



Canal &
River Trust

Keeping people, nature & history connected

17 December 2015

Our Ref DAF/NP/LDF/SL
Your Ref

Development Plans Manager
South Lakeland District Council
South Lakeland House
Lowther Street
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4DQ

Dear Sirs

Local Plan Development Management Policies - Issues & options Discussion Paper

Thank you for consulting the Canal & River Trust on the above document.

The Trust recognises the important role played by all levels of the planning system in not only protecting its network of canals, rivers and docks from inappropriate development; but also in protecting and enhancing the natural and historic waterway environment and unlocking the waterway network's economic, social and environmental value. Around 96 per cent of land adjacent to the Trusts waterways is outside of its control which can pose many challenges to the Trust, such as from waterside development and regeneration activities placing extra liabilities and burdens upon the waterway infrastructure, as well as opportunities for restoration and enhancement.

The Trust is therefore keen to ensure that planning policies at all levels, acknowledge and support the multifunctional roles of canals, rivers and docks in terms of:

- being a form of strategic and local infrastructure performing multiple functions such as sustainable transport, open space and green infrastructure, land drainage and water supply as well as flood alleviation, which is likely to be affected by all scales and types of development;
- their roles in improving the physical environment, opportunities for people and the wider economy;
- their contribution to supporting climate change, carbon reduction and environmental sustainability;
- the public benefits that can be and are being generated by our canals, rivers and docks;
- support future development, regeneration and improvement of canals, rivers and docks
- protect the heritage, environmental and recreational value of canals, rivers and docks and to safeguard them against inappropriate development;

- support their ability to deliver economic, social and environmental benefits to local communities and the nation as a whole, (currently valued at in excess of £500 million per annum); and
- secure the long-term sustainability of inland waterway network, their corridors and adjoining communities.

Further information on the multifunctional role of inland waterways can be found in the TCPA Policy Advice Note: Inland Waterways: Unlocking the potential and securing the future of inland waterways through the planning system (2009). Links below

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/library/543.pdf>

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With regards to the consultation document the Trust would make the following comments.

The Canal & River Trust is keen to ensure that future policies continue to not only protect the line of the Kendal-Lancaster canal by ensuring that development does not prevent or impede its future restoration but also maximise opportunities for its enhancement and wider public use, recognising its multi-functional nature.

The Trust does not consider it sufficient to rely on National and Core Strategy policy guidance to achieve these objectives and believes the most appropriate approach to be the retention of a separate policy – amended as appropriate - relating to the Kendal-Lancaster Canal. Reference to the Canal as a potential source of green infrastructure / open space /heritage asset within the plan policies would also be appropriate reflecting its value as more than just a recreational route.

I hope that these comment have been of assistance to you but please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any of these matter further. I look forward to seeing the future draft of your plan.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Debbie Fifer B.Sc (Hons) Dip TP MRTPI

Senior Area Planner North and North Wales / Uwch Gynllunydd Ardal Gogledd Gogledd Cymru