

# Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council

Email: [admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk](mailto:admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01452 771089

The Old Bell House, High Street, Bisley  
GL6 7AA

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## Bisley with Lypiatt Parish Council response to the SDC Canal Strategy Document.

BISLEY WITH LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL OPPOSES THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CANAL IN THE EASTERN UPPER VALLEY AREA (FROM BRIMSCOMBE TO SAPPERTON AND BEYOND).

We have serious concerns that there *seems* to be an assumption built into the strategy that the canal (Delivery Policy ES11) will eventually be developed into a navigable state along its whole length including the Eastern Upper Valley Area, even if this is not detailed in the strategy. Whatever the level of development, the strategy scarcely acknowledges nor aligns with SDC's own Climate Emergency and Nature Recovery strategy. The Strategy does not mention Environment Act 2021 nor the need for Biodiversity Net Gain in developments.

This corridor and its surrounding landscape is ecologically rich with sites of local, national and international importance, many of which lie within our Parish. The area has a unique identity and special character that is significantly different from the rest of the canal. Bisley is fortunate to have such valuable wildlife sites, but nature is highly vulnerable, and in decline. Any development will hugely threaten ecological corridors, Bisley's SSSI's that are all immediately adjacent to the canal, and the support of species that has been undertaken by organisations and volunteers over many years.

We are deeply sceptical that the canal can be developed in this area without harm to our biodiversity, and we are extremely doubtful that the surrounding environment will emerge from any development unscathed.

We do not see how either basic protection or net gain for biodiversity can be achieved at any level of development without a full strategic Environmental and Ecological Assessment of the environmental and biodiversity impacts.

**We concur with the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust that the District Council must formally rule out restoration of the canal east of Brimscombe, prioritising this unique area for Nature Protection, Recovery, Enhancement, and fully align it with the Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Strategy and the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy.**

**This area of the canal corridor should be, could be, recognised as a unique part of the whole, and as the ecological standard bearer for the whole canal corridor.**

26<sup>th</sup> May 2022

  
On behalf of the Parish Council