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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 March 2022 16:24
To: _WEB_Canals Strategy
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Response

Categories: Canal Strategy 2022 response

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Sir/Madam

Have read the various documents with interest.

Having been actively involved with the Cotswold Canals Trust since its inception as the Stroudwater Canal Society I have become rather blasé with endless reports and feasibility studies and frustrated with the slow progress in the restoration while costs escalate.

While appreciating that there are many peripheral matters and interests that have to be considered, my principle concern has always been the primary function for which the canals were built- that being navigation.

I have previously worked inland waterways, operating my own boats in cargo carrying, worked on larger canal craft, and vessels in the coasting trade often visiting the Continental waterways. With the forgoing experience I consider that, apart from the recreational boating use of our canals their transport potential should receive more serious consideration.

The advantages of waterway transport are many, not least the environmental benefits. In the immediate case of the Cotswold Canals, restoration work and waterside infrastructure projects should make the maximum use of waterway transport for movement of materials, and the wider future transport potential of the restored canals when linked to the national waterway system seriously considered.

I would recommend study of the website of the Commercial Boat Operators Association which gives excellent information on the subject.

One additional function of the canal which I certainly support is as a means of water transfer from the SW to the Thames, having a multitude of benefits, strongly advocated by the Cotswold Canals Trust.

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]