

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 May 2022 11:08
To: _WEB_Canals Strategy
Subject: Canal strategy consultation

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>.]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi,

I think I have finally got my head around the strategy report, I did put some clarification questions in but received no response however I can't wait longer.

Firstly, I think much of what is in the strategy is excellent and applaud the focus on ecosystem and biodiversity throughout the canal corridor, particular those areas that have been lacking in this regard where the canal brings opportunities for great improvement.

However, in the upper sections between Brimscombe and Sapperton there is already huge biodiversity value and any development other than extremely sympathetic preservation of industrial heritage could be very damaging.

The canal above Brimscombe was historically never viable, lacking a ready water supply and suffering many leakages due to the very close proximity with the River Frome, crossing at least three or four times.

Nobody should be under the illusion that a 'restoration' of a navigable waterway is an option and I urge Stroud District Council and the Cotswold Canals Trust to change their position and rule this out. Any attempt to build what would be a new canal through the Frome valley would be very destructive due to the modern materials and construction methods required. It would be a colossal waste of money and place a permanent barrier to wildlife in the area.

The canal strategy should adopt clear principles for ecosystem and biodiversity. It should rule out a navigable waterway above Brimscombe.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]