
Part A – Personal details

1. Are you responding as: (please tick one box)

☐

An individual

☒

A business or organisation

☐

An agent

2. Your name, postal address and email (where applicable) are required for your comments to be considered.

	Personal Details	Agent Details (if applicable)
Title	<input type="text" value="Mr"/>	<input type="text"/>
Full Name	<input type="text" value="Rod Hacker"/>	<input type="text"/>
Organisation (if relevant)	<input type="text" value="Wilts and Berks Canal Trust"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job Title (if relevant)	<input type="text" value="Head of Planning"/>	<input type="text"/>
Address Line 1	<input type="text" value="Dauntsey Lock Canal Centre"/>	<input type="text"/>
Address Line 2	<input type="text" value="Dauntsey Lock"/>	<input type="text"/>
Address Line 3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Postal Town	<input type="text" value="Chippenham"/>	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	<input type="text" value="SN15 4HD"/>	<input type="text"/>
Telephone Number	<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text"/>

Part B – Your comments

Comments on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule and its associated Evidence Documents

Please indicate which of the following documents you wish to comment on by ticking one box below. (If you wish to comment on more than one document and/or on more than one part of a document, please complete a separate form for each response.)	
Draft Charging Schedule, January 2021	✓
CIL Viability Assessment, April 2019	
CIL Viability Assessment Addendum, August 2020	
CIL Viability Assessment Executive Summary, October 2020	
Infrastructure Funding Gap Statement, January 2021	
Page/Paragraph Number (please specify where relevant)	General comment on whole document

3. YOUR COMMENTS (If you would like to see a document amended in any way, it would be helpful if you could explain what changes you are seeking):

The objectives of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust (WBCT) are to protect, conserve and improve the route of the Wilts & Berks and North Wilts Canals, and branches, for the benefit of the community and environment, with the ultimate goal of restoring a continuous navigable waterway linking the Kennet and Avon Canal near Melksham, Wiltshire, the River Thames near Abingdon, Oxfordshire and the Thames and Severn Canal near Cricklade, Wiltshire. The aim is to create a sustainable and bio-diverse blue and green corridor that provides a host of attractive life style and economic benefits to our communities and to visitors, as well as providing a safe and welcoming habitat for wildlife.

Already several kilometres of canal and canal towpath have been restored. There is active engagement with many landowners along the length of the canal and there are specific restoration and maintenance projects in progress at various locations along the route including major development schemes in some of the more challenging sections in urban areas. The Wiltshire Swindon and Oxfordshire Canal Partnership, which includes all the local authorities along the line of the canal, supports the aim of the WBCT and has produced a Restoration Strategy for the Completion and Future Development of the Wilts & Berks Canal. [Overview of Wilts & Berks Canal Restoration \(wbct.org.uk\)](http://wbct.org.uk).

The adopted Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2, Policy DP32: Wilts and Berks Canal, safeguards a continuous route corridor for restoration of the Wilts & Berks Canal; and this is shown on the adopted Policies Map. Policy 32 includes the following:

“Where directly related to the development, financial contributions may be sought via legal agreements towards the improvement or restoration of the related canal and towpaths and appropriate mitigation.”

Explanatory text paragraph 3.274 states:

“The Council will support appropriate measures to improve access to the Wilts and Berks Canal. Development proposals located on or adjacent to the route of the canal will be expected to contribute towards the improvement or restoration of the canal. Financial contributions will have to comply with relevant legislation and national advice.”

WBCT notes that development not involving buildings (which would generally include canal restoration work) is not CIL chargeable development and that, in any case, development by charities for charitable purposes is exempt from CIL. WBCT is a registered charity and therefore canal restoration work carried out by WBCT would not be subject to CIL. It is also noted that certain strategic development sites are proposed to be zero rated for CIL but would be liable for S106 contributions to fund infrastructure.

WBCT further notes that the Vale of White Horse District Council Community Infrastructure Levy – Spending Strategy – April 2021, in Table 2 on page 3 allocates 30% of CIL to provision of new infrastructure as identified by the Council’s Infrastructure Delivery Plan and/or corporate priorities and enhancement of existing infrastructure providing that this supports development. Paragraph 21 of this document, on page 5, states that developments liable for S106 planning obligations will continue to secure funding for on-site specific infrastructure needs, as well as an element of offsite infrastructure.

In addition, WBCT notes that in the Vale of White Horse District Council Updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan December 2016, in Appendix 1 on page 60 under District Wide Infrastructure, the projects listed include Restoration of the Wilts and Berks Canal, for funding through CIL. The lead delivery agent is given as being WBCT and it is stated: "Requests for contributions will be considered in relation to specific planning applications. WBCT must demonstrate that the infrastructure need is directly linked to the new development proposed."

Taking these factors into account, WBCT generally supports the Draft CIL Charging Schedule, January 2021 and has no specific comments to make on this document or on any of the related CIL documents.

WBCT would take this opportunity to express its willingness to work with Vale of White Horse District Council, together with other relevant agencies and local landowners, in the promotion, planning, implementation and delivery of specific projects for restoration of sections of the Wilts & Berks Canal as and when opportunities arise, in particular in conjunction with housing and other development adjacent or close to the canal route, in accordance with Local Plan (Part 2) Policy DP32: Wilts and Berks Canal.

You may also submit any supporting documents alongside your comments - please attach to this comment form.

Participation at the Independent Examination of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule

4. In accordance with Regulation 21 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010, please indicate (by ticking the box below) whether you wish to be heard by the independent Examiner at the Examination of the Council's Draft Charging Schedule.

☐ Yes, I wish to be heard by the independent Examiner at the Examination

Further Notification on Progress with the Examination of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule

5. In accordance with Regulation 16 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010, please indicate (by ticking the relevant box below) whether you wish to be notified by the Council that:

- ☒ The Draft Charging Schedule has been submitted to the Examiner
- ☒ The recommendations of the Examiner (and the reasons for those recommendations) have been published
- ☒ The Charging Schedule has been approved by the Vale of White Horse District Council

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE.

How to submit your comments:

Please return this form to us, either by:

- email to planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk (with Vale CIL Consultation in the subject line); or
- by post to 'Freepost SOUTH AND VALE CONSULTATIONS' (no other address information or stamp is needed).

Please note the deadline for submission of comments is **midnight on Monday 8 February 2021.**