

Strategic Planning  
Bromsgrove District Council  
Parkside  
Market Street  
Bromsgrove  
Worcestershire  
B61 8DA

26 March 2026

To whom it may concern,

**RE: Wythall Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 16 Consultation**

Worcestershire County Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the above consultation. The following officer-only response is from our Historic Environment and Public Rights of Way Team. Worcestershire County Council teams may choose to make their own response.

If you would like to discuss any of these comments, please do not hesitate to contact Michael Smaje (email:

[redacted] in the first instance.

Emily Barker  
Head of Planning  
and Transport  
Planning

Yours Sincerely,

[redacted]

*Emily Barker*

Head of Planning and Transport Planning

## Historic Environment and Landscape

The draft plan clearly sets out to protect non-designated heritage assets within this predominately rural parish with 'Maintaining and protecting local identity and assets' a key policy theme. We commend the steering groups consultation with the County Historic Environment Record and the development of the Wythall Parish List of Local Heritage Assets which identifies 20 non-designated heritage assets that they would like recognised and protected due to the important contribution they make to the distinctive local character of the parish. We would recommend that the plan, however, should make clear that inclusion on the list is not necessary for the application of wider heritage policy.

## Public Rights of Way

We note that the Figure 20 and Table 9 of the Wythall Neighbourhood plan regulation 15 submission discuss active travel improvements. As part of these, the following routes are suggested as cycle routes but in part run over existing public footpaths recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement for Worcestershire.

- RC3
- BC4
- LGW3

It should be noted that the footpaths on these routes currently only have legal rights for walkers. If the route is going to be changed in status, a legal order would be needed to dedicate higher rights. This would require landowner consent and sign-up.

In addition, before any changes were made to existing public rights of way, the public rights of way team should be consulted. This includes surfacing/changes to width or furniture on the routes.