



AVON NAVIGATION TRUST

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A new South Warwickshire Waterway Ring

The Avon Navigation Trust (ANT) considers that there is a strong economic, social and environmental justification for re-examining the prospects and challenges of opening up the Upper Avon from Stratford upon Avon to Warwick and creating a new tourism and rural enterprise zone.



The first step in progressing this ambitious initiative strongly backed by the Canal and River Trust is to gain the 'in principle support' from the three councils (Warwickshire County Council, Warwick District Council and Stratford District Council) who are regarded as 'key project stakeholders'. ANT recognises that whilst the project is technically feasible there are issues of access and funding which require a more detailed study before any firm decision to proceed can be made.

The benefits to the local economy of South Warwickshire would be in the form of increased enterprise opportunities, new jobs, improved access to leisure areas, environmental management, and a significant addition to the existing visitor attractions in and around Warwick and Stratford upon Avon. The Canal and River Trust provide an excellent video highlighting the economic benefits that waterway restoration can provide and which supports continued waterways development: <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/about-us/our-work/restoration/water-adds-value-video>

This briefing is to seek the 'in principle support' from each Council which will enable ANT and other stakeholders to proceed with an outline Business Plan and develop a phased funding proposal to develop and realise this ambitious and exciting project.

Signed  Position Chairman Dated 15 May 2017