

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 May 2022 16:59
To: _WEB_Canals Strategy
Subject: Puck Mill
Attachments: puck-mill-canal.png
Categories: Canal Strategy 2022 response

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Hi,

I am a resident of Frampton Mansell. I also own approximately one kilometre of the canal at Puck Mill. I have attached a map that shows the stretch of canal on my land.

First, as a resident — I personally believe that the valley is already paradise and that the canal does not need restoration. As your research document mentions, the stretch is a biodiverse 'quiet place'. This is not inner-city Stroud. It is wild land already enjoyed by many, neighbouring the Siccaridge Nature Reserve. I already work with the Gloucester Wildlife Trust on biodiversity, as well as Stroud council on flood management as the river Frome also flows through my property. We manage the land in a beautiful way, accessible through public footpaths already, with no need to 'regenerate' it.

That said, I am not ideologically opposed to a canal restoration and come to it with an open mind. I do have a number of questions regarding your proposals, given that they would involve significant work to my property and substantially transform both my property and my enjoyment of it.

1. I have not had any discussions with anyone about restoration or building work. When do you expect this to happen should you decide to go ahead with the scheme?
2. What permissions or processes do you have with other landowners where the canal passes through their land? What have you done with regard to landowner agreement in other sections of the canal that have already been restored? If a landowner refuses to allow work, do you intend to compulsorily purchase? If so, on what basis? From my understanding, a number of other landowners are against restoration.
3. A restoration would require alterations to my property more so than just the canal (e.g. removal and reconstruction of private bridges that cross the canal). Have you conducted a survey to understand what additional work might need to be undertaken?
4. Is it envisaged that canal boats would actually travel down the canal? What do you intend to do about mooring, docking, night-travel, and policing of that?
5. You mention in your document that 'towpath improvements will provide better multi-modal travel options'. A public footpath runs through my land - not a towpath. That's specifically different, especially with regard to bicycles. Again, I am not ideologically opposed but this needs discussion.

Happy to meet in person if you prefer.

Kind Regards,

