

Matter 4 - Landscape, Biodiversity and the Environment

Policy DM1: Please refer to our representation. In our view, DMC1B should apply to all development. Therefore, it should be clear that if the development is major, GSP1 criteria and the test in NPPF would apply. An explanation should be given as to how the NPA judges whether or not development is subject to these additional criteria. If not to be included in the DMP then it should appear in the next Local Plan.

We also draw attention to the Sheffield Hallam University report, 'An Examination of the Development and Implementation of Planning Policy Relating to Major Development in the English and Welsh National Parks' (Crowe, Hammond, Wilson, 2016) which finds (Exec Summary, p2):

"There is little evidence to suggest that changes to the precise wording of major development policy in the NPPF or PPW have had any particular impact on local decisions in our national parks. Rather, decisions continue to reflect central government agendas at any particular time, and the continuing challenge of supporting national park purposes whilst enabling local economic development. The clear requirement in legislation that the former should always take precedence over the latter, except in 'exceptional circumstances', merely emphasises the ambiguity in that phrase."

Policy DMC2: Please refer to our representation, particularly with regard to its robustness in assessing sensitive micro-hydro power development.

Policies DMC4 (Q6): Our representation argues for a more pro-active agenda for enhancing settlements, though the Inspector's specific questions do not appear to address this. We would welcome an opportunity to discuss this point.