

## **Appendix 3: Letter of support from Natural England**

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014



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Dear Mr Shears

### **PROPOSAL TO DECLARE THE FORMER EASINGTON COLLIERY SITE AS A LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (EASINGTON LNR)**

I am writing regarding the proposal to declare the former Easington Colliery site as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended).

Natural England's purpose is to conserve and enhance the natural environment for its intrinsic value, the wellbeing and enjoyment of people and the economic prosperity that it brings. Easington LNR, managed according to the management plan is of value to both local wildlife and the local community. As such, Natural England is delighted to support the declaration of the site as a LNR. Protecting this site and its habitats will allow it to continue to be used and valued by local people for recreation and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Thank you for showing me around the site, it is amazing how much it has changed over the years and I'm delighted that there is so much support from the local community.

Natural England confirms that it has been consulted on your proposal to declare Easington LNR a nature reserve under the provisions of Sections 19 and 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended). The requirements for consultation contained in Section 21(6) of that Act have therefore been met. As a member of the Engagement Local Delivery Team, I would like to formally welcome these proposals on behalf of Natural England.

The next step is for Durham County Council to make the necessary arrangements for the formal declaration of the reserve. This can be limited to the issuing of public notices or can be extended to include an event to celebrate the declaration.

Once the declaration is complete, we will need confirmation of the declaration date, and a copy of the declaration papers and a map showing the exact boundaries of the declared area. The site will also be promoted through Natural England's internet site finder. To ensure our records are up to date, I would be grateful if you could also complete and return to me the attached Local Nature Reserve Fact Sheet once the site has been declared.

If you are unsure about any part of the declaration process, please refer to the guidance booklet from our website (<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/31039?category=15005>) or contact me using the details below.

Yours sincerely

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