



**Canal &
River Trust**

Making life better by water

Waterways & Wellbeing

Valuing Our Waterways

Aggregate Benefits to Society and the Economy

The Headlines

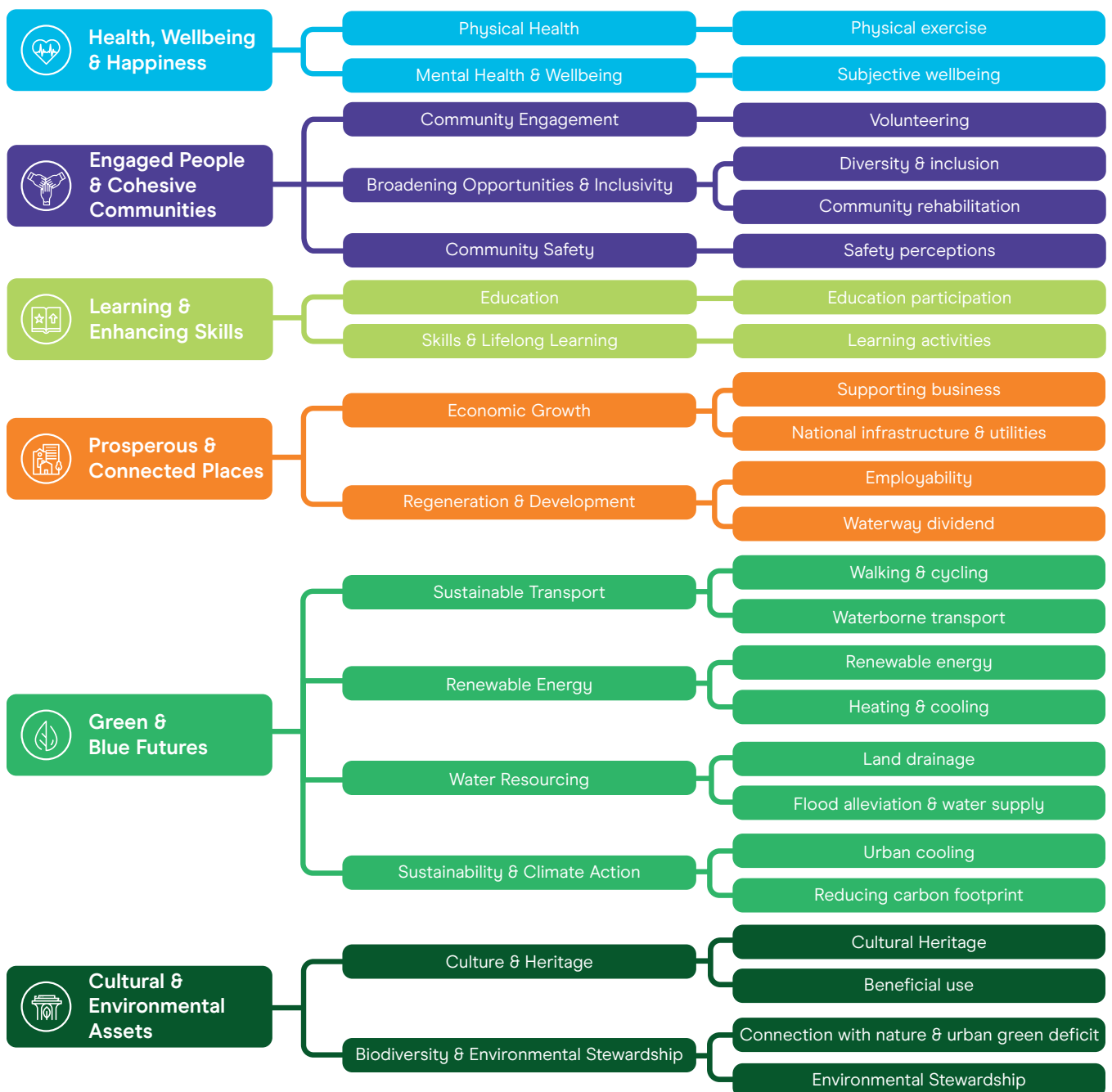
November 2022



canalrivertrust.org.uk

The Headlines

This leaflet sets out the headline findings from the Canal & River Trust’s study on understanding the social value and economic impact of our waterways by calculating the aggregate benefits delivered by our waterway to society and the economy.

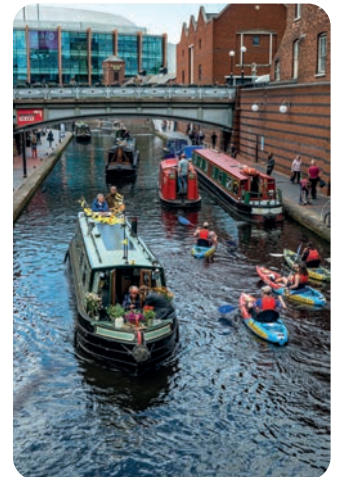


Our Outcomes Measurement Framework (OMF)

The original version of this OMF was included in our report entitled *Waterways & Wellbeing – Building the Evidence Base* (published in September 2017), adapted in 2020 in response to wider policy ambitions, societal challenges and movements.

Our study aims to set out the approach that we have adopted

in measuring and monetising the total social value and economic impact of our waterways being delivered annually. We have worked with Simetrica-Jacobs (leaders in social value), in defining and applying appropriate valuation techniques that are fully aligned with HM Treasury Green Book (2022).



The **annual social value** being generated by waterways and our activities is £4.6 billion including £1.1 billion cost savings to NHS derived from active use of the waterways and the towpaths.



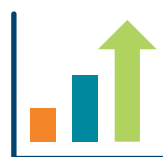
The **annual economic value**, boating and wider water-based tourism expenditure generates over £1.5 billion worth of Gross Value Added (GVA) with more than 80,000+ jobs being directly or indirectly dependent upon our waterways, supporting the visitor economy and marine sector.

Annual Social Value

Annual Economic Value



Welfare Benefits



Contribution to the Economy



In addition to these monetised benefits being delivered by the availability of the network, managing and maintaining the waterway infrastructure by the Trust has an **asset protection value**. The Trust operates an interconnected and interdependent system with open access which is 200+ years-old waterways infrastructure, including 10,000+ major infrastructure assets and the oldest reservoirs in the country.

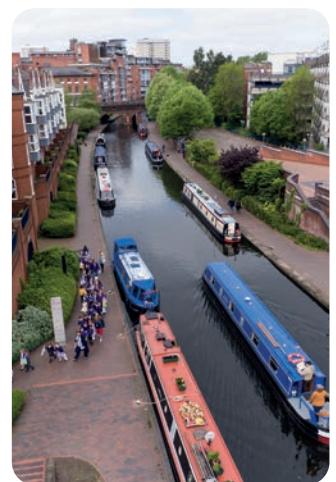
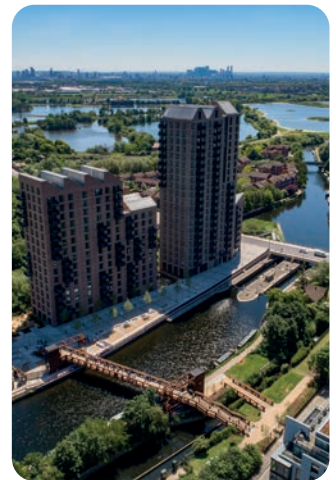
The reservoir dams and canal embankments maintained by the Trust protect many households, properties, businesses, telecommunications and utilities as well as other national infrastructure such as electricity sub-stations, schools and transport infrastructure.

Approximate total protection value of £42 billion derived from flood protection offered by our embankments and reservoirs and from our bridges and towpaths being in good condition to support utilities.

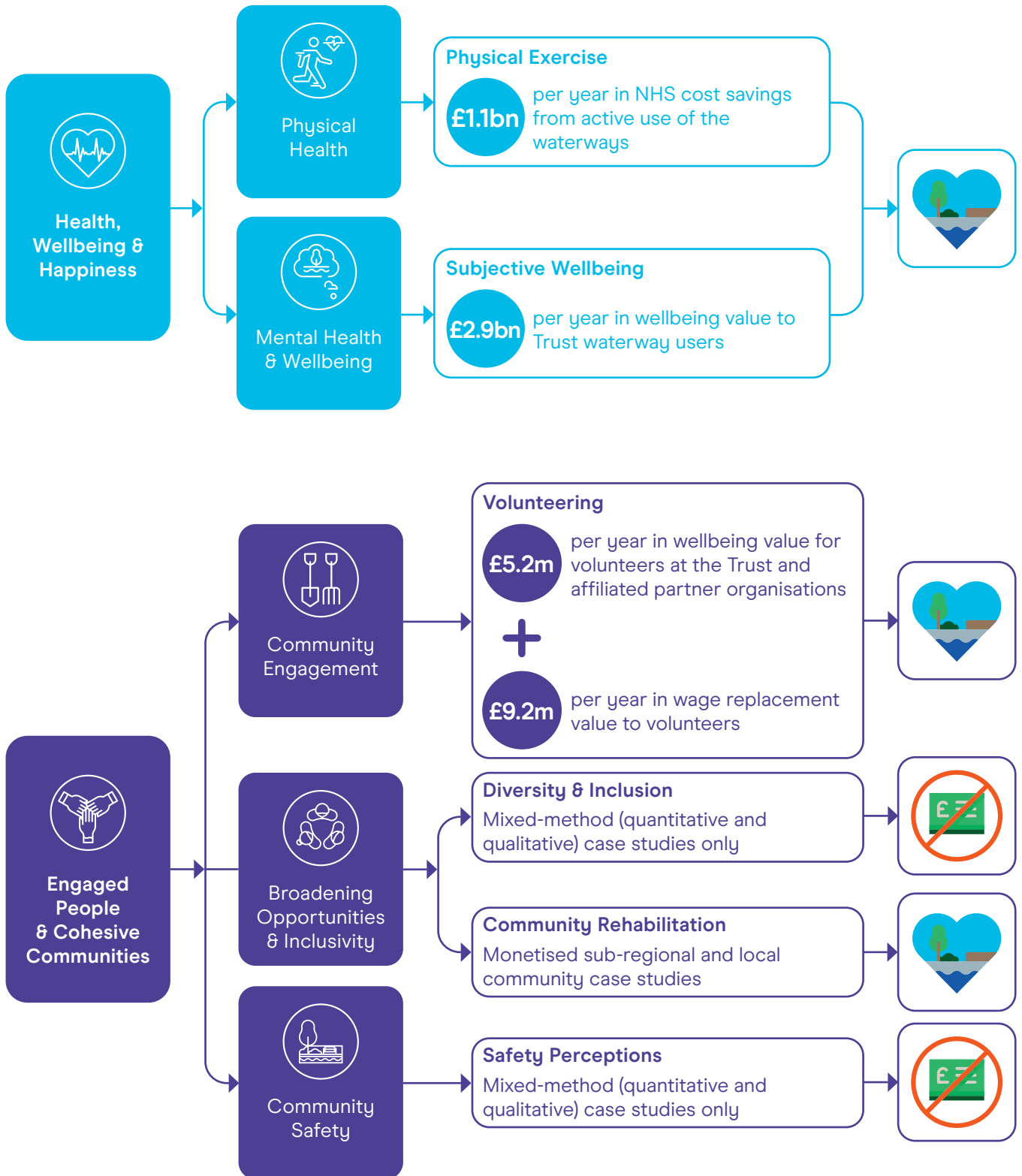


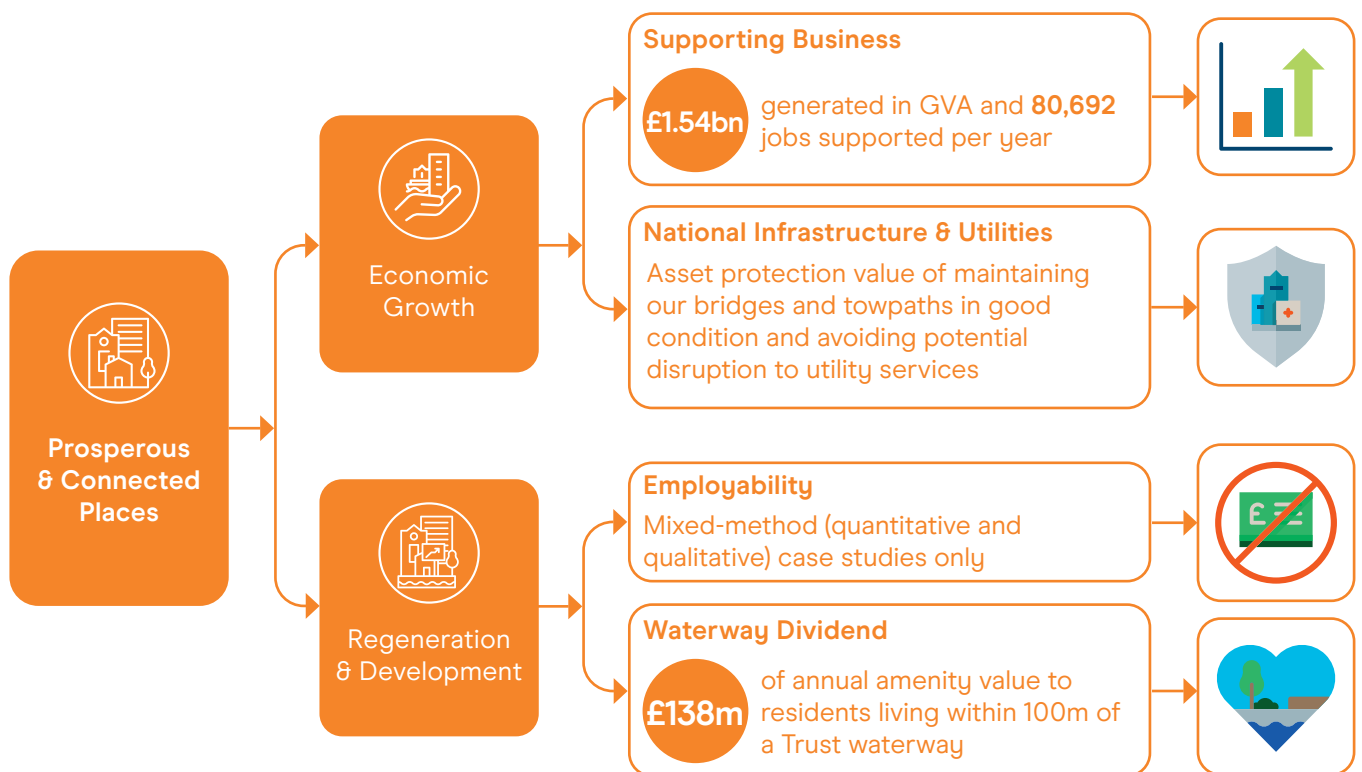
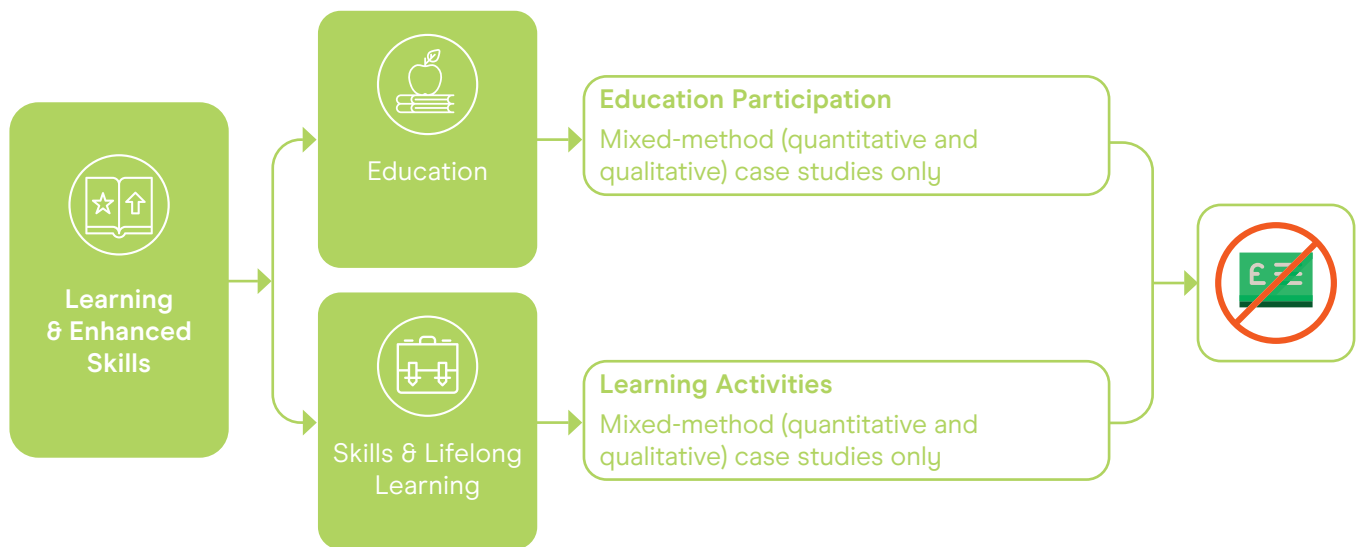
There are public benefits that are **quantifiable** but not readily monetisable and those that are **qualitative** but not readily quantifiable being delivered by the waterways themselves, activities undertaken by the Trust, or in partnership, or by others using our waterways as a platform. We are continuing to build our quantifiable research and our repository of qualitative case studies and testimonies so that we can demonstrate the full breadth of benefits being delivered and richness added to people's lives by our waterways.

The following pages summarise the results from the application of the different valuation methodologies adopted to measure and monetise the benefits delivered under our OMF.



Aggregate benefits to society and the economy





Aggregation of Annual Welfare Benefits



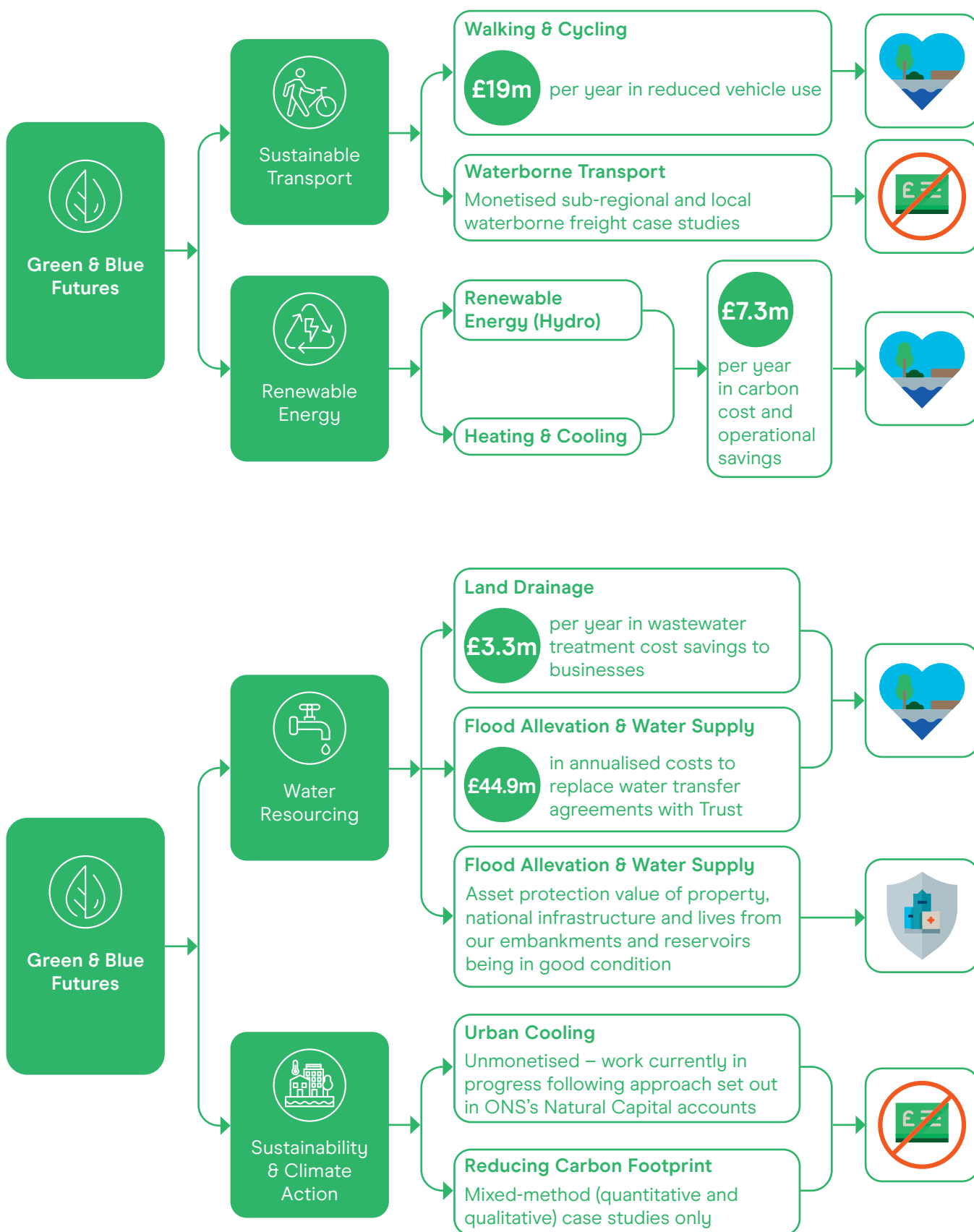
Asset Protection



Contribution to the Economy



Not Readily Monetisable



Aggregation of Annual Welfare Benefits



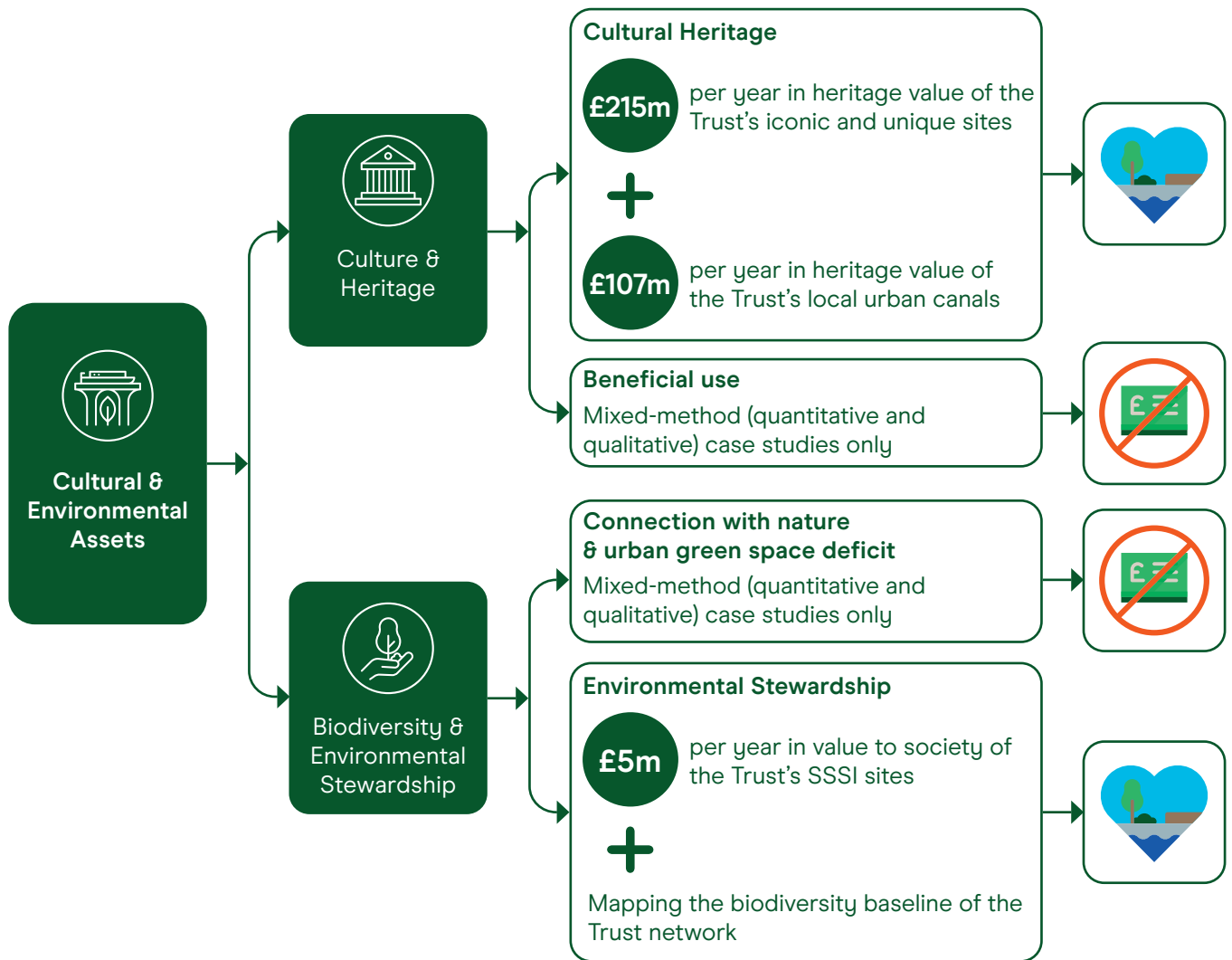
Asset Protection



Contribution to the Economy



Not Readily Monetisable



Our Network





Canal & River Trust

Making life better by water



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