

# Infrastructure investment as a trigger for social inclusion & place-making



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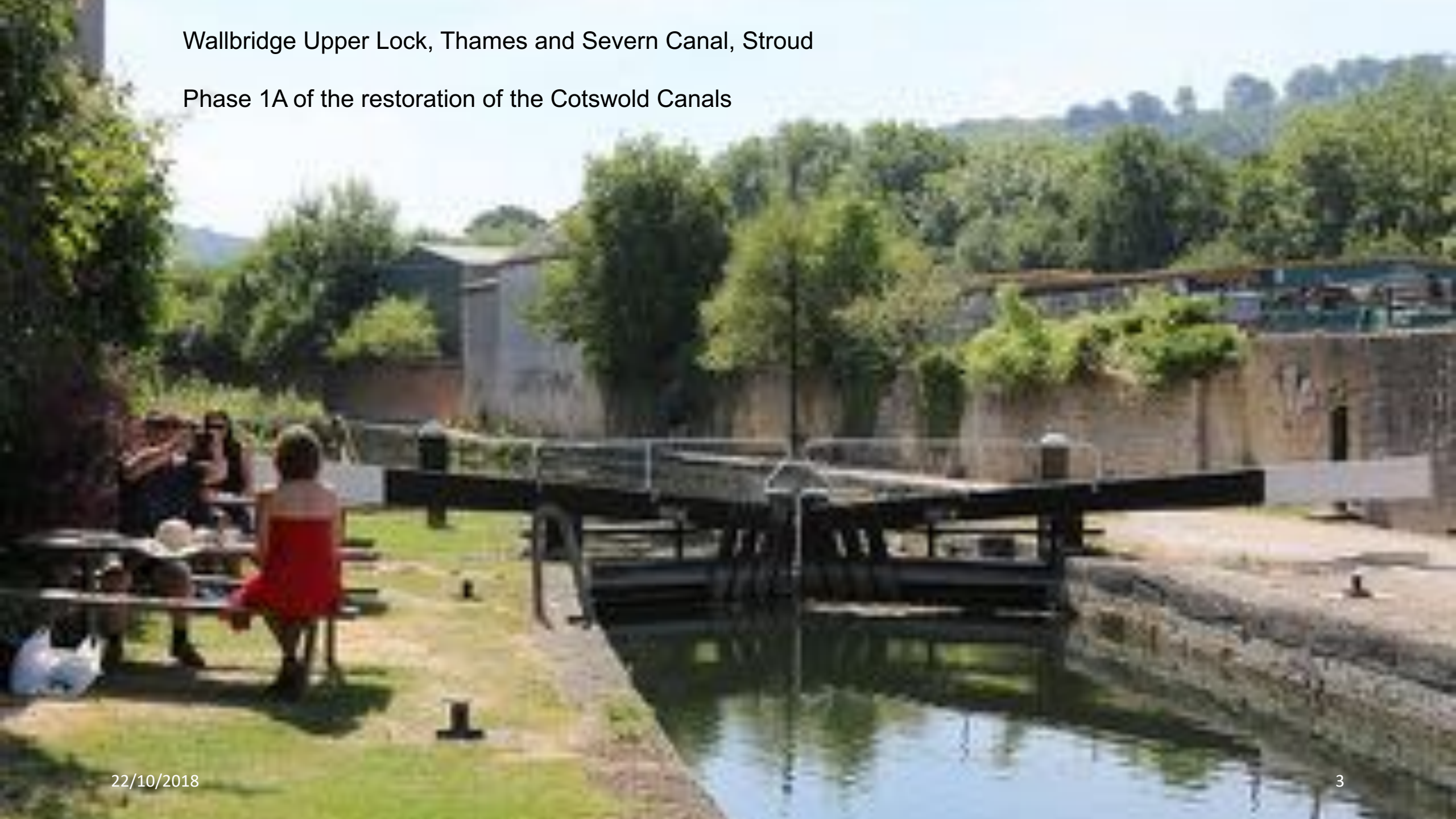
Re-naturation of the River Emscher catchment – 320 km<sup>2</sup>





Wallbridge Upper Lock, Thames and Severn Canal, Stroud

Phase 1A of the restoration of the Cotswold Canals

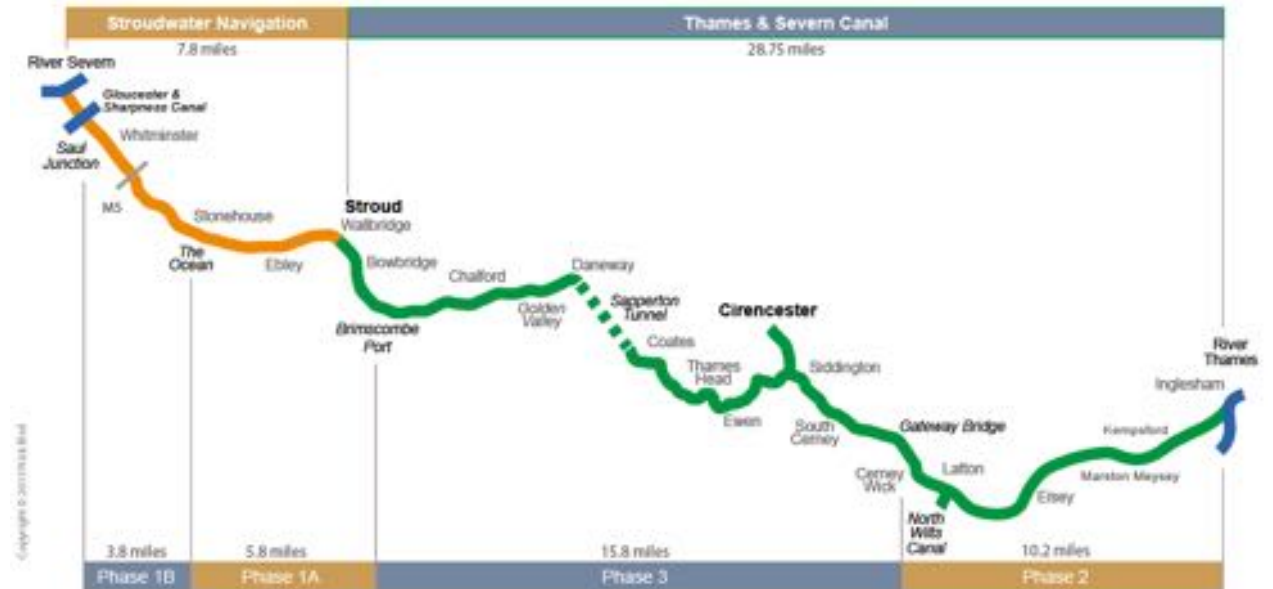


# The Cotswold Canals



How the Cotswold Canals are connected to UK navigable waterways

22/10/2018



Cotswold Canals restoration phases





Celebrations at Upper Wallbridge in central Stroud, November 2017, as the Heritage Lottery Fund inspects the completed Phase 1A



Front cover of November 2017 bid for funds for the next phase, Stroudwater Navigation Connected





## **Health & wellbeing benefits of canal restoration**

New walking and cycling route along the towpath





Special events - Steam boats at Ryeford



CCT's second hand bookshop at Brimscombe Port has become a kind of social club



Cotswold Boatmobility offers trips for physically and intellectually challenged people

22/10/2018





Volunteering – people of all ages and abilities



Local identity reinforced – industrial and natural heritage



Taking canal history to local schools



22/10/2018  
Local canoe club slalom course





Volunteering benefits include team work, using existing professional skills and being trained in new ones

Sometimes it's just about having fun – the 2018 raft and duck race



22/10/2018





# The legacy

- Estimated 200,000 towpath users each year
- More than 90% of the wider community support continuing the restoration
- 2 or 3 boating trips every week for people challenged physically or intellectually
- Sense of place strengthened for school children
- Critical importance of volunteers: >30,00 hours per year
- Significant public realm improvements
- Lessons learnt for the next phase





We are building a monitoring and evaluation programme. Canal & River Trust's recent Outcomes Measurement Framework is our starting point, but we are developing our own indicators and measures

Canal & River Trust (2017) 'Waterways and Wellbeing': Building the Evidence Base, First Outcomes Report

Outcomes Measurement Framework at a glance

Domain	Sub Domain	Outcome ambition	Primary indicators (supported by a suite of secondary self-reported and perception indicators)
 Health, Wellbeing & Improvement	Physical Health	Providing an accessible environment to encourage more people to become physically active and meeting recommended levels of physical activity	Number of people engaging in physical exercise on waterways owned and/or managed by the Trust, of which people achieving physical activity per week on our waterways at levels in accordance with published guidelines
	Mental Health & Wellbeing	Providing an environment which contributes to improving mental health and 'wellbeing' as part of wider public policy agenda	Improvement in reported scores using Office National Statistics and other accepted scale based measures of subjective wellbeing such as happiness, life satisfaction, reduced anxiety and feelings of worth following engagement with or use of the waterways
 Regained People & Collective Communities	Continuity Engagement	Contributing to the economic and resilience of local communities	Number of people involved in volunteering linked to waterways owned and/or managed by the Trust
	Broadening Opportunities & Inequality	Broadening participation by people from different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds, age groups and abilities and improving community cohesion	Number of people from different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds, age groups and abilities participating in a range of activities, events, competitions and group visits in space owned and/or managed by the Trust
	Community Safety	Providing a platform for prevention and/or rehabilitation programmes	Number of community service days on waterways owned and/or managed by the Trust that contribute to decrease in adult and young people re-offending
 Learning & Learning to Live	Education	Providing an environment which positively contributes to the personal safety and security of the locality	Improvement in reported scores using accepted scale based measures of perceptions of waterways owned and/or managed by the Trust being safe and secure in use and visit
	Wells & Lifelong Learning	Improving educational attainment prospects of school children	Number of children participating in formal education programmes linked to the national curriculum on space owned and/or managed by the Trust
 Progression & Distinctive Places	Employment	Improving the opportunities for young people (16-24 years old) and adults (25+ years old) to achieve vocational or skills based qualifications and enhance continued learning opportunities	Number of young people and adults achieving vocational or skills based qualifications as a result of engagement in learning activities on space owned and/or managed by the Trust
	Enterprise Growth	Creating an environment which attracts new and supports existing businesses within the locality	Number of new businesses attracted to, and existing businesses retained within a waterway corridor location as a result of the Trust's activity, assets, goods and services
 Regeneration & Development	Regeneration & Development	Creating an environment which supports new employment opportunities and seeks to help local enterprises and small businesses within the locality	Number of people claiming employment related benefits or claimed as NEETs who obtain employment after participating in activities or programmes using waterway infrastructure owned and/or managed by the Trust
	Regeneration & Development	Contributing to the regeneration, development and resilience of place	Value of the 'waterway dividend' to the prosperity and sustainability of a waterway corridor
 Green & Blue Futures	Sustainable Transport	Making a positive contribution to the UK's policies on reducing congestion and CO <sub>2</sub> emissions and improving productivity, air quality and connectivity	Volume of passengers served as a result of pedestrian/cyclist kilometres travelled on towpaths owned and/or managed by the Trust as defined by Department for Transport
	Sustainable Energy	Contributing to the UK's policy on energy security through localised energy production and contribution to renewable energy targets	Number of road (hedge) miles saved using waterways owned and/or managed by the Trust (converted into carbon savings recognised by Department for Transport)
	Water Sustainability	Contributing to increased efficiency in use of heating and cooling buildings and/or processes	Gigawatt hours of energy produced through renewable energy sources on waterways and land owned and/or managed by the Trust
 Cultural & Environmental Assets	Water Sustainability	Making a positive contribution to the local drainage system of the UK	Megajoules of water used in industrial, commercial, civic or residential buildings and/or processes for heating and cooling
	Culture & Heritage	Optimising the value to local economies, communities and identity derived from cultural and heritage assets	Number of discharges managed through waterways owned and/or managed by the Trust rather than requiring alternative drainage infrastructure
 Sustainability & Environmental Stewardship	Culture & Heritage	Optimising the value to local economies, communities and identity derived from cultural and heritage assets	% of people who believe that the Trust's waterways and/or activities contribute to the heritage and cultural richness of the local area
	Sustainability & Environmental Stewardship	Optimising the value to local economies, communities and identity derived from green spaces, natural and environmental assets	Number of historic buildings, structures and areas within waterway corridors brought back into beneficial use or enhanced through regeneration, repair or maintenance
			Improvement in reported scores using accepted scale based measures of people's sense of connection to their local environment as a result of using/being near/engagement with waterways owned and/or managed by the Trust
			Extent of green spaces and habitats created or enhanced within waterway corridors through development, regeneration and environmental stewardship



## Stroudwater Navigation Connected (Phase 1B)



Embedding all our work in community engagement, we need to rebuild a mainline railway bridge .....





..... recreate the 'Missing Mile' – filled in when the M5 motorway was built





..... go under the M5 (fortunately the River Frome bridge is already there)



.... not just look after existing habitats but increase biodiversity



... so that we can reconnect the Stroudwater Navigation to the Gloucester-Sharpness canal at Saul Junction ..... making our project sustainable economically as well as in social/cultural and environmental senses

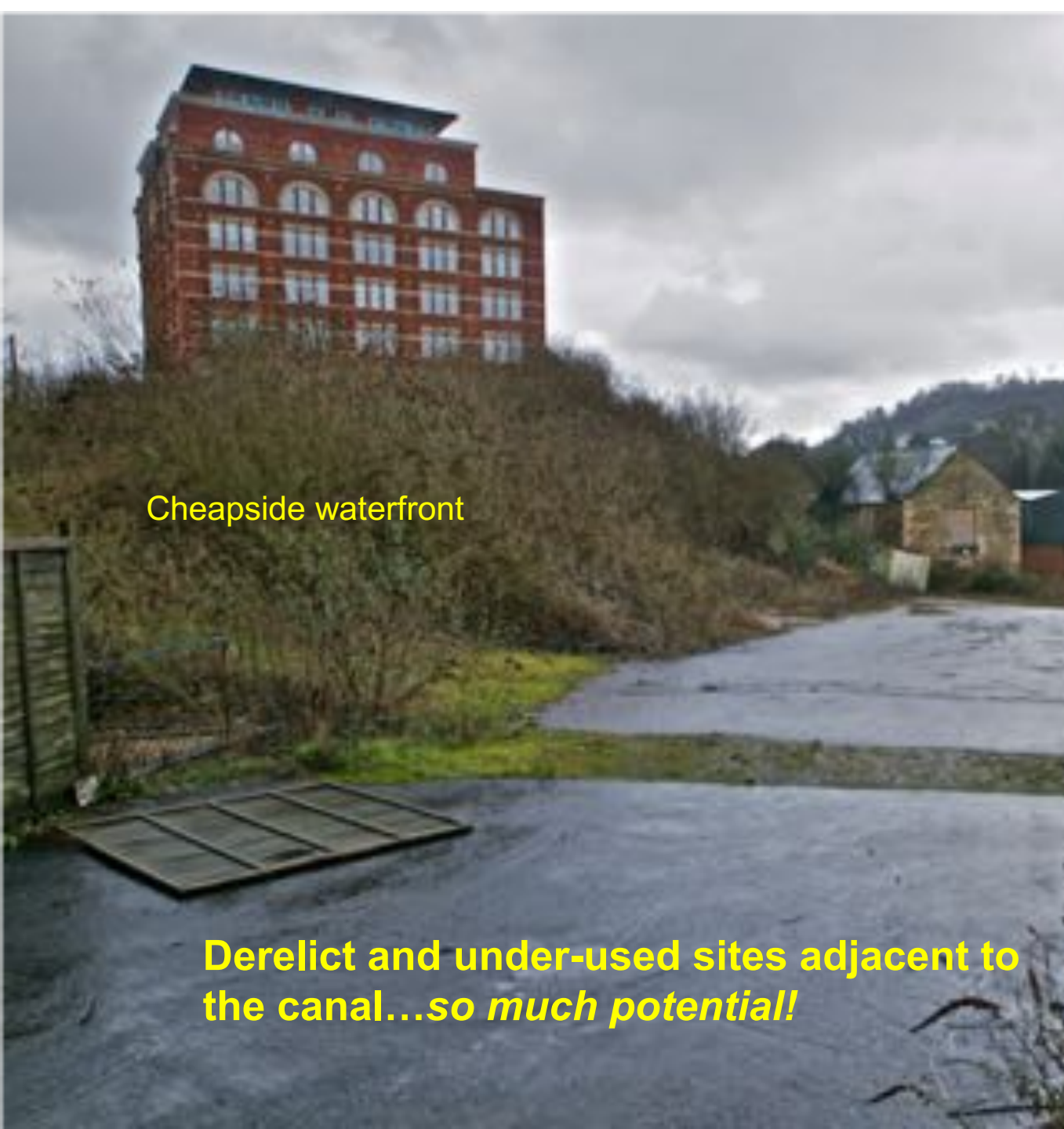




The restored canal passes right by Stroud town centre







Cheapside waterfront

**Derelict and under-used sites adjacent to the canal...so much potential!**



Original canal basin



Capel's Mill



## *The challenges*

- Canal poorly integrated with the town centre
- Retail decline and housing shortage
- Stroud District Council divesting itself of public assets





**A car-dominated, pedestrian-unfriendly urban environment, and car-dependent population**





## Canal rejuvenation triggers town revival !!



### ❖ **Community initiative**

- Cheapside Opportunities Report
- Civic Society talk and wider engagement
- Volunteer group emerges
- Preservation Trust councillor galvanizing

### ❖ **Stroud Town Council commits**

- Embarks on a Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Extensive community engagement and support
- NDP team negotiate with key players
- NDP eventually wins referendum 93%, in 2016

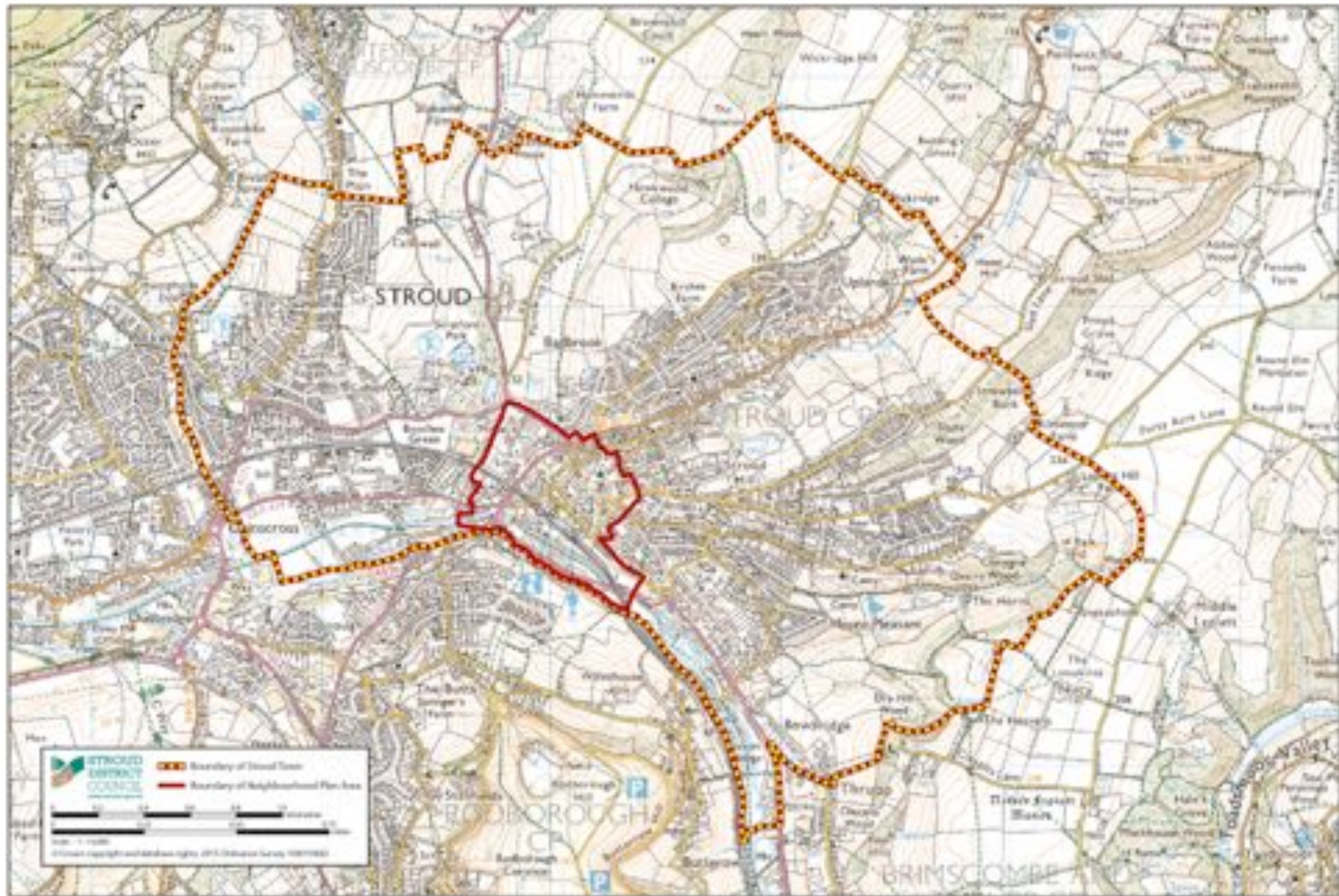
### ❖ **STC now have their own *plan***

- Appoint new staff, and fund-raise
- Plan project are implemented

### ❖ **Market response?**

- New centre investments: Dransfield to redevelop Merrywalks Shopping Centre





**The Neighbourhood Plan area with Stroud Town Parish**



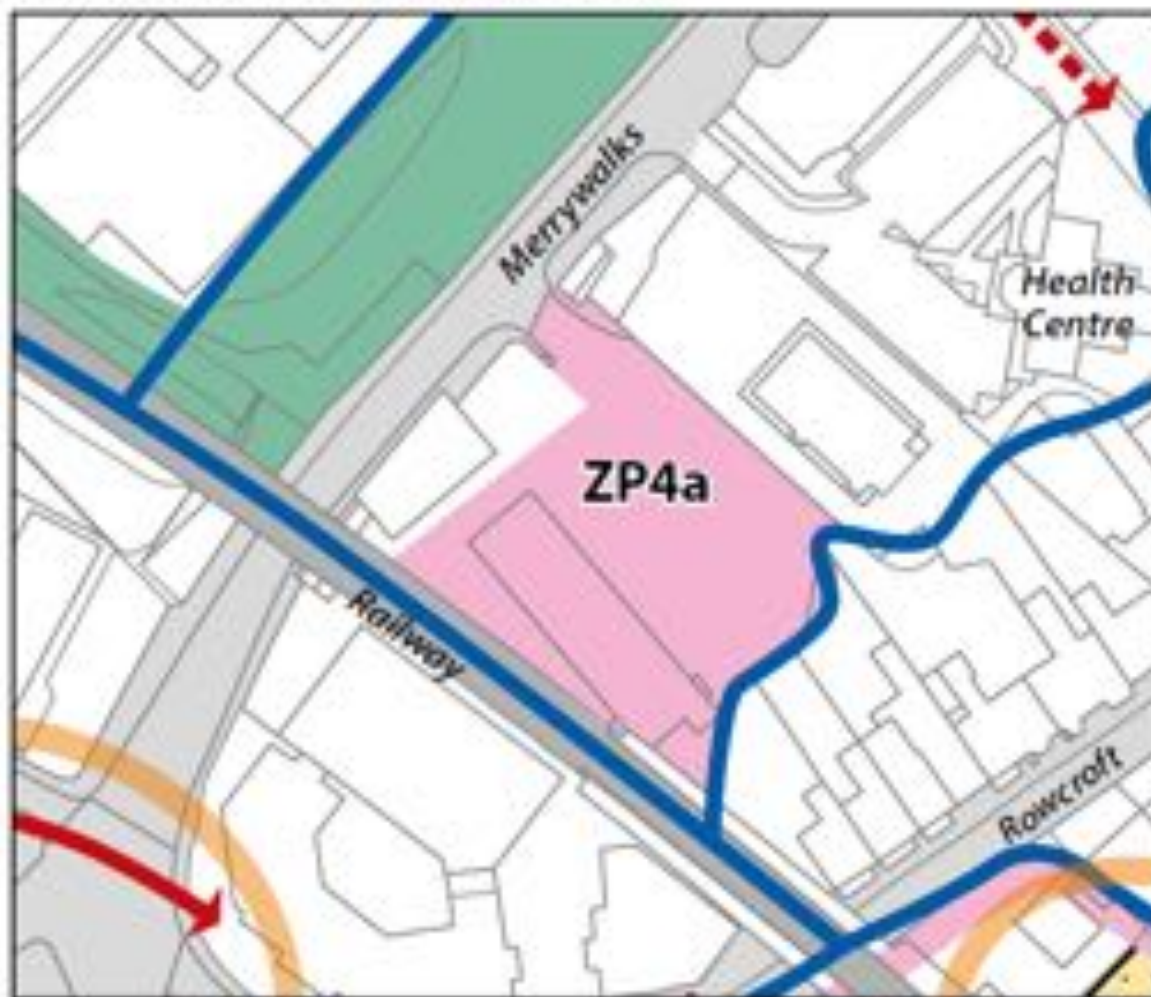
The Neighbourhood Plan strap-line

***Making Stroud Town Centre a welcoming, healthy, thriving place***





Development briefs for vacant sites and for  
a pedestrian-friendly public realm



Extract from the proposals map.





## New civic squares and pedestrian connections

Extract from the proposals map.





## Stroud Town Council's new-found confidence

Organizing bids for disabled access  
across the railway, and commissioning  
integrated planning of the station area



Rescuing the Sub Rooms from  
privatization or closure





**CHEAPSIDE SITE: Town houses and flats, 3-6 storeys  
With big south-facing balconies**

**Attractive pedestrian desire lines and wheel-chair  
access connections from town centre and Wallbridge**

**Waterfront square with  
ground floor commercial  
opportunities around it**

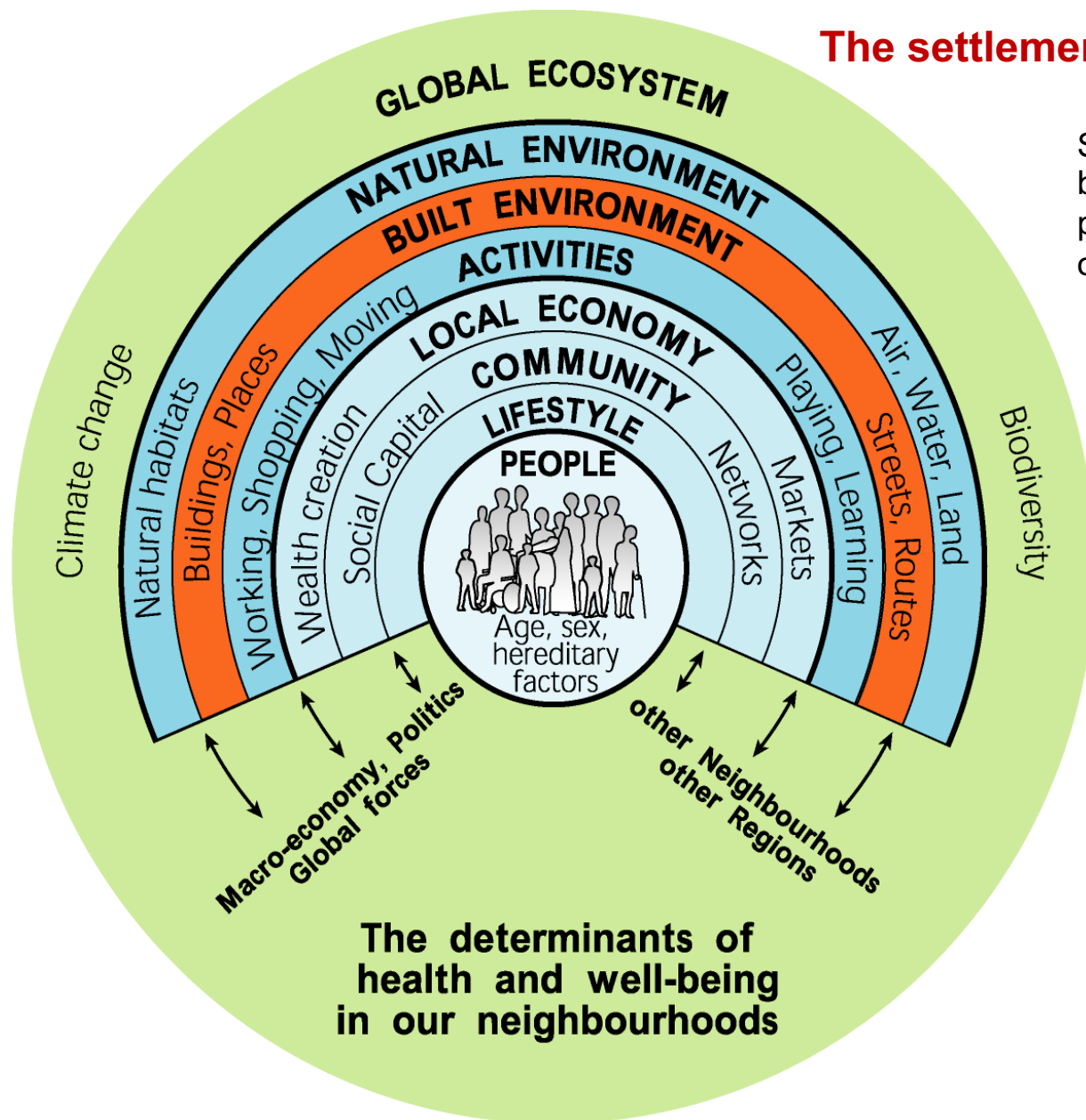
**Stabilise the landslip,  
full width canal,  
boat moorings and  
public access**





## The settlement health map – helping to evaluate the projects

Social inclusion, physical activity, community engagement, boosting the local economy, diversifying activities, a pedestrian-friendly public realm, biodiverse greenspace, opportunity for reduced transport emissions







## CONCLUSIONS

The creation of public blue-space has triggered behavioural change and new local policy initiatives.

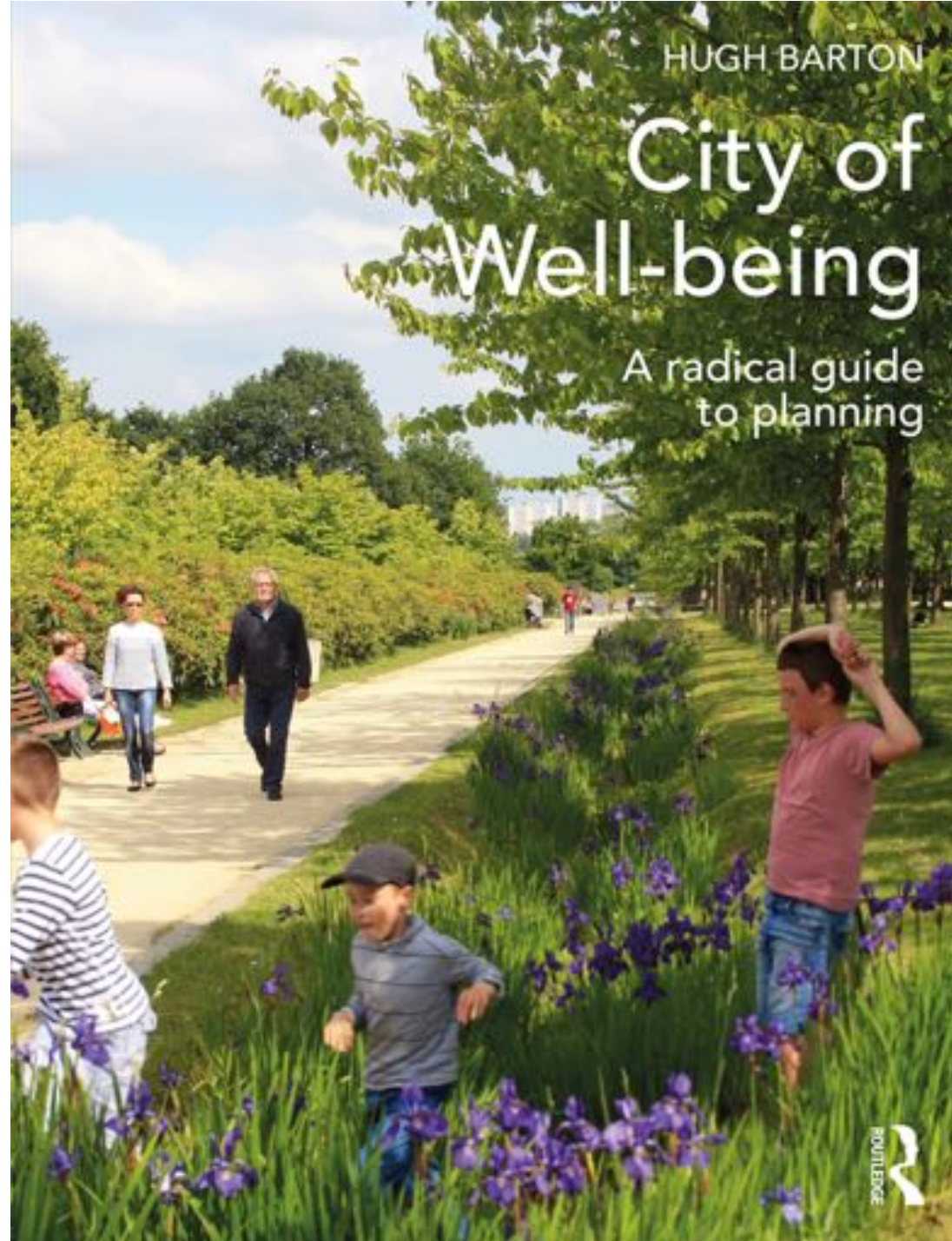
The canal and the neighbourhood plan have altered the perceptions of the community, the politicians and investors

Emerging decisions and investments limited in scope, but enabling a healthier, and potentially more sustainable environment.



## POSTSCRIPT

Green infrastructure, healthy environments, neighbourhood regeneration and Stroud town centre plan are important elements in *City of Well-being*



*Copies available  
from Amazon !*