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H. C. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE		
07 SEP 2009		
PASS TO	INITIALS	DATE



Our ref: LDPE/270/2  
3 September 2009

Dear David

**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT PLANNING) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008  
THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL – SUTHERLAND LOCAL PLAN  
NOTICE: REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION –  
ISSUE NUMBERS – 6, 35, 40, 44,47 & 102**

I am writing regarding the Sutherland Local Plan which was submitted to DPEA on the 24 July 2009 for examination by Scottish Ministers. Under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 the appointed reporter can request, by way of notice, further information in connection with the examination. This letter is a notice under Regulation 22.

The reporters have identified a requirement for further information in response to the above issues where representations were lodged by Scottish Natural Heritage. In response to these representations, the council has carried out an appropriate assessment. A separate notice has been sent to Scottish Natural Heritage requesting its view on whether the conclusions and recommendations of the appropriate assessment, and any consequent proposed changes to the plan, address its objections.

The council's response to Issue 102, as detailed in the relevant Schedule 4, refers to further commended changes resulting from the assessment. However, it is not clear whether all of these changes are already included in the deposit draft plan dated November 2008. The council's further commended changes state: "Add development factor for Settlement Development Areas (SDA's) to reference any adjacent Natura sites. Ensure that Plan includes all Natura sites including those proposed or recently confirmed. Add the appropriate developer requirements to site allocations and development factors to SDAs as indicated by the appropriate assessment for mitigation purposes, where they are considered necessary after having regard to mitigation that will be provided by the effective operation of the general policies."



Further detail is requested in order to clarify the proposed wording and location of these further commended changes (where these are not already included in the deposit draft local plan or specifically addressed in the council's Schedule 4 response on the relevant sites). It would be helpful if this information could be forwarded to Scottish Natural Heritage before it finalises its response. The stated timescales allow for this.

It would be helpful if you could send this information to me, to pass on to the reporter, by 17 September 2009.

I hope this is in order and shall be obliged if you could kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter. I have also attached the corresponding notice as sent out to SNH and would be obliged if both notices could be posted on your website. All parties who lodged representation in relation to any proposed site where SNH has raised this issue, will be notified that a copy of these letters and the subsequent responses can be viewed on the council's web site.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to clarify anything.

Yours sincerely



**BRIAN ARCHIBALD**  
**Development Programme Officer**  
**Directorate for Planning and Environment Appeals**

Enc: Letter to SNH