

From: [REDACTED]
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To: _WEB_Canals Strategy
Subject: The Canal Strategy
Categories: Canal Strategy 2022 response

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Dear Stroud District Council,

Having seen some of the details of the Draft Canal Strategy, and been confused by the density of language and the lack of clear ambition and unambiguous targets, could I make it clear that I object most strongly to any strategy that doesn't do the following for the stretch of canal from Brimscombe through Chalford and on to the Sapperton Tunnel:

1. Rule out for once and for all 'restoration' for this section. Accept that the natural state in which it is currently in is an important wildlife corridor and natural resource, (and a home to many species some of which are nationally under threat), which protects the vitally important diversity in these valleys and links a number of nationally important reserves. It is also a romantic and beautiful part of the Five Valleys.
2. Ensure that the undeveloped state it is currently in is maintained, ensuring no 'concrete corridor' through the route, whilst at the same time maintaining and making safe specific areas like locks etc, which could become dangerous, and allowing access to cyclists and walkers along the entire route.
3. Maintain it's current quiet and un-developed nature, with no increase in noise or light pollution.

I feel that it shouldn't be difficult to produce a strategy that clearly, and language we can all understand, states these simple aims for the canal route. Any strategy should rule out any idea of re-opening this wonderful, peaceful, nature filled resource as a navigable waterway, which which would destroy the varied and important wildlife and only lead to noise and commercial exploitation, the last thing this extraordinary area needs.

Yours sincerely,

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