

River/Cycle/River

a Fourth Door Research project proposal



Fourth Door Research

Research at the edge of Nature and Technology

River/Cycle/River

A post-local cycle route infrastructure proposal

River/Cycle /River is a multi-layered proposal bringing together ground-breaking cycle infrastructure provision on the Ouse Valley cycle path between Newhaven and Lewes, by connecting local sustainable design and making to ecological education.

Reflecting River/Cycle/River's multi-layered approach, this introductory overview is organised in two parts. Part 1 outlines the [Cycle Infrastructure](#) dimension, while part 2 focuses on the ecological education aspect.



Part 1

Cycle/River - Local Cycle Route infrastructure from local natural materials

Part of well-established practice, cycle paths, particularly in scenic areas, are generally implemented with supporting design infrastructure, such as seating, shelter, windbreaks, cycle etc lock up, and toilet facilities, etc.

Cycle/River envisages the cycle infrastructure/path furniture as a springboard for several simple further integrated steps, raising awareness and profile of both local and regional wood and natural materials and likewise, highlighting local and regional designers and makers, etc.

The Cycle/River local cycle infrastructure highlights:

- i - locally sourced timber and natural materials, a resource which is only now beginning to be considered as important to the regional built and design environment sector.*
- ii - local design, maker, craft architectural, and engineering, etc studios. Each resulting piece of cycle route furniture will illustrate new ways of using local and regional natural materials.*

Cycle/River enhances the cycle route by showcasing and highlighting post carbon locally sourced natural materials and local maker-designer, etc, communities. In doing so Cycle/River creates another sustainable layer to the Ouse Valley cycle path while appealing to public and professionals alike. It imaginatively supports the development of the new cycle route through an acknowledged need for cycle infrastructure.

Cycle/River infrastructure could be developed around both/either a Design & Make workshop, and/or a commissioned programme involving local design/maker studios/workshops. With specific infrastructure pieces designed by local design and makers etc, and highlighting different local materials, the Ouse Valley cycle path can be turned into a small-scale regional design trail while at the same time acting as a showcase for the local maker-designer communities.

The project can easily become part of local skills training, a university module, as well as a competition call out across the region.



Part 2

River/Cycle

River/Cycle constitutes a second parallel ecological education strand, which draws the river Ouse's ecological workings into the cycle infrastructure.

The River/Cycle element begins from, and expands upon two key elements of rivers:

The water-cycle and the river's catchment watershed.

Each cycle infrastructure design will integrate an element related to and helping convey the hydrological cycle process, and natural 'watershed' boundaries.

For instance, a bench or shelter could be made from local wood species growing as a result of the Ouse valley's watershed ecology, or help maintain the riverbed strength and integrity, or draw attention to the circular processes of the hydrological cycle in the local river context.

Through these multi-layered elements cycle infrastructure is transformed into an integrated, interdisciplinary and holistic programme, capable of illustrating the ecological interplay between geology, geography, the environment and the social sphere. With the water cycle common to all water systems across the planet, the River/Cycle/River links the local and physically immediate to the common planetary experience of water and rivers, a key to ecological understanding of interdependence across natural systems.



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The River/Cycle/River programme project is envisaged as being developed across a variety of funding contexts, and at different scale levels. A budget and initial programme outline can be provided on request.

The River/Cycle/River programme is also one specific strand in Fourth Door Research's broader regionalisation research work, related to both regional wood culture, and Fourth Door's Planet Water R&D work. Further elements of the proposal can be discussed further if requested.

Fourth Door

Fourth Door is a media, communications, events and research network, working in collaboration with a variety of partners. In addition, Fourth Door Research provides one-off consultancy and research.

This is an initial draft briefing outline developed by Fourth Door Research.
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