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From: [REDACTED]
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Dear sir/madam

The strategy creatively presents a substantial and complex data set, though I have to admit I found it difficult to navigate and understand. I work in the sector and I suspect others who don't found it even more difficult. A less visual summary in plain English would definitely assist. Without it, I fear it could influence important planning decisions that have a detrimental rather than a beneficial effect on the existing important assets in the Golden Valley.

My greatest concern is in respect of phase 3.

Making the canal a focal point for regeneration and leisure is a good thing, where appropriate. Phase 3, to restore the canal to Sapperton, would be a huge engineering undertaking that would result in ecological impacts that are not likely to be possible to mitigate (not to mention impacts to tranquility etc). The strategy seems to underestimate the significance of this, as far as I can tell. Just because there was a canal here once doesn't mean it should be restored - the baseline has shifted and other things have become more important than a working canal, and the strategy should reflect this.

I hope and look forward to a clearer indication of the vision for the canal. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience locally and I think some further interactive engagement would help define a strategy that delivers for people and the environment.

Regards

[REDACTED] CEcol MCIEEM CEnv