

Action Point 17

Council's response re rural exceptions housing in restraint villages (consistency with JCS Policy 13)

The Council's proposed modifications to Policy EN1 Spatial Development Strategy reflect the view that the four restraint villages of Armston, Wigsthorpe, Wakerley and Ashton are identified as rural outliers, where policies of restraint should be applied in line with section 2 of Policy 13 of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy.

These settlements are considered as a size and rural character that have more affinity with the open countryside than a defined, built up area or contain special attributes that counter the suitability to accommodate additional development.

Consequently, they are considered to form part of the open countryside as set out in section 2 of Joint Core Strategy Policy 13.

In the case of Ashton, this settlement is recognised as a rural outlier of character and special interest (through work undertaken with Historic England (para 4.25 of the Local Plan refers), where the capacity for change in the form of new development is considered to be very limited.

In conclusion, given the characteristics of these four settlements, it is not considered that rural exceptions schemes would meet the criteria set out in Policy 13 section 1, and that any future development is restricted to the proposals as set out in section 2 of Policy 13 only.