



**Canal &
River Trust**

Making life better by water

Strategic Planning Team
South Staffordshire Council
localplans@sstaffs.gov.uk

Your Ref

Our Ref CRTR-POL-2024-41599

Friday 10 May 2024

Dear Strategic Planning Team,

South Staffordshire Local Plan Review Regulation 19 Publication Plan Consultation 2024

Thank you for your consultation on the above document.

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 Canal & River Trust (the Trust) is a statutory consultee in the Development Management process, and as such we welcome the opportunity to input into planning policy related matters to ensure that our waterways are protected, safeguarded and enhanced within an appropriate policy framework.

The Trust provided comments on previous consultations. We note that several allocations have been removed from the plan that could affect the canal network within the plan area, including the strategic allocation at Land North of Linthouse Lane.

In our response on the previous Regulation 19 consultation¹ we did make comments in relation to Housing allocation - 006 Penkridge - Land at Boscomoor Lane, which was not included in earlier consultations. We welcome the amendments made to the supporting text recognising that towpath surface, as well as links to the towpath, should be provided, addressing our comments on that allocation.

In addition, we welcome the retention of text within Policy SA1 – Strategic development location: Land East of Bilbrook recognising that active travel improvements will be necessary.

The Shropshire Union Canal towpath adjacent to this site is part of Sustrans National Cycling Network route 81. Parts of this towpath have been upgraded between the site and Autherley Canal Junction to the south, allowing better quality active travel routes into Wolverhampton. However, some sections have yet to be upgraded, including the section opposite this site.

We have no further comments to make on the April 2024 version of the Publication Plan (Regulation 19).

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

¹ Our Ref. CRTR-POL-2022-37575

Canal & River Trust Planning Team

Canal & River Trust, National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port South Pier Road Ellesmere Port Cheshire CH65 4FW
T: 0151 355 5017 E: nationalwaterwaysmuseum@canalrivertrust.org.uk W: canalrivertrust.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Richard Forbes MRTPI

Area Planner

Richard.Forbes@canalrivertrust.org.uk

07796 027502

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

Canal & River Trust Planning Team

Canal & River Trust, National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port South Pier Road Ellesmere Port Cheshire CH65 4FW

T: 0151 355 5017 **E:** nationalwaterwaysmuseum@canalrivertrust.org.uk **W:** canalrivertrust.org.uk

Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Canal & River Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, registered office address National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port, South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 4FW