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From:

Sent:

[REDACTED]
25 May 2022 13:35

To:

_WEB_Canals Strategy

Subject:

Response to Proposed Canals Strategy for Stroud District

Categories:

Canal Strategy 2022 response

[REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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To the Planning Strategy Team:

I have spent several hours looking at the Strategy documents on the SDC website and, like many people, have been very frustrated by the format of the documents and the lack of clarity in the impenetrable detail of the Strategy. I have given most attention to the detail for areas 9 and 10 i.e. east of Brimscombe, and, as far as I feel I am able to understand the Strategy for these areas, I my response is aligned entirely with the letter dated 11th May 2022 from [REDACTED] on behalf of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. In that letter there are five bullet points that express GWT's concern about the Strategy, all of which I agree with. There are eight recommended actions, which I also support, the most urgent being the second, namely to 'formally rule out any restoration of the navigable canal East of Brimscombe, prioritising this area for nature protection and enhancement'

I moved 18 months ago to [REDACTED] but I have lived in Gloucestershire most of my life and, wherever I have been living, both as a child and an adult, have regularly visited the canal area and the surrounding woods and grasslands. I have shared my love of the area with friends from this immediate area, from other parts of the county, from the rest of the UK and from abroad, who all appreciate it as a rare, precious and tranquil environment, of which there are fewer and fewer in the UK. It is precious not just for the rare plants and fauna of Siccaridge Wood and for the rich, uncultivated grasslands of Daneway Banks and Strawberry Banks, but for the romance and mystique of the ruined and overgrown canal. There is a vast network of footpaths connecting all the villages around with the towpath of the canal and with the woodland and grassland, which already gives as much accessibility as the area can handle without a negative impact and loss of biodiversity.

I have enjoyed the development and restoration of the canal in the urban area of Stroud. The canal path there is a perfect place to spend with a grandchild in a pushchair and great for the connectivity that is at the centre of the strategy. But to develop the canal eastwards from Brimscombe - even as far as to develop the towpath for cyclists and pushchairs, would have a huge impact on a small area of wildernes.

There are many points in the Friends of the Frome Response to the Strategy dated 8th April 2022 that I also support, most of all the paragraph titled 'The preservation of the natural environment and the impacts of development'. I agree with their point that the Draft Strategy drastically underestimates the *existing* biodiversity value of the canal and river corridor.

To conclude, I would like to express the hope that you will act on all the GWT's recommendations .

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]