for landscape enhancement or creation identified in the Assessment. We consider that suitable references could be made to the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment within the area settlement policies or their supporting text. For example, we note the identification of landscape creation and improvement areas between Worksop and Harworth on figure 5.2 and a suitable reference could be included within policy CS2 or its supporting text to this effect.

Notwithstanding the above comments, Natural England does not wish to raise any grounds of unsoundness, and does not request participation in the forthcoming examination of the Bassetlaw Core Strategy.

It is hoped that the comments made are of assistance to you. Please do contact me again if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

Planning & Conservation Adviser
Nottinghamshire & Lowland Derbyshire