



YARE VALLEY SOCIETY

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Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk Development Plan Document.

Comment on proposed Inspectors Changes

The comments below refer to the supporting document for IC7
SC2 Page 33, Paragraph 5.6
Map for Biodiversity Enhancement Areas (RF25a):

1. Core area defined too narrowly

There are significant development pressures on both sides of the Yare Valley south of the City of Norwich, and the safeguarding of the biodiversity of the Yare Valley is key to retaining meaningful green infrastructure in the South Norwich area. In consequence, the core area (shown green) for this section of the Yare Valley should be broadened. A broadened core area would better balance the pressure for development in the area with the need to secure the integrity of the biodiversity of the Yare Valley Corridor.

Recommendation:

- The core (green) area be broadened in the Yare Valley Corridor.

2. Inappropriate discontinuity in core area

The map shows a significant discontinuity in the core area (shown green) for the Yare Valley in the vicinity of Lakenham in South Norwich. The “County Wildlife Sites” and the “Existing Core Biodiversity” shown in *Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan Figure 02B Sites with Habitat/Biodiversity Value – City July 2009* would seem to indicate that the inclusion of the discontinuity cannot be justified.

Not only is the discontinuity inappropriate, its wrongful depiction on the map results in a failure to emphasise the importance of the Yare Valley *as a whole* in safeguarding the biodiversity in the green infrastructure.

Recommendation:

- The discontinuity of the core (green) area in the vicinity of Lakenham in South Norwich be removed.

3. “Buffer fragmented habitats” not clearly delineated

The colour chosen for “Buffer fragmented habitats” is very pale and as such is difficult to distinguish from the plain white areas of the map. In particular, it is not clear whether or not the areas of Earlham Park, University of East Anglia, Eaton Park, and Eaton Golf Course have been included as “Buffer fragmented habitats”.

In the ***Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan Figure 02B Sites with Habitat/Biodiversity Value – City July 2009*** these sites are shown as “Habitat Enhancement Regions”. The sites are also adjacent to the Yare Valley core area recommended for broadening in 1 above.

Consideration of the character and location of the sites suggest they should be included in the “Core area” category, so as to add to and strengthen the Yare Valley Core area.

Recommendations:

- A stronger colour be chosen to enable the areas of “Buffer fragmented habitats” to be readily identified.
- Earlham Park, University of East Anglia, Eaton Park, and Eaton Golf Course be given “Core Area” status, and be portrayed on the map as such.

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