



The Future of Linslade

Local knowledge. Better decisions.

Reviewing the Green & Blue Infrastructure Plan

Observations from the PRoW 60 Landscape Corridor in South-West Linslade

A guide to some of the issues residents may wish to consider when responding to the Leighton-Linslade Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation.

Why we reviewed the Plan

The Green & Blue Infrastructure Plan is one of the key evidence documents supporting the Leighton-Linslade Neighbourhood Plan. It helps identify the landscapes, habitats, Public Rights of Way, water environment and other natural assets that will inform planning decisions across the parish.

As local residents, we wanted to understand how the Plan describes Public Right of Way 60 (PRoW 60) — the public footpath that runs from the Southcott Stud area to Derwent Road through the countryside of south-west Linslade.

After reviewing the document, one overarching observation emerged.

Our Main Observation

We are concerned that the role of the PRoW 60 Landscape Corridor has not been fully recognised within the Green & Blue Infrastructure evidence supporting the Neighbourhood Plan (which makes it seem as if it is not an important piece of land)

Why your response matters

The Regulation 16 consultation is an important stage in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. The independent examiner will consider the comments received before deciding whether any changes to the Plan or its supporting evidence should be recommended.

Even a short response highlighting one or two issues that matter to you can help ensure that local knowledge and lived experience are taken into account.

What to do if you concur with our assessment

If, having reviewed this guide and the Green & Blue Infrastructure Plan, you reach a similar conclusion, you may wish to begin your response with an overarching observation before commenting on the issues that matter most to you (email guide as at the end of this document).

For example:

"Having reviewed the Green & Blue Infrastructure Plan, I am concerned that the role of Public Right of Way 60 through the countryside of south-west Linslade has not been fully recognised within the evidence supporting the Neighbourhood Plan."

You can then explain your own observations or experiences, for example:

- how frequently you use PRoW 60;
- why the route is important to you;
- wildlife you have personally observed;
- the landscape and views;
- groundwater, springs, wet ground or flooding;
- the importance of the route for walking, running or accessing the countryside.

Please use your own words wherever possible and only comment on matters you have personally observed or experienced while using the recognised Public Right of Way.

The following sections explain why we reached that conclusion and identify the points we will be asking the examiner to review.

1. Landscape

Relevant section in the Green & Blue Infrastructure Plan

Section 5 – Landscape

What we observed

- PRoW 60 is one of the principal countryside routes serving south-west Linslade.
- Public views towards the Chiltern escarpment are not specifically recognised.
- Historic Landscape Character identifies ancient enclosure patterns.
- BGS mapping indicates Lower Greensand beneath much of the corridor.

What we will be asking the examiner to review

- Has the landscape surrounding PRoW 60 been fully recognised?
- Should the public views and historic landscape receive greater recognition?
- Should the relationship between landscape character and geology be clarified?

2. Biodiversity

Relevant section in the Green & Blue Infrastructure Plan

Section 6 – Biodiversity

What we observed

- Residents regularly observe bats, badgers, owls, muntjac, pheasants, butterflies and mature hedgerows.
- The corridor connects directly with Bridleway 52 towards Stoke Hammond and Stewkley.
- The corridor is not highlighted as a Biodiversity Opportunity Area.

What we will be asking the examiner to review

- Has the biodiversity value of PRoW 60 been fully recognised?
 - Has its role as an ecological corridor been fully considered?
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3. Historic Environment

Relevant section in the Green & Blue Infrastructure Plan

Section 7 – Historic Environment

What we observed

- The corridor includes the historic mill pond and feeder channels.
- Historic Landscape Character identifies ancient enclosure patterns.
- The historic water landscape receives relatively little recognition.

What we will be asking the examiner to review

- Has the historic water landscape been fully recognised?
 - Could the relationship between heritage and Blue Infrastructure be explained more clearly?
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4. Recreation and Green Space

Relevant section in the Green & Blue Infrastructure Plan

Section 8 – Open Space, Access and Recreation

What we observed

- The Plan recognises the importance of PRoW 60 for residents of south-west Linslade.
- PRoW 60 provides countryside recreation rather than formal open space.
- The surrounding landscape is what gives the route its recreational value.

What we will be asking the examiner to review

- Has the recreational value of the landscape surrounding PRoW 60 been fully recognised?
 - Does the evidence distinguish between formal green space and countryside recreation?
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5. Blue Infrastructure

Relevant section in the Green & Blue Infrastructure Plan

Section 9 – Blue Infrastructure

Relevant figures: Figure 6a and Figure 6b

What we observed

- Figures 6a and 6b identify Natural Flood Management and a substantial Blue Lens Opportunity across the corridor.
- Residents observe springs, seepages, wet ground and historic watercourses.
- Surface water mapping and local flooding observations suggest an important hydrological role.
- The narrative gives limited explanation of the Blue Lens Opportunity.

What we will be asking the examiner to review

- Has the hydrological role of PRoW 60 been fully assessed?
 - Would further clarification of the Blue Lens Opportunity and groundwater evidence be helpful?
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6. The Green Wheel

Relevant section in the Green & Blue Infrastructure Plan

Page 39 – The Green Wheel

What we observed

- The Green Wheel appears to give relatively little emphasis to the PRoW 60 Landscape Corridor.
- The corridor links recreation, biodiversity, landscape, heritage, Blue Infrastructure and access to the wider countryside.

What we will be asking the examiner to review

- Does the Green Wheel fully reflect the role of PRoW 60?
 - Could the corridor be shown more clearly as a strategic countryside connection?
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Writing Your Response

There is no minimum or maximum length. You can write as much or as little as you wish. If you agree with our main observation, you may wish to begin by explaining that you are concerned PRow 60 has not been fully recognised within the Green & Blue Infrastructure evidence, before adding your own observations and experiences.

How to Submit Your Response

Email: localplan@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Subject: Leighton-Linslade Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation

Deadline: 11:59 pm, Thursday 6 August

Every Response Matters

Even one or two comments, written in your own words and based on your own experience, can help ensure local knowledge is considered before the Neighbourhood Plan is finalised.