

**From:** [REDACTED]  
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Dear Sir/Madam

It is wonderful how the restoration of the canal has worked in the more accessible areas of the community and the plans for Brimscombe Port will be fabulous when they come to fruition in bringing the communities together, but in terms of the Chalford area, the infrastructure is not substantial enough to take the amount of people that your plan suggests for this particular end of the canal. Chalford High Street is narrow as are Marley Lane and all the surrounding accesses. People will not always walk the full length of the canal but drive to areas that they wish to explore. The Chalford area cannot support any further development bringing more people in. Even with the current population in this area, roads are stretched. The bottom park near Valley Inn is extensively used by people coming in from out of the area to picnic which causes huge congestion. It is great that people can walk the canal path through it but to develop it further would be chaos.

I feel that this area should be more considered for an AONB status and I would be very happy to look into this possibility further with you as I feel it is important to preserve it in its current state. The amount of flora and fauna that it supports is incredible and if we look at it in terms of a full canal experience having moved through from the hustle and bustle of what will be Brimscombe Port to the serenity of the Chalford end of the canal we can see it in terms of supporting mindfulness and mental well-being. It would be good to develop a plan with local surgeries to prescribe this for its patients in the ever demanding pressures of life. Happy to help with this if you feel it should be developed. It is certainly an amazing space to walk in where the air is at its cleanest illustrated by the lichens that grow down there on the overhanging trees. These trees are so very important to the whole habitat of this area. I guess under any development plan these would be removed.

As a resident of France Lynch I have walked that part of the canal for many years and have seen an incredible amount of species in just one walk. There are two sets of breeding pairs of kingfishers either end of that part of the canal between Valley Inn and Baker's Mill. The Kingfishers move from river side to canal side when inclement weather causes the river to become murky using the overhanging branches on the canal side to seek their prey. These trees that support their habits would all go and would devastate their habitat. There are also Water Rails there which are very rare and were of interest to the RSPB when I informed them. They are very secretive birds and enjoy moving through the reeds. The reeds would also go under any hardcore development and so therefore would the Water Rails. I've seen Egrets down there too. All survive due to the enclosed feel of the tree branches. It provides a safe haven for them. Song thrushes that are so very much in decline at the moment are plentiful here feeding from the wild banks. Tree creepers enjoy the ivy clad trees that line the canal. Dippers inhabit the Frome also plus a plethora of other species. There are moles in the banks of the canal - again they would be completely wiped out if the banks were excavated.

I think the above shows very clearly that the Chalford canal area should remain as it is, continuing to be enjoyed by those whose tread its path. It is thriving as it is. Any development would be very detrimental to it. As the old saying goes 'if it aint broke, don't fix it'.

Hope this helps. Should you wish to discuss any of the above further I would be happy to help.

Many thanks

Yours faithfully

