

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 May 2022 23:05
To: _WEB_Canals Strategy
Subject: Stroud Canal Strategy : Feedback

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing regarding the proposed canals strategy, with particular regard to the stretches from Brimscombe to Sapperton.

BRIMSCOMBE:

I understand the canal narrows after Brimscome Port. What expensive/major construction work would be needed for a realistic extension for traffic along it? I don't believe the canal needs restoring after this point for tourism purposes. It naturally becomes more rural as it leaves the town.

CHALFORD:

Here the canal splits from the path of the road (A419) and becomes a quiet, peaceful place. The old towpath can be easily accessed and walked. There are many birds and other wildlife along here, including the kingfishers, which will be compromised if their habitat is disrupted.

Along this area Gloucester Wildlife Trust are regenerating the ancient woodland and encouraging growth of the rare plants/insects/animals that are already here and increasing diversity. The plans of SDC and the canal trust appear to be incongruous with this.

EASTERN UPPER VALLEY:

One of the most important stretches of the canal, this area is rich in its varied habitats and very different in feel and sustainability which is no less important than the areas of the canal that have already been restored.

This stretch is already walked by numerous people because of the peace and the beauty that the area holds.

This will all be lost with the increase of noise, engine fumes, litter, light and effluence, not only from the boats but all the services needed to maintain them and the canal. This will be extremely detrimental to the wildlife and the integrity of the environment.

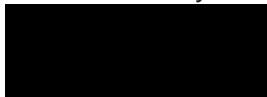
The roads that run down to this section of the canal are narrow and not at all suitable for heavy machinery, and the infrastructure cannot support large numbers.

Also there are no communities that need 'connecting'. There are already crossings over the canal at Chalford bottom, Frampton Mansell, Daneway and Sapperton that connect the villages and hamlets on both sides of the valley. There are also numerous points to cross using the existing public footpath network.

To conclude, I strongly oppose the plan for these areas, as I feel it will destroy the existing natural habitat with no real benefits in return.

I also found the presentation of the Draft Proposals on your website very complicated and confusing with a lack of communication with local residents, meaning many people may not have had a chance to respond to this plan.

Yours faithfully,

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