

Comment

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Event Name Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

Comment by 

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Q1. To which document do your comments relate? Wickersley NDP Submission Version April 2021

Q2. Do you wish to? Make Observations

Q3. Please provide your comments below making clear which part of the document you are referring to (specifying relevant paragraphs, tables, figures, boxes or appendices).

The Sheffield Area Geology Trust notes that, although the Plan gives respect for biodiversity, there is no mention of geodiversity. Thus in GS1, Green infrastructure, it states, "Aim for biodiversity net gain". Most of the Character Designations for our region are based on the underlying geology, without which it is impossible to understand the flora and fauna of, say the "Magnesian Limestone" bedrock. In order to understand the geology, it needs to be visible at the surface wherever possible, so that it can be studied anew, as ideas of interpretation develop and as different resources are sought. For example there is a developing need to locate suitable underground structures for carbon capture and storage and the properties of the rocks need to be investigated at outcrop.

Located on the north-western margins of the Plan, there is one Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Site, namely Brecks Quarries. Minor exposures occur on Almond Glade and in a very small digging in Wickersley Wood. The area to the west of St Alban's Church, now entirely built over, was formerly occupied by an extensive set of shallow quarries where the Wickersley Sandstone was extracted for highly-prized grindstones for the cutlery industry.

Q4. Suggested modifications. If you consider that amendments should be made then it will be helpful if you could put forward any suggested wording changes.

There is therefore a need for the term "geodiversity" to be added to the sections of the Plan where biodiversity features and the Plan needs to be aware of the historic importance of the extractive industries of the past. Where development exposes fresh geological material, a relatively small amount

of effort may be able to reveal and sustain exposures of the geology, and hopefully, geologists alerted to the opportunity to investigate exposures before they disappear under houses."

Q5. Do you wish to be notified of the Council's decision under Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulation 2012 whether to accept the Examiners' recommendation? (please tick)

Yes, please notify me of the Council's decision