

Thank you for consulting the Canal & River Trust on the Kempsey Neighbourhood Development Plan, Regulation 16 Submission Draft document.

The Canal & River Trust does not own or maintain any Canal as it runs through the plan area however we note that part of the plan area borders the River Severn. The Canal & River Trust act as Navigation Authority on this stretch of river.

The river itself is a Non Statutory Wildlife Zone and the Kempsey Upper Ham Non Statutory Wildlife Zone also borders the river. There are two moorings sites within the plan area but these are not in control or ownership of the Trust.

We are pleased to note that Submission Draft document at Policy K7 mentions the river as a “Valued landscape”. It also states that the River Severn in Kempsey village is to be “protected and enhanced for its visual, cultural, historical, archaeological and architectural interest”. The river also provides a “wildlife corridor as well as providing essential land drainage for a large area extending well outside Kempsey”.

The Trust supports these aims but would suggest that the river corridor can also act as a sustainable transport route and acts a free leisure and health resource. The river is a perfect example of multi-functional green infrastructure and it is surprising that this does not appear to be recognised in the South Worcestershire Plan.

The River Severn is also suitable to carry freight, and the Trust has promoted its use in various planning applications for quarrying alongside the river as well in various Worcestershire Local Plan documents. Such a use may be promoted on this stretch of river in the future.

Further guidance on positively planning for waterways is contained in a Policy Advice note prepared jointly by the Town and Country Planning association, and British Waterways (as we were at the time of writing) and can be found [here](#). Whilst this guidance pre-dates Neighbourhood Plans and was written predominantly with regard to canals, it is still a useful tool in understanding the range of benefits any waterway can bring to an area and Appendix 1 of this document deals with how planning policies at all levels can help to positively improve our waterways.