

Representor ID: 436
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1 Gas Ferry Road, Bristol, BS1 6UN
Tel: 0117 325 2000
Email: bristol@walsingplan.co.uk
Web: www.walsinghamplanning.co.uk

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Tracey Smith
Programme Officer
Cheltenham Borough County Council

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Dear Tracey

**CHELTENHAM BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN – EXAMINATION
INFORMATION REQUESTED IN RELATION TO CRAVEN LOCAL PLAN**

As promised, I am writing to provide information requested by the Inspector at the Hearing into Matter 4: Green Belt and Green Infrastructure held on 27 February 2019.

During the recent Hearing, I brought to the Inspectors attention a letter from the Inspector (Matthew Birkinshaw), dated 13 November 2018, to the Examination of the Craven Local Plan, in relation to Local Green Space designations (see Appendix 1). As set out in Inspector Birkinshaws letter, he considered that two proposed Local Green Space designations failed to meet the criteria set out in national planning policy and should be deleted.

Inspector Birkinshaws comments related to an LGS designation at Land North of Skipton - SK-LGS64 (see inset map at Appendix 2) and an LGS designation at Land west of Helifield - HE-LGS1 (see inset map at Appendix 3). These LGS designations extended to over 75 hectares and 35 hectares respectively and in both cases Inspector Birkinshaw concluded that they represent extensive tracts of land as set out in national planning policy and guidance.

As I pointed out at the Hearing, there are parallels with these designations and the proposed designation at Leckhampton. These parallels go beyond the comparable scales. The Skipton designation, like the Leckhampton designation, comprises contiguous agricultural fields and results in a blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to the main built up area. The Hellifield designation, like the Leckhampton designation, relates to a large area consisting of several different parcels of land, separated by boundary enclosures.



It should be further noted that Craven Council, in their response to Inspector Birkinshaws letter, dated 17 December 18 (see Appendix 4), proposed to replace the designation at Skipton with two smaller areas of 5.5ha and 0.7ha and the designation at Hellified with three smaller designations of 6.8ha, 3.3ha and 1.5ha.

Inspector Birkinshaw wrote again on 1 February 19 (see Appendix 5) having re-visited the area. He expressed the opinion that the Hellifield designation should be modified to include only the 6.8ha designation at Gallaber Pond. He also confirmed his opinion that the Skipton designation should be deleted entirely.

I would be grateful if this letter and the enclosed information could be put before the Inspector. Please do not hesitate to contact me should further information be required.

Yours sincerely



Russell Smith MRTPI
Principal Consultant

Email: russell.smith@walsingplan.co.uk
Mobile: 07471 952 415





Walsingham Planning Limited. Company Reg No. 09402985 VAT No. 245 9002 16
Registered Office: Bourne House, Cores End Road, Bourne End, Bucks SL8 5AR

Also offices in Bourne End and Knutsford