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Executive Summary

This study was carried out in order to determine whether the restoration of the Uttoxeter Canal between the Caldon Canal at Froghall to the north and Uttoxeter Gravel Pits to the south is a feasible project.

In order to address this, an engineering assessment, environmental assessment and economic assessment have been carried out to determine whether any 'show-stopping' issues or constraints exist.

The conclusion of this report is that this is a technically feasible project. While there are a number of significant issues to address, with the appropriate work and consultation this should be possible.

From an engineering perspective, the two main constraints are the topography of the Churnet Valley, made more complex by the abandoned Churnet Valley Railway line crossing the route of the canal a number of times, and water management issues that will need to be addressed on the lower floodplain reaches.

As a result of the ongoing restoration of the Churnet Valley Railway, significant work is likely to be required in some places to accommodate both canal and any future plans for the restoration of the railway. This could lead to an increased cost of construction for the canal. This also presents the opportunity for reducing costs to both projects through carrying out combined site planning and construction work.

While only a high level desk study was carried out to assess the environmental constraints of the scheme, no major problems were identified. Additional detailed work will be required to address this in more detail.

The restored canal will help maximise the potential of key economic drivers along its route and will create new opportunities for economic growth and prosperity. Beyond the purely economic benefits (job creation, increased visitor footfall, etc), the restored canal is likely to deliver wider social benefits.

Obtaining the required capital funding to allow construction of this scheme will pose a significant challenge for the scheme promoters. With a well planned

strategy and the correct partners brought in to the project team, it may be possible to secure this money using a broad range of different funders.