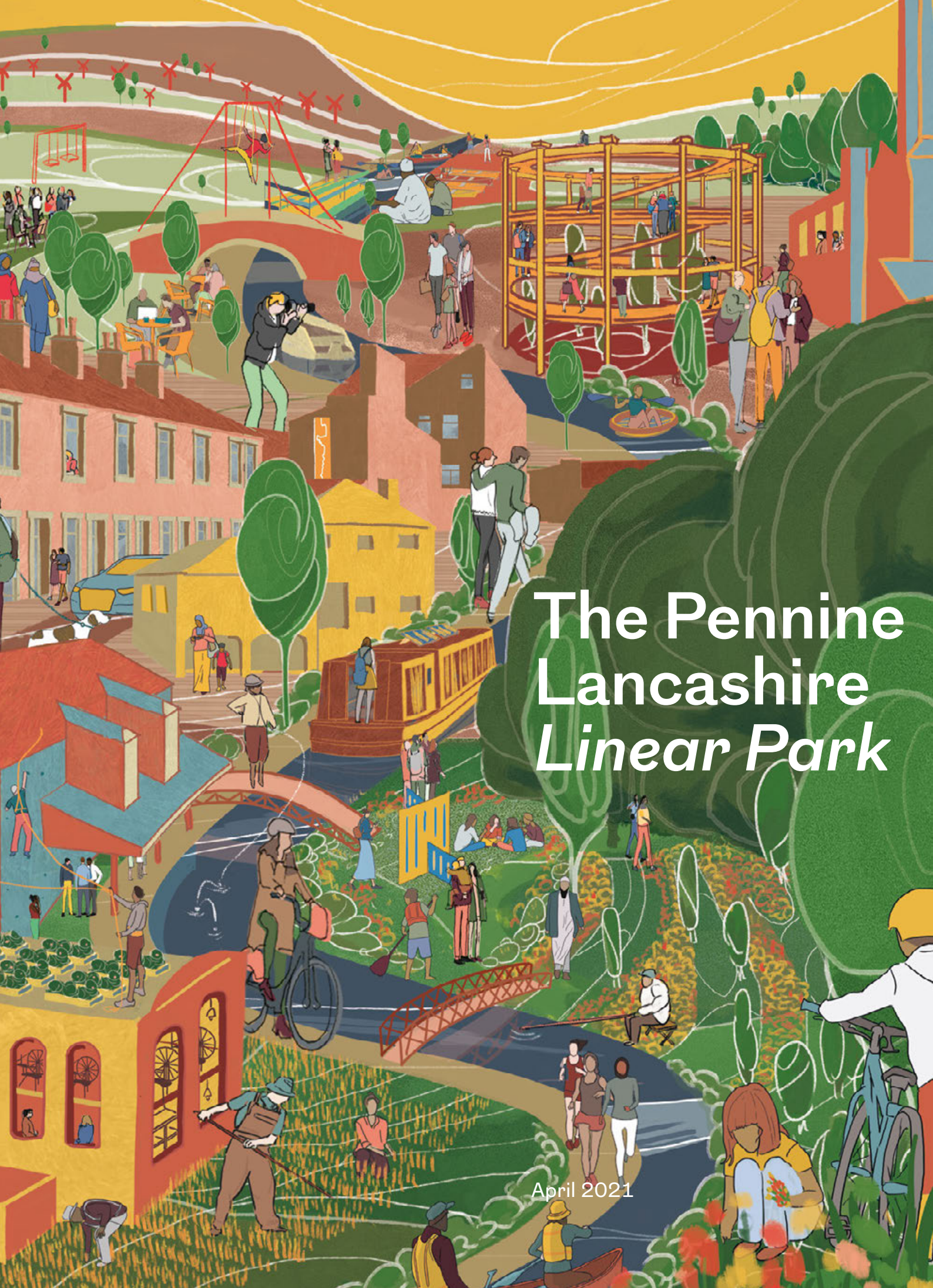




The Pennine Lancashire *Linear Park*

April 2021

Commissioned by Arts Council England, Canal & River Trust, Creative Lancashire, Lancashire County Council and the Super Slow Way.

The Canal & River Trust cares for and brings to life 2,000 miles of canals and rivers across England & Wales. They believe waterways have the power to make a difference to people's lives and that spending time by water can make us all healthier and happier. By bringing communities together to make a difference to their local waterway, they are creating places and spaces that can be used and enjoyed by everyone, every day.

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

Creative Lancashire is the creative industries development service for Lancashire County Council. Its remit is to develop, enhance and promote the environment for creative industries in Lancashire by strengthening existing businesses, supporting new enterprises and working to raise the competitiveness and profile of the sector and the sub-region.

www.creativelancashire.org

Hosted by the Canal & River Trust, The Super Slow Way is a cultural development programme in Pennine Lancashire that uses the Leeds & Liverpool Canal as a vehicle for bringing people together on a waterway that everyone shares. Their work is shaped by and delivered with local residents from Blackburn to Pendle, working alongside artists, designers, manufacturers and growers, in fact anyone whose energy and imagination can help build more resilient and sustainable communities.

www.superslowway.org.uk



The Pennine Lancashire *Linear Park*

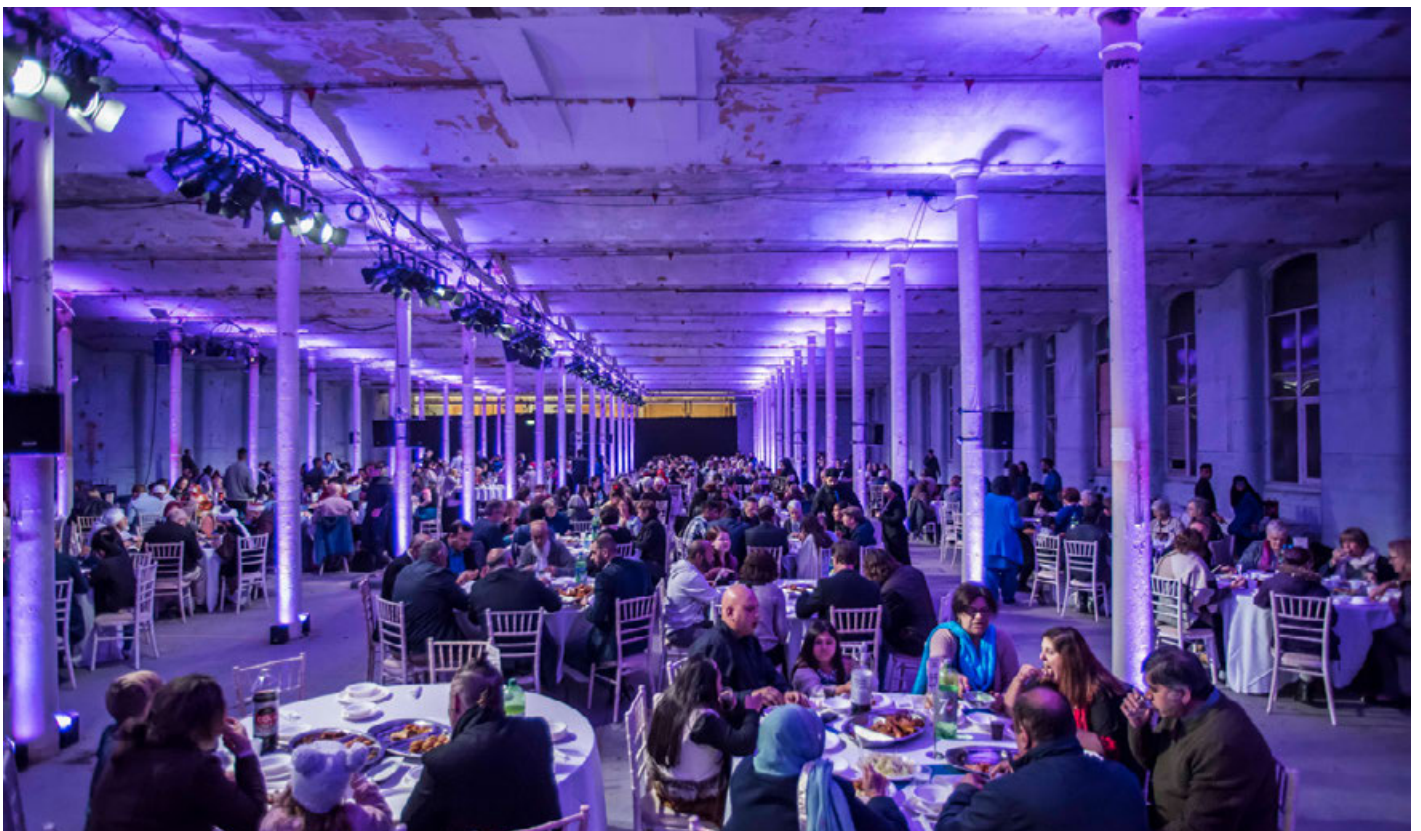
Unlocking the Potential of the
Leeds & Liverpool Canal:
The Case for Change



The Leeds & Liverpool Canal in Burnley, Lancashire (Image: Burnley.co.uk)

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Top: Super High Way – Burnley Youth Theatre, Burnley (Image: Matthew Savage Photography)
Bottom: Shapes of Water, Sounds of Hope, Pendle (Image: Chris Payne)

Foreword

This study makes the case for unlocking the immense potential of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. Cutting through Pennine Lancashire, and connecting three northern powerhouse cities – Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester – the canal represents a fantastic opportunity. Imagined as a *linear park*, the canal could once again form the basis for creating opportunities for people to live, play, to be inspired and productive; to learn new skills; and above all to build a new, greener future for themselves and their families. In all of these ways this *linear park* could be so much more than simply a green space for leisure.

Completed in 1816, the Leeds & Liverpool Canal represented a great achievement for civil engineering, enabling the textile industry to grow exponentially and become central to the nation's prosperity. Two centuries later, needs have changed. Many people are out of work, climate change is wreaking havoc on the planet and public health is in crisis. In the face of these challenges, how can the canal once again play a central role for local prosperity? How can we unlock the precious green, brown and blue spaces along its course through the towns of Pennine Lancashire to tackle these urgent issues?

As the original 'super highway' of the Industrial Revolution this waterway transformed Pennine Lancashire; this report describes how and why it could once again. The aim is to harness precisely the same pioneering local spirit which underpinned its original invention.

With a clear character and identity the Linear Park is intended to demand the highest quality standards for design along its 20+ mile stretch,

from Blackburn to Pendle. Projects should be thought of as contributing to the creation of a 'string of pearls'. These include an extraordinary array of new leisure hubs currently in development; repurposed and refurbished heritage structures and spaces (such as Northlight Mill in Pendle and UCLAN's new campus at Sandygate Square in Burnley) as well as longer term ambitions for other heritage sites including the historic Coking Ovens in Hyndburn and the epic Imperial Mill in Blackburn.

The Linear Park has the potential to bring together communities, businesses, academia and local authorities unifying a broad scope of possible interventions as a linear heritage, recreational and cultural resource. The key to its success will depend on the determined and co-ordinated effort of all involved to effect real change. It also offers a blueprint for post-Covid recovery; for a carbon neutral future, for a resilient economy and, above all, to enhance quality of life among the communities of this rich post-industrial and bio-diverse landscape.

We hope this report serves as a call to action to reopen debate around this ambitious and sustainable proposal to reshape the future of Pennine Lancashire.

Laurie Peake

Director, The Super Slow Way

Daniel Greenhalgh

Director, North West, Canal & River Trust

What is the Pennine Lancashire Linear Park and why is it important?

The Pennine Lancashire Linear Park is an exciting, pioneering and deliverable vision and programme of change conceived for a 23-mile (37-kilometre) section of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal corridor. A project that seeks to marry physical improvements to landscape, infrastructure and buildings, to expansive programmes of environmental, cultural, leisure, educational and economic activity.¹ The aim is to create a Linear Park that transforms quality of life as well as the environment, through ambitious and innovative processes of change.

The Linear Park concept is about bringing life back to the places and infrastructure that once supported thriving industry and created the places which lie along its route. The approach has been inspired by other successful examples around the world, in particular Emsher Park in the Ruhr region of Germany and the High Line in New York. A government-led project that started in 1989, 'Internationale Bauausstellung Emsher Park' is a holistic programme of structural change covering an area of approximately 300 square miles. Initiated in 2006 by local activists, the High Line is an elevated linear park in New York City built on a former railway line well-known as a success story from the perspective of conservationists, ecologists and landowners.

While different in scale and geography, each of these examples demonstrate the depth and breadth of impact that innovative and creative regeneration can play in the reinvention of industrial infrastructure. Each project also demonstrates the necessity to work in cross-sectoral partnerships across boundaries.



A 35-year vision, Emsher Park was based on seven principles of change, including reconstruction and improvements to landscape, infrastructure and ecology, restoration of cultural heritage and new infrastructure for leisure and cultural activities (Image: Michael Latz)



The High Line attracted 8 million visitors in 2019, and its impact on the development of surrounding neighbourhoods and establishment of other initiatives to build from the lessons learnt in New York has been profound (Image: Iwan Baan)

The parallel crises of the climate emergency and increasing societal inequalities have, for many years now, demanded that we fundamentally reassess and change the way we live and work. It has, however, taken another crisis—the Covid-19 pandemic—to suddenly and sharply expose the severity of these contemporary crises. MP Danny Kruger’s ‘Levelling up’ report acknowledges the need for a new paradigm centred on the power of communities and social infrastructure, stating that, “The era just ending was governed by economic and social doctrines which have caused us to become the most regionally unequal country in the developed world, with a range of chronic social challenges. The era now opening must address these challenges by putting communities at the heart of policy making.”² Lancashire’s bold response is their 2020 Covid-19 recovery plan - ‘Redefining Lancashire: Our Approach to Recovery’ and #RedefiningLancashire campaign led by Marketing Lancashire.

The proposed Pennine Lancashire Linear Park is within a section of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal that spans four district authorities—Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Burnley and Pendle—and passes through several towns built around the textile industry, including Blackburn, Accrington, Burnley and Nelson. Over 70,000 people live along the canal corridor³ across 34 neighbourhood wards, many ranked among the 10% most deprived areas in the country.⁴ The neighbourhoods along the canal corridor are characterised by largely monocultural white working-class communities existing side by side with South Asian (predominantly Pakistani) neighbourhoods—a settlement pattern stemming

from the inward migration of a South Asian workforce to the textile industries in the 1960s and 1970s. While the wider region of Pennine Lancashire is home to the highest concentration of advanced manufacturing industries in the UK, the unemployment rate for the working age population along the canal corridor is 3.6%, higher than the average in Lancashire (2.6%).⁵ Pennine Lancashire has also suffered disproportionately during the pandemic and its economy is predicted to be among the ten most heavily impacted in the UK. The area’s Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, which comprise a high proportion of the canal corridor’s population, have been particularly affected.⁶

Immediate benefits to the quality of the public realm, improved pedestrian connectivity and sustainable modes of transport can be achieved early on through physical improvements. This will result in increased footfall, improved social inclusion and a safer environment. New social infrastructure would strengthen communities and improve quality of life. Together with investment in the area’s heritage, these improvements will create spill over benefits and over the longer term, the Linear Park project will seek to unlock investment to catalyse urgent change and realise the social, environmental and economic potential of the canal corridor. This will create a strong rationale for public investment as well as leveraging private investment in the long term.

The Case for Change

This study is a call to action—for decisive, immediate and coordinated support from all stakeholders and partners. The Linear Park can play a vital role in addressing the challenges for communities in Pennine Lancashire and now is the moment to take advantage of post-Covid-19 national funding opportunities.

The opportunities afforded by the Pennine Lancashire Linear Park have the potential to improve the lives and futures of its communities, changes that are urgently needed at this moment in time. This potential has been imagined and studied for nearly two decades and while some change is evident and very positive, much of the canal environment is unchanged or in decline.

A 2003 report commissioned by British Waterways (now Canal & River Trust) set out a detailed plan to drive the regeneration of the canal corridor in Pennine Lancashire and, in 2005, Tony Wilson's imaginative report 'Dreaming of Pennine Lancashire' coined the name for the region and set out a vision for its future. More recently, the potential of the canal corridor and the idea of a Linear Park has been embraced and promoted in local policy and various strategies. These include the 'Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's (LEP) Cultural Investment Strategy' (2020), the 'Pennine Lancashire Growth and Prosperity

Plan' (2016) and the 'Pennine Lancashire Heritage Investment Strategy' (2015) where the Pennine Lancashire Leaders and Chief Executives (PLACE) designated improvements to the canal's heritage infrastructure as Pennine Lancashire's signature priority project.

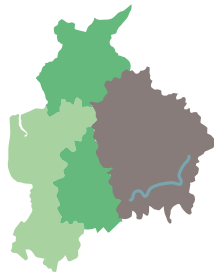
The LEP's Cultural Strategy identifies five desired outcomes generated by priority cultural initiatives that cut across 'Let's Create' – the Arts Council England (ACE) 2020–2030 Strategy in addition to local and governmental agendas. The outcomes include; Increased Connectivity; Enhanced Capacity, Improved Crossovers; Bolder Commissioning and Innovative Infrastructure, and Compelling Cultural Narratives.⁷ The project is also aligned with the objectives of Lancashire's bid to be the UK's City of Culture 2025 and with the Canal & River Trust's vision for waterways to 'transform places and enrich lives'.

The purpose of this study is to restate the vision, present opportunities and ideas, assess the feasibility and provide an economic assessment of the Linear Park so that the next steps towards implementation can be taken. Through this study, it is hoped that momentum will build to drive the regeneration of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal to redefine it as a key asset, a focus for reinvestment, employment, recreation and local resilience and, above all, as a catalyst for improved quality of life for local communities.

The Leeds & Liverpool Canal in Pennine Lancashire



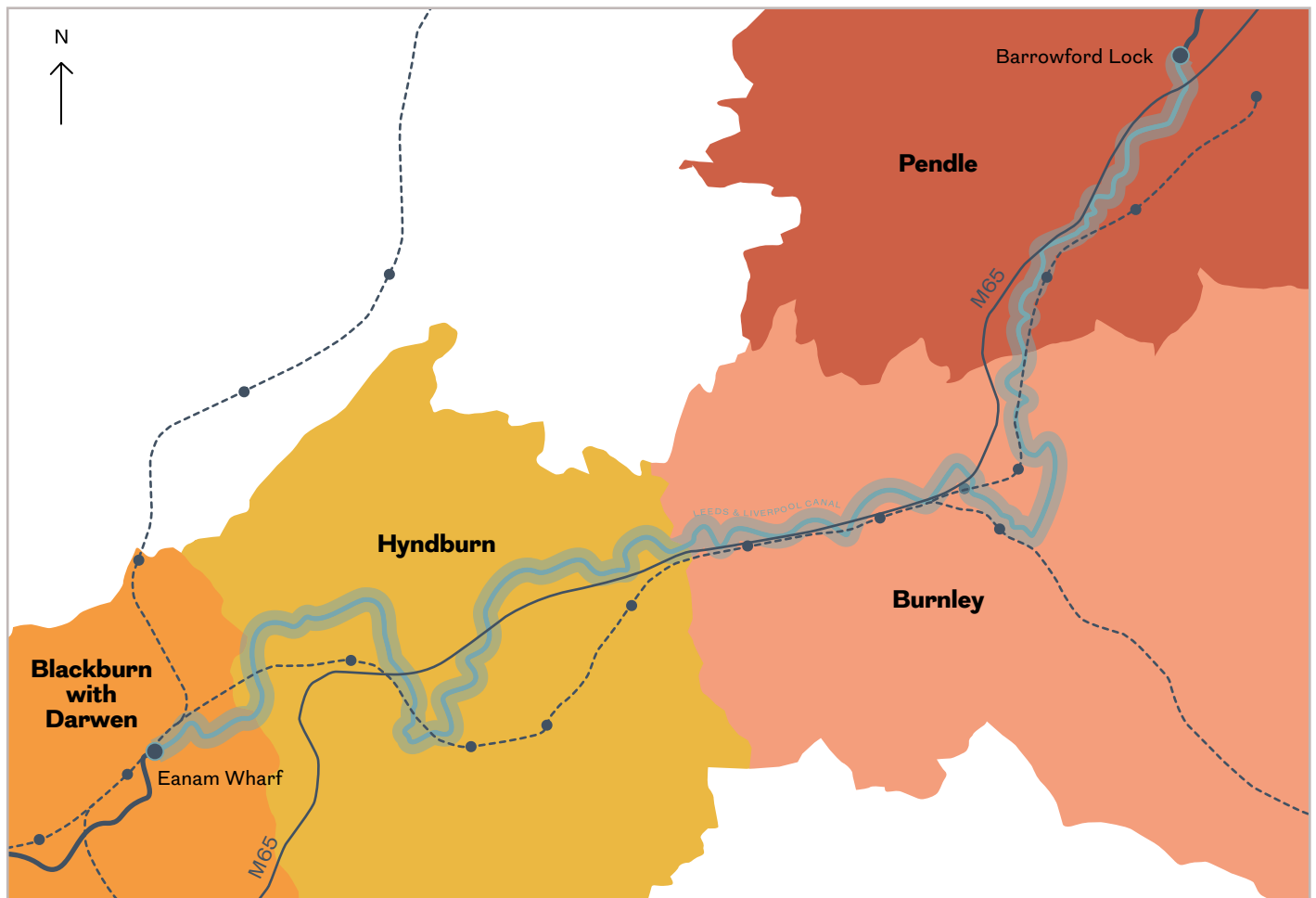
UK



PENNINE
LANCASHIRE

Within study area

- 93 Access Points
- 6 Locks
- 6 Footbridges
- 79 Bridges accessible by vehicles
- 7 Rail way bridges
- 208 Grade I, 2* and 2 listed buildings and structures
- 5 Conservation Areas at risk



- M65 Motorway
- Railway line and stations
- Study area/500m within Leeds & Liverpool Canal
- Leeds & Liverpool Canal

The Leeds & Liverpool Canal in Pennine Lancashire

The Leeds & Liverpool Canal is Lancashire's single largest industrial heritage monument. Its route and character visible products of the landscape. Landscape is central to the evolution of Pennine Lancashire's communities, its industry and its impact on industrialisation. The canal here exemplifies the interplay between industrial endeavour and the natural environment as it passes through a contrasting landscape of industrial foothills and valleys, and Pennine scenery where the mass of Pendle Hill forms a distinctive backdrop to the canal corridor.

A comprehensive study of the history of Pennine Lancashire describes its unique confluence of geography, climate and skills, stating that, "there is a local story to be told that is unique, interesting and of immense importance...understanding and explaining the Industrial Revolution really does require a specific narrative based on this location... Since this transformation is so geographically specific, we must also accept that the distinctive landscape of this area contributed significantly."⁸

At the forefront of innovation, Lancashire's textile industry embraced both steam power and factory production, which in turn shaped the historic character of the region and left a lasting legacy. This legacy is still deeply embedded in Lancashire's consciousness and its physical manifestation is seen in the canal, the region's mill towns and their skylines.

The Lancashire Textile Mills Survey from Historic England shows that Pennine Lancashire contains 424 of Lancashire's 540

surviving textile mills. A number of sites along the canal have been restored and developed in recent years—most notably the mixed-use developments at Weavers' Triangle in Burnley and Northlight in Nelson, with residential, office, education and sports facilities, and these are testament to the impact that the sensitive and imaginative re-use of heritage sites can have, socially and economically as well as aesthetically. However, as a consequence of decades of under-investment, many other sites in this post-industrial landscape lie underused, vacant, or in a state of dereliction.

The character and physical quality of the canal itself is varied with many stretches offering spectacular far-reaching vistas to the surrounding landscape that formed it. Limited access, however, presents a real barrier with enclosing walls and fences, restricted links between the canal and other transport networks and very few canal-orientated public spaces, while many residential and industrial developments have their backs turned to the canal. The M65 motorway, while providing key transport links, negatively impacts many sections of the canal corridor both audibly and visually.

The following photo essay portrays a glimpse of some of the varied character, opportunities and challenges of the canal within the study area, from Pendle to Blackburn, featuring quotes from stakeholders.

“Unfortunately, there aren’t many places to sit and relax on the canal.”



North of the urban density in Nelson, the canal enters a more scenic and tranquil landscape near Barrowford Locks, juxtaposed with motorway interruptions (Pendle)



Enclosing walls in Nelson create access barriers and poor connections to the town centre with developments turning their backs to the canal (Pendle)



Many stretches of the canal would benefit from improved planting and landscaping (Pendle)



The openness of the canal in Brierfield in the midst of the redevelopment at Northlight provides a contrasting environment (Pendle)



Weaver's Triangle has a sense of place defined by its sequence of mill buildings, weaving sheds and canal-related structures, some occupied with new businesses but many still vacant and in a state of dereliction (Burnley)

“I run along the canal three times a week.
I’m a slow runner and I always think of the phrase
Super Slow Way as we are a nice match!”

“Accessibility is a big barrier to using the canal.”



A vacant pub occupies a prime spot on the canal, with potential to be a key venue for local communities (Burnley)



Finsley Gate Wharf is currently undergoing restoration work, transforming heritage buildings into a range of community amenities (Burnley) (Image: David Wooley)



The canal in Burnley connects into the town centre and provides good access potential (Burnley)



The Burnley Embankment – known locally as 'The Straight Mile' – offers clear views across the town centre (Burnley)

“Sometimes you wouldn’t know the canal is that close to a station.”



Calm, semi-rural open landscapes enclose the canal with vistas across the countryside in Church (Hyndburn)



The halfway point along the Leeds & Liverpool Canal in Church (Hyndburn)



Canalside residential developments located on the banks of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal have the opportunity to take advantage of their location (Hyndburn)



Industrial development turns its back to the canal (Hyndburn)

“There is so much opportunity all the way through.”



Upstanding and burried remains of the mid-19th century Aspen Colliery and beehive coking ovens in Oswaldtwistle (Hyndburn)



Industrial edges along the towpath fence Imperial Mill, an early 20th century cotton spinning mill (Blackburn)



Missed opportunities to create green canalside public spaces such as in Green Bank (Blackburn) (Image: David Dixon)



Eanam Wharf, a 1.8ha commercial area on the periphery of Blackburn town centre and a designated conservation area, offers significant tourism opportunities (Blackburn) (Image: Mat Fascione)

Strategic Approach

A series of guidelines have been developed in dialogue with the commissioning group and stakeholders to define the strategic approach towards the implementation of the Pennine Lancashire Linear Park.

A coordinated and holistic approach

- Develop an interdisciplinary and unified approach where future projects link with existing initiatives and projects along and around the Leeds & Liverpool Canal
- Develop an integrated vision and holistic approach to regeneration to strengthen the assets and networks between the four district authorities in Pennine Lancashire
- Establish effective governance to ensure the long-term viability, management and maintenance of regeneration along and around the Leeds & Liverpool Canal

Participation by design

- Develop planning, design and management processes that secure meaningful and long-term engagement with communities
- Engage with diverse and representational groups to address how spaces can include and exclude by design

Celebrate and enhance Pennine Lancashire's unique characteristics

- Celebrate the unique setting of Pennine Lancashire and embrace the diverse mix of urban, suburban, semi-rural industrial open landscapes and canalside mill towns and settlements
- Articulate and communicate the rich history, heritage and cultural life of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal
- Restore Pennine Lancashire's relationship with the Leeds & Liverpool Canal by addressing negative perceptions and barriers
- Value the impact of gradual and incremental change, enabling Pennine Lancashire to regenerate itself slowly and sensitively without a radical break from its past

Champion and showcase artistic, culture and design quality

- Continue and strengthen artistic commissions of the highest quality along and around the Leeds & Liverpool Canal to elevate the project's national and international cultural profile
- Champion design quality in every aspect of the Linear Park and establish standards and processes that can deliver world-class solutions

Pathways and Potential Projects

The study identifies three interconnected pathways towards the creation of the Pennine Lancashire Linear Park. Each pathway describes four potential headline projects, and outlines an indicative timeline, project type, expected co-benefits and wider impact, and magnitude of investment required.

Creating a green movement corridor

The Linear Park as a green movement corridor, providing improved infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists and boating communities and exploiting the canal's potential for waterborne freight and other uses.

Providing for culture, leisure and tourism

The Linear Park as an ecological and recreational destination, providing temporary and permanent civic, cultural, community and leisure activities and uses.

Stimulating resilient local economies

The Linear Park as a productive corridor, encouraging opportunities for sustainable local businesses and resilient communities through re-use of heritage and land assets, skills development, education and clean, green (inclusive) growth.

Building upon the heritage of the area's textile industry, the canal offers a rich interweaving of themes to form the narrative of a vision, with making at its heart. Conceptualised as a 'string of pearls', the Linear Park will connect key sites of special visitor interest and activity along the canal. More importantly, by concentrating on

local narratives the project can engender civic pride, with local communities integral to the regeneration of the canal as a Linear Park and active participants in its future.

Starting with simple changes, such as towpath improvements, enhanced signage and lighting, the Linear Park will better connect into, and between, the towns and communities along its length. This will strengthen the local public transport network, linking up existing transport nodes, attractions, trails and routes to better align with the objectives of the emerging transport and movement plan for the county. An improved canal environment will provide more opportunities for place-specific art commissions.

The restoration and re-use of underused and derelict heritage buildings along the canal will provide new spaces for cultural, community, leisure, education and commercial uses while preserving the unique historic character of this section of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. With parallel improvements to the canal towpaths and the transformation of adjacent brownfield and greenfield sites into spaces for leisure and community agriculture, the canal corridor as a place will be more inviting, busier and safer making it more attractive to investment. A better canal environment will in turn spur and accelerate other development, with local authorities already earmarking canalside locations for much needed new housing in the area.

As it develops, the Linear Park will act a framework for innovative changes along this stretch of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal.⁹ A principle-based ‘masterplan’ would be created to provide recommendations on priorities and a strategic, unified approach for all projects recommended, mapping—spatially and temporally—anticipated changes to infrastructure, landscape and new development, and identifying additional sites and initiatives. With the Super Slow Way as a key partner and with culture at the heart of the concept, design and artistic quality will be promoted, championed, and implemented through design and development guidelines. Inspirational artist commissions co-created with the communities along its length will ensure its place as a world-class visitor destination. The aim is that the design of the Linear Park is contemporary and of very high quality, designed to be welcoming, accessible, enjoyable and useful to people, of all age groups, genders, abilities and ethnicities.

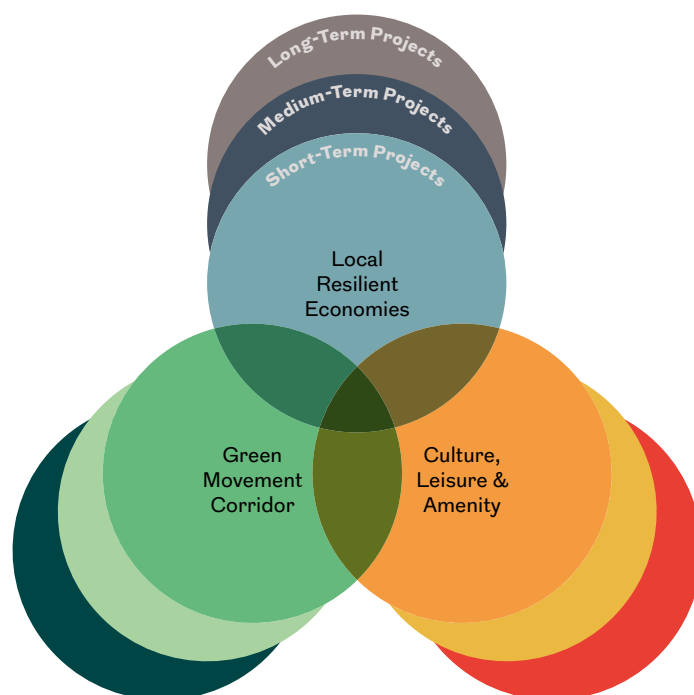
Every aspect of the Linear Park will strive to improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of its communities through the encouragement of physical activity and community participation. The environmental benefits are also integral to this vision, with a multitude of opportunities to support low carbon and low resource, intensive growth. Green technologies and regenerative urban agriculture initiatives promoting circular economy frameworks will contribute to the county’s 2030 carbon neutral target.

Project types

- Physical, Spatial and Infrastructural
- Training, Education and Skills Development
- Outreach, Media and Participation
- Local Businesses and Enterprises

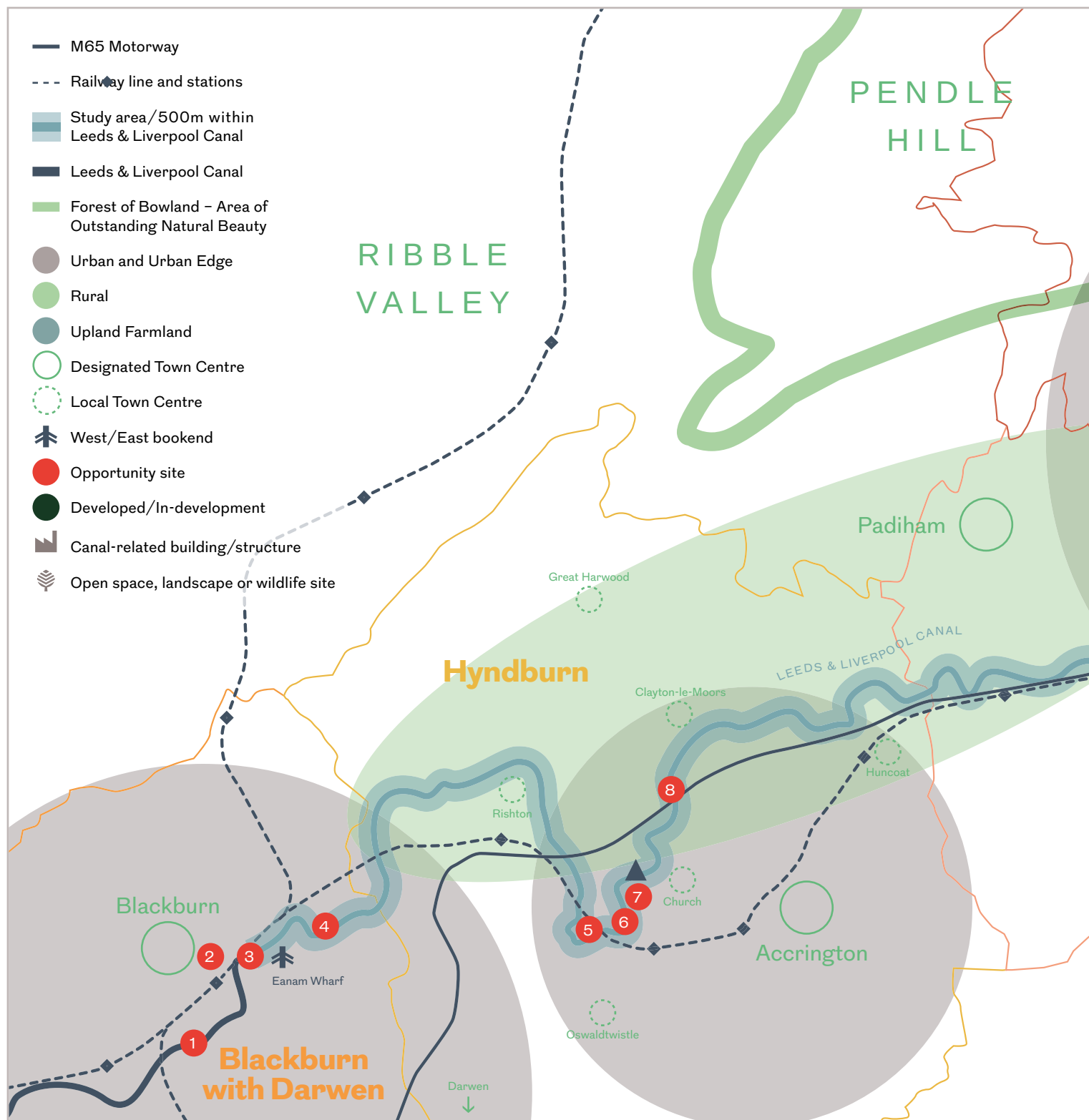
Timing

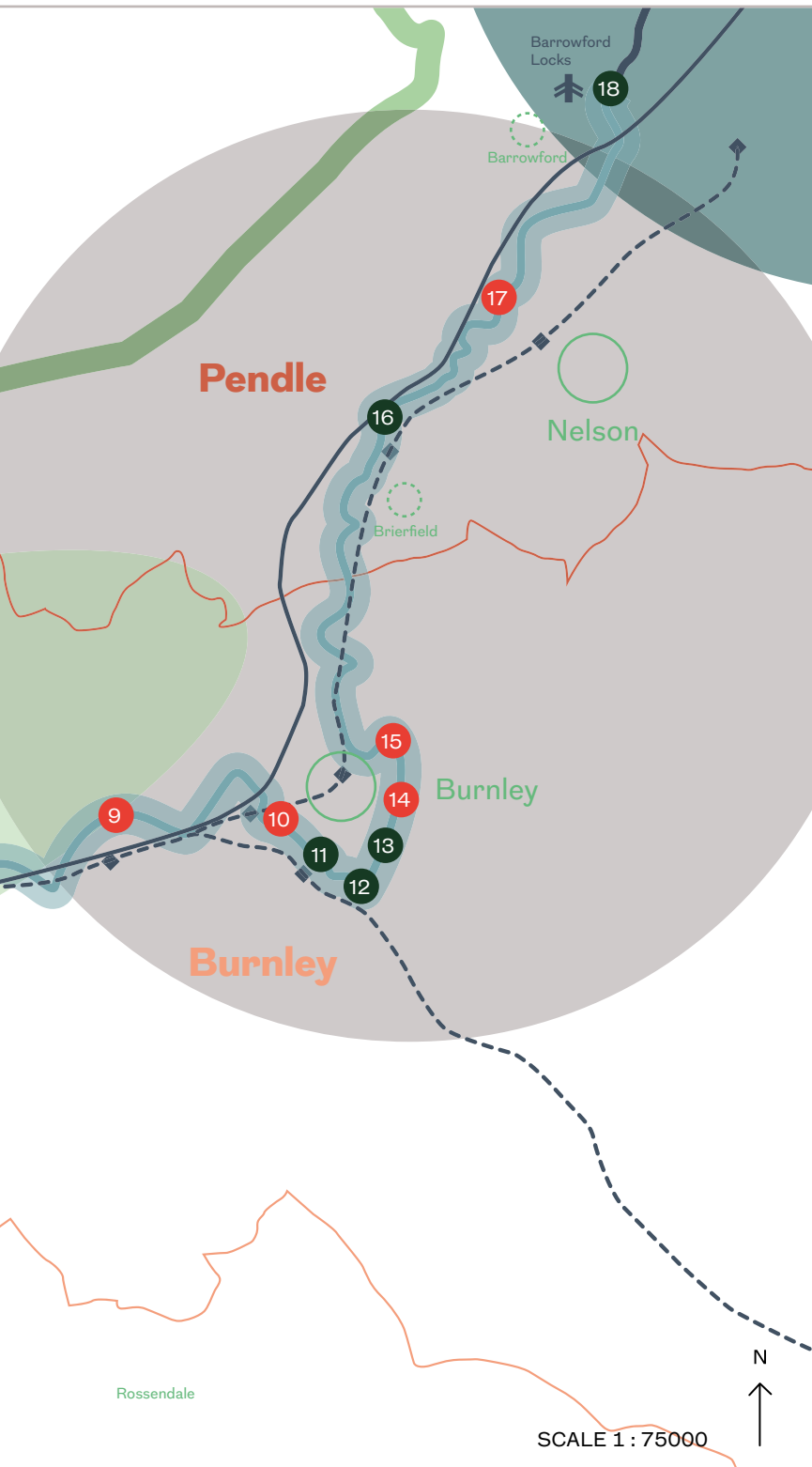
- Short Term (1–3 years)
- Medium Term (4–7 years)
- Long Term (8+ years)



A String of Pearls

Recent developments and priority opportunity sites for community, culture and leisure activities/spaces within the study area*





Blackburn with Darwen

- 1 Nova Scotia Wharf
- 2 Cathedral Quarter
- 3 Eanam Wharf
- 4 Imperial Mill

Hyndburn

- 5 Remains of Aspen Colliery - Coking Bee Hives and Canal Basin
- 6 Hargreaves Warehouse
- ▲ Half-way point of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal
- 7 St James' Church
- 8 Enfield Wharf and canalside buildings

Burnley

- 9 Dugdale Wharf
- 10 Trafalgar Mill
- 11 Weavers Triangle
- 12 Finsley Gate Wharf
- 13 Eastern Gateway
- 14 Straight Mile, Burnley Embankment
- 15 Thompson Park

Pendle

- 16 Northlight (former Brierfield Mill)
- 17 Lomeshaye Wharf
- 18 Cycle Circuit and BMX Pump Track

*A supplementary document 'The Pennine Lancashire Linear Park - Supporting Material: Maps' includes a series of maps that highlight infrastructure around transport and movement, culture, environment and nature, and heritage along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal corridor in Pennine Lancashire. The document including shapefiles for GIS (Geographic Information System) software have been issued to the commissioning organisations.

Potential Projects

1. TOWPATH IMPROVEMENTS

Improve surface treatments; widen towpaths; improve signage; install biodiversity-friendly lighting at appropriate locations; deliver additional public amenities. Promote health and wellbeing, and support the ageing population through opportunities for increased activity and accessible movement along the canal for pedestrians and cyclists.

Timing

- Short term, starting in 2021

Project type

- Physical, Spatial and Infrastructural

Co-benefits and wider impact

- Encouraging exercise and improving health; exposure to nature and green spaces; reduced trip time; enhanced social interaction and boosts to local businesses
- Reduced car travel and congestion and improvements to air quality and noise
- Providing missing links in local cycling and walking infrastructure, and opening up access to new uses along the canal corridor
- Many benefits of spending time besides water including mental and physical health

Investment required

- £5.3 to £11.5m based on the 37.5km/23miles total towpath length between Eanam Wharf (Blackburn) and Barrowford Lock (Pendle)

2. PLANTING AND BIODIVERSITY

Address the 'backs' of industrial businesses by encouraging greener and softer edges; deliver new planting and landscaping to improve biodiversity and pollution mitigation; retain and/or create front planting verges; develop nature reserves, pocket parks, canalside terraces and raingardens to help prevent flooding and provide homes for wildlife.

Timing

- Short term, starting in 2021

Project type

- Physical, Spatial and Infrastructural
- Training, Education and Skills Development

Co-benefits and wider impact

- Opportunity to greatly enhance the character (including quality and social value) of the landscape
- Enabling a sense of place, scale and quality to be restored
- Green spaces, increased biodiversity and access to public green spaces for communities
- Net productivity losses avoided due to the cooling effect of vegetation from green spaces, parks and woodland
- Value of tonnes of CO₂ sequestered per year
- Further naturalisation of the navigation channel and waterways – bunds, riparian planting, wetland restoration – would ensure that parkland is capable of functioning as a floodplain

Investment required

- £0.5 million for trees, hedgerows and planting

3. WIDER IMPROVEMENTS AND CONNECTIONS

Improve pedestrian and cycle links to deliver area-wide transport networks; deliver new infrastructure and wider public realm improvements; create new and improved access points and bridges at appropriate locations; promote clearer access from the wider area through signage and other interventions; improve sightlines to the canal; develop new and improved canalside public spaces to support waterborne passenger, freight and leisure opportunities and encourage active frontages near access points. Provide electric bikes and storage facilities near access points. Develop opportunities for parks and reservoirs to integrate with the canal more effectively, linking water-based uses with other park activities.

Timing

- Medium term

Project type

- Physical, Spatial and Infrastructural

Co-benefits and wider impact

- Local ethical procurement is promoted
- Network of safer and accessible streets, putting active travel and the potential for social interaction first
- Bike share draws visitors to tourist attractions through a fast and affordable travel mode
- Air quality and noise benefits due to modal shift

Investment required

- £0.7 million for 200 ebikes at 20 hubs in designated town centres and local centres
- £1.0 million for 15/20 new access points
- £25-£75k for refurbishing an existing footbridge /£150-250k for the cost of a new footbridge

4. WATERBORNE MOVEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BOATS

Maximise the environmental benefits of waterborne freight, e.g. moving materials to development sites and waste collection. Invest in new, improved and well-managed moorings, mooring basins and marinas at appropriate locations with adequate facilities for residential boats and social and cultural activities; provide boater workshops/hubs; provide charging points for electric/hybrid boats on marinas, locks and moorings.

Timing

- Medium term

Project type

- Physical, Spatial and Infrastructural
- Local Businesses and Enterprises

Co-benefits and wider impact

- Local air quality benefits and low CO₂ impact from switch to electric boats
- Congestion reduced from modal shift
- Direct and indirect jobs created through maintenance and servicing of boats and mooring infrastructure

Precedents

iRecycle, London (UK)

iRecycle, a waste management company, uses London's canal network to transport waste using a fleet of barges to reduce congestion and pollution. They also bring in office supplies and equipment by water for businesses along the canal. A canal clean-up team also removes all rubbish in reach while waste is being transported. iRecycle also provide employment opportunities for homeless people.



(Image: iRecycle)

Build Up, London (UK)

Build Up, a construction company, runs construction projects for young people aged 6-23 to design and build structures for their local communities. Flanders Way in Hackney involved 20 young people working with Build Up to create a new public space. The project helped challenge negative stereotypes of young people, bring together people of different ages, improve a neglected public space, and give young people genuine power over change in their local community.



(Image: Build Up)

Port Loop, Birmingham (UK)

A new 43-acre island community located 15 minutes from Birmingham city centre, nestled between Birmingham Canal Old Line and Birmingham Canal. Its location was the industrial heart of the city, where the towpaths that once served factories now provide links to the city centre by foot, bike or water bus. The development includes energy-efficient housing, a community hub, commercial office spaces, a leisure centre, traffic-free streets, cycle paths, and a new public green space. The team delivering Port Loop have also explored using the waterways to deliver materials to the scheme by barge.



(Image: Urban Splash)

Claypits Local Nature Reserve, Glasgow (UK)

Situated near the Forth and Clyde Canal in Glasgow, the Claypits local nature reserve sits on former industrial land once used to extract clay for lining the canal. Scottish Canals worked with the city council and non-profit community groups to transform the site and link together adjacent communities with footbridges. The nature reserve is now overseen by a management group of local people. It features sustainable urban drainage and a children's play area. Local school children will be invited to plant trees once the nature reserve fully opens.



(Image: reGlasgow)

What If?



Extensive towpath improvements can strengthen links to local walking and cycling infrastructure, encouraging active travel and changes to support better physical and mental health.



Hargreaves Warehouse, a Grade II listed 4-storey building in Church, Hyndburn, transformed into a mixed-use development, offering visitor and permanent moorings along the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, a floating allotment and a boater's hub with facilities for visitors.

“People get so excited by boats!”

Potential Projects

1. COMMUNITY AND CULTURE ALONG THE CANAL

Promote interactions and participation among local groups as part of building a canal community through cultural and civic initiatives with engaging and sustainable cultural programmes.

Timing

- On-going

Project type

- Outreach, Media and Participation

Co-benefits and wider impact

- Use of outdoor space could include locally-oriented civic activities
- Increased opportunities for integration between existing and new communities
- A workforce and culture that reflect the diversity of the local community
- Social isolation is reduced and people at risk are supported
- Widening cultural, community and educational participation

Investment required

- Ongoing investment in local cultural programmes and organisations, supported by strategic fundraising at county/regional level

2. INFRASTRUCTURE FOR LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Cluster public activities at locations with key access points; deliver quiet public spaces for respite; pilot leisure and civic uses, e.g. kayaking, canoeing, fishing, water sports, educational activities on pontoons, access to open play areas, pump tracks and mountain bike trails and routes. Develop leasable areas/plots for small businesses to serve visitors and residents as numbers increase from the infrastructure upgrade; engage with local businesses in the leisure and hospitality/catering sector.

Timing

- Medium term

Project type

- Physical, Spatial and Infrastructural

Co-benefits and wider impact

- Greater footfall supporting increased business activity, lower vacancies, and a more vibrant community and working environment
- Improved employability of young people
- More employment for young people. Local training and apprenticeship programmes would help retain new job opportunities in the region
- Lifting Pennine Lancashire's image, repositioning its cultural and visitor offer – Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Cultural Investment Strategy (2020) highlights the importance of connecting up the county's cultural offer through developing a new compelling narrative for residents, visitors and businesses.
- Smaller businesses participate in the economy, likely from local residents. The money spent by visitors goes back to the local economy and creates more jobs, allowing communities to thrive. Local small businesses also help shape the identity of the area

3. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND CUSTODIANSHIP

Celebrate the ecological value of the canal through educational engagement with school and community groups and promote long-term community custodianship, maintenance and conservation of the natural environment. Raise awareness of local and global environmental issues; use opportunities to engage local ethnic minority communities with nature and the outdoors.

Timing

- Short to Medium term, starting in 2021

Project type

- Physical, Spatial and Infrastructural
- Training, Education and Skills Development

Co-benefits and wider impact

- More opportunities for disadvantaged people
- Improved employability of young people
- Providing job training and involving youth in the conservation of the natural environment
- Green spaces, biodiversity, green infrastructure and public spaces for communities

4. THE CANAL CORRIDOR AFTER DARK

Celebrate the benefits of darkness for biodiversity, wellbeing, respite and views of the night sky; install sensitive, selective, environmentally-friendly lighting design; develop inclusive, family-friendly evening and night-time programming and uses, including nested and extended uses and opening hours; promote events celebrating the unique night-time character of the canal, including star-gazing events, educational ecology and bat walks, pop-up and meanwhile uses, open-air concerts, performances on the water, light art installations, and evening walks and boat trips to enjoy the nocturnal landscape.

Timing

- Short to Medium term, starting in 2021

Project type

- Physical, Spatial and Infrastructural
- Outreach, Media and Participation

Co-benefits and wider impact

- Legible towpaths and access points after dark, with sensitive, adaptive lighting where appropriate
- Active frontages and good natural surveillance
- Access to amenities, such as public toilets
- Improved night-time public transport infrastructure
- Bringing together communities to create and enjoy culture, play and socialise

Precedents

The Exbury Egg, Burnley (UK)

Artist Stephen Turner's Exbury Egg was a temporary, energy efficient, self-sustaining work space, located at Finsley Gate Wharf in Burnley supported by The Super Slow Way. Stephen spent the year of 2016 conducting personal, environmental, historical and cultural investigations on the site with the people of Burnley Wood to share knowledge of the past of the site, to explore its present state and to better inform its future. Through the year-long programme of activity, the community developed a new sense of ownership for this precious green and blue space on their doorstep which contributed to the success of a National Lottery Heritage Fund bid to renovate and develop it as cultural and leisure asset for the neighbourhood.



(Image: Sam Walsh)

Floating Cinema, London (UK)

Facilitated by UP Projects, Floating Cinema was a bespoke cinema and events space on a functional canal barge that hosted a programme of screenings, performances, talks and tours as part of the London Olympic Legacy Project in 2013. With a permanent mooring in East London, the floating cinema travelled through various stretches of London's canal network. Designed and built with sustainability in mind, the engine is a diesel-electric hybrid, which can be run purely on electric power for three hours. UP Projects curates and commissions contemporary art to activate public places, working collaboratively with local artists and communities.



(Image: UP Projects)

The Prospects Foundation, Lancashire (UK)

The Prospects Foundation is an environmental charity based in Hyndburn. The foundation carries out projects with the local community which focus on improving habitats for wildlife, conserving the natural environment and enhancing the quality of life for nearby communities. Environmental activities include volunteer conservation in woodland settings, organic food growing, management and improvement of green spaces and walking and cycling programmes. The foundation also aims to raise awareness of local and global environmental issues and work with schools and community groups to help them develop their own ideas to improve their local environment.



(Image: The Prospects Foundation)

Lumiere Light Festival (London)

Lumiere is the UK's largest free outdoor light festival. It invites local and international artists to create installations that change the way buildings and public spaces can be experienced. There are many opportunities for local people to get involved, from applying to the festival with an idea to volunteering to be a Lumiere festival maker. In 2018, Lumiere took place in London, pedestrianising large parts of the West End including Oxford Street, Piccadilly and Regents Street near the Regent's Canal waterway. The festival is funded by both public and private organisations and is produced by Artichoke, a registered charity that focuses on creating works in the public realm. Image: Binary Waves by Lab(au), Regent's Canal, London (2016).



(Image: Caroline Banks)

What If?



Bike trails, a gasholder park, improved towpaths and landscapes along the Leeds & Liverpool Canal near Brierfield Mill in Pendle offer leisure and amenity activities with views towards valuable green belt landscapes.

“I want my grandchildren to feel that this canal is one of the jewels of East Lancashire.”



Trafalgar Mill repurposed for new creative and leisure uses in Burnley, with night-time cultural activities and improved lighting infrastructure helping to forge local community identity, providing inspiring places to live, work and relax.

Potential Projects

1. HERITAGE AND DEVELOPMENT

Identify challenges and solutions for the re-use of vacant and underused historic buildings and areas as sites for innovative redevelopment to include both meanwhile and permanent uses, e.g. canalside housing, schools, community projects, youth clubs, cafés, festivals and businesses. New development should respond to the canal as a key public space and celebrate the historic canalside character and champion distinctive, contemporary, sustainable and place-specific design of architecture and public spaces. Create a network of industrial heritage sites as part of the European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH).

Timing

- Medium term

Project type

- Physical, Spatial and Infrastructural

Co-benefits and wider impact

- Enhanced area identity, promoting a sense of belonging and civic pride
- Increased opportunities for integration between existing and new communities
- Encouraging the geographical spread of culture and tourism to a new area outside the existing town centres will help diffuse their economic benefits and encourage wider participation
- Opportunity to create a highly visible and accessible destination with a greater sense of 'ownership' by the community – accommodating a diversity of historic, local and civic events

Investment required

- The 'Pennine Lancashire Heritage Investment Strategy 2015-20' identifies three priority projects in the study area¹⁰
- A total of 628 net additional jobs would be created with a fit-out cost estimated at £37m¹¹

2. URBAN HORTICULTURE AND AGRICULTURE

Use vacant and underused industrial structures and disused green spaces for indoor and outdoor urban farming and community gardens to produce a regenerative and resilient local textile ecosystem; support food, fashion and material innovation; foster partnerships with local universities to develop more secure domestic supply chains; explore opportunities to bring communities together through local production to help change behaviours towards the environment and sustainability.

Timing

- Medium term

Project type

- Physical, Spatial and Infrastructural
- Training, Education and Skills Development

Co-benefits and wider impact

- Local food production and plant-based pharmaceuticals for local communities
- Technologies support much lower CO₂ footprint in the industry and reduced food miles
- Improved access to food and additional income positively affects the capacity of socio-economically disadvantaged people to work and invest, taking up other jobs or micro-enterprises
- Employment and skills for local residents
- Educational engagement with local schools
- Research collaborations with universities

Investment required

- Example Site: Imperial Mill, Blackburn. Potential for vertical, aquaponic growing, in addition to outdoor fields of flax and linen processing and spinning inside
- A total of 513 net additional jobs would be created with a unit cost at £1500 per sqm for this level of vertical farming¹¹

3. CREATIVE, GREEN AND DIGITAL INDUSTRIES

Support research, innovation and job opportunities related to green and circular industries, e.g. waste prevention, reuse of raw materials, fabric innovation, sustainable materials and recycling disused materials within key manufacturing industries; develop sustainable platforms/incubators dedicated to sustainable design, innovation and development, offering low-cost spaces, investment, accelerator programmes, connections and skills development; transform the employment base, e.g. to support growth in the digital technology sector.

Timing

- Medium to Long term

Project type

- Training, Education and Skills Development
- Local Businesses and Enterprises

Co-benefits and wider impact

- Skills development for local people; youth employment and apprenticeships
- Examples of ecosystem models or regenerative resource flows offers huge potential.
- Transforming waste into value, creating jobs and radically reducing resource consumption
- Social value embedded in the supply chain. This will benefit businesses that embed social value in their operations and also local authorities
- Ethical and sustainable procurement is promoted
- Raw material security given the growing concerns of price volatility, 80% of manufacturing executives seeing raw materials shortage as key business risk
- Circular economy allows for resilience through increasing security
- A workforce that reflects the diversity of the local community

4. GREEN CANAL ENERGY

Install water source heat pumps in canal waterways to provide local renewable heat or electricity generation through hydro-electric power schemes.

Timing

- Long term

Project type

- Physical, Spatial and Infrastructural
- Local Businesses and Enterprises

Co-benefits and wider impact

- Water from the canal may be used for heating and cooling homes and factories, addressing renewable energy potential and fuel poverty
- Hydropower generation sites contribute to renewable energy targets and can generate green energy for 24 hours a day for 11 to 12 months of the year for at least 100 years

Precedents

Farm Urban, Liverpool (England)

A former sugar factory in Liverpool has been transformed into an urban farm, growing healthy and nutritious food. The urban farm features vertical farming, from seed sowing to crop harvesting, 365 days a year. The system involves stacked shelving in a controlled environment, is frugal with water, requires no soil or natural light and is protected against damage from the natural environment. Software programmes help schedule and guarantee crop timings and yields. Farm Urban runs a multifaceted business, supplying healthy food, supporting the local community and offering educational packages for primary and secondary school children, reconnecting them with growing food and sustainable urban living. Farm Urban was born out of the Life Sciences Department at the University of Liverpool, linking scientific research with local food production.



(Image: Farm Urban)

La Caserne, Paris (France)

Opening in early 2021, La Caserne will become a sustainable fashion accelerator space in Paris. The former fire station will be transformed into an innovation platform dedicated to sustainable fashion design, innovation and development. It will be open to the public as a major hub for culture and education. The project will also comprise a boutique, showcasing upcoming sustainable fashion brands, a restaurant working in partnership with local producers, and a roof garden promoting urban agriculture and city gardening activities. The project is carried out by Impala, a French industrial group and L'exception, a concept store dedicated to contemporary brands.



(Image: Chaix et Morel)

Sustain, The Senator Group, Lancashire (UK)

Sustain, part of The Senator Group, the UK's largest manufacturer of office and workplace furniture based in Pennine Lancashire, takes disused materials, packaging and redundant furniture from its own customers and competitors and recycles them to ensure nothing goes to landfill. The purpose-built £1.5million 1400sqm recycling unit has recycled more than 270,000 items and diverted more than 7.5million kg of waste from landfill in its first ten years since its establishment in 2009. This equates to an emission saving of 8,790,798 Kg/CO₂. As well as recycling, Sustain also runs a remanufacturing service where old furniture can be replaced and recovered. Sustain is setting a new standard in the industry by demonstrating a significant investment in their sustainability commitment.



(Image: The Senator Group)

Frome Neighbourhood Plan, Somerset (UK)

A Neighbourhood Plan for Frome (2008–2028) has been developed to enable Frome, a town in Somerset, to pursue a new, community-led approach to development. The plan is focused on the resilience of the communities of Frome, with a particular focus on encouraging small businesses to grow, enabling people to build their own homes, making it easier to get around by foot and bicycle, transforming the River Frome corridor into an environmental and recreational asset, and ensuring future development does not damage Frome's unique character. The development of a renewable energy cooperative has enabled the local community to invest in clean, renewable energy through community shares.



(Image: Friends of the River Frome)

What If?



A canalside activity centre near Enfield Wharf in Accrington offers activity-based learning opportunities for children and young people, including watersports, raft building and dry land challenges.

“Gongoozling [the act of watching boats and activities on canals] is a very big thing.”



Imperial Mill, a 4-storey, early 20th century red brick mill and gateway landmark building along the Leeds & Liverpool canal in Blackburn, is transformed into an indoor and outdoor urban farm with mixed commercial uses and spaces open to the public.

Case Studies

The Super Slow Way

Hosted by the Canal & River Trust, The Super Slow Way is a cultural development programme in Pennine Lancashire that uses the Leeds & Liverpool Canal as a vehicle for bringing people together on a waterway that everyone shares. Their work is shaped by and delivered with local residents from Blackburn to Pendle, working alongside artists, designers, manufacturers, growers, in fact anyone whose energy and imagination can help build more resilient and sustainable communities. Where once the Leeds & Liverpool Canal powered the industrial revolution in Pennine Lancashire, The Super Slow Way programme seeks to inspire a new, regenerative revolution, reflecting the area's rich cultural diversity and heritage and offering new opportunities for people to be productive and create real change in their lives and their places.



Burnley Canal Festival, 2017 (Image: Huckleberry Films)

River Nene Regional Park

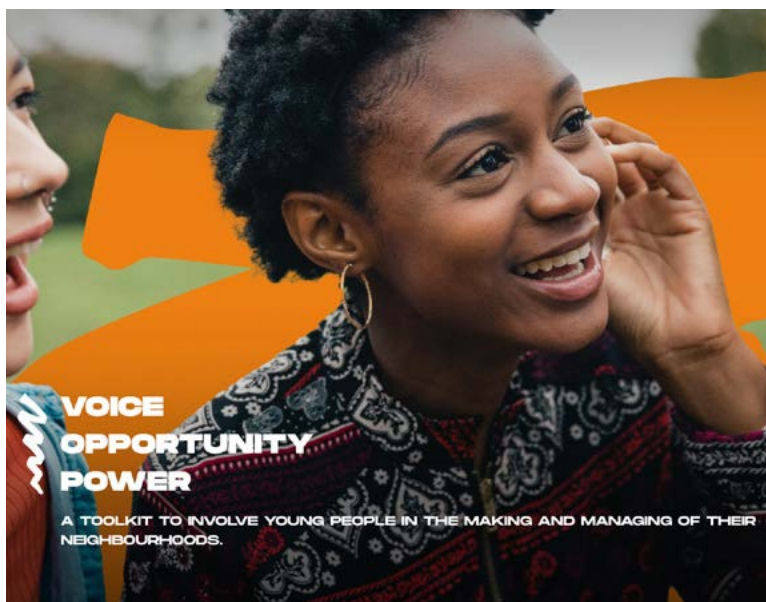
The River Nene Regional Park (RNRP) is an independent Community Interest Company that leads on a range of projects, across the entire Nene Valley (Northamptonshire, England), relating to environmental restoration, amenity improvements, awareness raising and developing tourism. The RNRP acts as an independent not-for-profit organisation that is able to hold assets on behalf of the community. Since its inception in 2004, over £25 million has been secured for ongoing investment in the area, including a visitor's centre complete with a café, cycle hire, an adventure playground, on-site camping, a country park and nature reserve, and a tree-top walkway. In 2017 the RNRP secured a £2.6 million investment from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to begin 'Nenescape' – a five-year partnership project that will deliver 16 projects providing opportunities for local people to develop skills, improve access to the River Nene, restore wetland and wildlife habitats, and celebrate the area's natural and built heritage.



Ferry Meadows, Nene Park (Image: Nene Park Trust)

Voice, Opportunity, Power: Youth Engagement Toolkit

Voice, Opportunity, Power is a free national youth engagement toolkit launched in 2020 created by Grosvenor Britain & Ireland, Sport England, The Town and Country Planning Association and ZCD Architects. It provides a framework to help professionals meaningfully engage young people in the future of the places they live. The focus of the toolkit is to increase youth participation in how places are designed, built and managed, giving young people a central role in the early stages through active participation. It presents five potential engagement sessions that can be used with young people, including information about aims, activities, and timings.



Youth Engagement Toolkit cover (Image: Voice, Opportunity, Power)

Seen and Heard

Seen and Heard is a campaign, commissioned as part of Brent 2020, London Borough of Culture, that aims to change the face of public space, giving young people a voice in the design and management of public space in their communities. The project initially explored urban public spaces in Brent, which are often restrictive and dangerous. 19 young people from Brent then teamed up with urban design researchers at the London School of Economics to create The Blueprint Collective Youth Charter, which sets out a list of principles, outlining the hopes, aspirations and fears of a demographic often misunderstood and ignored by decision makers.



Design session (Image: Catarina Heeckt)

Case Studies

The Landschaftspark Duisburg Nord is built around a disused 230 hectare former coal and steelworks complex that closed in 1985 after a long period of decline. Its long-term planning, cumulative and organic development, use of natural ecological processes and local involvement celebrating the area's industrial heritage presents a radically different approach to providing essential public green space, leisure and cultural facilities. The park was part of a regional government programme called 'IBA Emscher Park' to encourage change and urban development as an impetus to the depressed Ruhr area.

Input

- The budget was around €15.5 million (£12 million), not including decontamination operations nor the construction of the subterranean sewer
- 50% of the park's maintenance costs are covered by letting buildings and open spaces for special events, while the other 50% are covered by the state

Activities & outputs

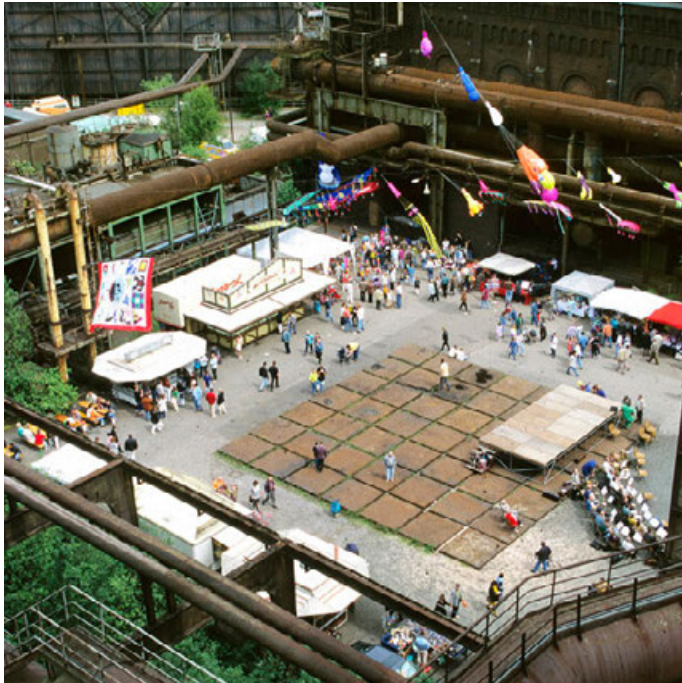
- Rehabilitation of open spaces and derelict industrial landscapes into an integrated landscape park of cycle paths, parks and recreational green spaces
- Revitalisation of the ecological condition of the River Emscher

Outcomes

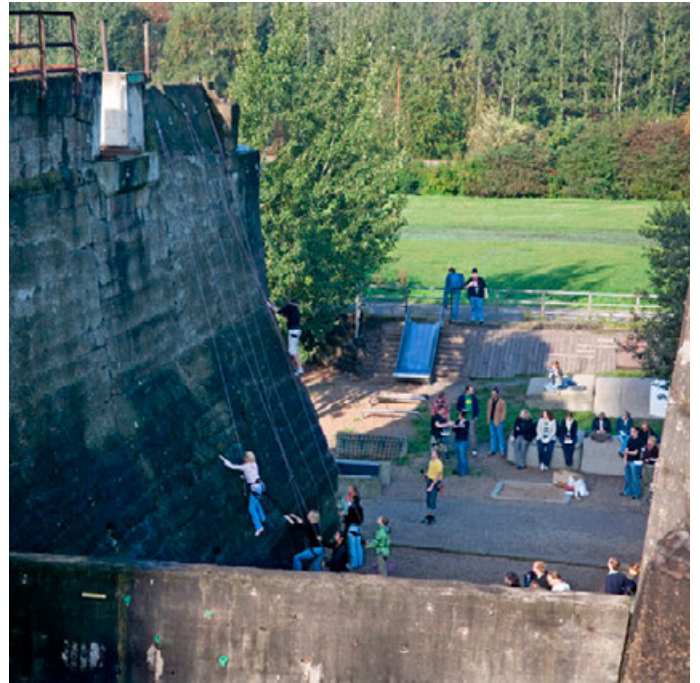
- The park employs 365 local people directly, with over 200 associated jobs, and receives over half a million outside visitors a year
- The delivery of the project involved many local groups, including employment schemes for the long-term unemployed

Broader impacts

- Increasing sense of identity and sense of ownership by local groups
- Public awareness of impact of culture-led regeneration
- Creative and adaptive re-use of industrial buildings in changing the mind-set of local residents



Blast Furnace Park (Image: Michael Latz)



Play-points (Image: Michael Latz)



Water Park (Image: Michael Latz)



Open-air cinema (Image: Thomas Berns)

Case Studies

The Kennet and Avon Canal runs for 87 miles, linking the River Avon at Bristol with the River Thames at Reading. Since 1955, the canal has gradually been restored to navigation over 30 years in a partnership with British Waterways, the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust, the Association of Canal Enterprises and local authorities along the waterway. The canal suffered from water leakage and embankment instability in 1990 but now benefits from increased tourism and leisure activity as well as property developments.

Input

- Supported by £25 million funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund

Activities & outputs

- Canal restoration with increased tourism and leisure activity
- Tourism and leisure businesses prospering within the canal corridor
- Established developer and investor confidence, particularly in disadvantaged areas

Outcomes

- Around 11.2 million tourism visits in 2009, representing a growth of 46% compared with 7.7 million visits in 1995
- A total of £42 million gross direct expenditure and £13 million indirect and induced spending
- Over 1,300 leisure & tourism-related jobs were supported along the canal corridor

Broader impacts

- A total property value uplift of £150.9 million
- Opportunities for volunteering during the restoration of the canal
- Carbon savings from more sustainable modes of travel
- Health and wellbeing benefits associated with decreased levels of inactivity



A cycle route on the National Cycle Network (Image: Sustrans)



Caen Hill Locks in Wiltshire (Image: Great West Way)



The Lock Inn Cafe in Bradford on Avon (Image: Alison Avery)



Reading Water Fest (Image: GetReading)

Case Studies

The Reimagine the Canals Task Force Plan is a \$300 million (£230 million) proposal, convened in May of 2019 by the Governor of New York State, Andrew Cuomo, to revitalise the man-made Erie Canal, which stretches from Albany, New York on the Hudson River to Buffalo, New York on Lake Erie. The vision proposes to revitalise the canal with public parks, residential areas and commercial hubs to be built in towns along the historic 350-mile (563-kilometre) waterway.

Input

- \$100 million (£75 million) economic development fund to invest in communities along the Erie Canal
- \$65 million (£50 million) investment in solutions to prevent ice jams and related flooding in the Schenectady area
- \$135 million (£100 million) allocated to research recommended by the Reimagine Task Force

Activities & outputs

- Interventions are expected to include pedestrian bridges, water recreation facilities, hospitality destinations and residential areas called Canalside Pocket Neighbourhoods.
- The initiative will also link with the Empire State Trail, a 750-mile (1,207-kilometre) trail proposed to connect Manhattan to Lake Champlain, and Buffalo to Albany

Initial Projected Outcomes

- 2,500 jobs supported annually (Agriculture)
- 16,000 jobs supported annually (Tourism/ ecotourism)
- 62% fewer properties in the floodzone
- Over 150,000 miles of riparian habitat restored for people and wildlife

Broader impacts

- Positive contribution to the economic well-being and quality of life of upstate New York's communities
- Enhanced water recreation, tourism and access to outdoor recreation
- Improved resiliency and restored ecosystems in canal communities



Proposal: Canalside development for the town of Canastota
(Image: Buro Happold and Michael Van Valkenburg Associates)



Proposal: Pedestrian bridge for the town of Brockport
(Image: Buro Happold and Michael Van Valkenburg Associates)



Proposal: Shops and café's at Guy Park Manor
(Image: Buro Happold and Michael Van Valkenburg Associates)



Proposal: Hydro-light for a historic movable dam
(Image: Buro Happold and Michael Van Valkenburg Associates)

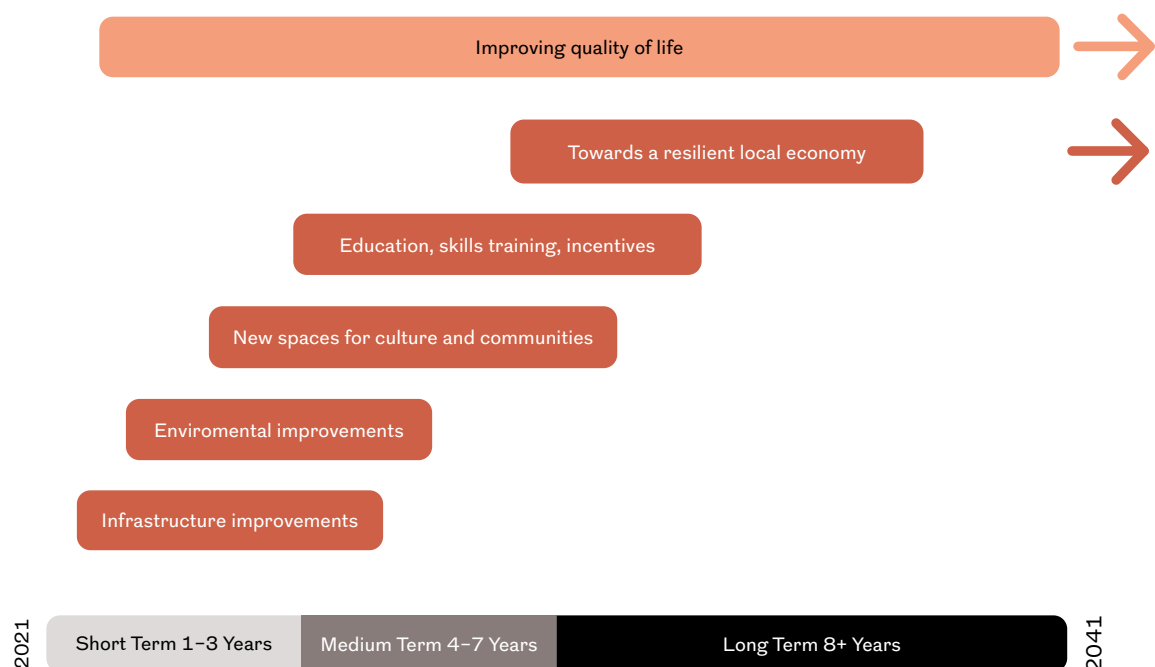
Process of Change

The study outlines a myriad of interlinked socio-economic and environmental benefits that can be generated for local communities through investment in the canal corridor across the three pathways. The ambitious scope of the Linear Park project has the potential to bring together communities, businesses, academia and local authorities to improve quality of life, create better, environmentally conscious places and to generate a strong, diverse and resilient local economy.

The high-level economic analysis of the interventions in the three pathways, and as highlighted by the supporting case studies, demonstrate that the regeneration of the

canal corridor, with a programme of modest but persistent incremental regeneration initiatives across multiple parallel strands, has the potential to achieve high levels of economic and social benefits over the long term. These benefits can be further monetised using guidance from the Treasury Green Book Business Case and Social Return on Investment.

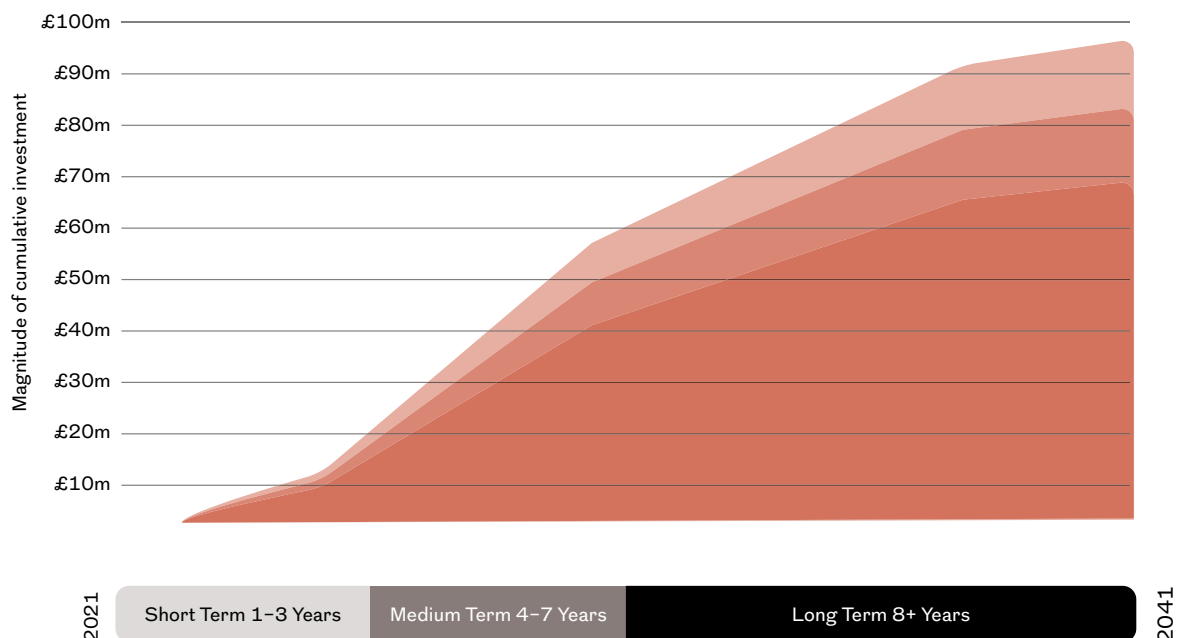
In summary, the findings provide a strong case for developing key partnerships and investment cases to fund these interventions in the short to long term. The project also has the potential to become a national model for post-Covid recovery.



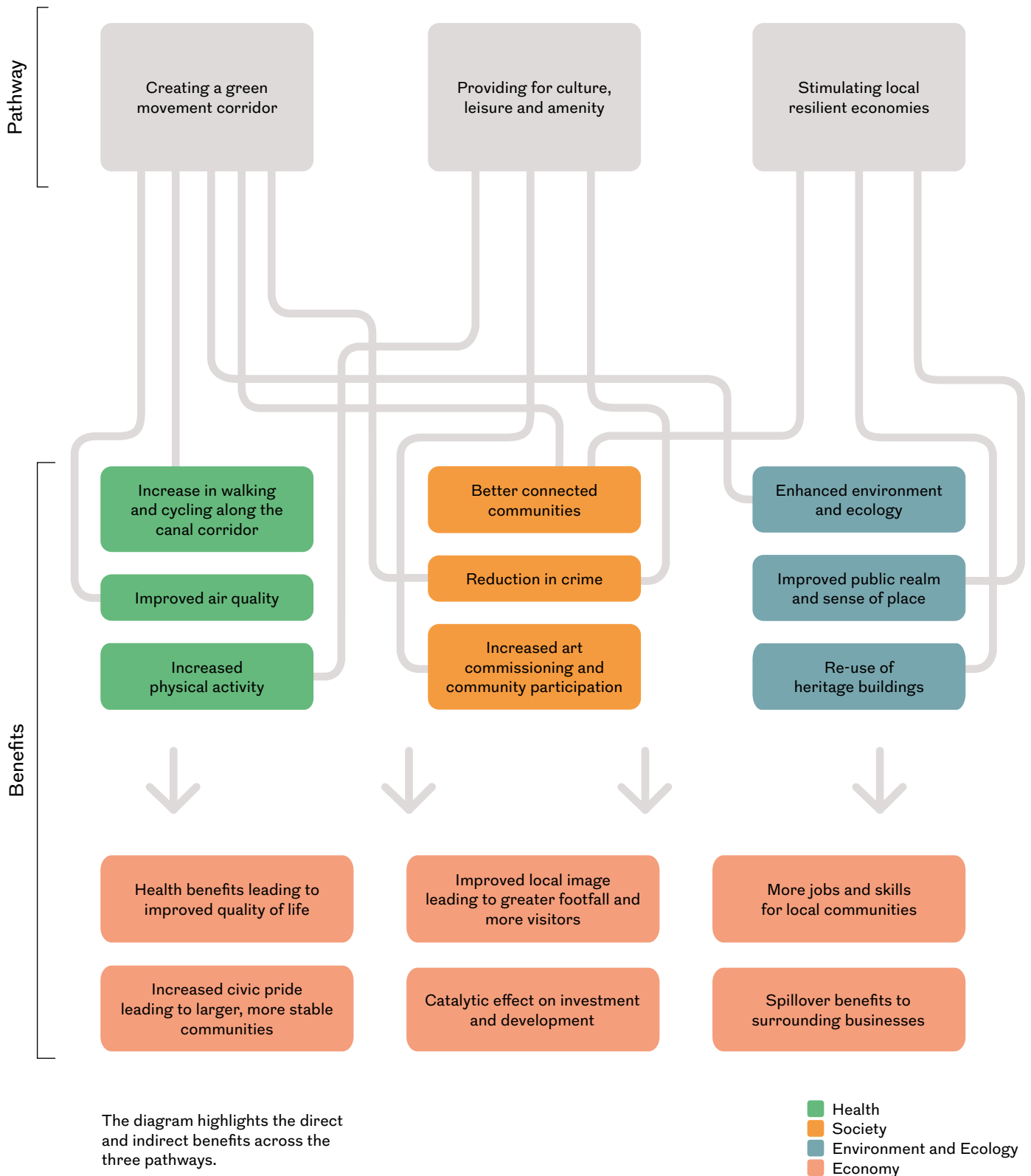
Cumulative Investment

The three pathways and the interventions within each provide viable investment options to achieve the vision outlined. Investment costs have been estimated for some of the interventions focussing on the short to medium term opportunities.

The infrastructure improvements would attract investments of around £5.5–£12m in the short term. In the medium term, development of sites such as Imperial Mill (Blackburn), Eanam Wharf (Blackburn) and Hargreaves Warehouse (Hyndburn) would require around £36–£39m. A rough simulation projecting our investment calculation shows investments in the region of £68–£95m in the medium to long term.



Summary of Benefits



Recommended Next Steps

Strategic activities undertaken in the short-term can maintain momentum, build networks and lay the groundwork for the development of a Pennine Lancashire Linear Park. A proposed short-term action plan is set out below.

1. Formalise Pennine Lancashire Linear Park as a regeneration initiative across four district authorities

- Identify vehicles/organisational forms that could take ownership and provide regional governance and coordination
- Articulate the concept and communicate the value of the Pennine Lancashire Linear Park to both local communities and government
- Develop the framework/masterplan for the Pennine Lancashire Linear Park

2. Secure Funding

- Develop a detailed business case for the identified interventions using The Treasury Green Book Five Case model to prioritise funding for artistic, cultural, infrastructure, environmental and heritage projects
- Use business case findings to align with existing or planned funding streams e.g. Lancashire's Culture Investment Strategy funding priorities
- Develop funding applications that either directly involve or leverage private sector funding

3. Continue to engage with local communities and businesses

- Map potential stakeholders
- Structure participative forums and interactions
- Provide opportunities for assessment and feedback

Thank you

To everyone who helped to shape The Pennine Lancashire Linear Park Feasibility and Economic Assessment Study. Stakeholders engaged during consultation via attendance at virtual workshops (December 2020):

Andrew Stephenson MP (Pendle)
Arts Council England
Barnfield Construction
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Burnley Borough Council
Canal & River Trust
Food Active
Hyndburn Borough Council
Incredible Edible
In Situ
John Spencer Textiles
Lancashire County Council
Lancashire Enterprise Partnership
Lancashire 2025
Marketing Lancashire
Mid Pennine Arts
National Lottery Heritage Fund
Nelson and Colne College
Newground
New West England Fibreshed
Panaz Holdings
Pendle Borough Council
Rebecca Chesney (Artist)
University of Central Lancashire
Vladimir Pejcinovic (Consultant)

This study has been produced by public realm consultancy, Publica, in collaboration with the socio-economic team from international consultancy, Buro Happold.

In early December 2020, two virtual workshops were held with stakeholders to present research and ideas to date and to gain insight and feedback. Key points of discussion, emerging ideas and quotes have been factored into this study.

Notes

1. Pennine Lancashire is an area covering the East of the county
2. Levelling up our communities. Proposals for a new social covenant: A report for government by Danny Kruger MP (September 2020)
3. 2011 Census – Office for National Statistics
4. 45% of all the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) ranked among the 10% of the most deprived areas in the country. Over 63% of LSOAs ranked among the top 20% of the most deprived areas.
5. A total of £1.9 billion GVA is generated across all industries along the canal corridor.
6. Office for National Statistics (2020) Coronavirus-related deaths by ethnic group, England and Wales methodology. [online]. Available at: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/methodologies/coronavirusrelateddeathsbyethnicgroupenglandandwalesmethodology
7. Remade: A Cultural Investment Strategy for Lancashire (Lancashire Enterprise Partnership 2020, pp. 53–54)
8. Money Made and Money Spent – Understanding what really happened in the Central Pennines after 1750 (University of Central Lancashire 2014)
9. The Pennine Lancashire Linear Park vision and the three pathways align with the short, medium and long term pipeline of planned and potential infrastructure works in Lancashire for the county's cultural and creative industries addressed in the 'Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Cultural Investment Strategy' (2020)
10. Imperial Mill (Blackburn), Eanam Wharf (Blackburn) and Hargreaves Warehouse (Hyndburn). Finsley Wharf (Burnley) and Northlight (Pendle), also included in the Pennine Lancashire Investment Strategy 2015–20, are currently development sites.
11. Imperial Mill (Blackburn):
 - Floorspace 21,447sqm
 - Assumed 100% use for vertical farming
 - Fit out cost is estimated at £32m
 - 513 net operational employment
 - Generating £10million GVA per annum
- Eanam Wharf (Blackburn):
 - Floorspace 1,751sqm
 - Assumed 50% cultural use and 50% retail/restaurant & cafe use
 - Fit out cost is estimated at £2.6m
 - 53 net operational employment
 - Generating £3million GVA per annum
- Hargreaves Warehouse (Hyndburn):
 - Floorspace 1,550sqm
 - Assumed 50% retail/restaurant & cafe use and 50% light industrial use
 - Fit out cost is estimated at £2.3m
 - 62 net operational employment
 - Generating £4million GVA per annum

Sources

- Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) 2020
- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council Local Plan Part 2 (Adopted December 2015)
- Burnley Borough Council Local Plan (Adopted July 2018)
- Buro Happold on Bridges (Buro Happold Engineering 2021)
- Depart for Transport Typical Costs of Cycling Interventions 2017
- HCA Additionality Guide 2014
- HCA Employment Density Guide 3rd Edition 2015
- Hyndburn Borough Council Core Strategy (Adopted January 2012)
- Leeds & Liverpool Corridor Study – East Lancashire (Consultation draft February 2003)
- Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Cultural Investment Strategy (2020) ↗
- Let's Create – Arts Council England 2020-2030 Strategy – (Arts Council England 2021) ↗
- Levelling up our communities. Proposals for a new social covenant: A report for government by Danny Kruger MP (September 2020) ↗
- Money Made and Money Spent – Understanding what really happened in the Central Pennines after 1750 – (University of Central Lancashire 2014)
- Nomis Business Register and Employment Survey 2018
- Nomis Location of usual residence and place of work 2011 Census data
- ONS Regional gross value added (balanced) per head and income components 2019
- Pendle Borough Council Local Plan Part 1 (Adopted December 2015)
- Pennine Lancashire Growth and Prosperity Plan (2016) ↗
- Pennine Lancashire Heritage Investment Strategy (2015) ↗
- Redefining Lancashire: Our Approach to Recovery – (Lancashire County Council 2020) ↗
- UK Government Income Tax rates and Personal Allowances

Map data sources

All of the base maps in this document contain Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020. All maps were produced by Publica in 2020 from the data sources listed below.

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p54–55, Burnley Canal Festival Aug 2017.
Produced by Mid Pennine Arts and Super Slow Way.
Photographer Huckleberry Films

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The Pennine Lancashire Linear Park

– Supporting Material: Maps

A supplementary document to this study comprising a series of maps that highlight infrastructure around transport and movement, culture, environment and nature, and heritage along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal corridor in Pennine Lancashire. The document including shapefiles for GIS (Geographic Information System) software have been issued to the commissioning organisations.

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