

# Coalition Government Consultation Draft of National Planning Policy Framework

## The Society's response

1. ***Sustainable development*** must be re-defined. True sustainability is the preservation of natural resources for future generations while understanding that the environment has a finite capacity that must be respected. Sustainable development in the NPPF context is therefore meaningless. .
2. The concept that planning is intended to ***promote growth*** and is therefore driven by economics is a fundamental transfer of the role of planning which has been in existence since the 1940s. Planning regulation is required to preserve the quality of our landscape, its cultural heritage and biodiversity. Simply building more houses is not going to help the economy if there are no local jobs.
3. We ask that the ***brownfield first policy*** is reinstated and ensure protection is given to employment sites and allocations to promote regeneration.
4. Last and perhaps most important is to recognise the value of the countryside and afford it a ***presumption in favour of protection***. In slimming down the NPPF to just over 50 pages, we are concerned that there is too much generalisation which results in the default answer to development being “yes”, which is counter to the localism agenda being simultaneously promoted by the Coalition.

12.10.11