

Comment

Consultee	Mr Jonathan Childs (1298540)
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Event Name	Local Plan 2016-2036 Proposed Modifications
Comment by	Mr Jonathan Childs (1298540)
Comment ID	DBLPMOD247
Response Date	19/11/21 11:39
Status	Processed
Submission Type	Letter
Version	0.4
Question 1	
Which document/modification does this representation relate to?	Policies Map Modification Schedule *
* Please provide the reference number (where applicable), for example MM1, PM1, MIN1	PM2
Question 2	
What best describes the nature of your representation?	Support
Question 3 Legally Compliant and Sound	
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.	

Support:Policies Map marking the Blackwell Parkland along with 10 other Urban and Rural Parklands:The following Green Infrastructure Designations described in Policy ENV3 have been added:
Historic Routes – Rural Gaps – Parklands

“Retaining and improving the special landscape, heritage and ecological qualities of urban and rural parklands at South Park, North Lodge Park, West Cemetery, Blackwell Grange, Rockcliffe Park, Middleton Hall, Walworth Castle, Redworth Hall, Hall Garth, Newbus Grange and Neasham Hall”.

Boundary of the Blackwell Parkland along the built up area to the West and North: Grangeside Blackwell Lane, Upsall Drive and Grange Road.

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.

N/A

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Comment by Mr Jonathan Childs (1298540)

Comment ID DBLPMOD248

Response Date 19/11/21 11:40

Status Processed

Submission Type Letter

Version 0.4

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 MM191

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 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.

I object to MM191, paragraph c "removal of wildlife site and biodiversity", but i support the restoration of the parkland.

Having grown up in a national park I am acutely aware of the positive effects that outdoor green spaces can have on mental health, personal growth and general well-being. The vast majority of people are not so lucky as to be surrounded by open green space, so any spaces in a town should be held on to rather than built over. During the ongoing pandemic it has become even more important for myself, and I am sure for others, to have access to green spaces within walking distance. Living in a flat there is extremely limited outdoor space which can lead to a sense of being trapped unless there are quieter open green areas close by which can provide a moment of freedom and escape. This sense of freedom is not really found in many urban parks which are overlooked by houses and businesses on all sides, nor where there is just some flat grass and a play area. Those places serve an important role, but are not really somewhere one can escape urban living for a while. The Blackwell parkland should be a unique opportunity to provide the people of Darlington with a place to relax and unwind, but this will not be so if it starts to be broken up with new developments encroaching or further devastation of existing nature. Every effort should be made to protect such spaces with minimal invasion otherwise they quickly stop providing the restorative effects people so badly need in modern life. I am pleased that the concept of green wedges is being taken seriously when it comes to local planning as without them we could easily be left with street after street of houses making it ever more difficult to find a place to get a moment of peace. I hope the idea will be used to great effect across the whole town. They would also seem to me to provide a safe haven for plants and animals in increasingly urbanised areas. Not everyone is able to drive out to the countryside to commune with nature, nor is it good for the environment that they might have to. Having more recently discovered some of the history of the area it seems a travesty that such an area might be destroyed or diminished. I appreciate we need more homes and other new buildings, but there must be far more suitable sites around the town that do not involve destroying such places of special character or fencing people in with the removal of local green spaces.

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.

Given that the Blackwell parkland area looks likely to be protected from development I can not see any sensible reason why the Blands corner triangle (area below the parkland boundary) should not be included in this protection from development. Why cram new development in to the bottom corner of the parkland when it would seem to offer limited space to develop and encroach on the special area being protected? It would seem far more sensible to leave it to nature and let trees and bushes provide a buffer between the parkland and the road. This would also help protect the biodiversity of the area. The area should be included as part of the protected area to avoid the parkland being surrounded by any additional buildings which will diminish its capability to offer an escape from modern urban pressures and diminish space for wildlife. The entire plan would be far more sound if the Blands Corner Triangle was included as part of a single contiguous area with the rest of the Blackwell Parkland.

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Comment by	Mr Jonathan Childs (1298540)
Comment ID	DBLPMOD249
Response Date	19/11/21 11:41
Status	Processed
Submission Type	Letter
Version	0.6
Question 1	
Which document/modification does this representation relate to?	Policies Map Modification Schedule *
* Please provide the reference number (where applicable), for example MM1, PM1, MIN1	PM15
Question 2	
What best describes the nature of your representation?	Support
Question 3 Legally Compliant and Sound	
Do you consider the Plan, incorporating the proposed Modification is Sound?	No
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Support: Green Wedges Policies Map:Green Wedge Blackwell Grange Parkland: AP20. Council to amend the policies map to extend the Green Wedge designation so that it corresponds to the boundary	

of the Parkland with the built up area to the West and North. (Grangeside Blackwell Lane, Upsall Drive and Grange Road).

Alterations to Blackwell/Skerne Park and Haughton/Red Hall Green Wedge boundaries Retain the openness and green infrastructure functions of:

The green wedges of Cocker Beck/Mowden, Blackwell/Skerne Park and Haughton/Red Hall. Policy to protect and enhance the landscape character, setting and identity of the area.

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