

This is advice on just one heritage-related policy which we think is important, but you may like to comment on different policies or development sites. We are also providing guidance on some of these.

Aligning policies for the green and historic environments

This document describes a simple and helpful response that you can make to the consultation on the draft Sheffield Plan. Chapter 8 “A Green City – Responding to the Biodiversity Emergency” includes policies which we believe are potentially in conflict with the heritage of the city’s waterways. It is vital that policies intended to improve biodiversity and respond to climate change also conserve historic waterways and waterpower infrastructure and not harm them, for example by altering their banks, using them as storage, or destroying weirs.

To comment on the plan online, go to <https://haveyoursaysheffield.uk.engagementhq.com/draft-local-plan>. You will need to register to make a comment. Once you have registered, click on Make a Representation and the first page of the online form will be displayed.

Questions 1 and 2: answer these if they apply to you.

Q3: Choose “Part 2: Development Management Policies and Implementation”.

Q4: Choose “Chapter 8: Green City – Responding to the Biodiversity Emergency”.

Q5: We think this part of the plan is legally compliant, so suggest answering “Yes”.

Q6: We don’t think this part of the plan is sound, so suggest answering “No”.

Q7: We think this part of the plan complies with the duty to co-operate, so suggest answering “Yes”.

Q8: Here is a suggested answer. You can copy it, or you can use your own words or add to it if you prefer.

Policy GS5 calls for development to protect and promote biodiversity. Policy GS6 builds on this by requiring Biodiversity Net Gain. Policies GS9, GS10 and GS11 concern flood risk, water resources and drainage. All have the potential for impact on waterways and waterpower infrastructure, but nowhere in these policies is their heritage value acknowledged, and neither is there any reference to the value of artificial waterways as habitat nor their potential to assist in flood risk mitigation. These are serious omissions, and the policies as they stand constitute a threat to Sheffield's river valleys and their complex system of man-made infrastructure, described in the Council’s Sheffield Waterways Strategy as a globally important place.

These policies currently fall very significantly short of providing sufficiently for the conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment (NPPF 20(d)), recognising historic waterways as an irreplaceable resource to be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance (NPPF 189) or a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment (NPPF 190).

Q9: Here is a suggested answer. You can copy it, or you can use your own words or add to it if you prefer.

The wording of policies GS5, GS6, GS9, GS10 and GS11 must be amended to refer explicitly to and protect the heritage value of historic waterways and waterpower infrastructure, and their settings. There should be specific prohibition of measures such as the destruction of historic weirs, changes to water levels in dams and goits, or decanalisation of historic artificial channels.

Q10 & 11: You can also ask to participate in hearing sessions about your feedback with the Planning Inspector.

Once you are happy with what you have entered, click Submit. You can go on to make more submissions to comment on different policies or development sites.

If you would rather send your response by email or post, see the instructions at the bottom of the next page.

Responding by email or post

Responding online is the simplest option, but it is also possible to use email or post. You will need to download and complete the form "Regulation 19 Consultation Form" (Word document). To find this, go to <https://haveyoursaysheffield.uk/engagementhq.com/draft-local-plan>, scroll down under "Draft Sheffield Plan Documents" on the right of your screen until you see "Supporting Documents" and click on this. The form is the first document in the list.

Fill in your personal details in Part A Question 1, and your name at the top of Part B.

Q3: enter "Chapter 8" against Policy Number.

Q4.(1): We think this part of the plan is legally compliant, so suggest answering "Yes".

Q4.(2): We don't think this part of the plan is sound, so suggest answering "No".

Q4.(3): We think this part of the plan complies with the duty to co-operate, so suggest answering "Yes".

Q5: We suggest using or adapting the answer to Q8 of the online form (see previous page).

Q6: We suggest using or adapting the answer to Q9 of the online form (see previous page).

Q7 & 8: You can also ask to participate in hearing sessions about your feedback with the Planning Inspector.

Email to sheffieldplan@sheffield.gov.uk or post to: Strategic Planning Team, Planning Service, 4th Floor, Howden House, Sheffield S1 2SH

You can submit several copies of Part B of the form to comment on different policies or development sites.