

**Harrogate District Local Development Framework: Sites and Policies DPD
Public Consultation: 9 September to 4 November 2011**

Note on the relationship of the Review of Special Landscape Areas and the growth of Harrogate

In determining what should be the final content of the Sites and Policies Development Plan Document (DPD), the Council will have to make difficult decisions about where new housing and employment should be located. These decisions will be made taking into account a number of factors which help the Council determine which sites are likely to represent the most sustainable development options.

The quality and importance of the landscape affected is an important factor which will be taken into account. However there are other factors which will form part of the Council's decision making process. e.g. existing and likely future access to jobs, shops and services.

The Review of Special Landscape Areas published by the Council for this consultation confirms that a considerable amount of the countryside around the towns of Harrogate and Knaresborough, and the city of Ripon is landscape:

- of high quality, and
- important to the setting of the town/city.

As such, these tracts of countryside are worthy of designation as Special Landscape Areas (SLA's) in the Sites and Policies DPD.

Clearly, from a landscape protection point of view, it would preferable not to develop significant tracts of land identified in this review as worthy of SLA designation. However, in the town of Harrogate where the largest amount of greenfield land for new housing is required and where much of the surrounding countryside is Green Belt and new housing is not generally allowed, this may not be possible. SLA designations are one of a number of factors to balance when coming to a view on preferred sites for homes and jobs.

In seeking to meet the 2024 housing target for the town of Harrogate (and Pannal) this consultation has put forward several sites as 'preferred options' which would, if developed, encroach on land identified in the review as worthy of SLA designation.