

## Campaign for National Parks

Question	Response
<b>Emailed letter</b>	<p>Geological disposal of radioactive waste in West Cumbria</p> <p>The Campaign for National Parks (CNP) welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation. CNP is the independent charity that inspires people to look after and enjoy National Parks.</p> <p>We recognise that consultation remains at an early stage and that no in principle decisions have yet been taken. However, there are a number of important principles relating to the Lake District National Park that should, in our view, be given greater prominence in the partnership's information and consultation materials and in the ensuing decision making process on siting.</p> <p>Page 42 – early consideration of planning policies, strategies and legislative frameworks</p> <p>CNP welcomes the reference to the importance of early consideration of planning policies, relevant strategies and the legislative framework. We believe that the test for assessing major or nationally significant infrastructure development proposals within National Parks should be specifically cited in future information materials emanating from the partnership. This is the key test against which any proposals will be assessed. All partners and decision makers should be made aware of the test and its presumption against major developments within National Parks from the outset.</p> <p>The Government continues to regard National Park designation as conferring the highest status of protection as far as landscape and natural beauty is concerned (paragraph 20, UK Government Vision and Circular 2010) – this protective status should also be referred to in future partnership materials.</p> <p>Page 62 – surface facilities within the National Park boundary</p> <p>CNP welcomes the recognition that current planning policies would rule out certain scenarios such as surface facilities within the National Park boundary. However, the policy framework governing nationally significant infrastructure or major development proposals within National Parks is much wider than this – the presumption against such developments applies regardless of their surface extent.</p> <p>The major development policy test requires both exceptional circumstances and public interest to be proven, and a number of criteria to be satisfied, including need in terms of national considerations, availability of alternatives and effects on the environment and the extent to which they could be moderated. CNP asks that these requirements and criteria are listed in the partnership's information materials in future.</p> <p>Page 69 – definition of 'community'</p> <p>We welcome the recognition that the term 'community' has to be considered in its broadest sense when considering community benefits and that 'communities of interest' includes National Park users and future generations. We suggest that a further community of interest is added – those people that do not or are no longer able to visit the National Park but who nevertheless have a view on the siting of a major infrastructure development within or close to the National Park boundary.</p>

	Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require clarification or amplification of any of the above.