

Comment

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Event Name	Local Plan 2016-2036 Proposed Modifications
Comment by	Dr David Mason (1164465)
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Question 1

Which document/modification does this representation relate to? Main Modification Schedule *

*** Please provide the reference number (where applicable), for example MM1, PM1, MIN1** MM128

Question 2

What best describes the nature of your representation? Object

Question 3 Legally Compliant and Sound

Do you consider the Plan, incorporating the proposed Modification is Legally Compliant? Yes

Do you consider the Plan, incorporating the proposed Modification is Sound? No

Question 4

Please give details of why you consider the Darlington Local Plan, incorporating the proposed Modifications to which your representation relates, is not legally compliant or is unsound. Please be as precise as possible. If you wish to support the Plan or comment on the Sustainability Appraisal Report Addendum/Habitats Regulations Screening please also use this box to set out your comments.

The proposed modification would negate the intended purpose of this policy which is to identify previously unknown archaeology. Desk-based assessment by itself would reveal nothing about the archaeological potential of such areas because they are areas which have not previously produced evidence for the presence of archaeology. Field evaluation is therefore essential. The two-stage process of geophysical survey followed up by trial-trenching is necessary because, for a variety of reasons, geophysical survey can sometimes fail to reveal archaeological features.

Question 5

Please set out what changes you consider necessary to make the Plan legally compliant or sound and why, thinking about what you identified in Question 4. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording or any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

Outside of the identified Areas of High Archaeological Potential, Durham County Council take the approach that desk-based assessment and field evaluation (consisting of geophysical survey followed up by trial-trenching) is required for all development proposals affecting an area of 1 hectare or more, unless it is known to have been archaeologically sterilised by previous development such as mineral extraction. This approach has been adopted because archaeological investigation and research in recent decades has shown that right across the county the number and geospatial density of archaeological sites is far higher than previously imagined and so the likelihood of encountering previously unknown archaeology on sites of this size or larger has increased significantly.