

West Berkshire Council  
Council Offices  
Market Street  
Newbury  
Berkshire  
RG14 5LD

Your Ref

Our Ref CRTR-POL-2023-38137

Tuesday 28 February 2023

**Proposal: West Berks Local Plan Review Submission**

**Waterway: Kennet & Avon Canal**

Thank you for your consultation on the West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2022-2039 Proposed Submission.

We are the charity who look after and bring to life 2000 miles of canals & rivers. Our waterways contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green-blue infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. By caring for our waterways and promoting their use we believe we can improve the wellbeing of our nation.

The Kennet & Avon Canal runs broadly west to east through West Berkshire and is a well-loved, multi-functional asset, bring numerous benefits to the local area. The canal is clearly recognised as such by the Local Authority and the Trust notes that most of our comments made during earlier phases of the consultation process have been included in the submission draft, thank you. The Trust is supportive of the plan and finds it sound and legally compliant. We have no need to attend the Examination. We look forward to continuing to work with the Local Authority to promote, protect and improve the canal corridor for the benefit of both local residents and visitors to the area.

It is noted that the GTAA does not identify a need for houseboat dwellers and thus the LPR does not provide for any permanent houseboats. The Canal & River Trust cannot comment on whether such a need exists, however any perceived need for residential moorings in the future should be discussed with the Canal & River Trust to ensure that suitable locations are considered.

SP5

It is not clear why 'blue' has been removed at bullet point K. The plan refers to green and blue infrastructure numerous times within the plan.

**ESA6 Land adjacent to Padworth IWMF, Padworth Lane, Padworth (Site Ref: PAD4)**

This site is in close proximity to the Kennet & Avon Canal. We are pleased to note that there will a requirement for a traffic impact assessment to include the Padworth Swing Bridge, A detailed LVIA and contamination and ecological assessments. Such assessments should consider the adjacent canal and the need to adequately protect the water environment.

**Canal & River Trust**

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DM42

At para 12.98 the name of the Kennet & Avon Canal is incorrect. The 'and' should be replaced by an ampersand. We are pleased to note that opportunities at other locations, including use of the Kennet and Avon Canal towpath, will be sought where applicable). Please note however the parenthesis here is incorrect.

Finally, it is noted that the canal is incorrectly named at several other locations. At Para 5. 71 and Para 12.130 the name of the Kennet & Avon Canal is incorrect. The 'and' should be replaced by an ampersand.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Hennell MRTPI  
Area Planner



<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/specialist-teams/planning-and-design>

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