

PUT A RAILWAY PLAN ON TRACK



A CANAL versus the railway - let's have a vote.

I'm not a Swindonian and no expert but I agree with W Duggan's letter (SA, August 6).

Why would anyone come to Swindon to see a canal?

Swindon already celebrates its outstanding railway heritage with the Outlet Centre which beautifully preserves the best of what was the largest railway engineering complex in the world and at its centre is the Steam Museum and close by the Railway Village.

On our doorstep we have the Swindon and Cricklade Railway

and already in place we have the Cricklade Country Way Project which has the aim of providing a leisure corridor between Swindon and Cricklade.

Just a stone's throw from Cricklade we have the Cotswold Water Park, which is Britain's largest water park.

Unlike the local canals which were mainly filled in because of the health hazards, the old local railway tracks can still be found marked on maps as dismantled but in many cases now preserved as pathways.

Who knows how many local villages and towns could be linked in the future by a local railway network using these historic tracks.

Let's put railways before canals in Swindon and concentrate first on linking up these already great facilities and provide an outstanding leisure corridor and transport network which would attract not only national but international fame.

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