



Canal &
River Trust

Environment Agency Navigations update

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National User Forum
24 February 2016

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Background – 2010 - 2015

- 2010
 - Govt. confirmed its intention to transfer the Agency's waterways to the new waterways charity
 - Some high level work/costing done, but not taken forward
- 2013
 - Defra requested a comprehensive review
 - Large Agency and Trust teams established
 - Govt. later decided not to take project forward
- 2015
 - New Waterways Minister – Rory Stewart – supportive of the transfer
 - Defra, the Trust, Agency agree to work together to explore the possibility of a transfer of navigations

Formal Announcement – 19 Feb 2016

- Joint working group established
- Confirmation of navigations under consideration
- Govt. ambition to transfer the Agency's navigations to the Trust
- Working group is at a very early stage and no decisions have been made
- Needs approval by the Minister and the Trust's Board
- Initially data gathering, then wider consultation
- Agency, Trust and Defra committed to finding a sustainable future for the Agency's navigations

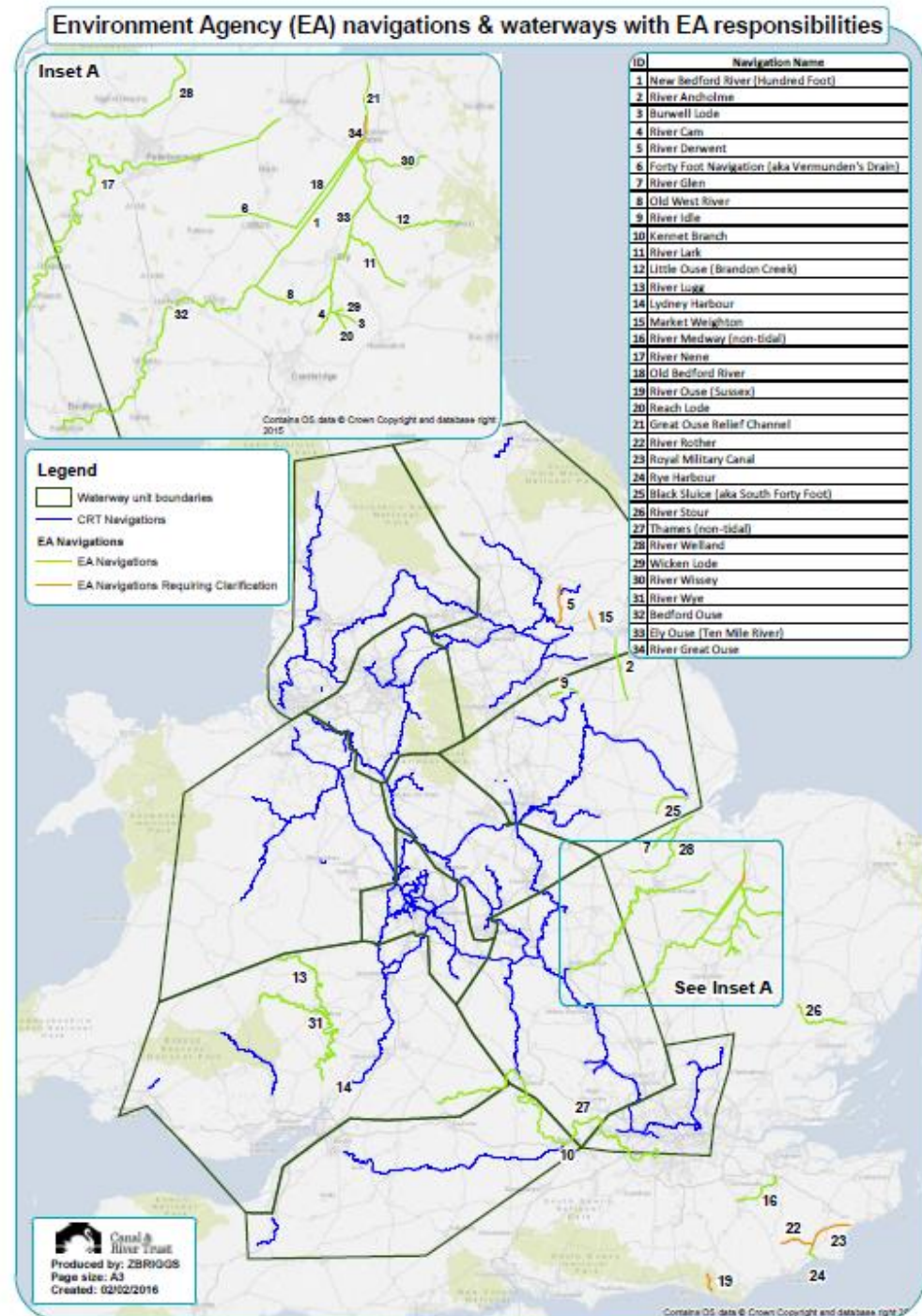
Navigations proposed for transfer



Wicken Lode - Cambridgeshire



Willington Lock – nr Bedford



The 2016 Project

- Phase 1 – to mid 2016
 - Information exchange
 - Data gathering
 - Site visits
 - Consultation with the IWA
 - Funding and management options
 - Report to the CRT Board
- Phase 2 – mid 2016 onwards
 - Develop proposed options
 - More detailed assessment of transfer issues
 - Possible transfer in 2018 or 2019

Summary

- c620 miles of waterway under consideration for transfer
- Two “false starts” in 2010 and 2013
- New Minister in 2015
- Defra, the Trust and the Agency working together in 2016
- Project at a very early stage – info gathering, cost models etc
- Further update later in 2016



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Time for questions

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