



**Canal &
River Trust**

Making life better by water

Charnwood Borough Council
Planning Services
Southfield Road
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE11 2TN

Your Ref

Our Ref CRTR-POL-2022-36698

Friday 19 August 2022

Dear Seb Wilkins

Proposal: Sileby Neighbourhood Plan Review Reg 16 consultation

Waterway: Grand Union Canal/River Soar Navigation

Thank you for your consultation.

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 Trust is a statutory consultee in the Development Management process.

The Trust is operator and Navigation Authority for the Grand Union Canal/River Soar Navigation which forms the western boundary of the Plan area.

The Plan appears unlikely to have any impact on the canal, but we note the inclusion of Policy T6 which we consider offers positive support for the role the canal plays as both a wildlife habitat and a reminder of the industrial heritage of the locality and we consider that this policy will assist in protecting and enhancing the value of the canal as an important feature in the locality and ensure that new development affecting the canal helps to achieve the aims of the River Soar and Grand Union Canal Strategy.

We consider that the identification of the aim of improving connectivity to the canal towpath is also appropriate and could assist in encouraging greater use of the towpath as both a recreational resource and as a walking and cycling route linking to the surrounding area and the wider walking and cycling network.

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

Yours sincerely,

Ian Dickinson MRTPI

Area Planner

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

Canal & River Trust

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