

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 May 2022 21:51
To: _WEB_Canals Strategy
Subject: Re: Objection to the canal draft strategy for canal development from Brimscombe to Sapperton.

Categories: Canal Strategy 2022 response

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Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am a resident of Chalford Valley and am greatly concerned by the draft canal strategy which I have just read. This draft is very confusing and difficult to understand, which compounds the concern that residents and local wildlife enthusiasts feel about the proposal to implement a concrete and steel corridor along the present canal route; a place of unparalleled natural beauty. The canal as it is, is a wilderness that has been left to develop and grow untouched for decades. I walk along the canal every week from Chalford to Sapperton and am always struck by the beauty of the diverse flora and fauna, not to mention the wildlife itself. Kingfishers, wagtails and moorhens flit in and out of the trees that overhang the canal. Footprints of deer are visible in the mud, animals who will be adversely affected if the established ecosystem of the canal as it is, is destroyed. If the canal developments are enacted, this wild and peaceful place, that it is a privilege to walk through, will never recover. Every year in very early spring, the toads leave the woods to reproduce in the water of the canal. If these proposals to build a concrete and steel structure along the canal are enacted, the toad population of the area will be greatly endangered. It is imperative that the diverse ecology of this area be protected from the inevitable destruction that these canal developments would entail.

We live in a time of heightened awareness about the devastating effects of over- development of wild spaces which destroys the ecosystem of the place itself but also has far-reaching effects on neighbouring ecosystems. I urge Stroud District Council to abandon its plans for canal development and protect this wild stretch of water from the noise and light pollution that alone will make it uninhabitable for the animals, birds and insects that thrive there now.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad