



**Canal &
River Trust**

Keeping people, nature & history connected

Statement on Behalf of Canal & River Trust

For

Tuesday 18 November 2014

Matter G: Spatial delivery of growth (BDP policies GA1-GA4 & GA7-GA10)

Greater Icknield

In Response to

Question 8 Does policy GA.2 make adequate reference to the protection and enhancement of the canals in the Greater Icknield area?

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Does policy GA.2 make adequate reference to the protection and enhancement of the canals in the Greater Icknield area?

We responded at submission consultation stage that developments should not adversely affect the integrity of the waterway structure, quality of the water, result in unauthorised discharges and run off or encroachment; detrimentally affect the landscape, heritage, ecological quality and character of the waterways; prevent the waterways potential for being fully unlocked or discourage the use of the waterway network. We consider our comments reflect the need to protect and enhance the canals within the area.

Although there is no specific reference in Policy GA.2 to the need for protection and enhancement of the canals, we note that it is a broad policy for this area and under the supporting text, in paragraph 5.36, reference is made to the canal network being a major feature of this area. It is in this paragraph that the need to protect and enhance the canals could be reinforced. This would be consistent with the wider document, for example at paragraph 3.9, where support for the canal network as a vital asset is highlighted and Policy TP7 Green Infrastructure Network which promotes the protection and enhancement of blue infrastructure. These parts of the plan are supported by us and are consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 114. At paragraph 114 Local Planning Authorities are required to plan positively for the “...creation, protection, enhancement and managements of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure...”. Within the Greater Icknield Area nine development sites are proposed and of these, six are adjacent to the canal network. For that reason we can see merit in highlighting the need to protect and enhance the canals within the supporting text at paragraph 5.36 with cross reference to policy TP7. The following text may address this:-

The canal network -Birmingham Main Line and Old Line Canal - is a major feature running through Greater Icknield. Due to limited public access and an isolated environment created by developments backing on to the canal, they are an under-used resource for both leisure and travel. The canals should be protected and enhanced in accordance with Policy TP7 Green Infrastructure Network