

1.0 INTRODUCTION

WS Atkins were commissioned by Warrington Borough Council on behalf of a group of authorities and organisations to investigate and report on the feasibility of restoring the St Helens Canal to navigation throughout its length from Spike Island, Widnes to the various feeder branches in St Helens.

The Feasibility Study Report is contained within six volumes:

Volume 1	Main Technical Report
Volume 2	Technical Appendix - Structures
Volume 3	Technical Appendix - Geotechnics
Volume 4	Technical Appendix - Planning and Ecology
Volume 5	Technical Appendix - Restoration Proposals Drawings
Volume 6	Executive Summary

This volume, Technical Appendix - Planning and Ecology presents the following information:

- a summary of the existing local planning policies that relate to the canal and its restoration
- a description of the ecology of the canal corridor covering statutory designations, consultations with relevant organisations and the features noted on a walkover survey. The impacts likely to result from restoration of the canal are identified together with suggestions for nature conservation opportunities
- a summary of the industrial heritage features along the canal and the issues involved in their conservation
- identification of possible areas or sites where the restoration of the canal would enhance their development potential
- a description of the potential for a restored canal to provide facilities for leisure and recreation and to increase the attractiveness of the area for tourism

These issues differ significantly from those covered elsewhere as they relate not to the physical means of restoration but to the effects of restoration.

Planning and ecology are not an add on to the design process. In no way does this report merely seek to justify proposals made purely from an engineering basis. Where the proposals might be significantly detrimental or where opportunities for enhancement may be missed, a reiterative process has been undertaken to revise the engineering proposals to accommodate constraints and realise opportunities.

As a result, parts of this appendix may repeat statements made under the actual proposals. This reflects the multi-disciplinary development of the proposals, incorporating all concerns within them.