

Matter 6: Natural Environment

Issues

Whether the Plan and its relevant policies are clear, positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national planning policy particularly relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.

Whether the Plan and its relevant policies adequately and effectively protect and enhance biodiversity interests and valued landscapes.

Whether development is being directed away from areas at the highest risk of flooding.

Whether the Plan and its relevant policies adequately and effectively deal with pollution-control related matters.

Questions

Policy S2: Conservation and Enhancement of the Natural Environment

6.7 Would the policy be effective with its length, the number of biodiversity and landscape matters that it covers and as a number of subsequent strategic policies in this chapter return to the same matter?

Despite its length policy S2 makes no specific reference to dark skies and tranquillity which is a key consideration for the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, going beyond the aesthetic and perceptual factors of landscape protection and enhancement (policy S4).

Policy S2 should be amended to specifically make reference to the dark skies/tranquillity mapping work undertaken by CPRE.

Policy DM4: Noise and Light Pollution

6.54 Is dark skies a light pollution consideration for this policy, or elsewhere in the Plan?

DM4 should be amended to specifically make reference to the dark skies/tranquillity mapping project work undertaken by CPRE.

We have previously suggested policy wording using examples from the adopted Swale Local Plan and Ashford Local Plan.

We note the Council's indication that it would welcome changes to strengthen the wording of policy DM4.

The Kent branch of the Campaign to protect Rural England exists to protect the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of the Kent countryside

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