

PLANNING CAMPAIGN BRIEFING 11

TRANQUILLITY (July 2014)

1. SUMMARY

1.1 Tranquillity is a highly valued characteristic of the English countryside and a key indicator of its quality. Since the 1990s CPRE has championed research to define, map, protect and enhance tranquillity.

1.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) introduced tranquillity to national planning policy and applies it to two types of area: 'Local Green Spaces' - relatively confined and often urban or peri-urban areas - and 'areas of tranquillity' - more extensive and rural areas. However, as a result of the development and growth policies in the NPPF, the tranquillity of the countryside is likely to be under greater threat. Strong local campaigning to influence planning policies, reviews, and applications can help protect tranquillity and to designate new Local Green Spaces. It may also be possible to define new 'areas of tranquillity' in Local and Neighbourhood plans.

2. TOP TIPS

- Use CPRE maps and public surveys as evidence of the value of tranquil countryside and refer to general public health and well-being benefits to support your campaigning.
- Encourage your local authority to identify 'areas of tranquillity' and designate 'Local Green Spaces' in local plans. Press for specific policies to set out how noise from traffic (including road, rail and aircraft), industry, recreation and other activities should be avoided or minimised in these areas.

3. CHANGES AT A GLANCE

PLANNING CAMPAIGN BRIEFING SERIES:

1. Development Plans
2. Green Belts
3. Housing
4. Energy Infrastructure
5. Transport
6. Heritage and Design
7. Light Pollution
8. Rural Economy
9. Economic Development and Town Centres
10. Wider Countryside and Protected Areas
11. Tranquillity
12. Minerals

We welcome case studies and feedback to inform future versions of these briefings.

(E mail to info@cpre.org.uk)

PRE REFORM (PPS1 and PPG24)	LOCALISM ACT / NPPF / PLANNING PRACTICE GUIDANCE (PPG)
Emphasis on protecting and enhancing the character and landscape quality of the wider countryside (PPS 1 para. 17 and 20)	Overall protection of countryside character is weaker with an emphasis on planning taking into account 'the different roles and character of different areas' and 'recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside' as a core principle. Tranquillity is part of this intrinsic character suggesting some recognition of tranquillity in general in the countryside where areas are not specifically identified in policy for their tranquillity.
Policy guidance to avoid potentially noisy developments in areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise nuisance and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason (PPG24)	Policy emphasis remains on protecting relatively noise-free areas which have recreational or amenity value as a result. Scope to identify new 'areas of tranquillity' recognised for absence of human-caused noise and for their natural soundscapes.
PPS7 preferred local protection via criteria based policies, with local designations allowed in exceptional circumstances.	Local landscape designations not mentioned. A new 'Local Green Space' (LGS) designation covers small, demonstrably special green or open areas. Criteria for designation include tranquillity. Designation is 'a matter for local discretion'

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The purpose of this briefing is to assist understanding of reforms to the town and country planning system that have taken place since 2011. It outlines the main changes and the issues to be aware of (Analysis) and advises on specific campaign topics (Campaign Advice).

4.2 CPRE is keen to ensure that our precious countryside continues to be protected and valued, and to highlight significant threats to it where they arise. We are collecting evidence of outcomes (good and bad), in the form of cases that illustrate the issues we highlight. We welcome public assistance with this, as well as feedback on the briefing.

5. WHAT ISSUES ARE YOU LIKELY TO FACE?

5.1 CPRE worked closely on researching tranquillity with Natural England and the Universities of Northumbria and Newcastle during 2005-2006. This work identified up to 44 'mappable' factors that affect people's experience of tranquillity and used 42 such factors to quantify and map England in 500m by 500m squares on a spectrum of tranquillity from least to most tranquil. CPRE published this new tranquillity map of England in 2006. CPRE published a revised version (see Annex A) and new county maps in 2007. The research produced a model of tranquillity which includes negative *and* positive factors that can be seen *and/or* heard: for example hearing traffic, seeing urban development, hearing birdsong or seeing trees in the landscape. On this basis CPRE went on to define tranquillity as *the quality of calm experienced in places with mainly natural features, free from disturbance from man-made ones*.

5.2 The introduction of tranquillity to national planning policy means that, although the term is a common one, its precise interpretation in planning terms is a developing area. Unfortunately, the NPPF offers no formal definition in the Glossary. Its usage in the NPPF text is narrower than the concept developed through mapping research. The main tranquillity policy appears in section 11 *Conserving and enhancing the natural environment* in a sub-section on noise (para. 123). Here tranquillity is limited to identifying and protecting areas which are largely or 'relatively undisturbed by noise'. As a result, intrusive *visual* features such as pylons which are negative factors or landscape features trees or rivers which are positive factors in the CPRE tranquillity maps are not necessarily relevant.

5.3 The PPG does not provide a formal definition of tranquillity but does help interpret NPPF policy. It recognises that human-caused noise is relevant not natural sound, such as waves, which can also reach high levels of sound energy. We welcome this recognition that natural and human-derived noises have different qualities especially when perceived in the countryside, where their congruity or incongruity with the setting is important. Similarly welcome is the recognition given to 'the ability to perceive and enjoy the natural soundscape' in areas of tranquillity, a key positive aspect of areas with low ambient noise in the countryside which is captured in the CPRE tranquillity maps.

5.4 The PPG also states that a *relative* lack of noise disturbance means that areas of tranquillity should be relatively free from noise to the extent that such noise hasn't 'undermine[d] the intrinsic character of the area'. This suggests further interpretation and professional judgement may be required to determine local character and suitable noise thresholds. It also establishes that absolute low levels of (human-caused) noise are not required for locations to qualify as areas of tranquillity. CPRE's recognises that areas which are locally more tranquil relative to busier urban areas are important to offer locally accessible respite and quiet. It is vital that



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local applications of policy reflect this and do not determine areas based only on a national scale of tranquillity.

5.5 There is, however, a potentially more difficult policy test: for areas to be identified and protected as 'areas of tranquillity' they should be 'prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason' (NPPF, para 123). The PPG clarifies that this is likely to refer to areas 'already valued' in this way. In paragraph 77 of the NPPF, tranquillity is cited as a potential reason for an area having 'particular local significance' and being 'demonstrably special to a local community' to qualify for the new Local Green Space designation. It can be assumed the meaning of tranquillity here applies to very localised areas 'relatively undisturbed by noise', as in paragraph 123. The PPG examples suggest urban or peri-urban sites are most likely to fit this designation. The inclusion of 'relatively' is particularly useful for urban areas where levels of ambient noise can be expected to be higher than in rural areas.

5.6 Core planning principles refer to 'recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside' (NPPF, para. 17). This suggests that other rural areas outside any recognised 'areas of tranquillity' that emerge may also deserve some protection for their tranquillity, irrespective of whether the area is 'prized'. This position is supported by the Rural White Paper *Our Countryside: the Future - a fair deal for rural England* (2000) (see Further Information) which recognised tranquillity and associated aspects as an intrinsic part of the character of the countryside: 'It is not just its physical features which gives the countryside its unique character; there are also less tangible features such as tranquillity and lack of noise and visual intrusion, dark skies and remoteness from the visible impact of civilisation.'

5.7 Research by Northumbria/Newcastle Universities, and separately by Natural England (see Further Information), favours a broader interpretation of tranquillity - not restricted only to absence of noise - which should remain relevant to the intrinsic character of the countryside and to CPRE's wider campaign approach (see below).

5.8 What the changes may mean in practice

5.8.1 Despite references to tranquillity in many National Park/AONB management plans and in some local plans, we are not aware currently of any 'areas of tranquillity' formally outlined on spatial maps. The NPPF policy is a major step forward in CPRE's campaigning to protect tranquillity. Given the potential gap in the NPPF on protecting soundscape quality in designated landscapes, they may benefit also from being designated as 'areas of tranquillity' (see paragraph 5.9.2 below). However, the policy is likely to be most useful for areas which are otherwise under-protected from potentially noisy development and either (a) with high levels of tranquillity on a national scale (such as Romney Marsh in Kent, the Essex Marshes, Breckland in Norfolk or the Herefordshire Marches) or (b) of high levels of tranquillity relative to other parts of the surrounding (local authority) area.

5.8.2 Importantly, the policy should encourage Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) responsible for rural areas to better protect undesignated countryside by identifying areas of tranquillity in their districts. Some parts of this policy were in PPG24 but the NPPF uses stronger language - 'should aim to' as against 'it may be appropriate to' (PPG24). The policy may also have more force as part of a shorter document. Finally, the term 'areas of tranquillity' itself is helpful: it recognises the positive value of quiet not just the absence of intrusive noise and the value of natural soundscapes is now reinforced by guidance too.



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5.8.3 The meaning of 'protect' is not made clear in policy and needs to be made clear in detailed local plan policies such as through noise limits or controls on or refusal of noisy development as appropriate. The policy does not include visually intrusive development such as new pylons, power lines or windfarms. As a result an area of tranquillity could experience forms of development which may not be noisy but could incrementally and cumulatively damage its character and its value as an area for quiet enjoyment of the countryside in its broadest sense. Local plan policies will need to be specific about the forms of development that are or are not appropriate under any such policy.

5.8.4 The NPPF and guidance do not reproduce the detailed advice in PPG24 on noise from specific sources. This absence of detail leaves it open to local authorities to take differing approaches to noise. It is useful to have tranquillity picked out at higher, 'in principle' level. Given CPRE's profile for leading on the issue of the tranquillity of the countryside, local groups have the opportunity to act to raise awareness of tranquillity and to make suggestions about how it can be more effectively protected, and ultimately enhanced, through the planning system.

5.9 How the changes may affect existing local authority policies

5.9.1 Localism provides a greater opportunity for local authorities to advance their policy priorities. CPRE's first objective should be to ensure that important and effective policy guidance is not lost in the process of preparing new local plans. There are examples of saved local plan policies - see for example Maldon District Council, Essex - which cite tranquil areas or tranquillity within descriptive text or policy itself. The new policy emphasis on areas of tranquillity may help in reinforcing the arguments for such policies to be retained.

5.9.2 The NPPF does not refer to soundscape protection of designated landscapes whereas PPG24 does: para. 20 requires: 'special consideration' to be given to 'noisy development' which could affect (i) SSSIs or (ii) 'the quiet enjoyment of the National Parks, the Broads, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Heritage Coasts'. Habitats designated under the EC Habitats and Birds Directives or the Ramsar Convention 'require extra scrutiny'. For these areas local plans need to ensure that policy is clear on the value of their natural soundscapes and that proper consideration is given to potentially noisy or otherwise intrusive developments. These areas should be included in suggestions for areas of tranquillity.

5.9.3 In practice, the term may well be applied in different ways across the country and in relation to areas ranging from smaller local sites (confined local areas near urban areas may well also be given a Local Green Space designation) to large tracts of AONBs and National Parks. The national policy does not make clear what forms of development would or would not be appropriate in such areas and what specific measures should be taken to protect them. This means that at the local level authorities should include detailed policies to flesh out what protection means in specific terms. Planning applications for development in such areas are likely to be considered in the light of the NPPF and relevant local plan policies. The NPPF focuses on the noise aspects of tranquillity, but this should not be taken to mean that noise is the only relevant aspect of the general concept. It should always be argued that tranquillity policies in local plans should cover visual as well as noise impacts, and that this is a reasonable development of the NPPF.

5.9.4 The NPPF lacks detail on noise pollution compared to technical guidance in PPG24 and guidance mainly refers back to the Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) which does not stipulate noise thresholds. For this reason local authorities will need to have more detailed

policies on noise in place in their local plans and will need to rely on other detailed technical sources.

6. CAMPAIGN ADVICE

6.1 If you already have contact with your local authority about their local plan, you could request a meeting to discuss how they could develop their policy on areas of tranquillity on the basis of the policy in the NPPF. They are likely to welcome ideas about how the NPPF policy could be implemented locally, and you could provide examples of tranquillity policies in use by other local authorities (see Annex D). You could also refer them to allied policies on light pollution, transport, energy and green infrastructure which would support protection and enhancement of tranquillity. Use formal local plan consultation and public examination opportunities to follow up on this.

6.2 Where designated, areas of tranquillity will be a policy rather than a statutory designation. They will therefore apply to both planning policies and decisions. You can encourage your local authority to identify such areas in the Local Plan, spatial maps and its evidence base. The LPA can also be encouraged to set out criteria for appropriate forms of development and specific measures which it will take to protect such areas. These criteria in turn could enable you to challenge development proposals which threaten more tranquil areas.

6.3 You can find out from either English Heritage's website or a relevant historic environment amenity society (for example the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings) whether a tranquil setting contributes towards the significance of a heritage asset in your area, especially a registered (i.e. listed) park or garden. In cases where it does, this could provide powerful evidence for designating an area of tranquillity in and around the asset, in a local or neighbourhood plan as encouraged by the NPPF. English Heritage guidance on setting (see Further Information) makes clear that significant aspects of setting can include tranquillity. Developers have sought to argue in some recent planning inquiries that a site cannot be considered tranquil if it is heavily visited. The English Heritage guidance states, however, that a judgement on whether tranquillity forms part of the significance of an asset should not be affected by whether a site attracts large numbers of visitors. For more details on heritage issues see Briefing 6 (Heritage and Design) in this series.

6.4 CPRE national office can supply the National Tranquillity 2007 data set to your LPA, generally free of charge under licence. The LPA can use this in a Geographical Information System to assess tranquillity as part of the local plan evidence base and, alongside more detailed local information, to identify significant areas suitable for protection. The data set should enable them to:

- produce a tranquillity map for the local authority area
- view tranquillity mapping layers for different factors to analyse their effect on the overall tranquillity score
- re-calibrate the colour scale to a localised range to reveal more sharply significant areas of tranquillity on a local relative scale in the local area (see Annex C for examples)
- to support policy by analysing tranquillity scores statistically to develop a profile of the area or for instance by identifying areas in the most (or least tranquil) 10% either nationally or locally.

6.1.5 Encourage your local authority to analyse and factor tranquillity into its green infrastructure strategy where it is producing one; tranquillity maps could be used to identify areas of important green infrastructure, relevant heritage assets (see above) or areas where



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additional green infrastructure including woodland and wetland creation could improve the tranquillity rating and value for recreation and nature conservation.

6.1.6 A campaign to create a new area of tranquillity has the potential to gain a large number of supporters within the area affected. A coordinated campaign to persuade your LPA, through its officers and members, may be necessary. In particular, there will be a need to demonstrate with a sound technical case that any areas identified are 'relatively undisturbed by noise' and 'prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason'. The CPRE tranquillity maps can help in this respect as could data on visits to the area, presence of well-used footpaths and bridleways, reserves or National Trust properties for example. You may need to demonstrate support from the local community through for example running a local survey to show the area is valued in this way.

6.1.7 A range of maps and data is available to support your local campaign both from CPRE and other sources:

Tranquillity maps: CPRE published a new national tranquillity map for England in 2006, and in revised form in 2007 (see Annex B), alongside regional and county maps (based on 1991 county boundaries). These maps can be freely downloaded from the CPRE website or supplied by national office. For access to more detailed maps please refer to the national data set below. A set of scores to rank counties by their level of tranquillity is also available.

Intrusion maps (formerly tranquil areas maps): these are based on simple distance thresholds from factors of disturbance to identify areas of undisturbed countryside. They offer useful statistics to illustrate loss of such countryside over time (comparing 1960s, 1990s and 2007 maps and data).

6.1.8 More information on what is available is given in Annex A. There are many aspects of the maps which cannot be covered here and we recommend that you contact CPRE national office to discuss how to use the maps and what is available before using them in campaigning.

6.2 A range of resources to help you plan an effective campaign, communicate your message, and gather people to your cause can be found at: <http://www.planninghelp.org.uk/improve-where-you-live/campaign-tips>

7. FURTHER INFORMATION

CPRE Resources:

7.1 General planning system advice is available at: www.planninghelp.org.uk

7.2 CPRE publications about tranquillity including tranquillity maps and intrusion maps are generally available at: <http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/tranquil-places>

See Annex A for further detail on materials available either via the CPRE website or direct from CPRE national office

Case Studies:



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Case studies relevant to the briefings and to future national campaigning will be stored on our website: www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-planning/planning

Other Useful Information:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs / National Statistics, *Survey of public attitudes to quality of life and to the environment - 2001*, October 2002,

Now dated but a major survey showing: 'Eighty per cent of respondents had visited the countryside for pleasure' in the preceding 12 months and tranquillity was the most popular reason given for visiting: for making the countryside a place where they wanted to spend time (p94). This figure was above average (at 62 per cent) for the 18-24 age range and 25-64 ranges (Table 20, p.138). <http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/files/pas-survey2001.pdf>

IPSOS/MORI, *Landscapes in Britain*, 2004 survey of a nationally representative quota sample of 2,031 adults (aged 15+) throughout Great Britain found that, for 54% of respondents, visiting the countryside was either crucial or very important to their quality of life; and for 49% of respondents, finding peace and quiet was a key reason for visiting the countryside. <http://www.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/researcharchive/702/Landscapes-In-Britain.aspx>

Defra, *Noise Policy Statement for England*, March 2010

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69533/pb137_50-noise-policy.pdf

Our Countryside: the Future - a fair deal for rural England. This Rural White Paper (2000) set out the previous Government's vision for a living, working, protected and vibrant countryside, and actions to achieve the vision. It recognises the contribution that tranquillity makes to the character of the countryside (chapter 9) and recognises the value that people attach to tranquillity (Chapter 11). Paragraph 11.1.1 states:

"The countryside is an enormous recreational asset, with its high quality landscapes, fresh air, open space and tranquillity. Recreation can improve the mental and physical health of participants and the revenue from millions of visitors to the countryside every year is an important component of the economy of rural England."

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/documents/policy/ruralwp/rural.pdf>

The Setting of Heritage Assets. English Heritage, 2011: <http://www.helm.org.uk/guidance-library/setting-heritage-assets/>. Pages 8 and 19 refer to assessing whether tranquillity contributes towards the significance of a heritage asset.

The Research Box with Land Use Consultants & Minter, R., *Experiencing Landscapes: Towards a judgement-making framework for 'cultural services' and 'experiential qualities'*, 2011, Natural England. This is research commissioned by Natural England which explores factors contributing to cultural ecosystem services such as tranquillity.

ANNEX A: Supporting Information

The following are available from CPRE:

(i) Reports

CPRE, *Mapping tranquillity: defining and assessing a valuable resource*, March 2005. This report explains research to pilot a new methodology and mapping techniques in two study areas: Northumberland National Park and the West Durham Coalfield. The methodology described here was subsequently modified to create the national maps.

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/tranquil-places?start=30>

CPRE, *Saving Tranquil Places: How to protect and promote a vital asset*, October 2006. This policy report sets out CPRE's work to measure and map tranquillity across England –why and how we measured it – and recommendations for policy and decision-makers. It gives a brief introduction to the methodology used nationally.

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/tranquil-places?start=30>

Jackson, S., Fuller, D., Dunsford, H., Mowbray, R., Hext, S., MacFarlane R. and Haggett, C., *Tranquillity Mapping: developing a robust methodology for planning support*, Report to the Campaign to Protect Rural England, 2008, Centre for Environmental & Spatial Analysis, Northumbria University, Bluespace environments and the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. This is the full technical report (218pp) of the research into tranquillity mapping carried out during 2006 by Northumbria University and Newcastle Universities, as commissioned by CPRE. It explains in detail the scope and rigour of the research underlying the tranquillity maps published by CPRE in 2006-2007.

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-do/countryside/tranquil-places/in-depth/item/1688-how-we-mapped-tranquillity>

CPRE, *Tranquillity Mapping: Short report on the methodology*, January 2008.

This is an abbreviated version prepared by CPRE (36pp) of the full technical report and which explains the research into tranquillity mapping carried out by Northumbria University and Newcastle Universities. It sets out the key elements of the methodology underlying the tranquillity maps published by CPRE in 2006-2007 together with most important tables and information from the full report.

Land Use Consultants, *Developing an Intrusion Map of England*, August 2007. Prepared for CPRE by Land Use Consultants (LUC). This is a technical report which explains how LUC created new intrusion maps for CPRE in 2007. The report gives the distance thresholds from disturbance factors used, lists the national datasets and full statistical tables of areas disturbed and undisturbed by noise and visual intrusion for each time period for England, its regions, counties and unitary authorities.

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/tranquil-places>

(ii) Maps and statistics

Tranquillity maps

These offer a colour representation of areas of low (red) to green (high) relative tranquillity on a simplified colour palette across 500m x 500m grid squares for England. The maps were developed at a degree of resolution to be useful as a planning tool. They are multifactorial – representing



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42 positive and negative factors that can be seen or heard affecting tranquillity – and show the cumulative effects of various forms of development including roads, traffic noise, railways and associated noise, aviation, urban development, power lines, sky glow and wind turbines. Less tranquil areas have multiple negative factors; more tranquil areas lack these visually intrusive or noisy factors and have high levels of positives such as natural land cover, openness, woodland and dark skies.

Tranquillity map features:

- They are the best resource available as an indicator of tranquillity and there are no other such maps we are aware of
- They offer simple colour representations especially on county level maps to show areas worthy of protection in national terms and show the clear impact of urban development and roads
- They are based on existing national datasets including an Ordnance Survey underlay which enables precise grid reference mapping
- They use sophisticated GIS analysis including noise modelling, distance thresholds and assessment of visibility using distance and topography
- Each grid square has a tranquillity score on a national spectrum calculated on a consistent mathematical basis from scoring of multiple factors
- Scores can be re-scaled locally to show areas in a county or district of local relatively high tranquillity (see the locally re-scaled West Durham Coalfield map in Annex B)
- The weighting of factors is based on extensive participatory consultation with over 2,000 respondents to define and rank factors affecting tranquillity
- They are the result of an independent research study – see the full methodological report.

The national, regional and county maps are available from national office or <http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/tranquil-places?start=40>

Intrusion maps

In 2007 CPRE published a new set of intrusion maps which visualise and calculate the area of England affected by noise and visual disturbance. These maps were first developed as tranquil areas maps for the 1960s and 1990s published by CPRE /Countryside Commission from 1993-1995. In 2007 they were digitised and a new 2007 version created for CPRE by Land Use Consultants. They were renamed intrusion maps to avoid confusion with the new tranquillity maps and to emphasise their approach: this uses distance thresholds from factors of noise and visual disturbance such as roads, power lines and airports to define and identify undisturbed or tranquil areas. The maps from 1960s to 2007 provide a useful campaigning tool to visualise the increase in disturbed countryside over the past 50 years and the increased fragmentation of undisturbed countryside. They can be used to counter the argument that little of England's surface area is developed by showing that a much greater area is affected by various forms of development.

Key statistics were produced for England, regions, counties and unitary authorities. They show that by 2007 50% of the country was intruded upon by one or more such factors.

Maps and statistical tables are available from national office or

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/tranquil-places?limitstart=0>

For campaigning purposes they have particular value for demonstrating the risk of further loss of countryside to noise and visual disturbance and the importance of using tranquillity policy to protect remaining areas better. However, they do not differentiate between areas affected by single or multiple factors or the effect of positive landscape features. This means they can conflict with tranquillity mapping: areas can show up as disturbed or non-tranquil on these maps



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but that can still be important for their tranquillity. For detailed planning use, the newer, more complex tranquillity maps are preferable, though they can be more difficult to apply.

(iii) National tranquillity data set and intrusion mapping data set

CPRE acts as licensor for the National Tranquillity Mapping Data 2007 which was developed for CPRE and Natural England by Northumbria University. The data is available on CD for use with ESRI ArcReader software. It can be sent on request free of charge after completion of a standard end-user licence form. The data set can be used by local authorities, landscape or planning consultants and other bodies to analyse tranquillity scores and underlying weighted tranquillity map layers. It does not give access to base or raw data derived from other national data sets used to build the tranquillity maps. For more information please contact Graeme Willis at CPRE national office.

Land Use Consultants in London provide access to the national intrusion data set (2007). They can be contacted at: 43 Chalton Street, London, NW1 1JD; tel.: 020 7383 5784

(iv) Other useful mapping

Natural England National Character Areas

Natural England has divided the country into 159 different National Character Areas (NCAs) – formerly Joint Character Areas (JCAs) to provide a framework for profiling different landscapes. They have been used, for example, in targeting agri-environment schemes and to monitor landscape character change. Natural England have been updating all NCA profiles with the final six completed by April 2014. The new profiles include key facts and data and list environmental opportunities. The ‘Key facts and data’ section analyses tranquillity and intrusion under ‘experiential qualities of the area’ based on CPRE tranquillity and intrusion mapping and both are listed. The analysis section covers 19 ecosystem services including ‘a sense of tranquillity’ and assesses the main natural assets which contribute, the current state of tranquillity for the area and opportunities to maintain it. The NCA profiles could help shape the local plan and should inform the identification of any key areas of tranquillity identified within the county or district area. These maps could lend additional support for the campaign actions suggested.

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/default.aspx>



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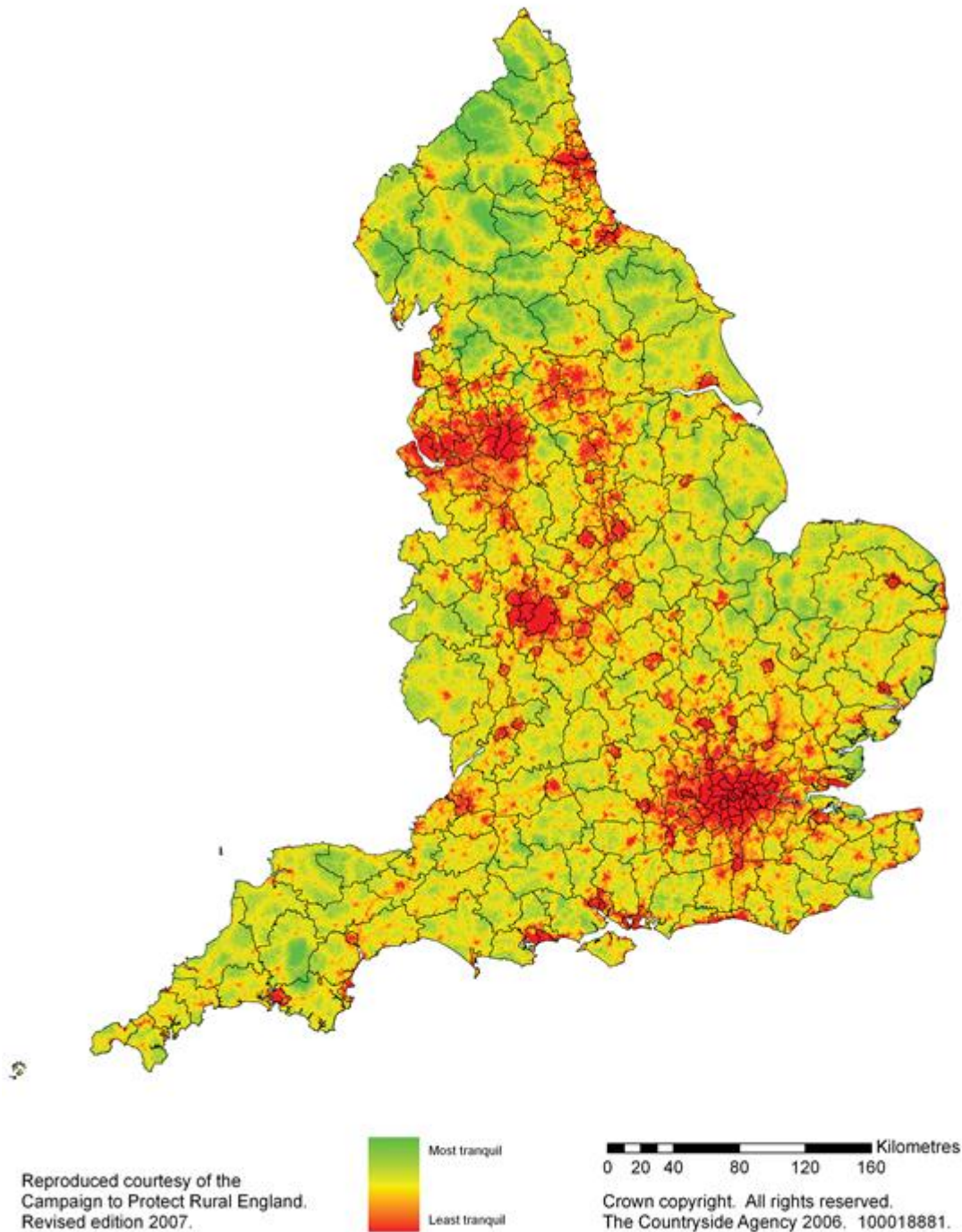
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ANNEX B: Tranquillity map of England



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National tranquillity map with 2001 district boundaries





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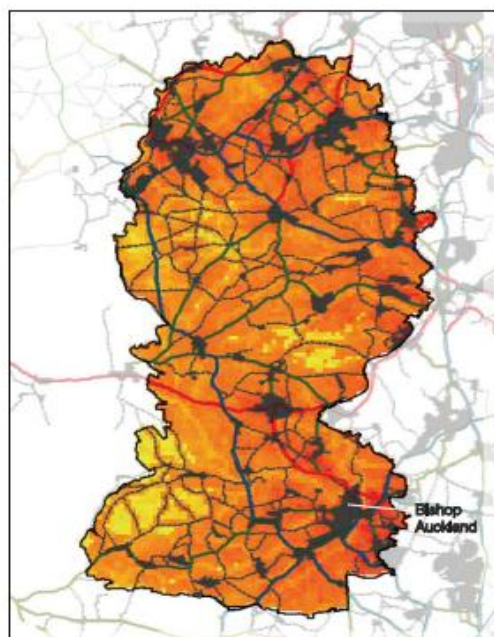
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ANNEX C: Examples of West Durham Coalfield area tranquillity mapping on regional and local scales

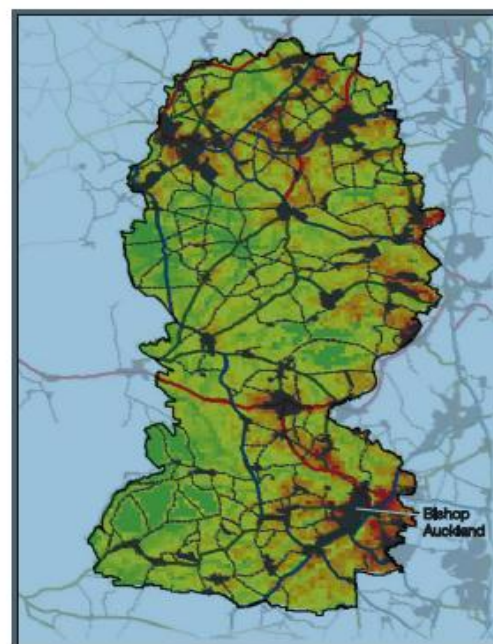
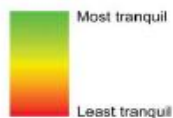


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Revealing hidden pockets of valuable tranquillity
in areas of higher disturbance



In an initial mapping of tranquillity across the North East region the West Durham Coalfield shows predominantly higher levels of disturbance.



A more sensitive mapping of tranquillity within the West Durham Coalfield reveals significant areas which remain valuable for their local tranquillity.



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ANNEX D: Examples of references to tranquillity in local plans

This example recognizes the importance of tranquillity to the distinctiveness of the area and for landscape character as well as its relationship to light pollution and dark skies. It includes descriptive text and policy.

Torridge District Council - Draft North Devon and Torridge Local Plan (2013 Consultation) Ch. 5 A World Class Environment

Policy ST11: Enhancing Environmental Assets

The quality of northern Devon's natural environment will be protected and enhanced by:

(d) ensuring development conserves and enhances northern Devon's local distinctiveness including its tranquillity, and the setting and special qualities of Exmoor National Park including its dark skies;

5.6

Away from the main towns large parts of northern Devon remain tranquil. The relatively large scale of the remaining tranquil areas (Figure 5.1 'Devon's Tranquil Areas') is important to the character of Devon, which scores the highest tranquillity level in the South West. Northern Devon's relative tranquillity is an important part of its landscape character and environment and includes dark skies without light pollution through sky glow. Development within northern Devon will safeguard these dark skies and opportunities will be taken to enhance this tranquillity and reduce light pollution.

CPRE's tranquillity map for the area is reproduced in figure 5.1.

Website: <http://consult.torridge.gov.uk/portal/planning/localplan/draft>

This example reflects the NPPF changes. Tranquillity is addressed in overarching sustainable development policy and under Development Management Policies in various sections. There is a dedicated section on tranquillity within **7.8 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment**. A tranquillity profile of the borough area is included based on the national tranquillity data set.

Swale Borough Council, Bearing Fruits 2031: The consultation draft Swale Borough Local Plan Part 1: August 2013

7.8.26 Tranquillity is a valuable resource that once lost is difficult to regain, it having benefits to health and well-being as well as to green infrastructure. It is associated with quiet places, surrounded by elements of nature and is most commonly found in an uncluttered and peaceful countryside, but also within urban areas – for instance in a leafy urban square or park where birdsong is audible. Tranquillity is also often associated with dark skies and the absence of light pollution from roads and built up areas.

7.8.27 Applicants should demonstrate how development will affect tranquillity and aim to at



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least maintain it or improving it when seeking to comply both with national planning policy and Policy DM24.

Policy ST 1 on Delivering sustainable development in Swale (extract):

In order to deliver the national policy for sustainable development and the Local Plan strategy for Swale, all parties and development proposals shall:

10. Conserve and enhance the natural environment by:

b. use of landscape character assessment to respect and integrate the intrinsic character, tranquillity and beauty of the countryside, especially to valued estuarine, woodland, dry valley and down-land landscapes;

Policy DM 24

Conserving and enhancing valued landscapes (extract)

The value, character, amenity and tranquillity of the Borough's landscapes will be protected, enhanced and, where appropriate, managed.

Policy DM 5 (extract)

The occupancy of holiday parks

Where it can be demonstrated that higher quality standards of holiday accommodation can be provided, planning permission will be granted for proposals to extend the occupancy of holiday parks between 1 March and 2 January the following year (a 10 month occupancy), provided that:

2. The amenity and tranquillity of the countryside and residential areas is safeguarded;

Website:

http://swale-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/cs/draft_local_plan?pointId=2594462#document-2594462

This example shows how tranquillity can be integrated within the authority's core strategy including its vision, spatial objectives and linked to a range of core strategy policies.

Northumberland National Park Authority Local Development Framework Core Strategy & Development Policies (March 2009)

Northumberland National Park Authority Vision

2.5 The National Park Authority vision is set out in the National Park Management Plan:

"Northumberland National Park Authority will be proactive, innovative and forward-looking, working towards a National Park with thriving communities and a sustainable local economy grounded in its special qualities, including a richness of cultural heritage and biodiversity, a true sense of tranquillity and a distinct character associated with a living, working landscape, in which everyone has an opportunity to understand, enjoy and contribute to those special qualities."

Section 3 identifies the special qualities of the National park which include its 'True sense of



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tranquillity'. Tranquillity is described as 'freedom from noise and visual disturbance' and 'a key component of experiencing the National Park.' The Northumbria research is referenced here. These special qualities are addressed in the Core Strategy spatial objectives in section 5 which include:

'A true sense of tranquillity – the peace and quiet which are increasingly rare and precious in the rest of the country;'

Section 10 is dedicated to tranquillity and sets out specific policy to protect and improve tranquillity with some detail of relevant factors:

Policy 19 Tranquillity

Development proposals which conserve or enhance the tranquillity of the National Park will be supported. In order to determine the extent to which tranquillity is affected there will be an assessment of the impact:

- a. of the level of noise, traffic and light generated as a result of the development;**
- b. on the sense of openness of the National Park; and**
- c. on the quiet enjoyment of the landscape.**

Tranquillity protection is assessed within the Implementation and Monitoring Framework which applies to all planning applications with indicators of success including: All newly permitted development acceptable against Policy 19 / Number of new buildings and infrastructure outside of settlements/ Number of new roads constructed within the Park/ Number of and usage of flight paths operating over the Park/ Amount of light pollution / Area of land classified as tranquil.

Tranquillity as a key spatial objective is cross-referenced to other relevant Core Strategy policies including policies on Delivering Sustainable Development, Development, Landscape Quality and Character, Trees, Woodlands and Forests, Minerals, Military Training, Waste Management and Utilities and Infrastructure.

Website:

http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/144275/cs_march_2009.pdf