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**From:** [REDACTED]  
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## **Comment on the Emerging Strategy Paper**

In general this seems a thoughtful and rigorous approach to the review. I do however have a comment to make on settlement boundaries.

Whilst settlement boundaries are a somewhat crude tool they have the merit of being readily understood by both public and developers, and easily defensible against speculative development. It is a simple concept like Green belt and one of the few bits of planning that people can see is logical, much of the rest can often appear random and arbitrary.

I think it would be a big mistake to start blurring these by allowing exceptions. However, carefully worded the exceptions it will provide a Trojan horse for developers and over time it will be increasingly difficult to defend these at inquiry and the concept will become so porous as to become useless. That being said there is nothing to stop development boundaries being adjusted over time, either through neighbourhood plans or a process of review. In some cases there are already anomalies. But don't throw out the baby with the bath water because you will come to regret it.

