

# County Durham

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Mr Duncan Peake  
**Email:** [REDACTED]  
**Postcode:** [REDACTED]  
**Organisation Name:** Raby Estates (Representative of a local organisation)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Raby with Keverstone Parish Meeting

Raby Estates is a major employer and significant business which has been operating in Teesdale for centuries. Over the last 5 years we have made major investments across all our business operations and have more than doubled our employment numbers during that time. The Rising development at Raby Castle will open next year and will become a signature visitor attraction for Co Durham.

Raby Estates wishes to object to the Commission's recommendations relating to the proposed new boundary between the proposed Barnard Castle and Evenwood divisions. Raby's heritage and connections are with Teesdale. The Estate forms an essential part of the landscape character of Teesdale with its whitewashed farmhouses. The new boundary would create an artificial separation which would undermine community cohesion in Teesdale.

Raby has historically had strong connections with the Teesdale community. Our Ward Councillors understand those connections and can assess our investment plans with a deep understanding of the benefits we are able to bring to that local community. If the Commission's recommendations were approved then we believe those connections with the local community will be weakened thus affecting our confidence in bringing forward plans for further investment.

The marketing of our visitor business relies heavily on our connections with Teesdale. The Commission's proposals would create a disconnect between our community, visitor perceptions and how we are governed.

Raby Castle looks west towards Barnard Castle and the rest of Teesdale, and shares the characteristics and interests of the dale. We strongly urge the Commission to reconsider its current proposals, with a view to securing that Staindrop, Raby Park and the other parishes involved are not separated from the rest of Teesdale.

## Attached Documents:

*None attached*