

GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE NORTH EAST

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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 11 December 2007

Dear Mr Jones

I am writing with reference to your application of 10 August 2007 for a direction under paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 in respect of policies in Northumberland County and National Park Joint Structure Plan First Alteration - February 2005.

The Secretary of State's Direction is attached. Those policies not listed in the Direction will expire on 2nd February 2008.

The extension of saved policies listed in this Direction does not indicate that the Secretary of State would necessarily endorse these policies if presented to her as new policy. The intention is merely to maintain an extension of existing adopted policy in the sole interests of maintaining continuity in the development plans system and a stable planning framework locally and, in particular, a continual supply of land for development.

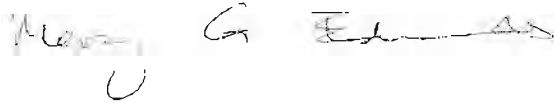
Local planning authorities should not suppose that a regulatory local plan style approach will be supported in forthcoming Development Plan Documents. LPAs should adopt a positive non regulatory approach to DPD preparation and should not seek to reintroduce the numerous policies of many local plans.

Local planning authorities should make good progress with local development frameworks according to timetables in local development schemes. The exercise of extending saved policies is not an opportunity to delay DPD preparation. Policies have been extended in the expectation that they will be replaced promptly and by fewer policies in DPDs. Maximum use should be made of national and regional policy especially given the

advanced position of many regional spatial strategies and the post 2004 status of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

From 29 February 2008 the extended policies should be read in context. Where policies were originally adopted some time ago, it is likely that material considerations, in particular the emergence of new national and regional policy and also new evidence, will be afforded considerable weight in decisions on planning applications. The attention of local planning authorities is drawn to Planning Policy Statement 3 *Housing* (paragraphs 6 and 68) and the Housing Green Paper - *Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable* (chapter 2, paragraph 15).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Edwards', with a small 'U' written below it.

**MARY EDWARDS**

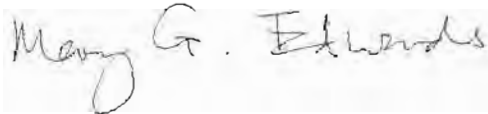
Senior Planning Officer

Environment Group

DIRECTION UNDER PARAGRAPH 1(3) OF SCHEDULE 8 TO THE  
PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004  
POLICIES CONTAINED IN NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY AND  
NATIONAL PARK JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN FIRST ALTERATION  
FEBRUARY 2005

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in the exercise of the power conferred by paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Act 2004 directs that for the purposes of the policies specified in Schedule 1 to this direction, paragraph 1(2)(a) of Schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 does not apply.

Signed by the authority of the  
Secretary of State

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary G. Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

MARY EDWARDS  
Senior Planning Officer  
Government Office for the North East  
11 December 2007

## SCHEDULE 1

POLICIES CONTAINED IN NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY AND  
NATIONAL PARK JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN FIRST ALTERATION  
(FEBRUARY 2005)

L3	Northumberland Heritage Coast Extension
L11	Forestry Planting
HC4	Archaeological Surveys and Fieldwork
S5	Extension to Green Belt
H1	Housing Land Allocations
ED1	General Employment and Business Uses
M2	Criteria for Assessment of Major Development
M4	Renewable Energy Resources
M5	Greenhouse Gas Reduction
M6	Non- Renewable Energy Generation
T1	Traffic Management
T13	New Roads
T15	Strategic Road Network
T16	Improvements to A1 and A69 Trunk Roads
T17	Improvements to A696 and A68
T18	Improvements to National Primary Routes and Principal Roads