



# Strategic Waterway Plan

**East Midlands Waterway Partnership  
10 Year Strategic Plan**



Canal &  
River Trust

# Welcome

**I am delighted to share with you our aspirations for the future use, enjoyment and celebration of our wonderful urban and rural canal and river network and settings.**

**This document has three jobs to do.**

The **first** is to articulate the ideas for action and joint working over the next decade that we have developed from our very productive consultations with many partners and users of our waterways.

The **second** is to demonstrate that we are intent in continuing in this vein: we will generate as much partnership working as we can muster, with as many like-minded people, communities and organisations as share our objectives of opening up access to and enjoyment of the waterways and their surroundings.

The **third** is to translate aspirations and strategy into action and outcomes.

In 2013 the Waterway Partnership undertook a stakeholder mapping exercise which included engagement with internal and external customers. Once the key stakeholders were identified, we undertook research into their interests and priorities and produced an engagement document that had the express purpose of coming to partners and potential partners as an early draft, with much space for development in concert with the objectives and priorities of all those with something to offer to and a great deal to gain from joint working with us. We were invited to meet with 12 stakeholder organisations, mainly local authorities and public or third sector organisations. From them and from many others, individuals, community organisations and users of the waterways, we received written responses that have enabled us to develop an outline action plan.

This document reflects the main lines and some of the detail that this very productive engagement and consultation work has generated. We are now developing and starting to deliver local actions with partners in all of the region. More will follow over the coming months and years as we build our experience and develop strategic relationships with local areas, agencies and public, business and community organisations.

Our action plan is the driving force behind our work. We are using this to manage, deliver and measure real outcomes and benefits for local waterways and their surrounding communities and users. In doing so, we will help build the reputation, and lengthen the reach, of the Canal & River Trust regionally and nationally.

Why are we doing all this, and why do we need a Strategic Waterway Plan? Because, by ensuring that the priceless assets our waterways represent feel fully owned and better used by all our communities - for fun and leisure, but also as part of the beating heart of our local villages, towns, cities and communities – the Canal & River Trust can secure the community investment we need to pass these assets on, preserved and improved, to future generations.

Our job, as the Trust's East Midlands Waterway Partnership, is to make that happen on the ground, working with public, business and voluntary sector partners and local communities and groups.

This Strategic Waterway Plan, which will develop as we go, as we learn and as we build local and strategic joint working with all those we share common interest with and can secure common benefit with, gives us context, direction and tangible action with which we can measure our progress and improve our performance. As we proceed, we intend to become – and intend to become recognised as – exemplar partners in delivery of innovation and local action.



**Danny Brennan**  
**Chair, East Midlands Waterway Partnership**



**“Living waterways  
transform places  
and enrich lives”**

Canal & River Trust, 2014



# Canal & River Trust: **Our Role and Mission**

The Canal & River Trust was established by Parliament in July 2012. It has responsibility for canals, rivers, docks and reservoirs, along with historic buildings, archives and three waterway museums, including the National Waterways Museum.

These assets are recognised as a national treasure and a local haven for people and wildlife. The principal role of the Trust is to care for this unique legacy, holding it in trust for the nation in perpetuity. We believe this is best achieved by connecting with the people and communities who use them and live around them, creating a virtuous circle of engagement, enjoyment and common purpose.



# Canal & River Trust:

## Our Vision

Our Vision sets out our aspirations for the future, the organisation we want to be and what we want to achieve. It helps us all understand what we are working towards and how we all can play a role in getting there. It also helps other people understand what we believe in and our ambitions for the future.

### Our Vision is;

#### Living waterways transform places and enrich lives

It is split into three parts and our local actions help demonstrate how the vision is being achieved through our relationship with others:

#### Living Waterways –

we are always making sure our waterways are in safe condition but we also want them to be popular and at the centre of communities-alive with people, boats, wildlife and activity. For example in Derbyshire we are working with the Youth Council to shape the way we engage with our Young People, in Nottinghamshire we have partners keen to develop recreational activity along the Chesterfield Canal

#### Transform Places –

we want our canals and rivers to define the personality of a village or town, helping to explain the history of a location and what makes it special today. Working in partnership we want to continue to enhance the appearance and accessibility of our waterway. We are working on projects that improve physical accessibility to towpaths are being, such as the creation of shared use paths in Nottinghamshire. We are enhancing the environment and visibility of wonderful hidden sites such as the Lily Ponds adjacent to the river in Radcliffe on Trent.

#### Enrich Lives –

waterways make people's lives better by providing a place for people to visit and escape to for hobbies, relaxing and spending time with family and friends. We are delivering this by developing the opportunities for people to volunteer such developing our ranger programme and investing in projects that enable people to engage with the gradual restoration of historic landscapes such the Grantham Canal.



# Canal & River Trust: Strategic Priorities

**Almost 50% of the population of England and Wales lives within five miles of our canals, rivers and towpaths.**

**These places are cherished by millions of visitors, neighbours and communities yet it has been difficult in the past for many people to get involved in shaping their future. We intend to change that.**

The true potential of canals and rivers and their long term survival will only be secured if the new Trust fully engages and works with visitors, users, neighbours, business partners and local authorities, including parish, town and community councils.

Our priority is to widen the enjoyment of our waterways today whilst protecting them for future generations. The Trustees have set out six strategic goals aimed at unlocking this potential.



**People** To enrich people's lives.

**Waterways** To protect and improve the accessibility, usability and resilience of our assets and their heritage, for people to use and enjoy, now and in the future.

**Resources** To secure sufficient resources, and manage them efficiently, for the long term sustainability of the waterways within the Trust's care.

**Influence** To be a widely respected partner and trusted guardian with growing influence and responsibility.

**Places** To provide special places that people value, sustainable environments and routes.

**Prosperity** To yield economic benefits for local communities and the nation.



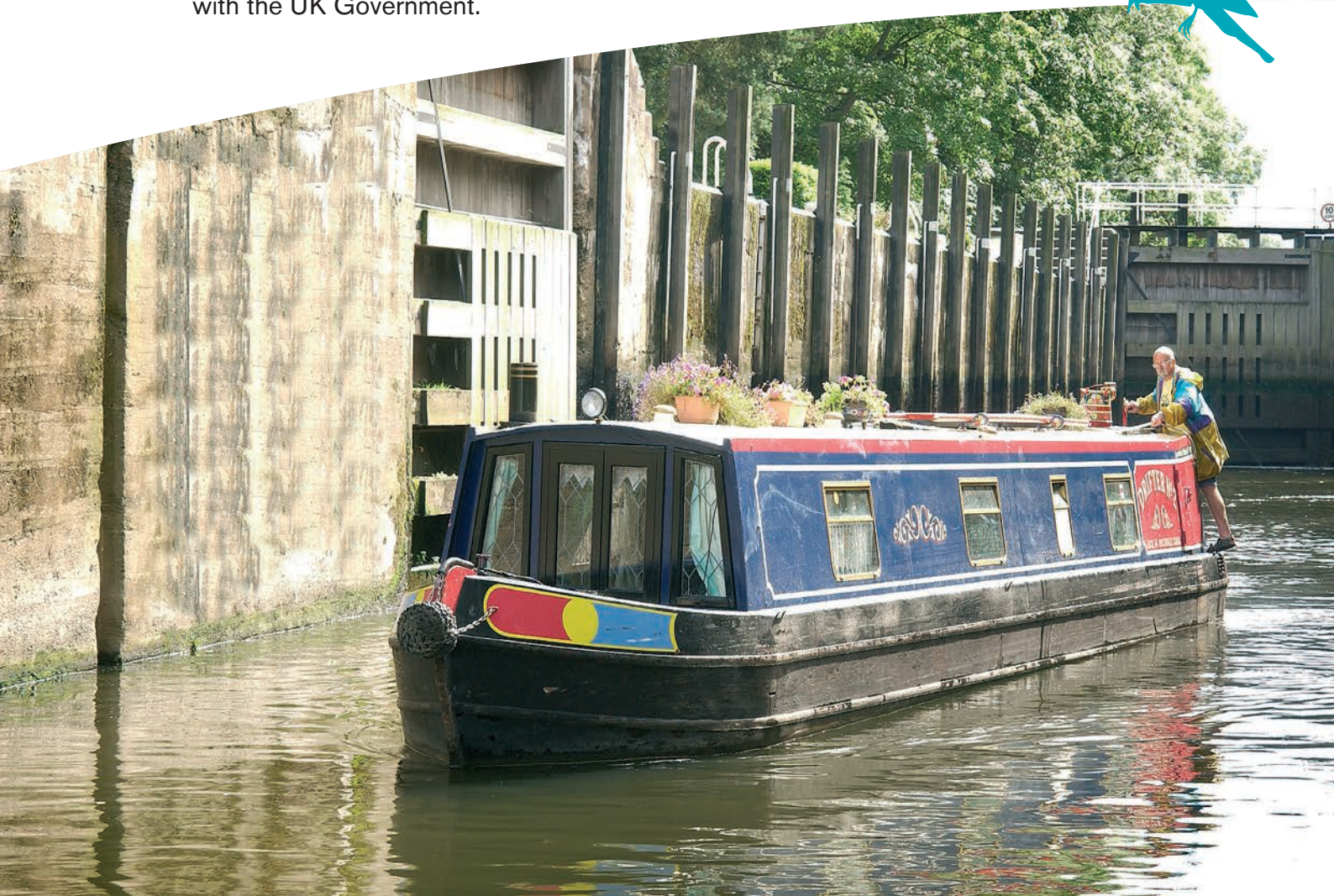
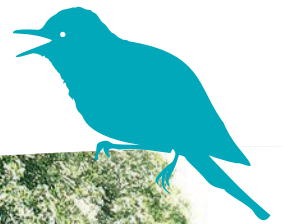
# Canal & River Trust: Resources

## Nationally, we have:

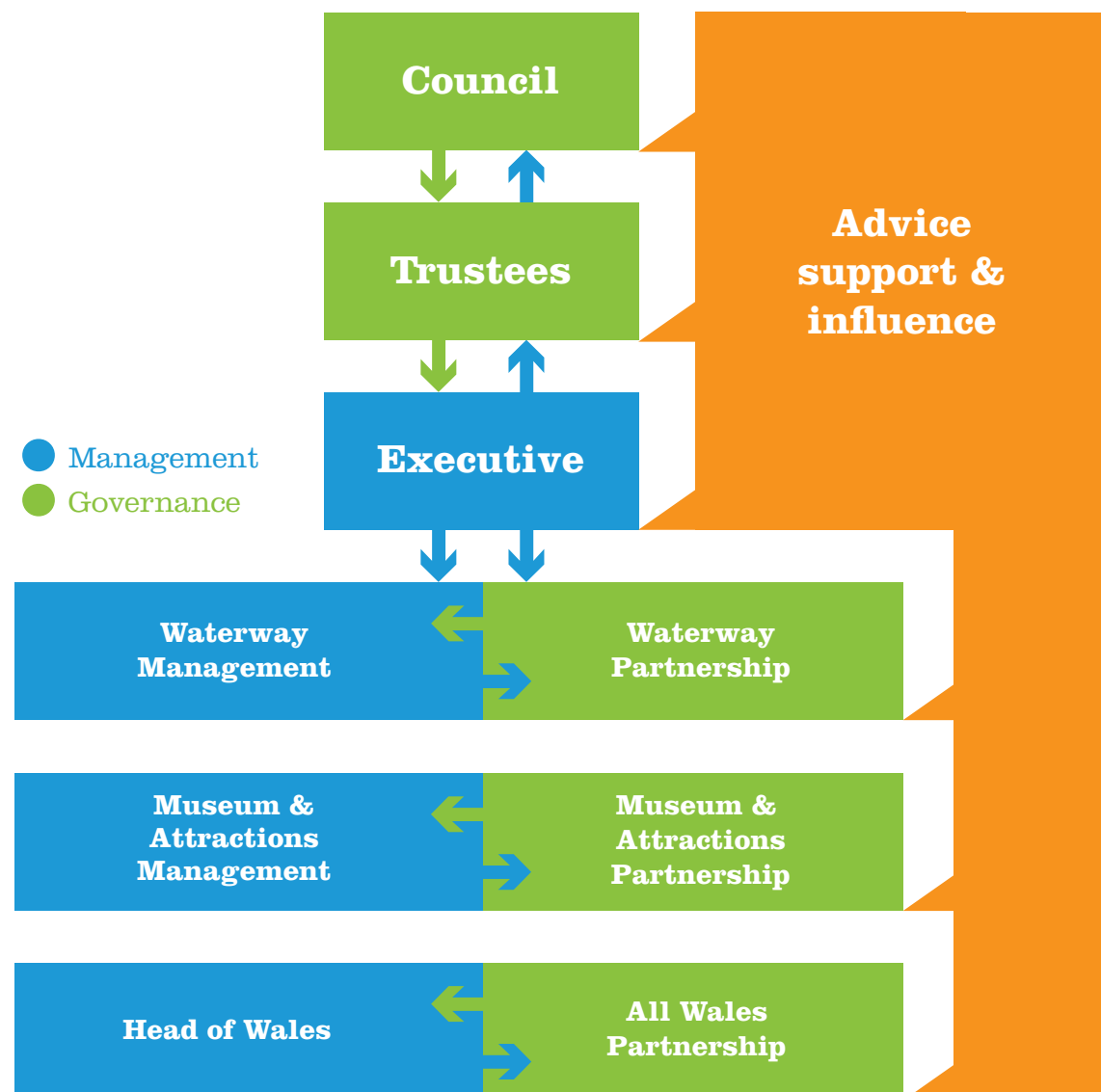
- an annual income of £120m
- 800 operational staff whose role it is to ensure that the physical infrastructure is maintained and developed
- 2,727 Listed Buildings, we are the third largest owner of Listed Structures in the UK
- 2,000 miles of historic urban and rural canals, rivers, reservoirs and docks
- 200 miles of waterways re-opened in the last decade
- 1,000 wildlife conservation sites and 400 miles of Conservation Area
- 35,200 licensed boats on the network - 2010/11  
(more than at the height of the Industrial Revolution)

## Our income is derived from a wide range of sources:

- individual donors and corporate sponsors;
- commercial income including revenue from the licensing of boats, moorings and angling; and revenue from property and utilities;
- grants from the other organisations; and our 15 year contract with the UK Government.



# About Canal & River Trust: Our Governance



## Why Local Partnerships?

We need to manage our canals and rivers as one network, with effective policies across England and Wales in order to allocate resources where they are most needed and to be most efficient. However, the opportunities for joint working, as well as appreciating the obstacles to better use and enjoyment of our canals and rivers, lie in understanding individual stretches of waterway and working locally.

That is why new Waterway Partnerships have been established, across England and Wales, to bring together representatives of local communities, businesses and organisations to work closely with the Canal & River Trust to influence and add value to what we do in each area.



# East Midlands Waterway Partnership

We are a group of volunteers from public, private and community organisations with a wide range of professional, community, waterway interests and skills. Among these are regeneration, environmental protection, strategic planning, marketing, physical and community development, heritage, boating, engineering and sports such as cycling and angling.

## What are we for?

- Promoting knowledge and use of the waterways in the region.
- Understanding the issues facing communities in the East Midlands and assessing how the waterways can play a part in improving economic, social and environmental conditions around and through our canals, rivers and their assets and settings.
- Shaping future plans of the Canal & River Trust to deliver either on its own or in partnership with others.
- Securing the resources for the East Midlands to deliver those plans
- Ensuring that the job gets done.

## How are we doing that job?

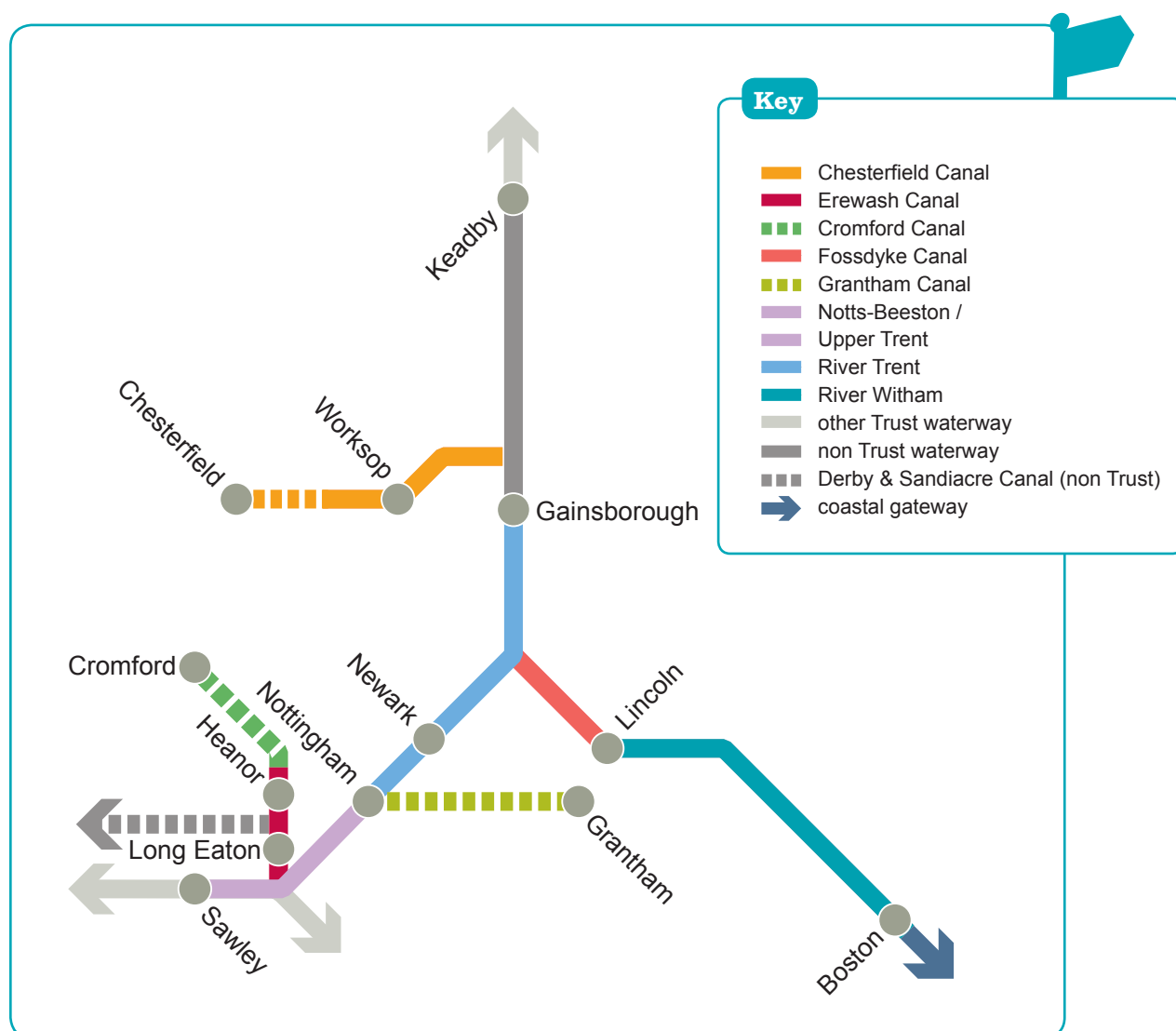
- By taking an evidence based approach to development of the strategy and identification of our objectives within it.
- By talking to as many people and organisations as possible who might have an interest in working with us (or may need some persuading that they do). And by acting upon what that generates.
- By exploring opportunities for making the best return on investment.
- By capturing all of this in a long term plan, the Strategic Waterway Plan
- By channelling the skills, expertise and resources of the Canal & River Trust, its partners, agencies and local communities towards its objectives.
- And, by implementing that plan, exemplified by real action, on the ground, on the basis of common purpose, shared benefit and mutual interest among partners and communities.



# East Midlands Waterway Partnership: Our Waterways

The plan takes us forward through the next 10 years, but we intend to annually review our actions and align and focus our efforts and resources accordingly. This review will help us measure and assess our success and also provide an opportunity to adjust our thinking in line with our internal and external stakeholders. A key part of doing so will be continued, structured conversations with partner agencies, organisations and users. Part of this is the evolution of joint working. Part of it, also, is regular and well-focussed communication.

To this end, we are developing a communication plan to help us keep in touch, keep in tune and develop a strong dialogue, both with all those who already understand the value of the waterways and the need to work together to preserve and enhance these wonderful assets, and to reach and engage those who do not – yet!.



# East Midlands Waterway Partnership: Our Canals Today

The East Midlands is home to a diverse range of waterways spanning county borders between Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and linking several urban centres with the tranquillity of some of the nation's finest countryside.

Boasting everything from powerful tidal rivers to sleepy wildlife-rich canals, it's no wonder that the area offers such unique opportunities to waterside communities, businesses and visitors from further afield.

Waterways play an important role in day-to-day life in the East Midlands, attracting on average 30,000 visitors each year and supporting hundreds of businesses.

The waterway has a rich heritage, in the East Midlands we care for 107 listed structures - three of which are 'Grade II\*' listed. (Cuckoo Wharf, The Kiln & Fiddlers Elbow Bridge).

Almost 15km of our waterways are located in designated Conservation areas. This is set against a backdrop of landscapes such as the Trent Washlands, the Trent National Character Area characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred upon the River Trent. The Vale of Belvoir a low-lying rural landscape, with relatively little woodland cover it offers long, open views. Newark lies at the centre with Grantham, Nottingham, Lincoln and Gainsborough on the peripheries.

The Erewash Canal and the Cromford Canal form part of the southern part of the Derbyshire Coalfields which is part of the Natural England designated Nottingham, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield, part of what is known as the Erewash Valley. It is recognised that the Erewash canal has a part to play in conserving biodiversity by being recognised as a Non-Statutory Wildlife Site. The canal helps to support marginal wetland vegetation and the potential to support other species such as endangered water voles and freshwater crayfish.

Two Sites of Special Scientific Interest are located on the waterway-Chesterfield and Grantham Canals. The SSSI's are currently in an unfavourable condition.

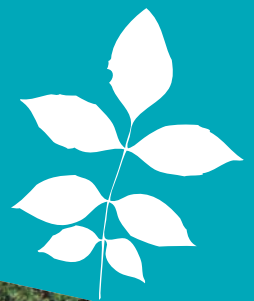




# East Midlands Waterway Partnership: Meeting the Need/ Realising Opportunity

**The Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) are voluntary partnerships between business and government driving job creation and growth in the East Midlands. They are responsible for investment in infrastructure-roads and key transport routes, buildings and facilities. The Waterways can contribute to this by;**

- Providing enabling infrastructure for people to access places of employment and new homes.
- Offering direct economic benefits through the creation a sustainable and attractive environment for investors as well as offering opportunities for new boating businesses and the wider visitor economy.
- The waterways in the East Midlands run through all the geographies of the Regional Local Enterprise Partnerships.
- These LEP areas have common issues and priorities although distance/ extent of rurality contributes to significant variations in both the extent and nature (and causes) of the challenges within these LEPs.

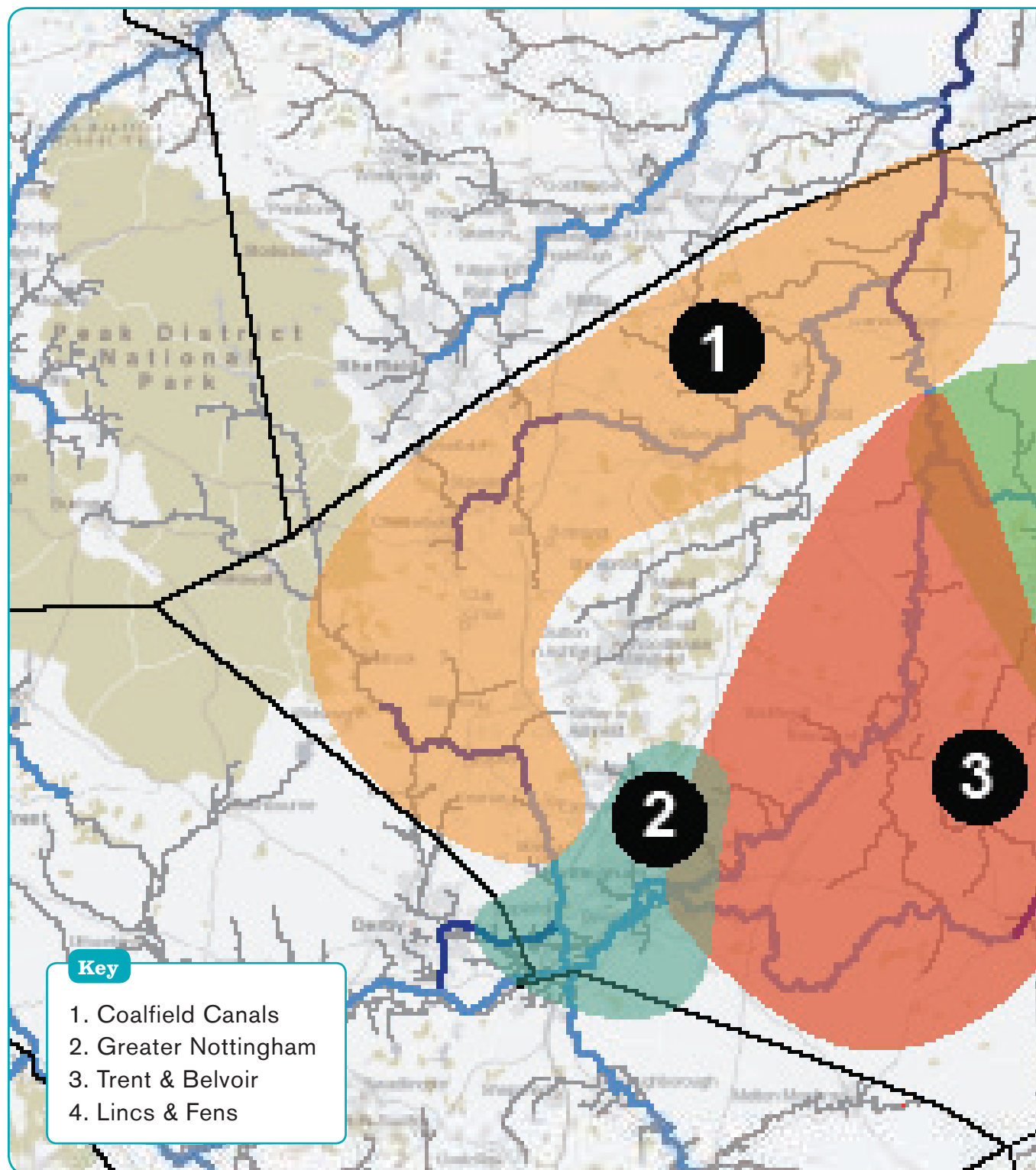




- Common issues include; skills retention, unemployment, infrastructure. In Greater Lincolnshire the priorities are around using the visitor economy as stimulus for growth and improving logistics. Whereas Derby Derbyshire Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (D2N2) are focusing on developing innovation and infrastructure supporting engineering and high tech business. Across D2N2 has seen the highest decline in employment and underemployment in Nottingham City in particular, there are relatively high proportions of employed adults with very low levels of education and qualifications, low progression rates for school leavers to university, and high proportions of local employers reporting that members of their current workforce 'lack proficiency' (many are in relatively low-skilled service sector jobs). This suggests the need to focus on transferable skills for employability and to raise the attainment and aspirations of young people. D2N2 Strategic Priorities and Economic Areas-Nottingham Business School; Economic Strategy Research Bureau 2011.
- Our waterways can also work to help resolve some the issues and priorities for the LEPs and collaborative opportunities have been identified in supporting the visitor economy reflecting natural geographies or markets that the waterways fit into such as Lincolnshire Waterways and the fens.
- We are in a position to work with major investors to develop power generation along the Trent Valley and could work with the LEP's to support linkages and investment.
- We are able to work with our partners to deliver opportunities for using our land for training and skills development. There is scope for collaborative training activities (potentially with a strong role for the third sector) Meeting Need/Realising Opportunity, A Socio-Economic Framework for the East Midlands to inform the Delivery of EU Structural Funds (2014-2020).



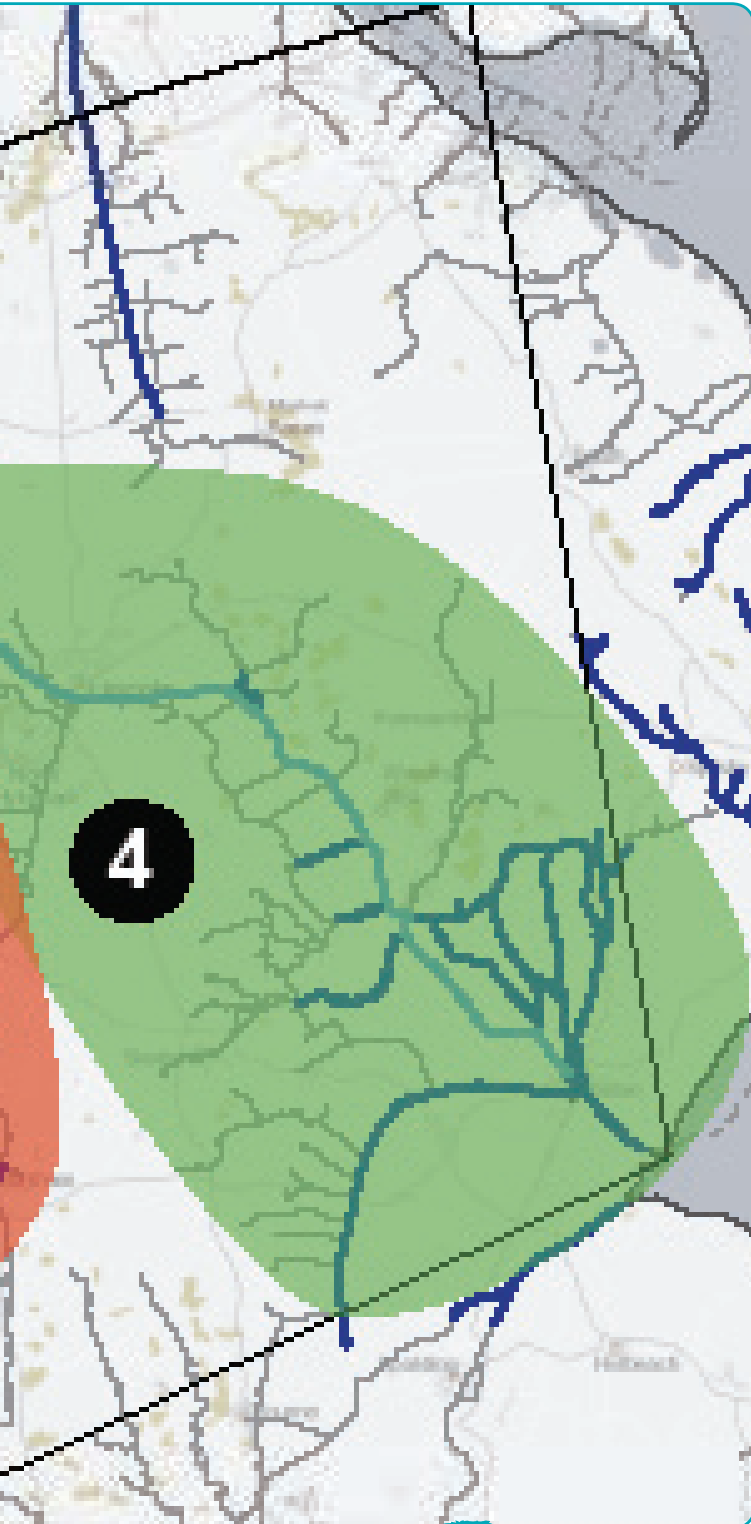
# East Midlands Waterway Partnership:



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# Unique and Diverse – what can we offer locally?



**Our waterways support a variety of activities such as water borne sports and past times such as angling, sailing, power-boating and non-powered boating as well as walking, jogging. It offers particular interest groups with a venue to indulge their passions in wildlife and heritage.**

**Our annual inland waterway visitor survey demonstrates the numbers of visitors to the East Midlands Waterways.**

Our waterways flow through a really wide range of localities. The East Midlands population is at 4.5 million and 30% of those live in rural areas with the main urban populations relative to the waterways in Nottingham, Lincoln, Boston, Ilkeston/Long Eaton, Worksop/Retford and Grantham which itself is divided from the main canal by the A1.

Canals have an impact on the local economy, the landscape, the environment and the quality of life of the people living in the region also varies immensely, in scope and scale, depending on the setting through which the waterways flow.

In recognition of these differences we have divided the region into four distinct areas each with their own character, challenges and opportunities.



# 1. Coalfield Canals

This area encompasses the Cromford Canal, the Erewash Canal running from Long Eaton to Langley Mill and the Chesterfield Canal which runs from Chesterfield to the River Trent at West Stockwith. The Chesterfield now has less than 8 miles in need of restoration.

All are formerly industrial canals rich in character and boasting peaceful rural sections meaning that today they are popular with walkers, cyclists and anglers. The Cuckoo way long distance footpath runs all the way from Chesterfield to the Trent. All have a long history of community involvement and still benefit from active volunteer groups working to restore, protect and promote them. The legacy of heavy industrial decline along these canals brought with it major challenges of tackling unemployment, combating low incomes and re-skilling the workforce. Great strides have been made to address these deficits, and we believe that canals can contribute to further advancement of these communities and their local economies.

As with all our waterways, this area presents great opportunities for contributing to the social and economic regeneration of communities and the local economy. By stimulating the waterside economy; by engaging young people in developing team skills and sporting interests, and by encouraging understanding and pride in local heritage through volunteering, skills development and youth and adult activities, the canals can play a part in rebuilding and strengthening communities. By bringing people together, and by widening the sense of community ownership of the waterways, they can address and challenge vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

# 2. Greater Nottingham

The Greater Nottingham area includes the upper reaches of the River Trent and the Nottingham Beeston Canal which flows through the centre of Nottingham.

The city's waterways have experienced major regeneration in recent decades and today see modern waterside office and residential developments mingling with converted historic warehouses and wharf buildings.

We recognise that the River Trent does and could play an important role in the helping people connect with nature particularly within an urban setting. We wish to work with urban planners to ensure that our cities, towns and villages continue to engage with the water space by improving access such as linkage to the 10 mile Big Track. We also need to promote design of new development that faces the river. We need to ensure that we can encourage public understanding of the historic relationship of the settlement to the river and in doing so transfer this knowledge to proposals that prevent obscuring the river's character. Future challenges lie in sustainably managing, while continuing to promote, increasing levels of use for activities such as walking, cycling, boating and rowing.

## 3. Trent & Belvoir

The River Trent and Grantham Canal are predominantly situated in a rural setting and offers visitors with the experience of escaping to open countryside, rolling hills and historic market towns such as Newark. The waterways are popular with walkers and cyclists from around the region.

The Grantham Canal was largely closed to boats in 1929 and has since become a rich wetland habitat. Much of the canal is a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of the aquatic plants such as Grass-wrack Pond weed which would benefit if the canal were operational. The canal has a restored navigable section near its terminus and volunteer groups are actively working to continue the restoration effort. We believe that ways can be found to sustainably deliver more conservation work along the waterway and continue to support the spirit of restoration.

We have seen that the waterway has had 57,000 walking and cycling visitors per annum with the approximate revenue generation within the wider economy of £53,000 per year, River Trent to Cotgrave Green Infrastructure Study, Scott Wilson 2009. Our linkage with other strategic routes such as National Cycle Network 15 and 48, Cotgrave Country Park and new housing and employment sites will strengthen our ability to bring people to the waterway and help visitors spend within the wider rural economy.

## 4. Lincs & Fens

The Fossdyke and Witham offer the opportunity to bring people into the coastal regions from the wider inland waterway network via major historic urban centres such as Lincoln. This opens up opportunities for extending the network to the Fens and also broadens the economic opportunities for isolated coastal communities such as Boston.

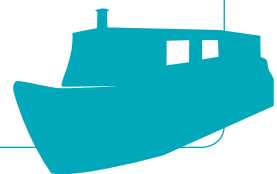
The waterways in Lincoln have played a significant part to the development of the town and this rich heritage is under exploited as an asset of the city. The Lincoln Waterways Partnership has begun the journey towards interpreting waterways through the development of the 'Water Rail Way' but this work could be expanded and developed.





# East Midlands Waterway Partnership: Our Communities– Strategic Goal ‘Waterways for People’

We feel that waterways are and can be central to enriching people’s lives and to this end we see that enrichment impacting upon Health and Well-being.



## A Natural Health Service and Sustainable Transport

Public Health England demonstrate that the nation’s population is suffering the health impacts of poor diet and lack of exercise – the population of the East Midlands has the highest prevalence of obesity among the English regions. There are two main factors that influence the rise in obesity; increase in the use of cars and health inequalities due to low incomes that lead to barriers in physical activity and health eating.

Nottingham City has the highest levels of deprivation within East Midlands and has to reduce the proportion of people who are obese by 15% between 2013 and 2020 as a planned target within the Joint Health and Well-Being Strategy. The Borough of Erewash also suffers lower than average results for physically active adults with 26.8% adults being obese, the national average is 24.2%. The ward of Cotmanhay in Ilkeston is the one of the most deprived wards in England the Erewash canal runs through the centre.

Our local government partners wish to work with us to close physical gaps in green infrastructure where the canal is integral and to promote and engage local communities to take physical exercise and commute to school or work.

*“Various plans to work with partners to improve access, provision of car parks and upgrade towpaths are all fully supported”*

## Nottinghamshire County Council

*“We would welcome an opportunity to have an on-going dialogue with the partnership. We fully recognise the economic and social positives that an active waterway can bring to a community”*

## Derby City Council

This will involve providing better access to towpaths, waterborne sports and pastimes such as angling, canoeing, sailing and power boating we have hosted the Olympic trials for rowing and as well as a wide range of volunteering activities to develop and maintain the waterways.

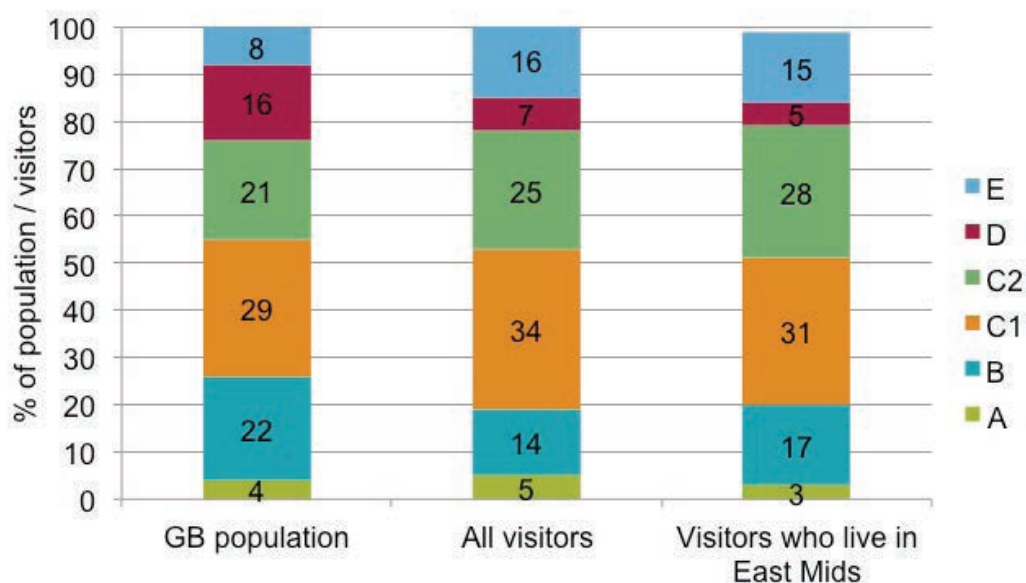
To this end our action plan identifies ways in which we seek to encourage people to make the most of the offer by improving physical and intellectual access to the waterways.

## Community cohesion

The East Midlands is made up of diverse, sometimes isolated, communities in terms of social and economic background, age and ethnicity.

Within the counties relevant to our waterway Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire the main concentrations of Black and Minority Ethnic groups are focused in Lincoln, Boston, Nottingham City Centre and Worksop. Boston has a high migrant community which is at a level of 4.7% compared to the region average of 10%.

### Visitor demographics 2012 - social grade



This data taken from our annual inland waterway visitor survey suggests a lower percentage of people on low incomes are using the waterways in the East Midlands. We wish to address the need to understand barriers to usage as well as making efforts to promote the waterways. Partners such as Derbyshire County Council are keen to help us develop our understanding and our boating association want to promote the use of waterways.



Our waterways have the potential to reach out to people and to aid social cohesion by developing a sense of shared identity and encouraging community groups to work together to improve their local environment.

## Respect

Anti-social behaviour is a very real concern for residents in many parts of the East Midlands. Our waterways can help to encourage a greater sense of community identity and shared ownership, giving people of all ages and abilities the opportunity to help care for their local waterways and to provide access to formal and informal sport and recreation activities.

## Our economy-Waterways for Prosperity

It's impossible to talk about our waterways without talking about the economy - the very reason the canals were created were to connect cities, business, goods and markets. Today, our waterways continue to be integral to sustainable growth, even though their original role for trade may have changed.

## Growth-Waterways and Meeting the Need/Realising Opportunity

The waterways in the East Midlands run through all the geographies of the Local Enterprise Partnerships as illustrated in our map.

Our waterways are part of the socio-economic framework for the east Midlands, potential collaborative interventions have been identified for the East Midlands to inform the delivery of EU structural funds (2012-2020).

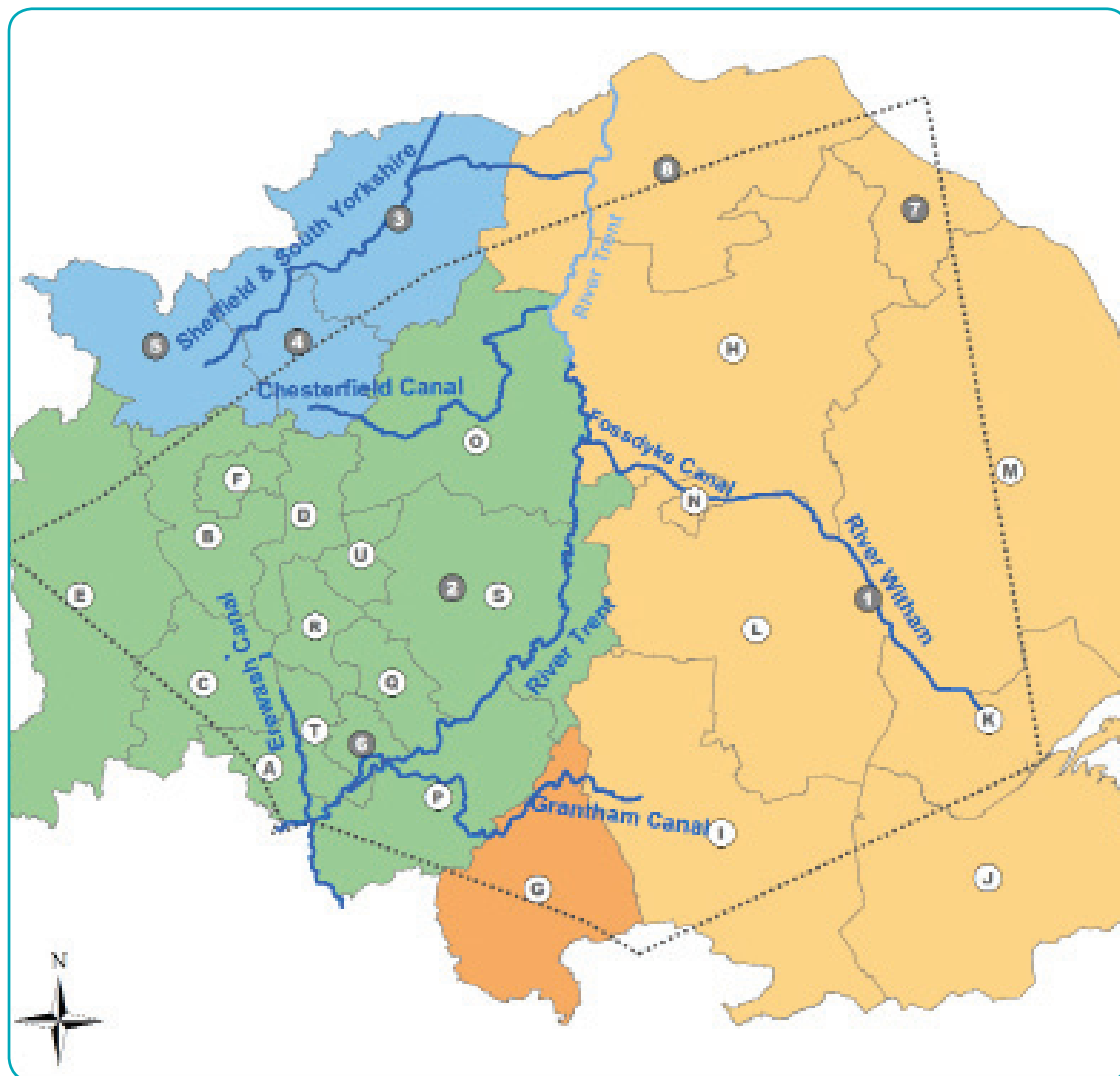
## Tourism

The East Midlands tourism offer can only be enhanced by adding the strong historic, industrial and ecological character of the region's waterways into the glorious mix of tourism assets around the region. We have, or connect to, the Peak National Park, Chatsworth and the Dukeries, Sherwood Forest and Robin Hood, Hardwick Hall and Cresswell Crags, not to mention Lincoln Cathedral and the Magna Carta links, the Vale of Belvoir and Belvoir Castle, Tattershall Castle, Coningsby and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, Sleaford with Navigation House and the National Centre for Craft and Design. On the waterways links themselves, boaters, cyclists, visitors everyone who visits our waterways contributes to the local economy. The East Midlands waterways are unique, rich in character and history, home to a diverse range of marinas, waterside pubs and attractions and they greatly enhance the region's tourism offer.

We think we can collaborate to realise the potential of EU investment funds to benefit the region and deal with the issues in common to all LEP's, these include; skills retention, unemployment, infrastructure. Locally our priorities are aligned. For example GLLEP wish to use the visitor economy as stimulus for growth and improve logistics and Ports. Grantham Canal and Fossdyke are Witham support the visitor economy reflecting natural geographies or markets that the waterways fit into such as Lincolnshire Waterways and the fens.



# East Midlands Waterway Partnership:



## Key

### Districts

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Lincolnshire       | 5 Sheffield District |
| 2 Nottinghamshire    | 6 City of Nottingham |
| 3 Doncaster District | 7 NE Lincolnshire    |
| 4 Rotherham District | 8 North Lincolnshire |

### Local Enterprise Partnerships

- Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham & Nottinghamshire
- Greater Lincolnshire
- Leicester and Leicestershire
- Sheffield City Region

### Legend

- Other Waterways
- CRT Navigations
- East Midlands Waterway Boundary

### Local Authorities

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| A Erewash          | L North Kesteven    |
| R NE Derbyshire    | M East Lindsey      |
| C Amber Valley     | N Lincoln           |
| D Bolsover         | O Bassettlaw        |
| E Derbyshire Dales | P Rushcliffe        |
| F Chesterfield     | Q Gedling           |
| G Melton           | R Ashfield          |
| H West Lindsey     | S Newark & Sherwood |
| I South Kesteven   | T Broxtowe          |
| J South Holland    | U Mansfield         |
| K Boston           |                     |



## Skills development

The East Midlands has below average levels of qualifications and one of the lowest proportions of 16-year-olds remaining in education. We believe the waterways can help to enhance the region's transferable skills base through training, volunteering and work placement opportunities. We are aware that centres such as Boston have the lowest levels of skill retention at 12.4%. We are also aware that the East Midlands as a region struggles to retain higher level skills.

Across D2N2 has seen the highest decline in employment and underemployment in Nottingham City in particular, there are relatively high proportions of employed adults with very low levels of education and qualifications, low progression rates for school leavers to university, and high proportions of local employers reporting that members of their current workforce 'lack proficiency' (many are in relatively low-skilled service sector jobs). This suggests the need to focus on transferable skills for employability and to raise the attainment and aspirations of young people. D2N2 Strategic Priorities and Economic Areas-Nottingham Business School; Economic Strategy Research Bureau 2011

We are able to work with our partners to deliver opportunities for using our land for training and skills development.

*'There is scope for collaborative training activities (potentially with a strong role for the third sector) Meeting Need/Realising Opportunity, A Socio-Economic Framework for the East Midlands to inform the Delivery of EU Structural Funds.'* (2014-2020)

## Renewable Energy

Our waterways can also contribute to sustainable growth of the region through the development of innovative renewable energy schemes. Waterborne freight also has the potential to combat the effects of climate change whilst connecting the region directly to Europe and further afield. In the East Midlands, Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services account for 3.1% compared to 3.3% England overall equivalent to 62,500 jobs. Renewable Energy accounts for 34% of LCEGS employment.

We are in a position to work with major investors to develop power generation along the Trent Valley and can work with the LEP's to support linkages and investment.



## Our Environment-Waterways for Places

The East Midlands is a special area with a colourful history, bustling towns and cities and some nationally and internationally significant areas of ecological interest. However it can also be under-appreciated by those living here and overlooked by those in other parts of the country.

Our waterways uniquely combine the historic and natural environment and are an integral part of the East Midlands landscape. Our partners believe that they play an important role in raising the profile of the area and we seek to protect the heritage and ecological significance of the assets we have responsibility for by implementing policies ourselves that are in line with the National Planning Policy Framework and working with our local authority partners and government bodies to influence ensuring that is not to the detriment of the waterway.

*'The appeal of the waterway derives in large part from the historic character of the waterways themselves and their immediate environs, and the evidence of our past which the waterways and associated structure provide today.'*





## English Heritage

The East Midlands' waterways can act as catalysts for regeneration, transforming previously disused areas of land into vibrant destinations giving our towns and cities a greater sense of place, improving their intrinsic value and making them more attractive to tourism and investment.

*'The waterways' contribution to the area's regeneration and enhancement should be recognised, but any interventions should safeguard what remains of historic character'*

*"We would encourage the Trust to take this opportunity to express an aspiration for a high standard of design sympathetic to the waterways heritage"*

East Midlands Biodiversity Partnership has identified the following areas on our Waterway as Biodiversity Enhancement Areas- The Coalfields The Erewash Canal and the Cromford Canal form part of the southern part of the north Derbyshire Coalfields which is part of the Natural England designated Nottingham, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield, part of what is known as the Erewash Valley. This valley is identified by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust as a Living Landscape Project Area.

The vision for this area is for a diverse wetland habitat with a river channel restored to a more natural condition with farmland rich with wildlife. It is recognised that the Erewash canal has a part to play in conserving biodiversity by being recognised as a Non-Statutory Wildlife Site.

*'Canal & River Trust, and formerly British Waterways, have undertaken some excellent habitat protection and creation work in Nottingham in the past, such as the replacement of hard banks and piling with vegetated coir. We hope to see this work continue in the future, and looking forward to continuing to continuing to work in partnership on projects as we have in the past.'*



## Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

The Fens. The lower Witham near Boston form part of The Fens with the Witham Navigable Drains forming part of the system managed by the Canal & River Trust, the local Internal Drainage Boards and the Environment Agency. This area suffers from Eutrophication of the water courses caused by diffuse pollution from the water industry-sewage plants, run off from agriculture and surface water from roads and developments. This creates problems for waterway management such as the cost of removing excessive weed growth from invasive and non-invasive species. Excessive weed hampers boat traffic in the main summer season and also prevents non-powered craft from using the water space.

*'More could be done to enhance other waterways in the county and the corridors within which they lie. Linking with the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan would make considerable sense'*

## Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

IS THERE COPY TO GO IN HERE?



Image credit © Keith Naylor

# East Midlands Waterway Partnership: Objectives

## **01 Develop a stronger sense of community ownership and responsibility and change local perceptions of the waterways.**

- P1 Building and broadening community engagement and ownership.
- P2 Through volunteering, inspire more people to enjoy the waterways and support our work.

## **02 Make the canals and rivers accessible and relevant to all communities.**

- P3 Improving awareness and perceptions of the waterways to attract more local people to use, enjoy and value them.
- P4 Encouraging and facilitating greater use of the canals and rivers by people from all backgrounds, age groups and abilities and promote responsible behaviour by young people so that they become the future supporters of waterways.

## **03 Improve the health and well-being of our local communities.**

- P5 Encouraging and supporting child and adult participation in formal and informal recreation, sport and learning activities on and by the water.
- P6 Using the towpaths and riverside paths as a safe and healthy route to access workplaces, homes, schools and other local services.
- P7 Promoting and utilising canals and rivers as part of the 'natural health service' and as active and inventive providers of open-air lifelong learning activities.

## **04 Make the canals and rivers more sustainable and accessible to support greater economic growth and innovation.**

- P8 Maintaining and improving the condition of the waterway.
- P9 Encouraging and facilitating greater use and activity on and along the waterways, in particular the sustainable growth of waterway related tourism and leisure use.
- P10 Encouraging and facilitating greater use and activity on and along the waterways. We know that our facilities are in need of updating and enhancing such as bringing them into line with legislation and customer needs.
- P11 Supporting the sustainable growth of waterway related tourism and leisure use.





**05 Attract investment into the canal and river corridors to realise the full potential they can bring to their local communities.**

P12 Promote the utilisation of canals and rivers as the focus for urban and rural regeneration and development.

P13 Supporting restoration, especially where this would make the network more sustainable.

P14 Optimising the benefits for the Trust generated from the growth in waterway related tourism, waterborne transport and renewable energy. We recognise that the East Midlands has real opportunities to deliver wind and hydro power.

P15 Encouraging waterside businesses and landowners to benefit from their location and in turn make a positive contribution to the waterway environment and visitor experience.

**06 Make the canals and rivers inviting and accessible places to visit, live, work and enjoy.**

P16 Improving the image caused by unsightly industrial and agricultural boundaries adjacent to the waterways.

P17 Improving access to our canals and rivers and connectivity between the waterways, attractions, facilities and services.

**07 Conserve and safeguard the heritage of the waterways.**

P18 Conserving, promoting and interpreting the industrial and cultural heritage and landscape value of the waterway.

**08 Conserve, protect and enhance the wildlife resource of the waterways.**

P19 Improving the ecological value, biodiversity and landscape of the waterways.



# **Involvement**

## **Working with others to get there?**

The Waterway Partnership fully recognises that, for this plan and its actions and interventions to be realised, it needs to be shared and owned by partners and others with common objectives and relevant responsibilities. We know, that the Canal & River Trust on its own cannot deliver the strategic objectives and priorities set out in this Plan. We know that we require and can take great benefit from the involvement and support (in various different forms) of a wide range of people and bodies.

We used our prospectus as the vehicle for genuine and open engagement with a wide range of potential partners and supporters that we believe will or should be involved in shaping and securing the future of the local waterways. We sent our document to a wide variety of organisations and those that responded and engaged with the process are listed below.

### **Local Government;**

Bassetlaw District Council,  
Nottingham City Council,  
Nottinghamshire County Council,  
Derby City Council,  
Derbyshire County Council,  
Erewash Borough Council,  
Gedling Borough Council,  
Leicestershire County Council,  
Newark & Sherwood District Council,  
North Kesteven District Council,  
Rotherham MBC,  
Rushcliffe Borough Council,  
South Kesteven District Council.

### **Government Agencies;**

English Heritage,  
Natural England,  
Environment Agency.

### **Funders;**

Heritage Lottery Fund.

### **Charities, Trusts and Associations;**

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust,  
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust,  
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.  
Inland Waterways Association,  
Sustrans,  
Residential Boat Owners Association,  
Outdoor Swimming Society,  
Sleaford Navigation Trust,  
Northern Canals Association.

### **Navigation groups;**

Boston Motor Yacht Club.

### **Local Businesses;**

The partnership will continue to engage with business and build on relationships established with organisations such as Toyota.



# Measuring Success

## National Outcomes Framework

We are developing a national framework to measure the wider public benefit of the waterways. This work is being delivered in-conjunction with our partner Cardiff University.

## Measuring the Impact of the East Midlands Actions

The NSS score is a combination of measures of waterway condition and user benefit. We will seek to build up a set of local case studies that help record the impacts and these can be referred to as examples of best practice.

We want to ensure that we are cognisant of the outcome measures of our statutory partners and where possible we will seek to provide data to help illustrate the impact in a qualitative and quantitative manner.

For example we will continue to feed into the Heritage & Environment Records, produce photographic evidence of physical changes to the waterways as well as maintaining an electronic archive that captures project specific details.

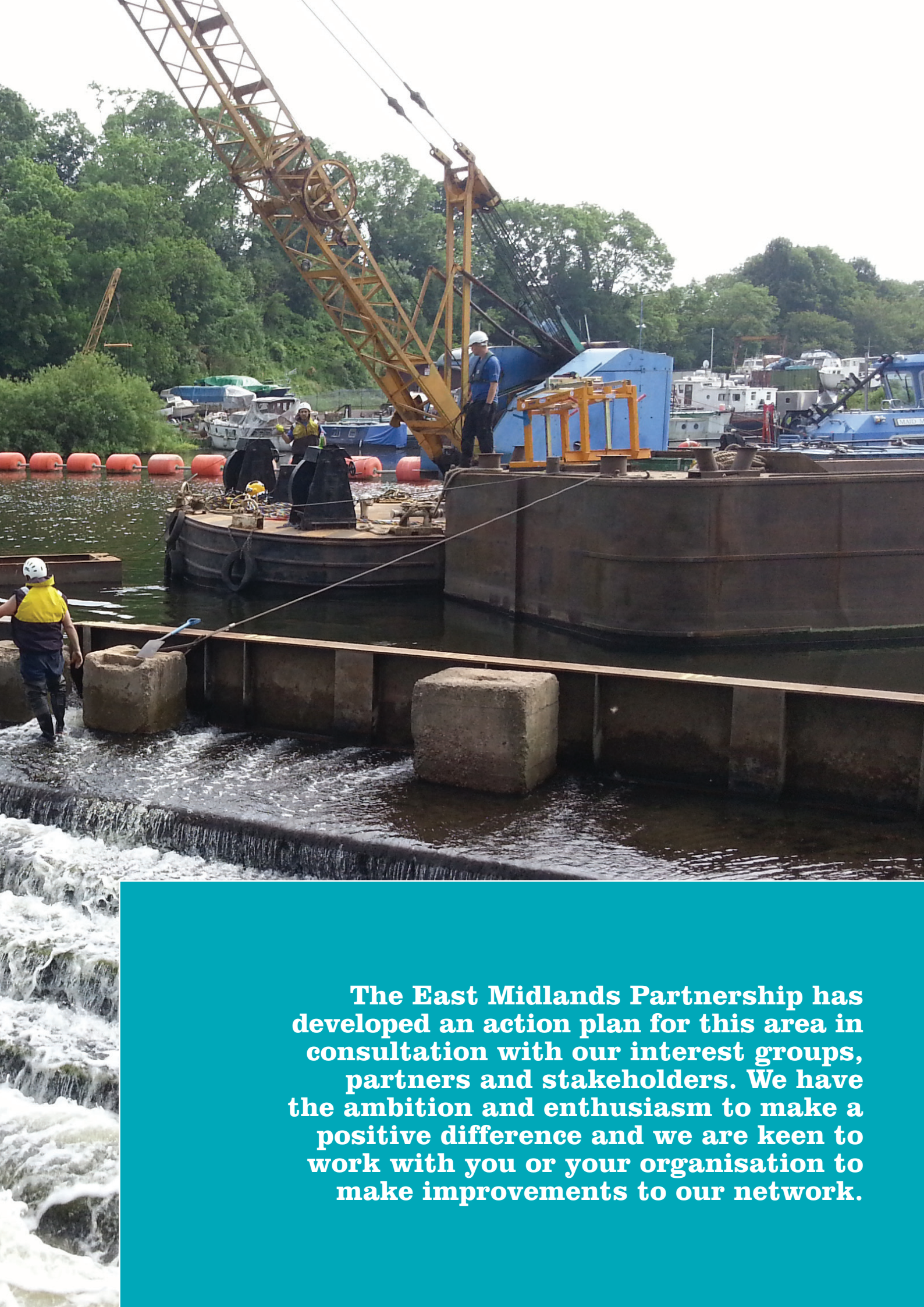
The work that partnership undertakes will undoubtedly help to fulfil our stewardship scores. The Network Stewardship Score (NSS) was developed with Deloitte from our early ideas during 2009 using a methodology for critically assessing composite indicators described in “Composite Indicators of Country performance: A Critical Assessment”, from OECD Science, Technology and Industry Working Papers 2003 to 2006. It involved discussions with our Chairman, Chief Executive, Directors, and senior managers and a range of stakeholders including DEFRA, Scottish Government; and the Shareholder Executive to determine agreed purposes. It involved comparison with other organisations such as Network Rail, Ofgem, Ofwat, English Heritage, Lake District National Park Authority and the National Trust.

The NSS scores are essentially around waterway condition and user benefit. Waterway Condition Index is determined using an index of parameters that are re-measured annually, such as condition and serviceability of our infrastructure assets, lengths of towpath and bank protection and navigability of the channel. Others include compliance with the laws around heritage and the environment and measures of our success with health & safety involving staff and customers. The User Benefit Index is linked to the levels of usage and customer satisfaction and data is provided by our Inland Waterway Visitor Survey. The NSS data is also used in part to report to DEFRA as part of our contract reporting obligations.









**The East Midlands Partnership has developed an action plan for this area in consultation with our interest groups, partners and stakeholders. We have the ambition and enthusiasm to make a positive difference and we are keen to work with you or your organisation to make improvements to our network.**

# Why not get involved with the East Midlands Waterway Partnership?



We need offers of help with all levels of our work, and we need ideas for the continuing development of our work.

Get in touch with us at:

**[enquiries.emidlands@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.emidlands@canalrivertrust.org.uk)**

- How can we work together on community, economic or environmental projects?
- Would your local school, organisation or community like to get more involved in your local waterway's future?



## Ways to contact the East Midlands Waterways Partnership:

**Danny Brennan, Chair**

**E:** [enquiries.emidlands@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.emidlands@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

**T:** 0303 040 4040

### Address:

East Midlands Waterway Partnership,  
Canal & River Trust,  
The Kiln, Mather Road,  
Newark NG24 1FB

## Check our noticeboard for updates:

[canalrivertrust.org.uk/Emidlandsboard](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/Emidlandsboard)



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