



# Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership

MEETING Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 2pm  
Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER

Item	<u>Meeting Notes</u>	
<b>LL</b> <b>FdRP</b> <b>AB</b> <b>RR</b> <b>CG</b> <b>RW</b> <b>RB</b> <b>JW</b> <b>PB</b> <b>PH</b> <b>MC</b> <b>BR</b> <b>KE</b> <b>MR</b> <b>AM</b> <b>CC</b> <b>KO</b> <b>TP</b>	<b>Attending:</b> Lord Lansdowne President Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership Cllr Fleur de Rhe Philipe Wiltshire Council (Partnership Chairman) Cllr Andrew Bennett Swindon Borough Council (Deputy Chairman) Cllr Rodney Rose Oxfordshire County Council Colin Goodhind Melksham Community Area Partnership Cllr Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council Cllr Rolf Brindle Melksham Without Parish Council Jonathan Wilshaw Swindon Borough Council Paul Briggs Thames Valley Chamber of Trade Paul Harris Oxfordshire County Council Mike Crook Wiltshire Council Brian Roberts Inland Waterways Association Kevin East Canoe England Mike Rodd Kennet & Avon Canal Trust Alistair Millington Sustrans Chris Coyle Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Ken Oliver Wiltshire Council Tim Pyatt Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	
	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> Cllr Bennett noted that he had been appointed to advisory board for Viridor Landfill Tax allocations	
1	<b>Apologies:</b> Gavin Champion Cooper Tires, John Laverick WBCT, Colin Fletcher WBCT, David Tetlow Cricklade TC, Mark Williams VWHDC, Cllr Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor Oxfordshire CC, Richard Broadhead Wiltshire Council, Elizabeth Payne Cotswold Canal Trust, Cllr Simon Howell VWHDC, Roger Hanbury Waterways Trust.	
2	Notes from last meeting 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2011 (pre circulated) were approved	
3	There were no matters arising	
4	<b>Chairman's Announcements</b> Partners should have received a request for funding contributions for 2012/2013. Canal & River Trust –update . Enabling legislation is currently before Parliament. A revised funding settlement had been offered to the transition Trustees.	

5	<p><b>Name of the Partnership</b> – A separate briefing note had been pre-circulated:</p> <p><i>It is well documented that the Wilts &amp; Berks canal has its shortened name because a Parliamentary draftsman could not be bothered to write the county names in full.</i></p> <p><i>In the 1970's a further complication arose in that the section of the canal that was in Berkshire was moved into Oxfordshire by Local Government boundary changes.</i></p> <p><i>In recent discussions it has been pointed out that there would be more enthusiastic support for the project from Oxfordshire County Council if there was some reflection of its current geographic location.</i></p> <p><i>The canal is called the Wilts &amp; Berks Canal and it is not proposed to change this.</i></p> <p><i>There is however an opportunity to consider a change of name for the Partnership.</i></p> <p><b>The proposal therefore is to consider a change to:</b>  <b><i>The Wiltshire Swindon &amp; Oxfordshire Canal Partnership</i></b>  <b><i>Restoring the Wilts &amp; Berks Canal</i></b></p> <p>There were no further comments and <b>the meeting agreed this proposal</b></p>	
6	Restoration progress	
	<p><b>6.1</b> The 5 Year Towpath Challenge - Wilts &amp; Berks Towpath Walk</p> <p>Tim Pyatt, project manager, gave a short presentation on progress (summary included at the end of these notes)</p> <p>TP thanked all the partners who had helped with the project so far and asked if there could be any help with managing the construction of the path . AM suggested contacting Groundworks in Swindon. RR said that Oxfordshire CC may be able to supply specifications. MC noted that Viridor may be able to fund some works and wondered if horse riders were being considered.TP said the project would look at bridleway opportunities where appropriate and try to negotiate appropriate width of land.</p>	
	<p><b>6.2</b> Melksham Link-Project Update</p> <p>KO reported that appropriate documents and drawings were now being assembled by the project team to enable a planning application to be submitted in April</p> <p>A consultant who had worked on the Chesterfield canal restoration had produced a short report which was being considered by Wiltshire Council's Economic Development team. A further feasibility study had been commissioned on the hydropower proposal . CG noted that there was a strong community desire for a hydro scheme. KO noted this and the project will be pleased to have further involvement with the community when all design parameters had been explored. KO agreed to send an update on this part of the project to CG to further inform the MCAP. RW noted that there was some concern about provision of car parking . KO said that there was no specific car parking planned with the canal scheme, but the marina would be a separate application submitted by the landowner where this issue and access would need to be included.</p>	

	<b>6.3</b>	Wootton Bassett – Studley Grange Project CC noted that the Butterfly World section of the project had received planning consent and detailed technical design was under way. There was a continuing positive dialogue with Biffa about restoration plans adjacent to the landfill site.	
		At this FdRP had to leave at this point for another appointment and AB chaired the remainder of the meeting	
	<b>6.4</b>	Swindon Projects update AB noted that there were public meetings scheduled in the next 2 weeks to consult on the design codes for Middle and West Wichel JW reported that :- Works were being planned at Mouldon Hill and Westleaze and both sites were subject to ecological issues. There was a consultation in progress about plans for a high speed cycle route from west Swindon that is intending to use part of the canal route. Forward Swindon had engaged consultants to carry out a Masterplanning consultation for Swindon Town centre. Gt Western Community Forest were planning a Jubilee woodland planting project and were looking at a scheme in the River Ray valley	
	<b>6.5</b>	Pewsham Project KO reported that work was progressing on the scheme to produce plans to submit for planning consent. The general aim was to get as many projects to a stage where they were 'shovel ready'	
	<b>6.6</b>	Seven Locks Project CC reported that the project at 7 locks was following a similar process to Pewsham to produce completed plans	
	<b>6.7</b>	Grove Project KO confirmed that a developer had now submitted plans for a housing development at Grove Airfield (Application no 12/00299/OUT). There is an accompanying policy to provide S106 contribution to the canal, so following further guidance from VWHDC an appropriate project will need to be identified. BR asked that if any road changes were proposed near to the canal line that appropriate note was taken of the need for a canal culvert	
<b>7</b>		National Trail boat Festival 2014 KO reported that the Inland Waterways Association were calling for applications for the 2014 trail boat festival. There are a number of technical requirements that need to be satisfied. There was a desire to hold the festival at Melksham and the riverside site was currently being assessed by volunteer Trust project manager.	
<b>8</b>		Partners Reports and Issues not covered in item 6 KO apologised that the Melksham Community Area Partnership did not appear as Partners on the web site – this will be rectified as soon as possible. RW noted that British Waterways derived income from fibre optics under the towpath. CC confirmed that provision was being made for a similar	

	<p>facility on the Wilts &amp; Berks</p> <p>PB noted that Thames Valley Chamber of Trade would be pleased to publicise the project at meetings and in print material .</p> <p>PH noted that it would be useful to produce further signage for the project.</p> <p>MR reported that water resource on the Kennet &amp; Avon is likely to a problem during the coming months.</p> <p>The Canal &amp; River Trust are recruiting volunteers and the K&amp;A Trust are concerned that there could be a potential conflict .</p> <p>AM reported on latest negotiations at Lacock.</p> <p>RR said he would be pleased to help where possible with technical information and specifications.</p> <p>CG noted that a footpath link to the river from the proposed campus site in Melksham would be desirable .</p> <p>JW reported that a Local Nature Partnership was being set up for Swindon &amp; Wiltshire .</p> <p>CC noted a positive meeting between the WB Trust Chairman and the Director of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust</p> <p>KE requested that access for canoes was considered for the Wichelstowe canal.</p>	
9	<p>Date for the next meeting was confirmed as 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012</p> <p>KO agreed to contact partners to see whether there was a preference for a meeting location.</p> <p><b>Post Meeting Note</b></p> <p>From the 14 responses received the majority expressed a preference for continuing at Chippenham</p> <p>Swindon was the second choice of venue.</p> <p>Further Proposed Dates for 2012:</p> <p>13<sup>th</sup> September, 13<sup>th</sup> December</p>	





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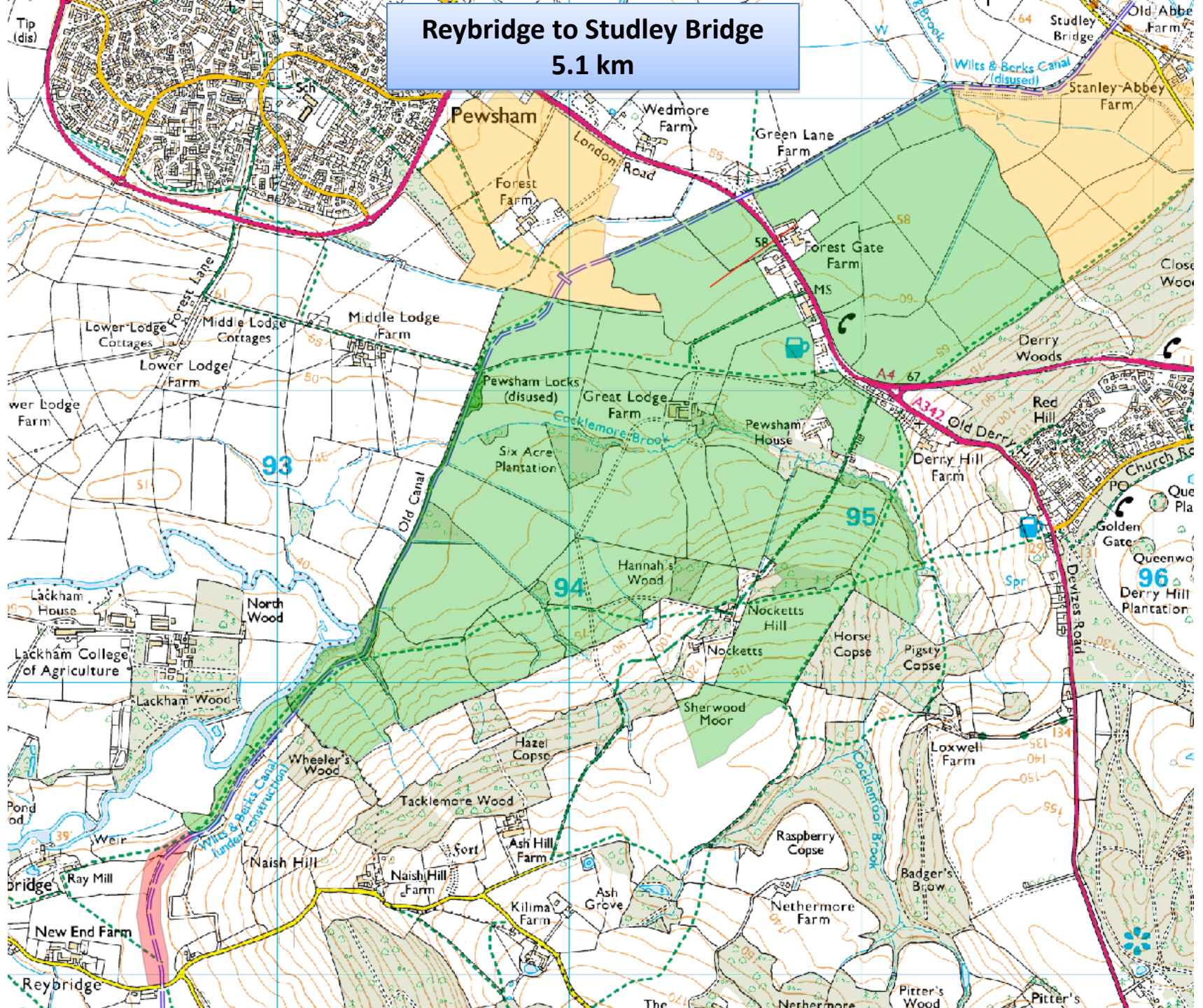








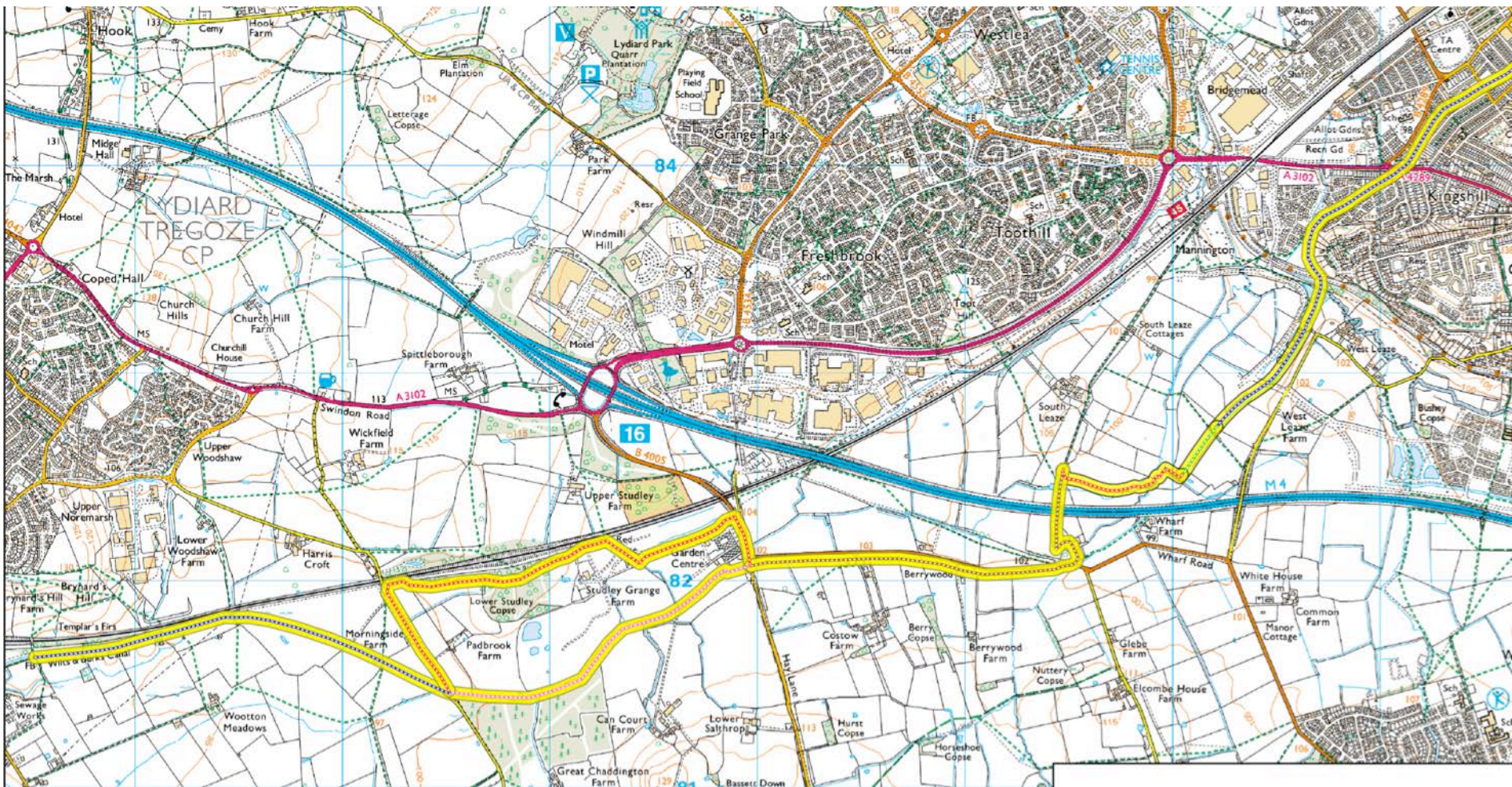
**Reybridge to Studley Bridge**  
**5.1 km**





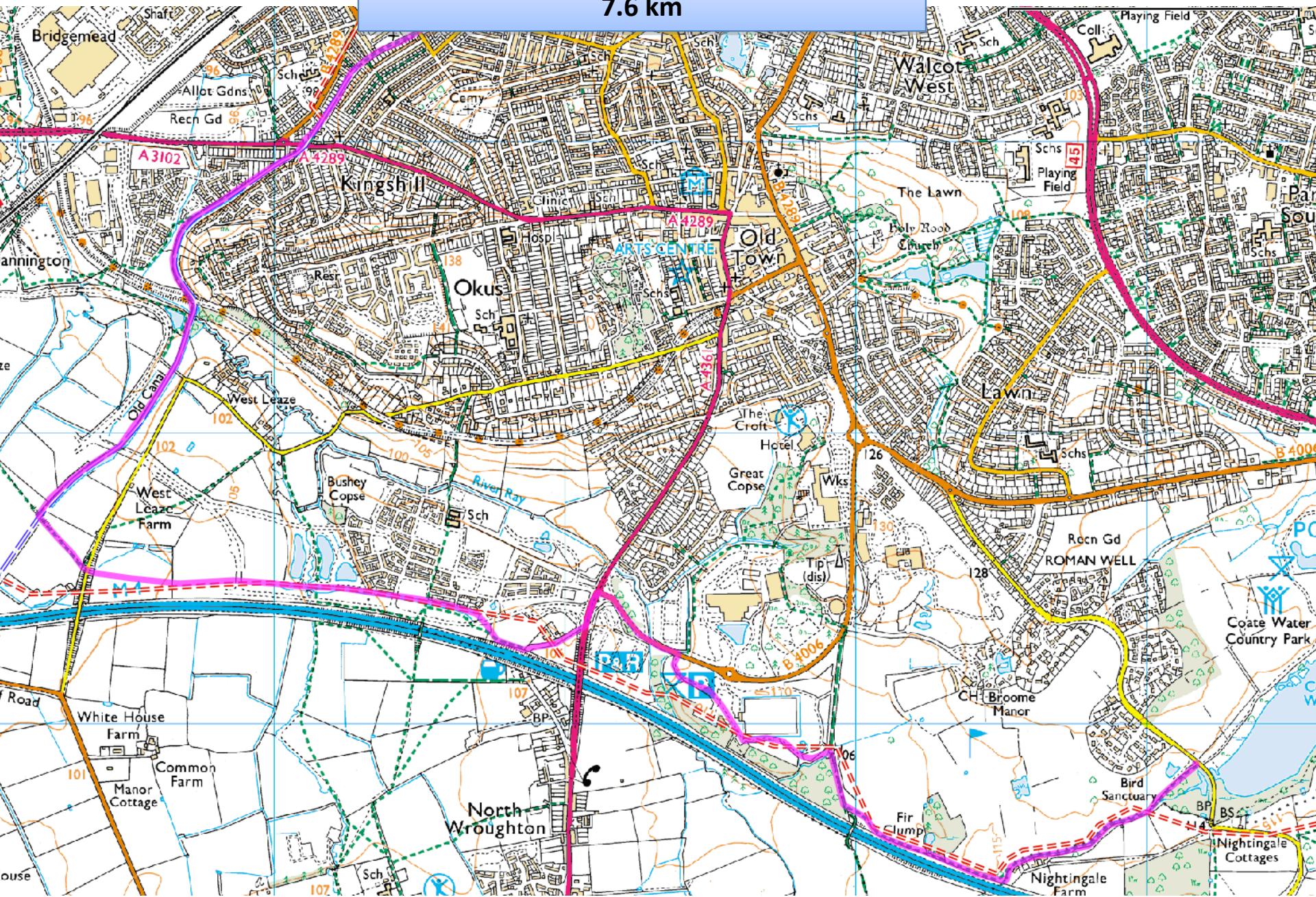
# Royal Wootton Bassett to Swindon

9.5 km



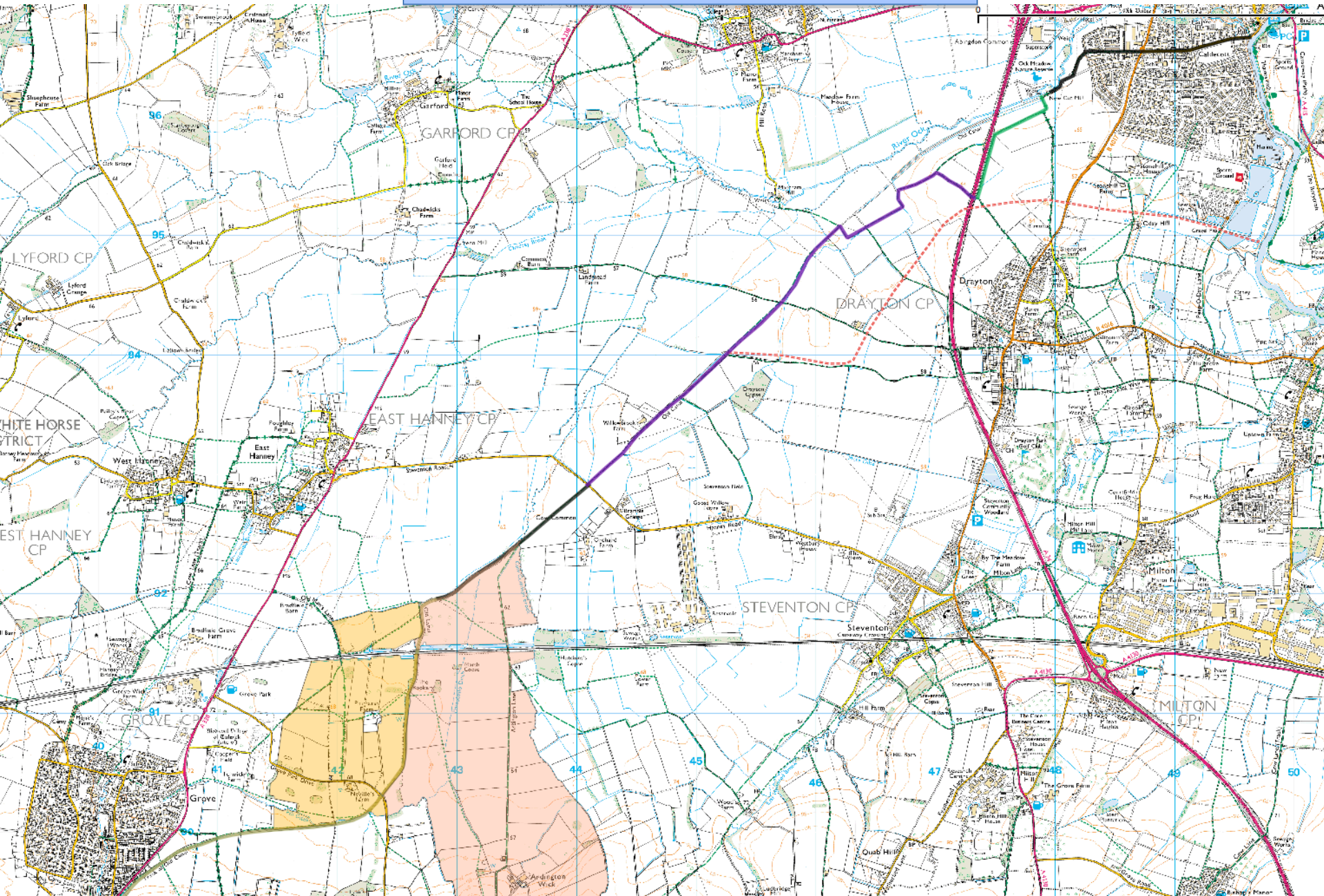


**Swindon to Coate Water**  
**7.6 km**





# Grove to Abingdon 13.5 km





MEETING 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at 2pm  
Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park  
Chippenham SN15 1ER

Item	Meeting Notes	
<b>FdRP</b> <b>AB</b> <b>CG</b> <b>RW</b> <b>RB</b> <b>RY</b> <b>RR</b> <b>JW</b> <b>PH</b> <b>MR</b> <b>KH</b> <b>CC</b> <b>KO</b> <b>TP</b>	<b>Attending:</b> Cllr Fleur de Rhé Philipe Wiltshire Council (Partnership Chairman) Cllr Andrew Bennett Swindon Borough Council (Deputy Chairman) Colin Goodhind Melksham Community Area Partnership Cllr Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council Cllr Rolf Brindle Melksham Without Parish Council Robert Youwell Canoe England Cllr Rodney Rose Oxfordshire County Council Jonathan Wilshaw Swindon Borough Council Paul Harris Oxfordshire County Council Mike Rodd Kennet & Avon Canal Trust Kath Hatton Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Chris Coyle Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Ken Oliver Wiltshire Council Tim Pyatt Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	
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2	The notes from last the meeting on 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2012 (pre circulated) were approved with minor amendments	
3	There were no matters arising.	
4	<b>Chairman's Announcements FdRP</b> <b>FdRp</b> welcomed the Melksham Chamber of Trade as new members. John Laverick had recently been admitted to hospital and members wished him a speedy recovery.	
5	<b>Memorandum of Understanding</b> An amended Memorandum of understanding been circulated prior to the meeting. With minor amendments it was <b>agreed</b> by the meeting that the revised version was accepted as the governance document for the Partnership. A final version of the document is included with these notes.	

6	Restoration progress	
6.1	<p><b>The 5 Year Towpath Challenge –</b>  <b>TP</b> presented an update on the project. A summary of the presentation is included with these notes  <b>CG</b> asked if the Community Area Partnerships could help to resolve the issues at Reybridge. <b>TP</b> will discuss further .          Delivery of the Swindon to Royal Wootton Bassett project was held up over ecological issues. <b>KO</b> noted that this may due to the work programme for Middle Wichel.          In response to <b>TP's</b> question to see if local footpaths could be diverted onto the canal towpath, <b>RR</b> noted that the process was likely to be difficult. <b>PH</b> advised that involvement with local user groups would be essential.</p>	
6.2	<p><b>Melksham Link-Project Update</b>  <b>KO</b> reported that the final modifications were being made to a small number of drawings and it was hoped that the application would be validated by the end of the following week.  <b>CG</b> asked if any specific consultation was planned with the riparian owners on the River Avon. <b>KO</b> said that none was planned currently other than statutory notice served with the planning application. <b>RW</b> asked if any consideration had been given to Olympic Legacy opportunities. <b>KO</b> said that some consideration was being given to opportunities for rowing on the modified river below Town Bridge. <b>RB</b> said that that there had a rowing boat hire operation on the river in previous years.</p>	
6.3	<p><b>Royal Wootton Bassett</b>  <b>CC</b> reported continuing discussions with Biffa Waste Ltd to try to obtain a lease for the towpath/canal.</p>	
6.4	<p><b>Swindon Projects</b>  <b>AB</b> noted continuing discussions with the developer and Parish Councils concerning the Commonhead site. Letters of support for the project had been sent from Bishopstone and Wanborough Parish Councils. <b>JW</b> also noted that following a public meeting at Wanborough the Parish Council were keen to progress the towpath and cycleway at the earliest opportunity . <b>AB</b> thanked the Trust for technical advice on the East Wichel Canal water supply/retention .  <b>KO</b> reported that the current draft of the Swindon Core Strategy had a separate canal policy reinstated and that, following extensive discussions with the Canal Trust, a preferred route for the canal had been supplied for the Proposals Map.          Forward Swindon were currently consulting on a new Masterplan for Swindon Town Centre. The proposal does not feature the canal. The plan shows the canal from Mouldon Hill to just south of the railway but no connection to Kingshill. Details of the scheme are shown on <a href="http://www.swindonmasterplan.co.uk">http://www.swindonmasterplan.co.uk</a>  <b>KO</b> noted that the economic benefit from the canal was only fully realised with a 'through connection' to the waterways network. The Masterplanning would seem to miss the opportunity for this economic benefit. <b>FdRP</b> asked that details could be sent to her for discussion at the Swindon &amp; Wiltshire Local Economic Partnership.</p>	<p><b>KO</b></p>



		<p><b>KO</b> asked if Partners could consider responding to the consultation (closes 5<sup>th</sup> October) to ask that the canal scheme is considered as a central part of the scheme . Thames Valley Chamber of Trade have already indicated that they would be responding to support the canal proposal.</p> <p>Email address for responses : <a href="mailto:swindonmasterplan@am-up.com">swindonmasterplan@am-up.com</a></p>	
	<b>6.5</b>	<p><b>Pewsham Project.</b></p> <p><b>KO</b> reported that a second draft of the plans had been drawn and that it was hoped to apply for planning consent before the end of the year . <b>KH</b> noted that the Trust was applying to the HLF 'Your Community' fund for an education/project officer for the Pewsham Locks site.</p>	
	<b>6.6</b>	<p><b>Seven Locks Project .</b></p> <p><b>CC</b> reported that a draft Sec 278 agreement was with the Trust's solicitors. When approved this would allow progress on the planning application.</p>	
	<b>6.7</b>	<p><b>Grove Project</b></p> <p><b>CC</b> outlined the scope of the project recently approved by the Trust's Project Board. The section of canal between the A417 at East Challow and A 338 at Wantage was arguably one of the most complex in engineering terms with a number of conflicting requirements for road crossings and water course and service crossings.</p> <p><b>KO</b> noted that the area was particularly in focus as 3 separate planning applications affected the canal.</p> <p>The Grove Airfield site was the subject of a major application for 2500 houses. Although not on the line of the canal Vale of White Horse DC policy requires a S106 contribution from the site for the canal. Current discussions propose a new culvert for the canal under Denchworth Road but require consent from the adjacent landowner.</p> <p>A site at Stockham Farm is directly on the canal route .</p> <p>The Nalder Estate abuts the canal route. The scheme has consent and will contribute to the canal restoration via a S106 agreement.</p> <p>This development activity makes it essential for the canal project to have a fully engineered scheme.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>National Trail boat Festival 2014 –</b></p> <p><b>KH</b> reported that the Trust was still waiting for a response from IWA and that further discussions were being held with organisers of ' Party in the Park'</p>		
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Partners Reports and Issues</b></p> <p><b>MR</b> - noted that British Waterways had now handed over operations to the Canal &amp; River Trust. The K&amp; A Trust were trying to find ways to work with the new organisation.</p> <p><b>PH</b> asked whether there would be a point where the Grove ( and other) parts of the project passed a critical point of cost.</p> <p><b>CC</b> said that the experience of the Kennet &amp; Avon Canal was the long term economic benefits justified the capital costs of the project</p>		



8	<p><b>Date and time and location</b> of next meeting :  20<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at 3pm at Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park  Chippenham</p> <p><b>Proposed Dates 2013:</b>  March 14<sup>th</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup>, September 12<sup>th</sup>, December 12<sup>th</sup></p>	
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MEETING 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at 3pm  
Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park  
Chippenham SN15 1ER

Item	<u>Meeting Notes</u>	
	<p><b>Attending:</b></p> <p><b>LL</b> Lord Lansdowne President Wilts &amp; Berks Canal Partnership  <b>AB</b> Cllr Andrew Bennett Swindon Borough Council (Deputy Chairman)  <b>CG</b> Colin Goodhind Melksham Community Area Partnership  <b>RW</b> Cllr Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council  <b>RB</b> Cllr Rolf Brindle Melksham Without Parish Council  <b>RY</b> Robert Yeowell Canoe England  <b>RR</b> Cllr Rodney Rose Oxfordshire County Council  <b>MR</b> Mike Rodd Kennet &amp; Avon Canal Trust  <b>KH</b> Kath Hatton Wilts &amp; Berks Canal Trust  <b>CC</b> Chris Coyle Wilts &amp; Berks Canal Trust  <b>KO</b> Ken Oliver Wiltshire Council  <b>TP</b> Tim Pyatt Wilts &amp; Berks Canal Trust  <b>MC</b> Mike Crook Wiltshire Council  <b>RD</b> Rob Dean Kennet &amp; Avon Canal Trust  <b>GC</b> Gavin Champion Cooper Tires</p>	
1	<p><b>Apologies:</b>  David Tetlow Cricklade TC , Cllr Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor Oxfordshire CC,  Alistair Millington Sustrans , Liz Payne Cotswold Canals Trust, Kevin East  Canoe England, Phil McMullen Melksham Chamber of Commerce, Paul Briggs  Thames Valley Chamber of Trade, Ian Brown Wiltshire Council, Richard  Broadhead Wiltshire Council, Cllr Fleur de Rhé Philipe Wiltshire Council,  Jonathan Wilshaw Swindon Borough Council, Paul Harris Oxfordshire County  Council,</p>	
2	The notes from last the meeting on 13th September 2012 (pre circulated) were approved with minor amendments	
3	There were no matters arising.	
4	<p><b>Chairman's Announcements</b>  None</p>	
5	<b>Restoration Progress</b>	
	5.1	<p><b>The 5 Year Towpath Challenge –</b>  <b>TP</b> presented an update on the project. A summary of the presentation is attached with these notes .  <b>LL</b> wished to formally record the appreciation for the great progress made by Tim and the towpath project team. There were a number of questions about the details of the Easter Sponsored Walk . <b>AB</b> wanted to know if groups could walk parts of route . <b>TP</b> said this was possible but he needed as much notice as possible to allow for proper resources.</p>

		<p><b>MC</b> noted Wiltshire applications for the Paths4Communities funding programme. <b>KH</b> said that discussions were taking place with Natural England to find any parts of the Towpath Challenge that were applicable to the programme.</p>	
	5.2	<p><b>Melksham Link-Project Update</b></p> <p><b>KO</b> noted a very successful public meeting recently organised by the Melksham Community Area Partnership &amp; Melksham Trust. At least 200 had attended with much positive support for the scheme.</p> <p><b>KO</b> showed an edited version of the presentation given to the meeting which included a review of the work completed elsewhere on the canal.<b>MR</b> asked about the likely timing of the planning application. <b>KO</b> hoped that all the necessary additional works including ecological surveys would allow the application to go to committee by early summer 2013.<b>KH</b> wondered whether Macrete might be persuaded to sponsor elements of the project and reported that Waitrose had offered to help with events.</p>	
	5.3	<p><b>Royal Wootton Bassett</b></p> <p><b>CC</b> reported negotiations with Wootton Bassett Town Council for transfer of ownership of a section of the canal to the Trust.</p> <p><b>CC</b> also reported that negotiations with Biffa Waste Ltd had moved on and consideration was being given to a an option agreement for land transfer, subject to a delivery plan for restoration. The implications of this proposal were being explored with potential funders.</p>	
	5.4	<p><b>Swindon Projects</b></p> <p><b>AB</b> circulated the consultation document showing the designs for Middle Wichel (<a href="http://www.wichelstowe.co.uk/design/middle-wichel-district-centre">http://www.wichelstowe.co.uk/design/middle-wichel-district-centre</a> ). <b>LL</b> asked if there was any evidence of property values being increased near the canal in Wichelstowe. <b>AB</b> said there was currently no local evidence, particularly as the developers had chosen to locate much of the social housing close to the canal and there was therefore little information about open market value. <b>MC</b> noted the report by RICS report showing up o 20% property value uplift near greenspace <a href="http://www.opengreenspace.com/opportunities-and-challenges/economic/property-values/">http://www.opengreenspace.com/opportunities-and-challenges/economic/property-values/</a></p> <p><b>AB</b> reported meeting with the Trust and Forward Swindon to discuss the canal issues in the current MasterPlan process. The meeting had identified a process to engage Forward Swindon in examining the potential economic benefit from the canal. Together with data being collected by <b>KO</b> this issue would be pursued with Garry Perkins ( Cabinet Member Regeneration) in the New Year. <b>KO</b> thanked Partners who had responded to the Forward Swindon consultation. <b>CC</b> was keen that Forward Swindon also examined delivery opportunities.</p> <p><b>AB</b> noted that discussions were progressing with the developers and Parish Councils about planning conditions on the Commonhead site. He also noted that the Highways Agency was looking at the capacity of M4 J15.</p> <p><b>KO</b> reported that a number of new volunteer project managers had been recruited by the Trust and current the Mouldon Hill project was be re-assessed by one of them with a view to starting some work in 2013 subject to ecological issues.</p>	

		<p><b>KO</b> also reported that further projects were being examined to help to provide a plan for the connection of the East Wichel and the Westleaze sections.</p> <p><b>CC</b> reported that an agreement between Swindon BC and the Trust was likely to be signed soon to hand over operation of the East Wichel section of the canal to the Trust. <b>RY</b> asked about canoeing on the section. <b>CC</b> said that as soon as the agreement was signed then he would be able to discuss issuing licences.</p>	
	<b>5.5</b>	<p><b>Pewsham Project.</b></p> <p><b>KO</b> reported that plans were well advanced to submit a planning application early in 2013.</p>	
	<b>5.6</b>	<p><b>Seven Locks Project .</b></p> <p><b>CC</b> said the project would progress when the Sec 278 agreement had been concluded with Wiltshire Council.</p>	
	<b>5.7</b>	<p><b>Grove Project</b></p> <p><b>CC</b> reported continuing attempts to secure an agreement with a adjacent landowner for permission to build a culvert under the Denchworth Road.</p> <p><b>KO</b> reported that 2 developments that had planning consent in the area had offered S106 contributions to the canal. These funds, when available, would be used for further technical studies.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Partners Reports and Issues</b></p> <p><b>AB</b> asked for an update on the proposed Melksham Waterway Festival in 2014.<b>KH</b> reported that the IWA were considering whether they could support 2 festivals in 2014 as it was proposed that the Melksham Festival would be held on a different date to the normal event.</p> <p><b>MR</b> introduced Rob Dean as the incoming Chairman of the K&amp;A Canal Trust.</p> <p><b>AB</b> thanked Mike for all his worked over a number of years.</p> <p><b>MR</b> reported that a partnership agreement had been drawn up between the K&amp;A Trust and the newly formed Canal &amp; River Trust.</p> <p><b>CG</b> reported that a drop-in facility was likely to be opened in Melksham early in 2013 to give out information about the Melksham Link.</p> <p><b>RY</b> noted that Canoe England are starting to promote Canal Trails . The Wilts &amp; Berks does not yet feature but would do so when further sections of water are open.</p> <p><b>RW/RB</b> noted that Melksham Town and Melksham Without Parish Councils are investigating producing a joint Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p><b>KO</b> reported that he has written in October to all Town &amp; Parish Councils along the line of the canal to request inclusion in each Neighbourhood Plan. About half of the councils had responded.</p> <p><b>KH</b> informed partners that the Southern Canals Association would be meeting in Swindon (17<sup>th</sup> March).</p>		
<b>7</b>	<p>Date and time and location of next meeting : 3pm March 14th</p> <p>Proposed Dates 2013:</p> <p>June 13th, September 12th, December 12th</p>		