

Chesterfield Canal Trust Project Brief:

Doe Lea Valley - Environmental Framework



Version	2
Date of Issue	27 th May 2025
Date of Tender Return	8 th July 2025

Summary

The river Doe Lea has suffered a lot with the industrial legacy of north Derbyshire & north Nottinghamshire, particularly from mining and the rapid expansion of communities to serve the mines and other industry. Significant effort has been invested in the last 40 years in cleaning up the river, but there remains a lot to do.

Through the Don, Dearne & Rother Network catchment partnership, interested parties have been meeting to share their plans and ambitions for the catchment. It is clear to these parties that there are significant opportunities for partnership working on a catchment scale to expand the scope of intervention and deliver real positive changes to the river environment and the wider catchment.

To inform the work above, the partners have secured funding through the Water Restoration Fund to develop an Environmental Framework for the Doe Lea Valley and to develop an Action Plan for the delivery of a first trial phase. On behalf of the partners, the Chesterfield Canal Trust is now seeking consultants to deliver this work.

Further work may be commissioned at a later date to monitor and evaluate the success of interventions and to refine and develop the Action Plan for future phases, subject to future funding and endorsement by the partners.

The details of the work are set out in full below.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Background

- 1.1 Through the Don, Dearne and Rother Network catchment partnership, relevant partners have been meeting to share plans and ambitions for the Doe Lea catchment. The partners collectively have a strong understanding of the historic and current issues in the catchment, as well as the work undertaken to date and the opportunities available in the future.
- 1.2 The partners are now interested in developing their working together to deliver maximum improvement in the water quality and wider catchment environment within the Doe Lea catchment.
- 1.3 To inform this work, the partners are seeking to prepare an Environmental Framework as set out below.

Doe Lea Catchment

- 1.4 The river Doe Lea is a tributary of the river Rother, part of the Don and Rother management catchment within the Humber river basin district. The river flows approximately from south to north.
- 1.5 For the purpose of this work, the Doe Lea catchment is shown in Figures 1 and 2 below, and is defined as the following water bodies within the Rother and Doe Lea operational catchment:
- Pools Brook - Source to Doe Lea (highlighted in blue - [Water Body ID GB104027057310](#))
 - Hawke Brook - Source to Doe Lea (highlighted in orange - [Water Body ID GB104027057320](#))
 - Doe Lea - Source to Hawke Brook (highlighted in green - [Water Body ID GB104027057290](#))
 - Doe Lea - Hawke Brook to River Rother (highlighted in pink - [Water Body ID GB10402705301](#))
- 1.6 In addition to the natural water bodies, the route of the Chesterfield Canal crosses the north of the Doe Lea catchment, including a crossing of the river itself. The Chesterfield Canal is under active restoration and planning consent has been granted for the works within the catchment. Physical works within the catchment have not yet commenced.

Purpose of the Environmental Framework

- 1.7 The Environmental Framework will be a dynamic planning document for the interventions in the Doe Lea Valley. It will underpin applications for funding and help co-ordinate the proposals and delivery to maximise the environmental and social benefits over the timescale of the Framework and beyond.

Preparing the Environmental Framework

- 1.8 It is proposed that the Framework will be overarching, covering the whole catchment, with a series of identified delivery phases to suit likely funding availability. The scoping of the delivery phases will be determined in the Framework, and it is assumed that these are likely to align with a mixture of geographic areas and thematic interventions in accordance with partner and landowner priorities or opportunities.
- 1.9 To enable delivery of each phase, a tactical Action Plan will be prepared for each phase in due course. As a pilot for the approach, it is proposed to develop the Action Plan for the 'Doe Lea Hawke Brook to River Rother' (highlighted in pink) water body within this consultant appointment.

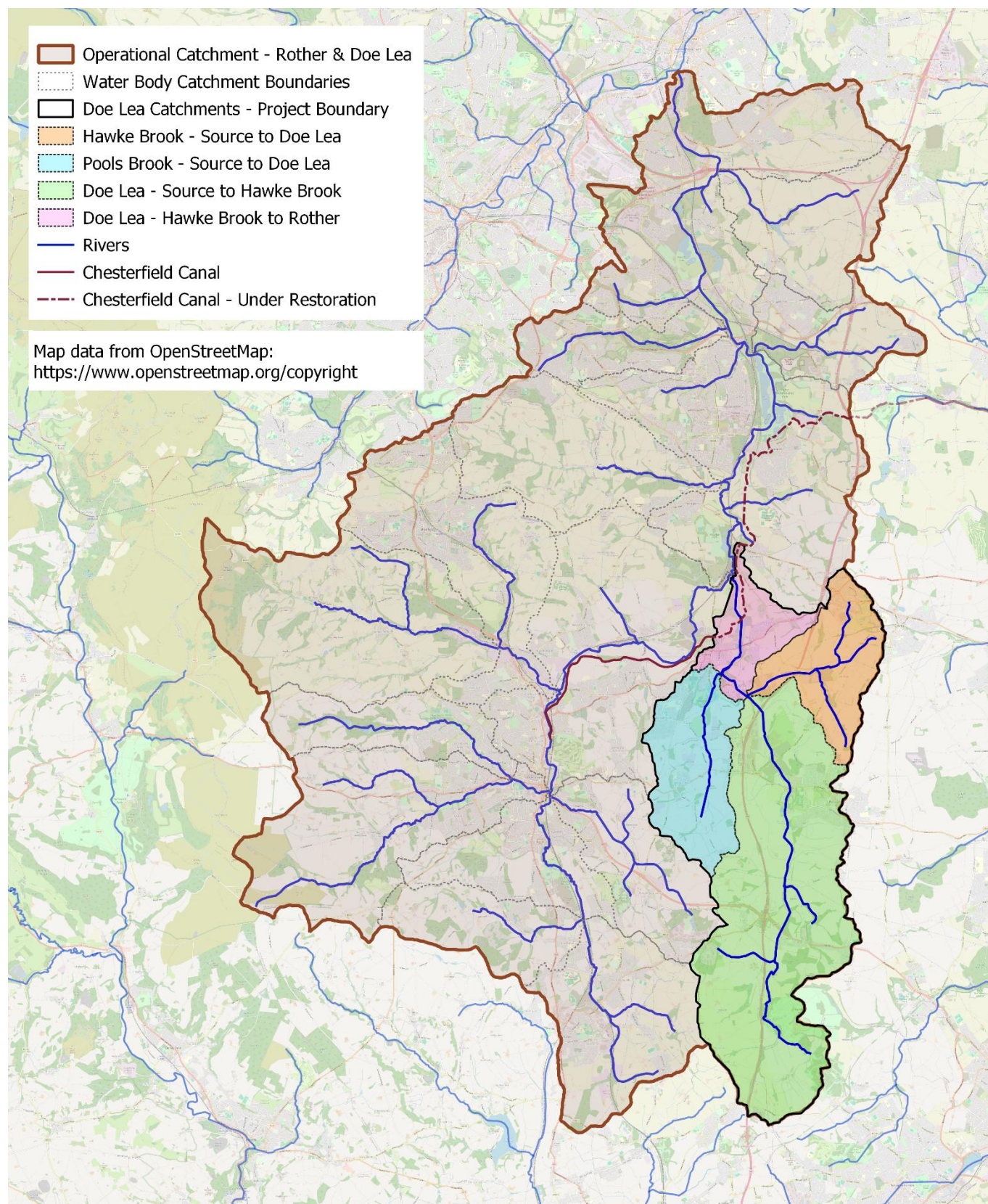


Figure 1: Overview of the Rother and Doe Lea operational catchment, highlighting the Doe Lea project area

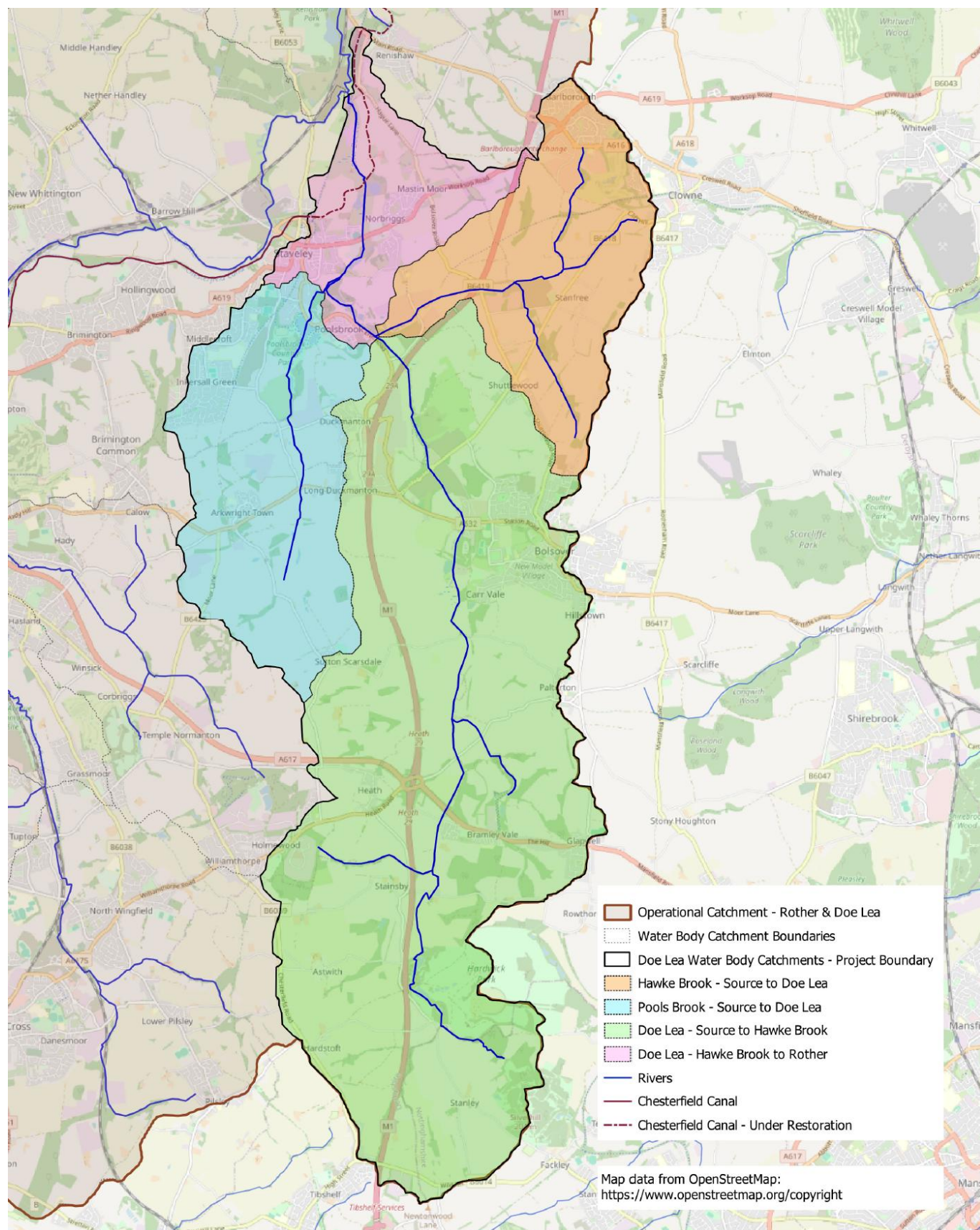


Figure 2: Close Up of the Doe Lea Catchment

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 An outline scope is given below. The Consultant should review and update this as appropriate in their Formal Project Design (see further details in section 6). It is expected that the scope will be refined in conjunction with the successful tenderer prior to delivery.
- 2.1.2 The partners do not have the capacity internally to prepare this plan. A limited amount of administrative support will be provided by the partners (e.g. for arranging meeting venues), and the partner steering group (see section 3) will be engaged with the Consultant throughout. Otherwise, the Consultant will need to allow for the following items additionally to the core scope outlined below:
- Procuring any additional survey works required.
 - Preparing and providing any physical or digital display or other materials required for engagement, including hosting of any online engagement.
 - Secretariat function for any meetings or workshops required.
- 2.1.3 Noting the historic work done in the catchment, the project will build upon that work and other relevant work in the area, not simply repeat it. A strong focus is therefore expected on the vision, delivery options and deliverability.

2.2 Outline Scope of the Environmental Framework & Action Plan

- 2.2.1 Background context:
- Background to the partnership, history of the river and the catchment and the reasons for the current environmental challenges
 - Identifying key issues / drivers for change (local and regional) and how the work of partners in the catchment can respond positively to address these challenges and opportunities.
 - The type and relevant success of interventions made to date.
 - Establishing a baseline position:
 - Assessing the current local physical, social and environmental circumstances, including identifying existing data sets and the work required to fill data gaps.
 - Assessing the current water quality status and the Reasons for Not Achieving Good (RNAG)
 - Mapping of protected sites, species and the key catchment relationships.
 - Identifying planned developments outside partners' control (e.g. housing).
 - Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats appraisal.
 - Key risk factors and the extent to which they are being addressed.
 - Gap analysis to identify requirements for new or further actions.
 - Benchmarking and lessons learnt from other similar partnerships in the UK.
- 2.2.2 Creating a vision for the river and the catchment:
- The vision for the river and the catchment should form part of, or respond to, the larger strategic vision for the areas covered by the catchment (see also section 2.4). It needs to define the scope of the Environmental Framework.
 - A narrative as to what success may look like and examples will be identified, e.g.:
 - Improving water quality in the catchment water bodies, supporting a return to good ecological and chemical status and/or preventing further deterioration from the current ecological and chemical status.
 - Further re-naturalising the catchment water bodies and restoring other water-dependent habitats within the catchment.
 - Increasing biodiversity in the catchment, particularly by halting and reversing the decline in priority species such as otters and water voles.
 - Improving, extending or creating additional priority habitats and protected sites, e.g. wetlands, and reducing the pressures on the same.
 - Improving landscape connectivity
 - Removing blockages to fish migration.

- Reducing flooding through Natural Flood Management.
- Reducing and managing water abstraction sustainably and equitably within the catchment.
- Managing invasive and non-native species.
- Reducing diffuse pollution (particularly silt pollution) through introducing and expanding catchment sensitive farming techniques.
- Increasing community engagement in the river and catchment environment through improving access and education and linking into academia.
- Promoting positive health and wellbeing.
- Creating and extending opportunities for education, skills, training and employment.
- Key targets will be established.

2.2.3 Setting the strategic context:

- Establishing the strategic importance of coordinated partnership working and intervention in the catchment to the delivery of the environmental objectives of partners and others i.e. defining the needs that the Vision is responding to.
- Key lines of enquiry:
 - What is the case for change, including the rationale for intervention at a catchment scale?
 - What is the current situation and what is wrong with this?
 - What issues will be addressed?
 - What is to be done?
 - What outcomes are expected?
 - How do these fit with wider stakeholder policies and objectives?

2.2.4 Community & partner engagement:

- Engage with stakeholders to support the development of the Framework.
- Support greater collaboration with and across community to bring about change.
- Key lines of enquiry:
 - Facilitated workshops and online engagement with existing and potential partners and other stakeholders
 - How can greater engagement and participation of communities in the catchment be secured and harnessed to deliver the Vision?
 - Defining what the communities in the catchment want from the river and the surrounding environment, and how can they get involved in its management / development?

2.2.5 Formulation of delivery options:

- The preparation of a portfolio of interventions which are expected to deliver the Vision through a series of geographic or thematic delivery phases.
- Key lines of enquiry:
 - An options appraisal of potential interventions in the catchment, including do nothing.
 - Preparing assessment criteria – social, economic, environmental benefits.
 - Assessment of the value of Ecosystem Services delivered.
 - Assessing the value to the river, wider environment and society of delivering the Vision compared to continuing with Business As Usual.
 - Value for money analysis.
 - What are the risks and their costs, and how are they best managed?
 - Which option(s) reflects the optimal / best value to society?
 - How might the full plan be divided into delivery phases?

2.2.6 Affordability, Timetable & Deliverability:

- The phased delivery options need to be defined to be affordable. This will need to be informed by a high-level assessment of funding prospects for capital delivery and ongoing revenue.
- The proposed programme / project management timetable for achieving the Vision needs to be established and resourced.
- Key lines of enquiry:
 - In light of experience from similar programmes in the UK, give a high-level assessment of funding prospects for (a) programme and project management, (b) implementation and (c) ongoing revenue requirements. Funding sources may include inward investment from

national government funding (e.g. Landscape Recovery or similar programmes), natural capital services, grant funding and private development.

- Can the proposals be delivered, at what development stage are they?
- Can partners provide the appropriate management and delivery resources, if not what changes in governance and resourcing are required and how might they be secured?

2.2.7 Next Steps

- Identify priority strategic and tactical recommendations to deliver the Environmental Framework.
- Develop a detailed Action Plan for the 'Doe Lea Hawke Brook to River Rother' water body as a pilot project for delivery of the Environmental Framework. This shall include details on further engagement required, particularly considering farmers and other landowners.

2.3 Historic Work in the Catchment

- 2.3.1 There has been a lot of work previously undertaken in the catchment, including both surveys and interventions. Technical data and project reports are being collated by the partners and will be shared with the Consultant during the initial mobilisation phase.
- 2.3.2 In addition to the written information, much of the history and knowledge of the underlying challenges in the Doe Lea catchment now only exists in the memories of those involved. This shall be considered and allowed for in the design of the consultation and engagement work within the project.

2.4 Key Strategies

- 2.4.1 The Consultant shall identify the relevant national and regional strategies that the Environmental Framework should accord with.
- 2.4.2 In addition, the Environmental Framework shall consider the following local strategies identified by the partners. The Consultant may also identify further local strategies of relevance.
- Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (particularly noting the extensive engagement and data gathering that was carried out during the development of this strategy)
 - Derbyshire's Heartwood Community Forest
 - Don, Dearne & Rother Network Catchment Plan
 - Chesterfield Borough Council 'Plan for Nature'
 - Chesterfield Borough Council 'A Greenprint for Chesterfield'
 - Chesterfield Canal Corridor Masterplan
- 2.4.3 Other partner strategies shall be discussed during the consultation and engagement phase

2.5 Output Specifications

- 2.5.1 The exact structure of the outputs shall be determined by the Consultant.
- 2.5.2 It is expected that the Environmental Framework and the Action Plan shall be provided as two separate reports in PDF format. Appropriately licensed copies of all data shall be provided in native format, to include GIS mapping compatible with ArcGIS online for hosting an interactive map on the catchment partnership website.
- 2.5.3 The reports shall provide clear evidence of the engagement carried out during the project to support future funding applications for the delivery phases.

3 STAKEHOLDERS & CONSULTEES

3.1 The following partners have been meeting to date:

- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Chesterfield Canal Trust
- Derbyshire County Council
- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- Devonshire Group
- Don Catchment Rivers Trust
- Environment Agency
- National Trust
- Natural England
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Yorkshire Water

3.2 It is expected that the Consultant will identify other potential partners that should be engaged or consulted on the proposals, including (but not limited to):

- Bolsover District Council
- North East Derbyshire District Council
- Parish Councils
- National Highways
- Other major landowners
- National Farmers Union and local farming groups
- Local community and interest groups

3.3 A steering group has been established to oversee the project. This includes members from the following organisations:

- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Chesterfield Canal Trust
- Derbyshire County Council
- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- Don Catchment Rivers Trust
- National Trust
- Sheffield Hallam University

4 TIMETABLE & SELECTION PROCESS

4.1 Tender Submission

4.1.1 The provisional timetable for the tender submission is:

Event	Date
Issue of Tender	27 th May 2025
Final Date for Raising of Technical Queries	23rd June 2025
Final Date for Responses to Technical Queries	27 th June 2025
Deadline for Submission of Tender	8th July 2025 (by 5pm)
Initial evaluation and notification of shortlist	w/c 14 th July 2025
Interviews and award of contract	w/c 21 st July 2025

4.1.2 Technical Clarifications may be sought from up until the 'Final Date for Raising of Technical Queries' identified in the table above. Queries should be raised in the first instance by email to the Project Manager.

4.1.3 Responses to Technical Queries will be copied to all Consultants who have expressed their intention to tender for the works, unless the Consultant raising the query has requested that it be considered confidential. Such requests will be judged on an individual basis, and the Consultant will be given the opportunity to retract the query in the event that the Project Manager does not consider it to require confidential treatment.

4.2 Evaluation & Contract Award

4.2.1 Following submission, an initial appraisal will be carried out by representatives from the partner steering group. Tenders will be judged by against the following criteria:

Criteria	Weighting
Cost (see section 5)	20%
Outline Methodology	50%
Organisational Capability & Demonstrated Experience	30%

4.2.2 Up to three Consultants will be shortlisted and invited to interview based on the initial tender appraisal. The interview will be used to discuss the details of the methodology and capability elements to allow for moderation of the final score.

4.2.3 The partners will not defray any monies expended by the Consultants in preparing or submitting a return or negotiating a final contract.

4.2.4 Submissions will be valid for a period of sixty (60) days from the deadline for submission. During that period the return will remain binding upon the Consultant and may be accepted at any time before the expiration of that period.

4.3 Delivery

4.3.1 It is expected that preparation of the Environmental Framework will commence shortly after contract award. Due to funding constraints, the final report must be completed and accepted by the Client by the end of February 2026, allowing approximately 7 months for delivery.

5 BUDGET

- 5.1 The partners have secured funding of £75,000 to deliver this work.
- 5.2 The secured funding is expected to cover the Consultant's input and any anticipated third-party costs.
- 5.3 Partner costs are excluded from the secured funding and will be covered by the partners directly.
- 5.4 Evaluation of the submitted costs will be based on absolute costs and an assessment of the value of work delivered, i.e. a Consultant delivering more substantive output for the same cost will score higher.
- 5.5 The project will be awarded on a **fixed-fee** basis.

6 FORM OF TENDER SUBMISSION

6.1 The Tender submission shall consist of:

- Formal Project Design (see below)
- Budget (see below)
- Completed Tender Return Documents, included in Appendix A to this project brief

6.2 The **Formal Project Design** shall address the specific objectives of the works, and should include:

- An outline methodology for the work showing an understanding of the project requirements and a summary of the key stages with approximate timescales;
- A summary of your organisation's experience and that of any proposed sub-Consultants in carrying out similar works, including up to 4 case studies of similar work done in the last 5 years.

6.3 The **Budget** shall be aligned to the methodology. It should separate the Consultant's own costs, any anticipated third-party costs (e.g. for venue hire, surveys, data etc.) and meeting costs. A monthly meeting with the Steering Group should be assumed and any other meetings that the Consultant feels appropriate should be itemised for information.

6.4 The submission shall be **limited to 20 pages of A4**, excluding the budget and the completed tender return documents.

7 ADMINISTRATION OF THE TENDER

7.1 The tender will be managed by the Chesterfield Canal Trust Ltd (CCT) on behalf of the partners.

7.2 Unless otherwise notified in writing, the CCT Project Manager will be:

Name	George Rogers CEng MICE
Role	Development Manager
Address	Chesterfield Canal Trust Ltd, 6 The Stables, Staveley Hall, Staveley Hall Drive, Staveley, Chesterfield, S43 3TN
Phone No(s)	07907 417604
Email	development@chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk

APPENDIX A: TENDER RETURN DOCUMENTS

A.1 Form of Tender

To: **George Rogers, Development Manager, Chesterfield Canal Trust Ltd**

1. We hereby offer to undertake to provide the Consultancy works in accordance with:
 - a) The Invitation to Tender Documents
 - b) Our Tender and your written acceptance thereof.
 - c) Any amendments to any of the aforementioned documents notified in writing by the CCT Project Manager.
 - d) Our signed documentation:
 - (i) Freedom of Information Statement,
 - (ii) Statement of Non-Collusion
 - (iii) Statement of Legal Compliance
2. We agree to abide by this Tender for the validity period of thirty (30) days from the final date for submission of Tenders and that it will remain binding upon us and may be accepted at any time before the expiration of that period.
3. Until a formal agreement is prepared and executed, this Tender, together with your written acceptance thereof, shall constitute a binding contract between us and shall be deemed for all purposes to be the Contract Agreement.
4. We understand that you are not bound to accept the lowest or any tender you may receive and that you will not defray any monies expended by us in tendering or negotiation of any contract.
5. We confirm that the contents of our Tender have not been agreed or arranged with any prospective competitor or trade association and will not be communicated to any third party.

Signed		Date	
Position			
Company			
Address			
		Postcode	
Phone No(s)			
Email Address			

A.2 Freedom of Information Statement

Note: Charging rates (e.g. day/hour rates) and allocated timescales will be considered as confidential in all cases. Details of the Contract Award will be published on the tender portal(s) on which it was advertised.

For any commercially sensitive information not encompassed by the note above:

We would like the following parts of our tender to be considered as commercially sensitive information: <i>(Please list clearly)</i>
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Disclosure of this information may be detrimental to the conduct of our company's business activities for the following reason(s):
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I require this information to be considered as confidential for		years
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I understand that The Chesterfield Canal Trust Ltd may have to release this information if required to do so by law.
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Signed		Date	
Position			
Company			

A.3 Statement of Non-Collusion

We certify that this is a bona fide tender, and that we have not fixed or adjusted the amount of the tender by or under or in accordance with any agreement or arrangements with any other person. We also certify that we have not done and we undertake that we did not do at any time before the hour and date specified for the return of this tender any of the following acts:

1. Communicate to any person other than the person calling for those tenders the amount or approximate amount of the tender, except where the disclosure, in confidence, of the approximate amount of the tender was necessary to obtain insurance premium quotations required for the preparation of the tender;
2. Enter into agreement or arrangements with any other person that they shall refrain from tendering or as to the amount of any tender to be submitted;
3. Offer or pay or give or agree to pay or give any sum of money or valuable consideration directly or indirectly to any person for doing or having done in relation to any other tender or proposed tender for the said work any act or thing of the sort described above.

In this certificate, the word “person” includes any person and any body or association, corporate or unincorporated; and “any agreement or arrangement” includes any such transaction, formal or informal, and whether legally binding or not.

Signed		Date	
Position			
Company			

A.4 Statement of Legal Compliance

A.4.1 Grounds for Mandatory Rejection

Note: In some circumstances the Chesterfield Canal Trust Ltd is required by law to exclude you from participating further in a procurement. If you cannot answer 'no' to every question in this section it is very unlikely that your application will be accepted, and you should contact us for advice before completing this form.

Has your organisation or any directors or partner or any other person who has powers of representation, decision or control been convicted of any of the following offences?		Answer (Yes/No)
(a)	conspiracy within the meaning of section 1 of the Criminal Law Act 1977 where that conspiracy relates to participation in a criminal organisation as defined in Article 2(1) of Council Joint Action 98/733/JHA (as amended);	
(b)	corruption within the meaning of section 1 of the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889 or section 1 of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906 (as amended);	
(c)	the offence of bribery;	
(d)	fraud, where the offence relates to fraud affecting the financial interests of the European Communities as defined by Article 1 of the Convention relating to the protection of the financial interests of the European Union, within the meaning of:	
	(i) the offence of cheating the Revenue;	
	(ii) the offence of conspiracy to defraud;	
	(iii) fraud or theft within the meaning of the Theft Act 1968 and the Theft Act 1978;	
	(iv) fraudulent trading within the meaning of section 458 of the Companies Act 1985 or section 993 of the Companies Act 2006;	
	(v) defrauding the Customs within the meaning of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 and the Value Added Tax Act 1994;	
	(vi) an offence in connection with taxation in the European Community within the meaning of section 71 of the Criminal Justice Act 1993; or	
	(vii) destroying, defacing or concealing of documents or procuring the extension of a valuable security within the meaning of section 20 of the Theft Act 1968	
(e)	money laundering within the meaning of the Money Laundering Regulations 2003 or Money Laundering Regulations 2007; or	
(f)	any other offence within the meaning of Article 45(1) of Directive 2004/18/EC as defined by the national law of any relevant State.	

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A.4.2 Grounds for Discretionary Rejection

Note: The Chesterfield Canal Trust Ltd is entitled to exclude you from consideration if any of the following apply but may decide to allow you to proceed further. If you cannot answer 'no' to every question it is possible that your application might not be accepted. In the event that any of the following do apply, please append full details of the relevant incident and any remedial action taken subsequently. The information provided will be taken into account in considering whether or not you will be able to proceed any further in respect of this procurement exercise.

Is any of the following true of your organisation?		Answer (Yes/No)
(a)	<u>being an individual</u> , is bankrupt or has had a receiving order or administration order or bankruptcy restrictions order made against him or has made any composition or arrangement with or for the benefit of his creditors or has not made any conveyance or assignment for the benefit of his creditors or appears unable to pay or to have no reasonable prospect of being able to pay, a debt within the meaning of section 268 of the Insolvency Act 1986, or article 242 of the Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, or in Scotland has granted a trust deed for creditors or become otherwise apparently insolvent, or is the subject of a petition presented for sequestration of his estate, or is the subject of any similar procedure under the law of any other state;	
(b)	<u>being a partnership constituted under Scots law</u> , has granted a trust deed or become otherwise apparently insolvent, or is the subject of a petition presented for sequestration of its estate; or	
(c)	<u>being a company or any other entity within the meaning of section 255 of the Enterprise Act 2002</u> , has passed a resolution or is the subject of an order by the court for the company's winding up otherwise than for the purpose of bona fide reconstruction or amalgamation, or had a receiver, manager or administrator on behalf of a creditor appointed in respect of the company's business or any part thereof or is the subject of similar procedures under the law of any other state?	
Has your organisation:		Answer (Yes/No)
(a)	been convicted of a criminal offence relating to the conduct of your business or profession;	
(b)	committed an act of grave misconduct in the course of your business or profession;	
(c)	failed to fulfil obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions under the law of any part of the United Kingdom or of the relevant State in which you are established;	
(d)	failed to fulfil obligations relating to the payment of taxes under the law of any part of the United Kingdom or of the relevant State in which you are established; or	
(e)	been guilty of serious misrepresentation in providing any information required of you under Regulation 23 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006?	

A.4.3 Insurance

	Answer (Yes/No)
Employer's liability insurance is a legal requirement (except for businesses employing only the owner / close family members) and this should be at least £1 million. Please confirm that you have this in place.	
If you do not currently hold this level of insurance, please indicate whether you would be willing to increase your insurance level if awarded the contract	
We require Professional Liability Insurance. Please confirm that you have this in place.	