



Wilts & Berks Canal Trust

Dauntsey Lock Canal Centre,
Chippenham SN15 4HD

Office: 0845 625 1977

Email: info@wbct.org.uk

www.wbct.org.uk

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

2nd October 2026

Wiltshire Planning Department
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
BA14 8JN

FAO Mr Oliver Phippen

Dear Sirs,

Further Consultation on PL/2026/02160 - Solar Farm at Studley Grange Landfill Site

The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust objected to the application by its letter of 27th May 2026 in response to the first consultation on the grounds that the application gives inadequate consideration to safeguarding of the canal and its benefits to users. This response concerns the additional information provided since then, specifically the revised Proposed Illustrative Landscaping Plan and the letter from Heatons in response to the objection.

First, a correction to the statement on page 1 of the Heatons letter concerning ownership. The Biffa Group owns the freehold of the land including the corridor containing the canal and its towpath. However, the trust has a 125 year lease on the canal land which gives it full management control including control of access. For this reason the Trust should have been included in the list of local consultees from the start. This may have avoided some of the concerns raised.

The Heatons letter discusses the other issues raised by the Trust at some length. The Trust does not propose to pursue these further except for the matters of visual intrusion and safety on the Public Right of Way LTRE59.

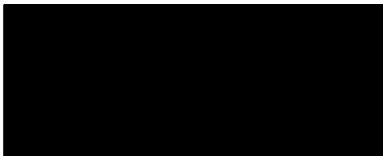
The revised Illustrative Landscaping Plan (without a drawing number) now shows hedgerow planting alongside the canal corridor as discussed in the Heatons letter. The Trust accepts that this can be a visual screen and would provide substantial amelioration of the impact on people walking along the towpath once it has grown to a mature height. The hedgerow should be planted no later than the first planting season after construction commences.

The Heatons letter discusses safety for pedestrians on the PROW LTE59 and the measures that can be incorporated in a Construction Management Plan. The submitted documents include a Construction Traffic Management Plan which makes no mention of the PROW and does not propose any of the measures discussed.



The Trust believes that the two issues above, timely planting of a visual barrier and safety measures for pedestrians, should be requirements of any consent for this application. If both are effectively incorporated by way of revised, approved documents or conditions the Trust will withdraw its objection.

Yours faithfully,



Rod Hacker
WBCT Head of Planning

rod.hacker@wbct.org.uk
07840 072817

