

# **Sowerby Neighbourhood Plan**

## **CALDERDALE COUNCIL AND SOWERBY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S QUESTIONS**

**Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council**

**May 2021**



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**EXAMINER'S QUESTIONS 12.05.2021**

As part of the Sowerby Neighbourhood Plan Examination the Examiner, Robert Bryan, has requested the Council and Sowerby Neighbourhood Forum respond to an additional question regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. The question and response are set out below:

**Examiner's Question:**

Policy SNPP16 proposes a degree of protection to non-designated heritage assets. There are some areas of woodland and open space, listed in appendix B, which appear to be included on account of their popularity as recreational areas or their ecological or environmental merits rather than their heritage significance. The fact that they may have been popular for a period of time is not sufficient to warrant this designation without some other more specific inherent heritage claim. These include no.9 Rawson Wood, no.12 Nether Ends Beck. and no. 13 White Windows Woods. Are there any heritage elements to these sites which I should be aware of?

**Council/Forum Response:**

**No. 13 White Windows Woods** - Historic maps show the site has been largely wooded since at least the mid-nineteenth century and are the remains of the estate there. White Windows estate was owned by a prominent family and while the building has been protected the estate has not. The listing description does not refer to the garden/park area. However, this in no way suggests that the area is of no importance or significance. The building was listed in 1966 and at that time listing descriptions were brief and were largely for identification purposes.

The woods perform a valuable function and contributes to the significance of the heritage asset. However, issues of curtilage in relation to listed buildings are often a matter for further research and the Forum wants to ensure the woods protection, similarly to how Locally Listed Parks and Gardens are protected in HE1 of the Local Plan. With the renewed interest in the local history through Gentleman Jack it has created interest in the local area and the ability to walk through historic areas.

**No.9 Rawson Wood** - The Woods at Rawson Wood are the only remnants left of the Rawson Estate, a very important local landowner. The Historic Landscape Character Assessment produced by West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service demonstrates this area was previously agricultural land with linear fields with a slightly serpentine appearance and possibly former strip fields associated with the Sowerby Town medieval core. This area was known as Rawson's Wood in 1894 and was a possible plantation covering a much wider area where the Rawson Woods flats and the Newlands estate is now. A recent Heritage Impact Assessment for Local Plan site LP1655 demonstrates the importance of this wood in protecting the wider rural landscape of Field House a Grade II\* Listed Building. The Forum wants to ensure the woods protection, similarly to how Locally Listed Parks and Gardens are protected in HE1 of the Local Plan.

**No.12 Nether Ends Beck** - Nether Beck is important as it is one of the only visible streams in the area, historically believed to be the main stream for local weavers. Weaving being a key historical industry to the area. The Forum wants to ensure the becks protection, similarly to how Locally Listed Parks and Gardens are protected in HE1 of the Local Plan.