

# The Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership

MEETING Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 2pm  
Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER

|  | <u>Notes</u>   |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>FdRP</b><br><b>KO</b><br><b>RW</b><br><b>RBr</b><br><b>CG</b><br><b>ABe</b><br><b>JW</b><br><b>JL</b><br><b>CC</b><br><b>GC</b><br><b>MR</b><br><b>AM</b><br><b>TM</b><br><b>RY</b><br><b>RB</b><br><b>BR</b> | Attending:<br>Fleur de Rhe Philipe (Chairman) Wiltshire Council<br>Ken Oliver (Canal Officer) Wiltshire Council<br>Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council<br>Rolf Brindle Melksham Without PC<br>Colin Goodhind Melksham Community Area Partnership<br>Cllr Andrew Bennett Swindon Borough Council<br>Jonathan Wilshaw Swindon Borough Council<br>John Laverick Wilts & Berks Canal Trust<br>Chris Coyle Wilts & Berks Canal Trust<br>Gavin Champion Cooper Tires<br>Mike Rodd Kennet & Avon Canal Trust<br>Alistair Millington Sustrans<br>Tim Martienssen Wiltshire Council (Chippenham Vision)<br>Robert Yeowell Canoe England<br>Richard Broadhead Wiltshire Council<br>Brian Roberts Inland Waterways Association  |  |
| 1  | Apologies: Lord Lansdowne; Ian Brown Wiltshire Council; Cllr Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor Oxfordshire CC ;Kevin East Canoe England; David Tetlow Cricklade TC; Russell Robson EA; Roger Hanbury Waterways Trust; Liz Payne Cotswold CT; Alison Blyth VWHDC; Brian Atfield CCWay, James Young BW, Dion Alday Nationwide, Mark Stephens British Waterways,   |  |
| 2  | Notes from last meeting 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2010(pre circulated) were accepted as an accurate record  |  |
| 3  | Matters arising- None  |  |
| 4  | Chairman's Announcements<br><b>FdRP</b> reported that the new canal at Swindon Wichelstowe had been entered into the Waterways Renaissance Awards and had been selected for next phase of assessment. If shortlisted the Awards Ceremony will be in May in Birmingham.<br><b>FdRP</b> noted that the discussions on changing British Waterways into a National Waterways Charity were continuing. <b>MR</b> reported that the new Kennet & Avon Partnership Board had met and he urged all partners to make their views known to Defra when the national consultation takes place. It had been announced recently that Environment Agency navigations will be put under the management of the NWC but not until 2015. <b>KO</b> reported that the consultation about the name for NWC had been in favour of British Waterways ( but mainly to avoid the cost of re-branding) |  |
| 5  |  |  |

|          |   |  |
|----------|---|--|
|          | <p><b>5.1 Melksham Link-Project Update</b><br/> <b>KO</b> reported a positive meeting with the Environment Agency Team in Bridgwater to discuss the latest modifications to the project proposals. Following further meetings with landowners some minor changes to the canal route have been made and new proposals for road access to Berryfield had been added. These changes will be detailed in the a revised project drawing which should be available in mid-March. <b>JL</b> noted that liaison was continuing with the landowners and that Frome DC had gifted a Bailey Bridge to the project. <b>KO</b> reported that he had attended a public meeting to discuss the Berryfield Village Hall. It had been agreed that pending further discussions of replacement of the Hall as part of the Melksham Link , an extension to the current temporary planning permission would be sought.<b>CG</b> reported that the Community Area Partnership further consultation had been slightly delayed but would now take place in May.</p> |  |
|          | <p><b>5.2 Cricklade Country Way</b><br/> <b>KO</b> reported that further funding was being requested from partners to allow the ecological work to accompanying planning application. A meeting was being held on the next day (11<sup>th</sup>) with senior manager from Heritage Lottery Fund to discuss what scope there might be to fund the elements of the CCway at Mouldon Hill.<br/> <i>{Post meeting note- HLF had advised that it was unlikely that their Parks funding programme would be appropriate but there were elements of the CCway project that might fit HLF funding criteria.}</i></p>   |  |
|          | <p><b>5.3 Swindon Project update</b><br/> <b>JW</b> reported that an agreement was being discussed between Swindon BC and the Canal Trust to formalise the operation of the trip boat at Westleaze. There were continuing issues with the angling on this section of canal but it was intended that that boat activity would start at the end of April</p>  |  |
|          | <p><b>5.4 Funding 2011 -12</b><br/> <b>FdRP</b> thanked partners for their responses to the funding request and hoped that that support for the project would be continued.</p>   |  |
|          | <p><b>5.5 Wootton Bassett Project</b><br/> <b>CC</b> reported that initial clearance work had started and the first phase ecological surveys had been completed. The project was being managed by a Project Board and was working to a very tight time schedule.</p>  |  |
|          | <p><b>5.6 Pewsham Project</b><br/> <b>KO</b> The dredged section is now in water and further work is in progress for the next phase of the project. There is an opportunity to see the work during the annual Walk the Wilts &amp; Berks event on Bank Holiday Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May (<a href="http://www.wbct.org.uk/calendar/events/">http://www.wbct.org.uk/calendar/events/</a>)</p>  |  |
|          |   |  |
| <b>6</b> | <p><b>Partners Reports and Issues</b><br/> <b>Chippenham Vision</b><br/> <b>FdRP</b> welcomed Tim Martienssen ( Director Chippenham Vision). <b>TM</b> outlined the process of creating 3 'vision towns' in Wiltshire and the particular opportunities for shaping the future of Chippenham. The current consultations with the local community has identified a strong desire for better use of the river in the town to create a stronger idea. CV Board had decided to join the WB Partnership as the restoration of a navigation and therefore greater waterways activities on the river, were a common purpose. A further local workshop event on housing allocation</p>   |  |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|   | <p>was being held on 12<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p><b>WB Canal Trust</b></p> <p><b>JL</b> was pleased to announce that Lord Lansdowne has kindly offered an evening reception on behalf of the Partnership at Bowood House on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July. There would be more information circulated in the next few weeks.</p> <p><b>Vale of White Horse DC</b></p> <p><b>ABI</b> in a written report noted that following the inquiry Thames Water plans for Abingdon Reservoir, will not be using the current scheme, but they may revise it to a smaller scheme at some time in the future. (Defra decision letter <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/resources/documents/thames-inquiry-decision-letter.pdf">http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/resources/documents/thames-inquiry-decision-letter.pdf</a> )</p> <p>Grove Airfield, the developers planning application has still not been submitted. VWHDC Core Strategy, -spatial planners are still hoping to publish the submission document at the end of the summer.</p> <p><b>Swindon BC</b></p> <p><b>AB</b> reported that the decision on the planning application for proposed development at Commonhead had been deferred pending the supply of further information. The scheme included 'preservation of the route' but no provision of infrastructure for the canal ( suitable bridging for proposed roads crossing the route). <b>KO</b> confirmed that following the previous Partnership meeting, the Swindon BC case officer had confirmed that he did not believe that it was possible to enforce the building of canal infrastructure as part of the planning process. <b>JL</b> thought that it appeared to be at odds with what was happening n at Wichelstowe. <b>KO</b> requested further meeting with AB to see if there was any further way forward- KO would seek what documentary evidence was available to support the case.</p> <p><b>AB</b> noted there was still a desire to hold a Canal event at Wichelstowe during the year.</p> <p><b>JW</b> reported on the current status of Swindon BC's Core Strategy work.</p> <p><b>Melksham Town Council</b></p> <p><b>RW</b> reported continuing interest from Semington PC in the Melksham Link project</p> <p><b>EA</b> In a written report <b>RR</b> noted that EA had been through our restructure, and he now covered the whole of the SE of England.</p> <p><b>RR</b> was looking at how EA serviced all the various canal bodies and NGBs across the region and that as a result of the considerable cuts, EA were not funding third party bodies outside our core duties.</p> <p><b>Sustrans</b></p> <p><b>AM</b> informed the meeting that he had recently had a meeting with the landowner at Lacock to try to resolve the cycleway issue.</p> <p><b>Canoe England</b></p> <p><b>RY</b> noted the continuing desire to use suitable sections of restored canal and that Canoe England would be keen to take part in another event at Wichelstowe</p> |  |
| 7 | <p>Open Forum</p> <p>There were no further items</p>   |  |
| 8 | <p>Date and time of next meeting : June 9<sup>th</sup> 2011</p> <p>Proposed Dates 2011: ,September 8<sup>th</sup> ,December 8th</p>  |  |

# The Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership

MEETING Thursday 15<sup>h</sup> June 2011 at 2pm  
Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER

|   | <u>Notes</u>   |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>FdRP</b><br><b>KO</b><br><b>CG</b><br><b>ABe</b><br><b>JW</b><br><b>JL</b><br><b>CC</b><br><b>GC</b><br><b>MR</b><br><b>TM</b><br><b>RY</b><br><b>RB</b><br><b>BR</b><br><b>DT</b> | <b>Attending:</b><br>Fleur de Rhe Philipe (Chairman) Wiltshire Council<br>Ken Oliver (Canal Officer) Wiltshire Council<br>Colin Goodhind Melksham Community Area Partnership<br>Cllr Andrew Bennett Swindon Borough Council<br>Jonathan Wilshaw Swindon Borough Council<br>John Laverick Wilts & Berks Canal Trust<br>Chris Coyle Wilts & Berks Canal Trust<br>Gavin Champion Cooper Tires<br>Mike Rodd Kennet & Avon Canal Trust<br>Tim Martienssen Wiltshire Council (Chippenham Vision)<br>Robert Yeowell Canoe England<br>Richard Broadhead Wiltshire Council<br>Brian Roberts Inland Waterways Association<br>Cllr David Tetlow Cricklade Town Council  |  |
| 1   | <b>Apologies:</b> Lord Lansdowne; Ian Brown Wiltshire Council; Cllr Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor Oxfordshire CC ;Kevin East Canoe England; Roger Hanbury Waterways Trust; Liz Payne Cotswold CT; Alison Blyth VWHDC; Dion Alday Nationwide, Cllr Kate Precious VWHDC, Cllr, Simon Howell VWHDC. Ian Sharp  |  |
| 2   | Notes from last meeting 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2011 (pre circulated) were accepted as an accurate record   |  |
| 3   | <b>Matters arising-</b> None   |  |
| 4   | <b>Chairman's Announcements</b><br><b>FdRP</b> was pleased to announce that at the Waterways Renaissance Awards-Swindon Wichelstowe had achieved runner up in Masterplanning and Commended in Partnership . FdRP thanked Ken Oliver for his work in achieving this recognition and hoped we would be able to achieve a winning certificate next time!.<br><b>FdRP</b> reminded partners that the Defra consultation <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/03/30/waterways-1103/">http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/03/30/waterways-1103/</a> on the New Waterways Charity closes on 30 <sup>th</sup> June .<br><b>FdRP</b> was sad to report the death of Brian Atfield who as a councillor had been closely involved with the Cricklade Country Way project. |  |
| 5   |  |  |
|   | <b>5.1 Melksham Link-Project Update</b><br><b>KO</b> reported that an agreement in principle had been reached with all the landowners and that they had given their consent for the Canal Trust to make an outline planning application for the canal on the proposed route .  |  |

|  |            |  |  |
|--|------------|--|--|
|  |            | <p>The project team were working on some further design changes and a scoping report was being prepared for the Environment Statement. The work required for this document would dictate the speed of the application process. <b>CG</b> reported that the Melksham Community Area Partnership had decided to postpone the second stage of consultations in favour of more direct distribution of project information. <b>JL</b> added that the landowners had dealt with some difficult issues and had concluded that they would need to act together to be able to progress the scheme.</p>  |  |
|  | <b>5.2</b> | <p><b>Cricklade Country Way</b><br/> <b>KO</b> reported that work on the Environment Statement could not progress until flood modelling was available for the River Key. This was not expected until later in the year. The next partners meeting was scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> June</p>   |  |
|  | <b>5.3</b> | <p><b>Swindon Project update</b><br/> <b>JW</b> reported that Ken Oliver was, at the request of Swindon BC, working one day each week at their offices to enable better communication with officers and therefore to progress the project.<br/> The work on Contract 4 in Wichelstowe was due to complete in June and the canal would then be handed over to the Trust in line with an evolving operating agreement<br/> <b>AB</b> reported that the planning application for the Commonhead development (Coate Water) had been refused at the recent Planning Committee<br/> <b>KO</b> reminded all that the Swindon BC Core Strategy closed on June 16<sup>th</sup></p>  |  |
|  | <b>5.4</b> | <p><b>Funding 2011 -12</b><br/> <b>FdRP</b> noted that invoices had been sent to partners and thanked all for their continuing support.</p>  |  |
|  | <b>5.5</b> | <p><b>Wootton Bassett Project</b><br/> <b>CC</b> reported that a consultants' report had now been delivered and seemed to indicate that there were no technical issues to stop restoration of the canal on the land owned by Biffa Waste Ltd and that the canal infill material was suitable for use as part of the landscaping of the site. Discussions were now being sought to progress this part of the scheme.<br/> The Butterfly World part of the project is progressing but is running on a very tight timescale to conform to the landowner requirements. The Planning Application for the site should be determined in the first week of July.</p>   |  |
|  | <b>5.6</b> | <p><b>Pewsham Project</b><br/> <b>KO</b> reported that the dredged section was opened on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and generated much positive publicity.<br/> <a href="http://www.wiltsandberks canal.org.uk/news.htm">http://www.wiltsandberks canal.org.uk/news.htm</a> .<br/> Work was now progressing on planning and funding the next stages of the project</p>   |  |
|  | <b>5.7</b> | <p><b>5 Year Big Challenge</b><br/> <b>KO</b> said he had brought the idea to the Partnership following discussions with the Canal Trust. The proposal was to work with partners to try to get agreements with landowners to open the towpath, and hence put the Wilts &amp; Berks route on the map. <b>RB</b> said that while encouraging the idea some caution should be shown in getting the right and consistent long term agreements. <b>BR</b> noted that much of the existing historic route in Oxfordshire was a bridleway. <b>KO</b> would contact RoW officer in Oxfordshire to explore the idea further. <b>RB</b> reported that a presentation had been made to the Local Access Forum who are keen to support the project</p> |  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 6 | <p><b>Partners Reports and Issues (not covered in other items)</b></p> <p><b>Wiltshire Council</b></p> <p><b>FdRP</b> invited all to use the current consultation period to comment on the Wiltshire Core Strategy which had been launched on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June<br/> <a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/wiltshirecoresstrategy/wcsconsult2011.htm">http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/wiltshirecoresstrategy/wcsconsult2011.htm</a></p> <p><b>MR</b> noted that there did not seem to be a Canals policy in the document. <b>KO</b> said that he was in discussion with the spatial planners about this issue and although some of the issues were covered in Green Infrastructure policy all partners were to be encouraged to submit their own comments</p> <p><b>Chippenham Vision</b></p> <p><b>TM</b> echoed the previous comments about the Core Strategy consultation and invited the Canal Trust to submit comments to demonstrate how the canal could be connected to the river to allow waterway activity in Monkton Park</p> <p><b>Melksham Community Area Partnership</b></p> <p><b>CG</b> reported that Investigations are under way to find a suitable central location in Melksham for display information.</p> <p><b>Vale of White Horse DC</b></p> <p><b>ABI</b> in a written report noted at the last election in May the administration at the Vale White Horse DC changed from Lib Dem to Conservative. The new administration has requested a review of work so far carried out on the Core Strategy.</p> <p><b>WB Canal Trust</b></p> <p><b>JL</b> invited all to the Trust AGM on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October in Melksham</p> <p><b>Swindon BC</b></p> <p><b>AB</b> reported that the North Wessex Downs AONB have produced a landscape position statement and this might add further weight to the route east of Swindon. <b>AB</b> also requested that planning should be started for a Canal Festival at Wichelstowe in the autumn.</p> <p><b>Cricklade TC</b></p> <p><b>DT</b> asked if there had been any further progress on the proposed eastern connection to the Cotswold Canals. <b>KO</b> said that the technical issues are as yet unresolved.</p> <p><b>K&amp;A Canal Trust</b></p> <p><b>MR</b> reported that at the recent AGM David Bruce had been appointed as President</p> <p><b>Canoe England</b></p> <p><b>RY</b> noted that he had recently visited a number of in water sections of the Wilts &amp; Berks and is keen to encourage canoeing on these sections.</p> <p><b>JW</b> asked that Canoe England formally make a request to Swindon BC to use the sections of canal within the borough</p> <p><b>Cooper Tires</b></p> <p><b>GC</b> reported the recently announced agreement in principle with Wiltshire Council for sale of land for the new Campus site in Melksham . The site at Melksham House is currently used for Copper Tires Sports &amp; Social Club.</p> |
| 7 | <p><b>Open Forum</b></p> <p><b>KO</b> sought further guidance on encouraging other Parish Councils to join the Partnership. It was agreed that a direct approach would be more effective.</p>   |
| 8 | <p>Date and time of next meeting : Thursday September 8<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Proposed Dates 2011:,December 8th</p>   |



# **Wilts & Berks** **Canal Partnership**

MEETING Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011 at 2.30pm  
Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER

| Item | Draft Notes  |  |
|------|--|--|
|      | <p style="text-align: center;">Attending</p> <p><b>FdRP</b> Cllr Fleur de Rhé Philipe Chairman Wiltshire Council</p> <p><b>KO</b> Ken Oliver (Canal Officer) Wiltshire Council</p> <p><b>CG</b> Colin Goodhind Melksham Community Area Partnership</p> <p><b>ABe</b> Cllr Andrew Bennett Swindon Borough Council</p> <p><b>JW</b> Jonathan Wilshaw Swindon Borough Council</p> <p><b>JL</b> John Laverick Wilts &amp; Berks Canal Trust</p> <p><b>CC</b> Chris Coyle Wilts &amp; Berks Canal Trust</p> <p><b>GC</b> Gavin Champion Cooper Tires</p> <p><b>MR</b> Mike Rodd Kennet &amp; Avon Canal Trust</p> <p><b>JC</b> John Clark Chippenham Vision</p> <p><b>BR</b> Brian Roberts Inland Waterways Association</p> <p><b>MS</b> Mark Stephens British Waterways</p> <p><b>RH</b> Roger Hanbury Waterways Trust/Cotswold Canals Partnership</p> <p><b>RW</b> Cllr Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council</p> |  |
| 1    | Apologies: Lord Lansdowne; Dion Alday Nationwide; Melanie Potter VWHDC ;David Tetlow Cricklade TC; Alistair Millington Sustrans; Colin Fletcher WBCT; Richard Broadhead Wiltshire Council; Ian Brown Wiltshire Council; Cllr Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor Oxfordshire CC; Cllr Simon Howell VWHDC; Kevin East Canoe England; Rolf Brindle Melksham Without PC  |  |
| 2    | Notes from last meeting on June 15 <sup>th</sup> 2011 (pre circulated) were accepted as the meeting record.  |  |
| 3    | Matters arising None   |  |
| 4    | <p>Chairman's Announcements</p> <p>FdRP was pleased to report New member of the WB Partnership Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>DeFRA are consulting on the Abolition of Inland Waterways Advisory Council ( IWAC) <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/08/22/waterways-advisory/">http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/08/22/waterways-advisory/</a> and a follow on consultation on the New Waterways Charity <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/09/12/waterways-1109/">http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/09/12/waterways-1109/</a></p> <p>Vale of White Horse DC – a new officer Melanie Potter has been appointed for Wilts &amp; Berks project . Alison Blyth has transferred to other work and we would like to thank her for work with the Partnership over many years. Oxfordshire CC hope to send an officer representative to the next meeting.</p>                    |  |

|            |   |  |
|------------|---|--|
|            | <p>The Partnership would like to sincerely thank Lord Lansdowne for hosting July event at Bowood House. A number of new contacts were made as a result of the evening.</p> <p>FdRp welcomed John Clark to the meeting and thanked Chippenham Vision for joining the Partnership.</p>  |  |
| <b>5</b>   | Restoration progress  |  |
| <b>5.1</b> | <p><b>New Waterways Charity</b></p> <p>MR reported that the consultation response (pre circulated) seems to have addressed a number of important issues. RH gave details of the proposed governance (35 members of Council). AB asked how Local Authorities (as planning authority) would have direct involvement. RH said that the intention was for members of the Local Waterway Partnerships to be chosen on personal skills and experience. There were 2 places on Council for LA representatives. BR asked how were members (of LWP) were to be recruited &amp; appointed. RH said there were no prescribed rules. RW wanted confirmation of work such as carried out on the K&amp;A canal regarding economic benefit of waterway restoration. RH thought that this kind of essential work would continue. RH thought that this work was vital for NWC to justify use of the waterways. JL sought clarity on the relationship between restoration groups and the NWC. RH confirmed that the NWC would be stretched to deal with the existing network, but recognised the possibility of the benefit of future expansion. RH noted that the position of Chairman of the LWP's was currently being advertised <a href="http://www.thewaterwaystrust.org.uk/about-us/jobs">http://www.thewaterwaystrust.org.uk/about-us/jobs</a>.</p> <p>RH noted that the timetable of getting the NWC operational by April 2012 was dependent on the enabling legislation meeting a tight Parliamentary timetable.</p> |  |
| <b>5.2</b> | <p><b>WB Strategy Report (updated)</b></p> <p>This had been pre-circulated KO invited comments so that the revised report could be presented to the December meeting for approval.</p>  |  |
| <b>5.3</b> | <p><b>Melksham Link-Project Update.</b></p> <p>KO reported that liaison was continuing with landowners and sharing information with the marina scheme was continuing. JL noted that British Waterways had confirmed the 'lift &amp; shift' arrangement for the telecom cables in the towpath at the proposed junction. [Post meeting note – new interpretation board to be installed at the proposed junction shortly]. KO also reported further discussions about hydro power from the weir. RW suggested that the project should work closely with the new proposals for the Campus site at Melksham. CG requested help with information posters for a shop window site in Melksham. MS asked if there was a timetable in place for the Melksham Link. JL said that the project had originally targeted 2014 to coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Act of Abandonment and was still working towards this aim although the planning process has taken longer than anticipated. KO noted that the revised Core Strategy policy would be crucial to further planning proposals.</p>   |  |



|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|   | <p><b>5.4 Cricklade Country Way</b><br/>         KO reported that there had been further difficulties with project partners. FdRP said that the Swindon &amp; Cricklade Railway had been unwilling to commit to the project and that the project partners would meet on 28<sup>th</sup> October to discuss how the CCway project could be progressed. KO reported that Wiltshire Council planners could only hold the current outline planning application open until the end of this year. The partners will need to consider how this issue is dealt with. In response to a question from BR, KO confirmed that the project was still using the canal plans drawn up as part of the Lottery project.</p> |  |
|   | <p><b>5.5 Swindon Projects update</b><br/>         AB reported that the Swindon Core Strategy is likely to go out for a further consultation early in 2012. The Commonhead planning application was now in the appeal process. He also reported the Wanborough PC were now discussing the canal route as part of the Green Infrastructure proposals.</p>   |  |
|   | <p><b>5.6 Wootton Bassett – Studley Grange Project</b><br/>         CC reported that a decision on the planning application for the Butterfly world section was still awaited, and this meant that the original timetable would need to be revised (if the landowner was in agreement).<br/>         Further discussions were taking place with Biffa to try to agree how the canal could be restored as part of the landscaping of the landfill site.</p>   |  |
|   | <p><b>5.7 Pewsham Project</b><br/>         KO reported that the Canal Trust had now approved the project to restore Pewsham Locks and work was under way on a planning application. Further work would be taking place shortly on raising the towpath at the Lacock end of the project.</p>  |  |
|   | <p><b>5.8 The 5 Year Big Challenge - Wilts &amp; Berks Towpath Walk</b><br/>         A first meeting had taken place between the Canal Trust Sustrans and Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way team. This group had identified the Melksham to Lacock section as the first priority in the towpath challenge. Following discussion about multiple use of the towpath KO confirmed that the aim of the Towpath Challenge is to secure enough land (where appropriate) for use by cyclists pedestrians and horse riders</p>   |  |
| 6 | <p><b>Partners Reports and Issues</b><br/> <b>Chippenham Vision</b><br/>         JC gave a short description of how Chippenham Vision works and confirmed the aim of re-connecting Chippenham to the Wilts &amp; Berks Canal. KO noted that the recent River Festival in Monkton Park has attracted much local interest in the scheme.</p>   |  |
| 7 | <p><b>Open Forum</b><br/>         CG noted that there would be a sustainable energy event in Melksham soon and he would forward details.</p>   |  |
| 8 | <p>Date and time of next meeting : December 8<sup>th</sup>2011<br/> <b>Proposed Dates 2012:</b><br/>         8<sup>th</sup> March, 14<sup>th</sup> June, 13<sup>th</sup> September, 13<sup>th</sup> December</p>   |  |

# **Wilts & Berks** **Canal Partnership**

MEETING Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 2pm  
Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER

| Item | <u>Draft Notes</u>   |  |
|------|--|--|
|      | <p style="text-align: center;">Attending</p> <p><b>KO</b> Ken Oliver (Canal Officer) Wiltshire Council<br/> <b>CG</b> Colin Goodhind Melksham Community Area Partnership<br/> <b>ABe</b> Cllr Andrew Bennett Swindon Borough Council<br/> <b>JW</b> Jonathan Wilshaw Swindon Borough Council<br/> <b>JL</b> John Laverick Wilts &amp; Berks Canal Trust<br/> <b>CC</b> Chris Coyle Wilts &amp; Berks Canal Trust<br/> <b>JC</b> John Clark Chippenham Vision<br/> <b>BR</b> Brian Roberts Inland Waterways Association<br/> <b>RW</b> Cllr Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council<br/> <b>PH</b> Paul Harris Oxfordshire CC<br/> <b>MC</b> Michael Crook Wiltshire Council<br/> <b>TP</b> Tim Pyatt Wilts &amp; Berks Canal Trust<br/> <b>LP</b> Liz Payne Cotswold Canals Trust/ IWA<br/> <b>RB</b> Rolf Brindle Melksham Without PC</p> |  |
|      | <p><b>Election of Chairman &amp; Vice-Chairman</b><br/> Nominations had been received for :<br/> Chairman :Fleur de Rhe Philipe<br/> Vice- Chairman: Andrew Bennett<br/> <b>The meeting unanimously confirmed these appointments.</b></p>  |  |
| 1    | <p><b>Apologies:</b> Lord Lansdowne; Dion Alday Nationwide; Melanie Potter VWHDC ;David Tetlow Cricklade TC; Alistair Millington Sustrans; Colin Fletcher WBCT; Richard Broadhead Wiltshire Council; Ian Brown Wiltshire Council; Cllr Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor Oxfordshire CC; Cllr Simon Howell VWHDC; Mark Stephens British Waterways, Roger Hanbury Waterways Trust/Cotswold Canals Partnership, Gavin Champion Cooper Tires, Cllr Fleur de Rhé Philipe Wiltshire Council, Mike Rodd Kennet &amp; Avon Canal Trust; Paul Briggs Thames Valley CC Tim Martienssen Chippenham Vision/Wiltshire Council</p>   |  |
| 2    | <p>Notes from last meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup> 2011 (pre circulated) were accepted as the meeting record.</p>   |  |
| 3    | <p>Matters arising -none</p>   |  |
| 4    | <p>Chairman's Announcements<br/> AB conveyed Fleur's sincere apologies for non attendance due to other urgent commitments.</p>   |  |

|            |  |  |
|------------|--|--|
| <b>5</b>   | Restoration progress   |  |
| <b>5.1</b> | <b>WB Strategy Report (updated)</b><br>The revised version of the document was pre circulated. No further amendments had been received. CC noted that this was a 'live' document and there would be further changes over time. The meeting <b>agreed unanimously</b> to adopt the revised document as Partnership policy.  |  |
| <b>5.2</b> | <b>Towpath Challenge.</b><br>Tim Pyatt ( director Wilts & Berks Canal Trust) has volunteered to project manage the Towpath Challenge for a year. TP gave a presentation to the meeting ( summary attached) and asked Partners for as much help as possible to achieve the aim of acquiring as much of the canal corridor as possible. MC suggested horse user groups should be contacted .RB was concerned at the additional landtake required for a bridleway but supported the idea. CG asked how much of the project would be publicised as it could inflate the price of the land. JW/PH indicated that they would investigate contractor mapping licences for their areas. KO noted the assistance given to the project by Andrew Chapman at Dauntsey Parish Council.<br>The project as presented was formally <b>agreed</b> by the meeting. AB thanked TP for taking on this work on behalf of the Partners ,and noted that all LAs were to be contacted to confirm the RoW status of the considered route, with particular regard to providing the 'multi-use' towpath envisaged where practicable – including pedestrian, cycle and equine users'. |  |
| <b>5.3</b> | <b>Cricklade Country Way</b><br><b>KO</b> reported that there were continuing difficulties with the Swindon & Cricklade Railway which needed to be resolved in order to apply for HLF funding.   |  |
| <b>5.4</b> | <b>Swindon Projects update</b><br><b>AB</b> noted that there were continuing discussions with the contractors about snagging issues on the Wichelstowe canal. JW reported proposed work programme at Westleaze and meeting with Wiltshire Council to discuss GI strategy.  |  |
| <b>5.5</b> | <b>Wootton Bassett – Studley Grange Project.</b><br>CC reported that all progress on the Butterfly World part of the scheme had now stopped awaiting the long delayed decision from Wiltshire Council planners.<br>Discussions were in progress with Biffa Waste to see how the spoil from the infilled canal could be used as part of the landscaping process for the landfill site .   |  |
| <b>5.6</b> | <b>Pewsham Project</b><br>KO reported progress on gathering the necessary information for a planning application for Pewsham Locks. Work had taken place to raise the level of the towpath at the Lacock end of the cycleway. Tree planting had taken place on the land between the canal and River Avon   |  |
| <b>5.7</b> | <b>Melksham Link-Project Update</b><br><b>KO</b> reported progress on possible design work for a combined project for the lock and hydro scheme at the weir. A consultant was being engaged to advise Wiltshire Council on Masterplanning riverside  |  |

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
|   |   | development .  |  |
|   |   |  |  |
| 6 | <b>Partners Reports and Issues</b>  | <p>JW had met with Woodland Trust and noted their desire for land for planting trees for the 2012 Jubilee project.</p> <p>MC reported that Wiltshire Council were about to start work on the Rights of way Improvement Plan which would also include other countryside assets including the canals</p> <p>RW was keen to see if there was a way that the project could find a way to include youth employment opportunities.</p> <p>CG reported the Melksham Forward event which had confirmed the importance of the canal project.</p> <p>JL welcomed the desire of Oxfordshire CC to become more involved in the project. JL asked that at the next meeting the Partners consider options for a Partnership name change to reflect the Wilts &amp; Berks canal in Oxfordshire.</p> |  |
| 7 | Open Forum<br>No further issues   |  |  |
| 8 | Date and time of next meeting 8 <sup>th</sup> March,2012<br><b>Proposed Dates 2012:</b><br>14 <sup>th</sup> June, 13 <sup>th</sup> September, 13 <sup>th</sup> December |  |  |



# Wilts & Berks Canal Towpath Project



# **Wilts & Berks Towpath Project**

## **Proposed Objectives, Strategy & Benefits**

### **Project Objectives**

To purchase or lease the land along the Wilts & Berks Canal corridor and to establish a path along the canal track, within the next 5 years.  
The cost of purchase or lease needs to be minimal and sustainable for the Charity and leases need to be long term.

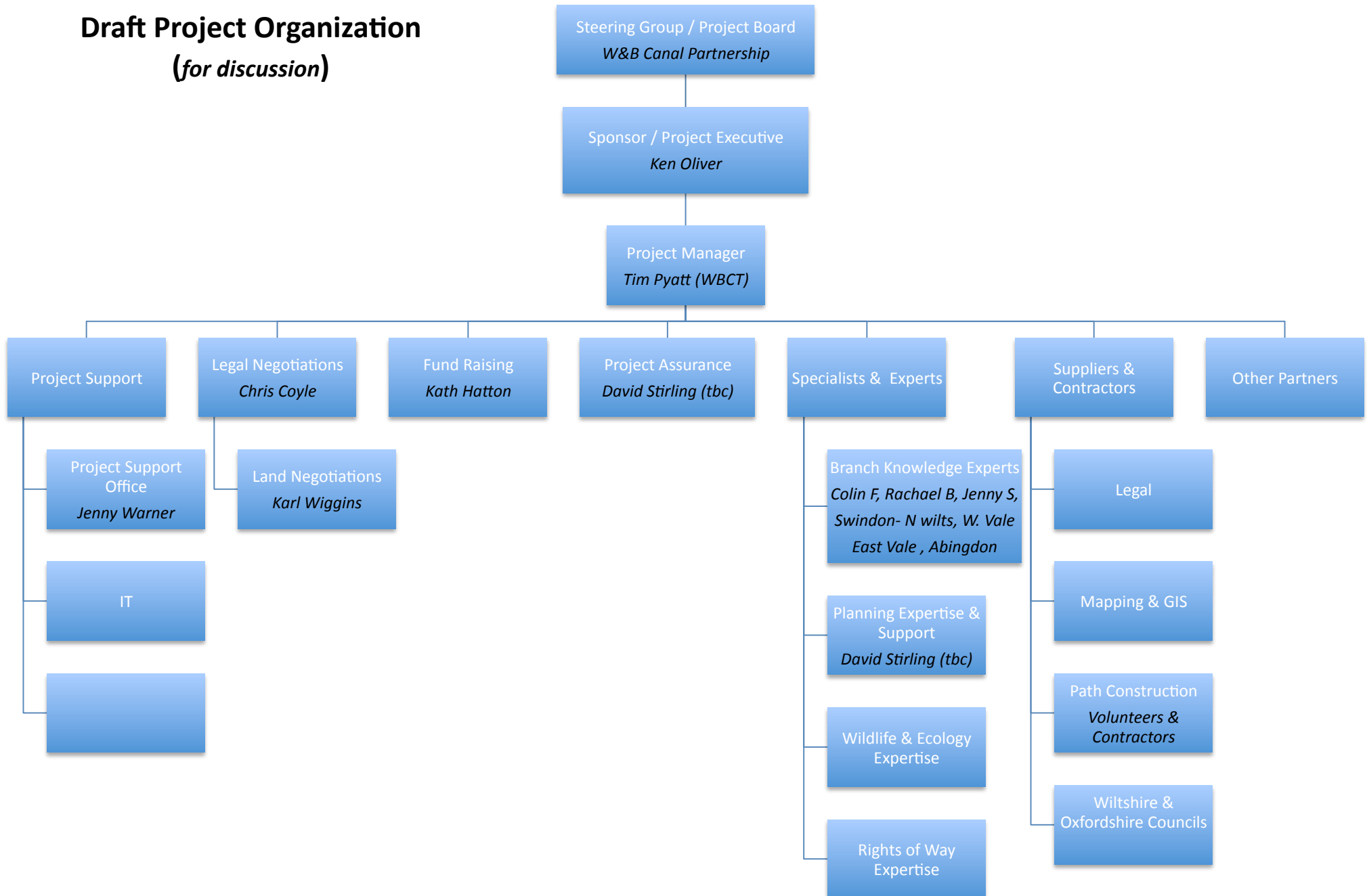
### **Strategy**

- To set up a strong Project Team, who can focus on achieving the completed W&B Path within the 5 years.
- Ensure the W&B Partnership are fully supportive & engaged.
- Consolidate all the information about the land along the canal, especially the state of ownership & leases and Land Owner negotiations
- Increase the man hours spent on land negotiations
- Focus on obtaining sizable funding
- Use of Options to Purchase and Options to Lease agreements.
- Develop a better, more enticing, Land-owner package; to sell the value a total path would be to Utilities & Telcos etc
- Dedicated, professional Project Management to ensure project objectives & products are delivered

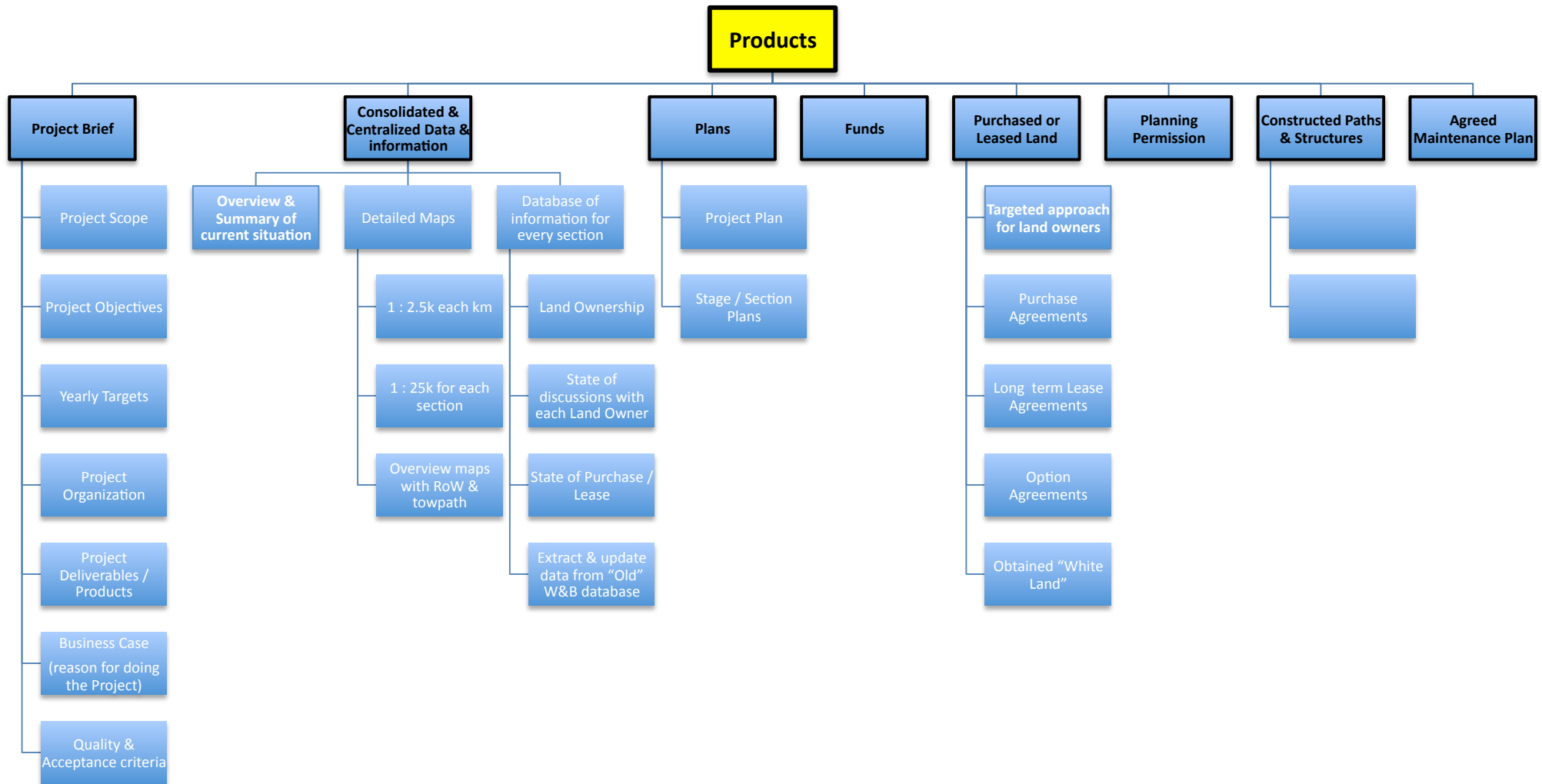
### **Benefits / Business Case**

- Divide the massive Programme of the Canal re-establishment and restoration, into more manageable parts.
- Teams can work towards more achievable targets
- Focus energy and resources on the land acquisition along the W&B route.
- A full length path along the W&B route will increase public awareness of the W&B Canal; leading to more members & funding
- Will demonstrate to funders & backers that we can meet restoration targets and improve the Trust's creditability.

# Draft Project Organization (for discussion)

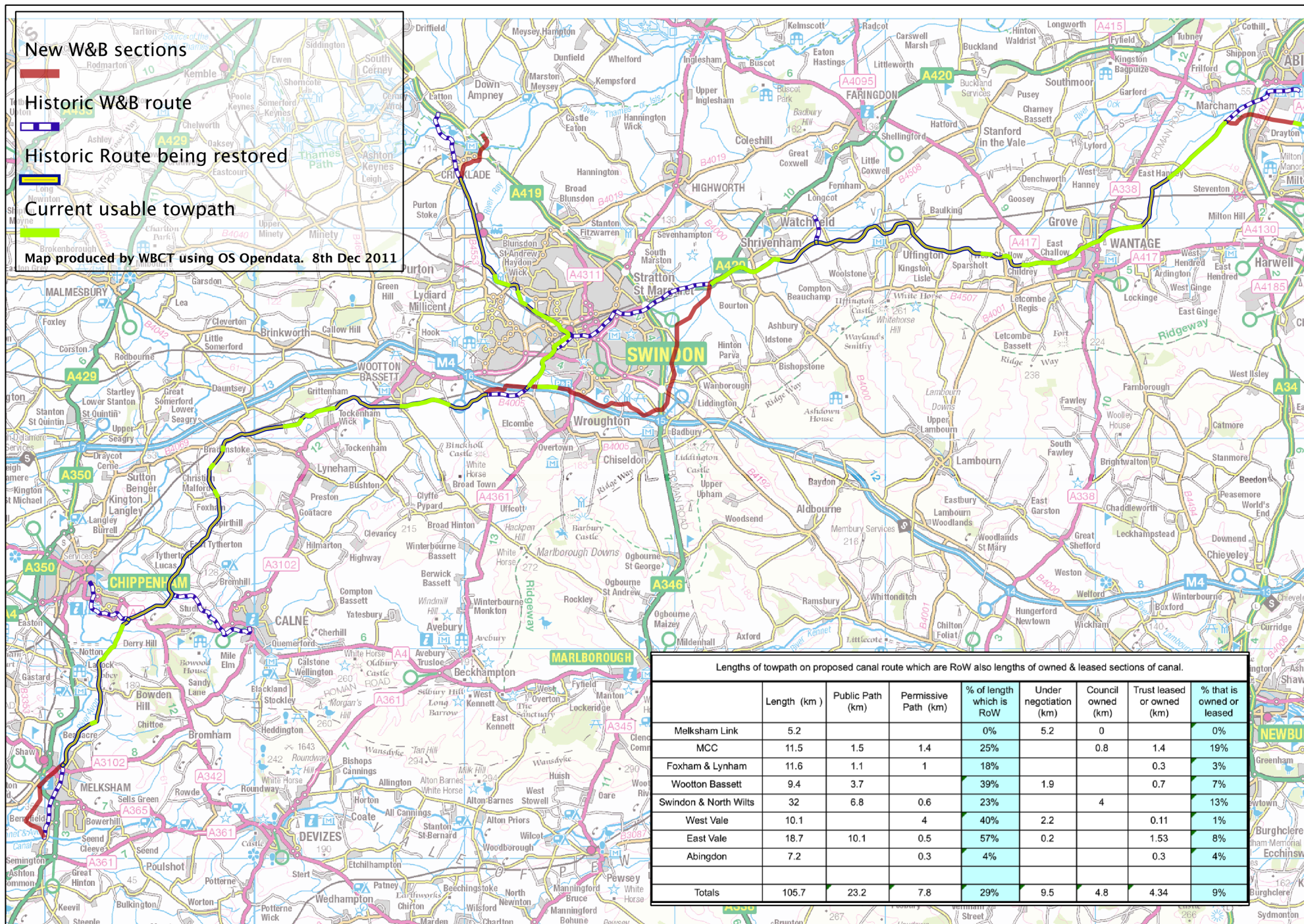


# Project Products (deliverables); Draft



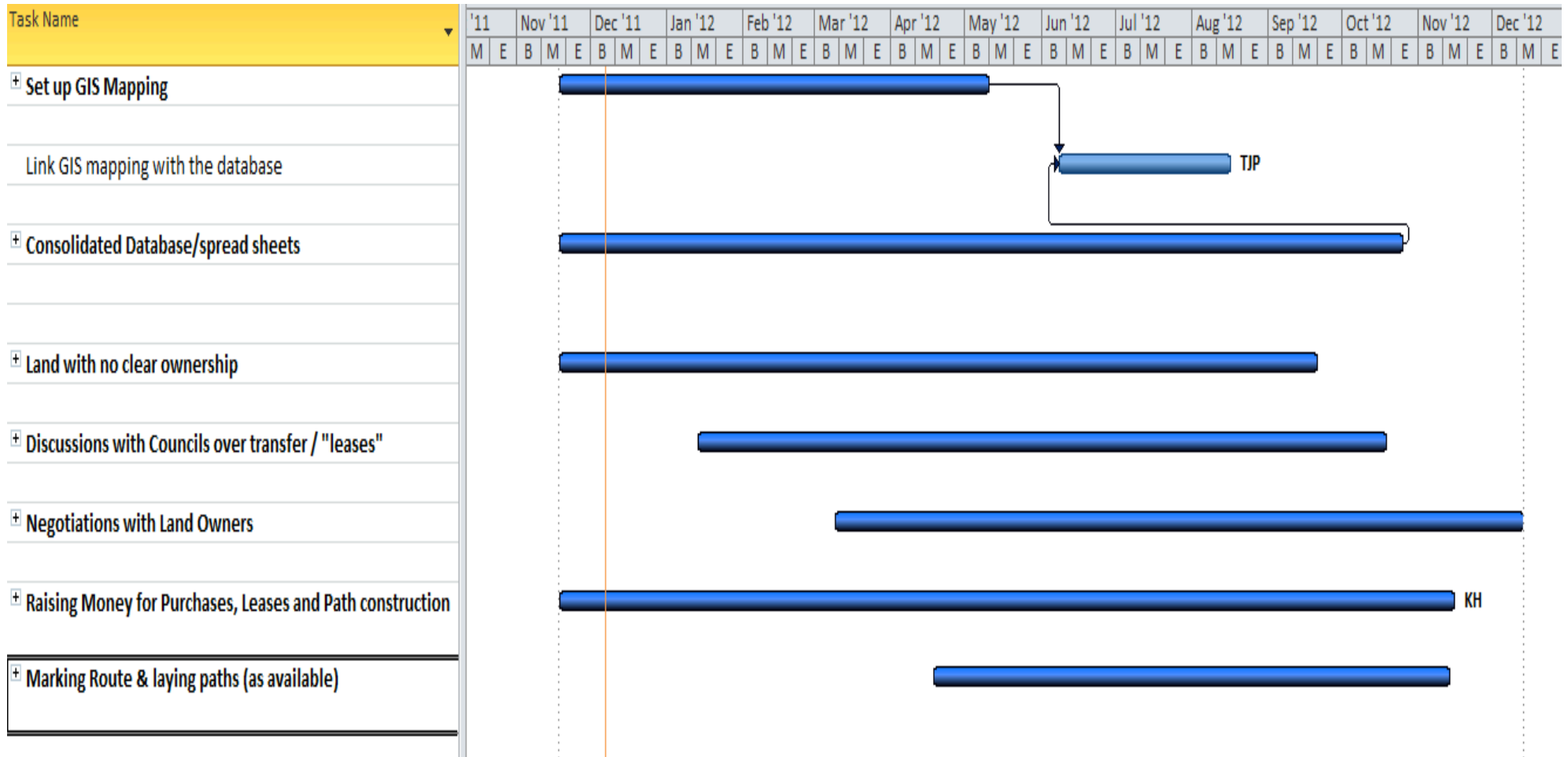
## **Progress in the 1st month**

- Reviewed & consolidated all the office & archive files
- Information sorted by section (branch)
- Plan for the next 12 months drafted
- Old SWF database transferred to Excel and is being updated.
- 3 x Branch experts have volunteered and meetings scheduled.
- Land registry search costs & process (GIS based) obtained
- QGIS installed, with vector & raster maps produced ( currently OS Opendata).
- Historic & planned Canal route plotted with e2e RoW path overlay.
- One person trained on QGIS
- OS sub-contractor license renewed with Wiltshire Council





## Summary of Plan for the next 12 months



## **Next 1-2 months**

- Work more closely with Councils
  - OS mapping sub-contractor licenses
  - Discuss if there is any Council owned land that can be “leased” / used
- Start plotting land & Land-owner information onto 1:2.5k mapping
- Work with branch experts to up-date land / land-owner information & database
- Start on funding / grant proposals
- Develop different land owner propositions & strategies