

Dr Val Kirby  
Convener, Stroudwater Navigation Connected  
Bell House,  
Wallbridge  
Stroud  
GL5 3JS

**Date:** 17 November 2017

Dear Dr Kirby

**STROUDWATER NAVIGATION CONNECTED  
2017 BID TO THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND**

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of your partnership's application for Heritage Lottery Funds (HLF) to complete the restoration of the Stroudwater Navigation canal. The Environment Agency is a long-standing member of the Partnership Board, and have been engaged with, and supportive of, the restoration for many years and hope to continue to do so.

Canal projects of this scale and ambition are rare and it is a reflection of the persistence of Stroud District Council and the Cotswold Canals Trust, your other Core Partners and the small army of committed volunteers, that this project has so much energy and momentum.

The completion of Phase 1B would not only magnify the successes of the works completed to date, but also has the potential to provide a sustainable legacy for the environment, wildlife and surrounding communities. The opportunities are many and diverse but include benefits to the management of flood risk, wetland creation, improvements to fish passage and the removal of migratory boundaries, new habitat creation and the improved connectivity of existing habitats, and improved access to (and connection with) the local environment.

While it is clear that there are many opportunities for environmental and biodiversity gain, it is also true that the accommodation and/or delivery of these elements will pose technical challenges along the way. We're confident that these are appreciated by those leading the restoration and look forward to working with them over the coming years to help navigate through these to, ultimately, see the delivery of the canal.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this further, please do call or email me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Burton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A" and "B".

**Andrea Burton**  
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