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**From:** [REDACTED]  
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**Subject:** Canals Strategy Documents

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I use the restored canal towpath between Eastington and Stroud on a daily basis, and have done so for over 30 years, pretty much 7 days a week, both on foot and by cycling. I therefore appreciate what an asset the canal can be, and what an important resource it represents for large numbers of people, and I am a supporter of the canal restoration. I have also been able to see at first hand the impact of restoration on the environment and on the wildlife along the canal corridor.

I have looked at the documents included in the canal strategy on several occasions, and I have been unable to come away with any meaningful understanding of a clear strategy. The wallchart (Document A) cannot be read on even a quite large computer screen so added nothing to my understanding, and Document B is extraordinarily overcomplicated, lacking in clarity, and full of jargon & gobbledegook. I assume that SDC have paid a lot of money to produce these and I can only say that in my view this has been wasted.

Despite the above, I would like to comment that in the light of the current climate crisis, and the rapid decline in insect life and other wildlife globally and across the UK, that making the canal a wildlife corridor should be front and centre of any strategy for the canals. The restoration to date has failed to do this, and the way the restored part of the canal is currently maintained continues to have a negative environmental impact. The unrestored parts of the canal were indeed a haven for wildlife, but this has been disturbed and largely destroyed.

I am sorry to be negative, but I will be very surprised if I am the only person who has struggled with these documents, which I don't see producing a response from the public which really represents local opinion.

Regards,