



**Canal &
River Trust**

Making life better by water

tony.blackburn@hyndburnbc.gov.uk.

Your Ref

Our Ref CRTR-POL-2025-44798

Tuesday 19 August 2025

Dear Mr Blackburn,

Local Plan Examination Matters, Issues, Questions

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.

Policy EP4

Question 29

The Examiner queries whether a further pedestrian and cycle bridge is required over the canal and the implications that this may have on delivery and viability of the allocation. We have the following points to make on this matter which can hopefully be taken into account.

In principle, a pedestrian/cycle bridge over the canal could offer improved connectivity and encourage active travel. The location is however quite sensitive, especially given the canal is in a cutting at this point. We would want to ensure that any crossing is designed to sit comfortably within the canal corridor and does not compromise its character or ecological value.

Any proposed bridge crossing over the canal would require the Canal & River Trusts permission as the landowner which would be subject to contract and the reaching of mutually agreeable terms, and any works impacting canal infrastructure would also need to fulfil the requirements of the "Code of Practice for Works Affecting the Canal & River Trust". Costs associated with this agreement would need to be borne by the applicant.

If a new pedestrian and cycle bridge is specified within the policy then we would welcome the reference to the need for our separate consent within the supporting text of the policy.

Canal & River Trust Spatial Planning Team

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Policy SP21 – The Leeds & Liverpool Canal

Question 19

The Examiner queries whether the policy should seek to conserve and enhance the heritage assets which form part of the canal and its corridor.

We consider that the inclusion of heritage within policy SP21 would strengthen the protection to specifically identified canal heritage assets. That stated however, both designated and non-designated heritage assets are protected by SP19.

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

Yours sincerely,

Tim Bettany-Simmons MRTPI
Senior Planner – Major Projects & Infrastructure



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

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