

# a better place for all

River Great Ouse Waterway Plan



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The Environment Agency. Out there, making your environment a better place.

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# 1.0 Introduction

We are the navigation authority responsible for the River Great Ouse. We have produced this Waterway Plan to address our responsibilities for recreation and as a navigation authority for this river.

## 1.0 Introduction



Our Vision is that through our philosophy ‘Your Rivers For Life’, we will maintain, improve and develop our river navigation so that we offer all of our users safe facilities comparable with the best in Europe. We will do this in a sustainable manner.

We will ensure that our river navigations are managed in a way that maintains an equitable balance between the various uses, and recognises the full range of benefits the river can deliver for boaters and other recreation activities such as walking and fishing, and for the wildlife that depends on the natural riverine environment



This Plan is linked to the *Quality of life* theme as set out in our Corporate Strategy 2006 - 2011. By taking this theme into account we will help local authorities and others to improve local environments, particularly in disadvantaged areas. We will also play our part to encourage more people from more diverse backgrounds to enjoy and care about their water environment, for example by providing opportunities for them to enjoy our rivers. These objectives can only be achieved through action-oriented partnerships.

The Environment Agency is a member of the Association of Inland Navigation Authorities and endorses its strategy for waterways, “Steering a Fresh Course.” Government has also set out its requirements from navigation authorities in the policy document “Waterways for Tomorrow” (Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, July 2000). Together these documents set a clear framework for which we are required to:

- Increase the economic and social benefits offered by waterways, maximising regeneration.
- Encourage people to make use of the inland waterways for leisure and recreation, tourism and sport.

- Protect historic buildings and areas.
- Maintain and enhance biodiversity and landscape value.
- Encourage freight and passenger transport by boat.

How we will achieve this is set out in our waterway strategy “Your Rivers for Life - a strategy for the development of navigable rivers 2004-2007” and our Corporate Strategy 2006-2011. The River Great Ouse Waterway Plan translates these documents into pertinent action for the river.

We have developed this plan with advice from many key groups who have an interest in the river. We are very grateful for this support and are well aware that delivery of many of the plan’s objectives will only be possible through the actions of our partners. We hope they will adopt the River Great Ouse waterway plan and will modify their own plans and policy documents to reflect it. In particular we wish our partners to recognise the role the waterways play in delivering regeneration to our rural economies.



## 2.0 Context

### The river

The River Great Ouse and its tributaries, the Rivers Cam, Lark, Little Ouse and Wissey provide approximately 224km/140 miles of navigable waterway. The upper reaches of the navigation flow through one of the most peaceful and attractive water environments in the region. They offer a wide range of natural and historical sites and pleasant rural towns to visit. The lower reaches take boaters through the characteristic Fenland landscape with a skyline dominated by Ely Cathedral.

The River Great Ouse Waterway Plan is written primarily to meet the needs of boat users, however, the needs of the diverse local population and the use they make of this river are also an integral part of this Plan.

**Map number 1** provides an overview of the River Great Ouse Navigation.

### Sustainability

The waterway plan aims to be a model for sustainable development of the river. Sustainable development is all about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for future generations to come. By 'Quality of life' we mean *'everyone will have the opportunity to enjoy a high quality environment that is clean, green and healthy, for now and for future generations. More people will care for, use, appreciate and enjoy their environment'*

### Open space and access

Recognising the value of open space and access is vital to the success of the plan. There is also increasing recognition of the contribution that open space can make to people's health and well-being. Government's planning guidance defines green space as "all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity."



Leisure and tourism activities have significant implications for the environment, economy and social fabric of the River Great Ouse corridor. This is especially apparent within major settlements along the River Great Ouse itself such as Bedford, Ely, Huntingdon and Cambridge. It is a tourism and leisure resource that supports a wide range of activities and facilities, including holiday accommodation, powered and non-powered boating (for both sport and recreation, as well as for commercial purposes), walking, observing wildlife, cycling and angling. However, these varied uses put pressure on the river and its surroundings. We need to plan and manage the use of this unique resource in sustainable ways so that future generations can enjoy it.

The River Great Ouse can play a significant part in meeting many aspirations that form part of Sport England's vision to drive up participation in active recreation in the East by at least 1% year on year. The river also provides a natural resource to increase participation and to encourage informal active recreation. By working in partnership we will be able to support other organisations to meet their own targets.

**“Leisure and tourism activities have significant implications for the environment, economy and social fabric of the River Great Ouse corridor”**

## 2.0 Context



“Properly targeted, improvements to our waterways can make a contribution to improving the quality of life for those living in our more deprived communities along our waterways”

#### Environmental inequality

We know that people from deprived neighborhoods are more likely to suffer poor health, worse air quality, more environmental crime and degraded public spaces.

Tackling issues of environmental inequality and social exclusion is complex and requires action by many different parties. However, properly targeted, improvements to our waterways can make a contribution to improving the quality of life for those living in our more deprived communities along our waterways.

The social benefits that can be gained from waterway regeneration are concisely summarised in the Association of Inland Navigation Authorities (AINA) publication ‘The Inland Waterways: Towards Greater Social Inclusion’. Undertaking actions outlined in this plan will contribute towards realising ours and AINA’s vision to reducing inequality in deprived communities.

#### Biodiversity

In terms of biodiversity, the River Great Ouse navigation is heavily modified by dredging and by impoundment by weirs. Nonetheless, the river and its immediate corridor include a diverse range of habitats including meadows, wetlands and reed beds that contain rare and protected species.

These include sites designated for international and national importance, as well as areas afforded a regional or local status. The presence of locks and weirs protect some important sites that are water flow and/or level dependent. The richest areas are often the shallow margins where plants like the yellow water lily and reeds are established, and provide habitats for invertebrates, fish and birds. The river is also a vital corridor for wildlife, linking fragmented habitats. There are many sites of wildlife interest to visit along the river, including, Wicken Fen and the Ouse Washes. The Ouse Washes is a site of special value to nature conservation and the Welney Wildlife Trust is one of the best places to view wildfowl during the winter months when the washland is in flood.

The interests of biodiversity and opportunities to enhance habitat for wildlife will form an integral part in the delivery of projects as we move forwards to the implementation of this plan.

#### Global warming

Global warming is likely to have an increasing effect upon climate. The severity will depend on the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere from now on, and how the climate system responds. However, we are likely to experience:

- More frequent and dangerous extreme weather events
- Heavier winter rainfall
- Warmer summers.

Warmer, drier and sunnier summers could benefit domestic summer tourism. But they could also result in low river flows hampering recreation and damaging wetlands and aquatic habitats. A reduction in dilution of effluents could cause poor water quality and increases the likelihood of harmful algal blooms. Heavier rainfall would increase the risk of flooding and make dangerous strong stream conditions more frequent.



## 3.0 Implementing the Plan

### 3.1 Maintain

The revenue and capital programmes are focussed on maintaining and improving existing navigation assets. There are some 23 locks, 33 Environment Agency visitor moorings and other assets on the Great Ouse navigation and maintaining these assets to a safe and easily usable standard will remain the highest priority for investment in navigation during the life of this plan (2006/07 to 2010/11).

The precise level of investment in maintaining the existing infrastructure will, in part, be dependent on the prioritisation of available funding. Our assets are classified as being in either a 'good', 'fair' or 'poor' condition. Our immediate objective is to target our investment to improve the condition of all assets that are currently classified as being in a 'poor' condition to 'fair' or 'good'. The current range of asset condition on the Great Ouse navigation is - 'good' (1%), 'fair' (57%) and 'poor' (42%).

We will adopt a risk based approach to achieve this target and by a structured programme of investment based on asset condition, level of use, cost of repair and smart methods of procurement, we will ensure optimal value for money is achieved.

### 3.2 Improve

It is recognised that in some aspects, the River Great Ouse navigation does not reach the standard expected of a 21st century navigation in terms of facility provision (moorings, pump-out points etc) and standards of service (weed cutting and dredging etc). To address these deficiencies we have adopted the Waterway Standards of the Association of Inland Navigation Authorities (AINA), and have bench marked our current provision against the AINA standard to identify the gaps.

Our aspiration is to comply with the AINA standards during the life of this plan. However at the present time this aspiration is not fully funded and we will seek to work with partners to bridge the current funding shortfall. Key partners are likely to be local authorities that abut to the river and riverside business with an interest in enhancing their business opportunities.

**Map numbers 02 to 11** provide a reach-by-reach indication of the investment proposals for the whole navigation.



### 3.3 Develop

A key element in the Government strategy “Waterways for Tomorrow”, is the contribution the development of the waterway network can make to urban and rural regeneration. In encouraging a modern, integrated and sustainable approach to their use, we wish to maximise the opportunities the waterways offer for leisure and recreation; as a catalyst for rural regeneration; for education; and for freight transport.

These development initiatives include proposals to increase access to, and use of our waterways. This will include initiatives to address our objectives in relation to social inclusion and healthy outdoor recreation.

All the development initiatives are classified as non-statutory improvements and delivery of these objectives will be achieved in partnership with others. There is a small budget available for these initiatives, but current funding is insufficient to deliver all of our objectives. Part of future partnership work will therefore be focussed on developing projects and associated

funding, designed to deliver the multiple objectives of different funding partners.

The River Great Ouse catchment affords many opportunities for regeneration and improved public access to our waterways. These opportunities fall broadly into one of two categories, either major regeneration projects such as the Fens waterway Link, or smaller scale enhancement or extension to existing recreational use of our waterways.

**The Fens Waterways Link (FWL)** is an ambitious, Environment Agency lead, region wide project that will link the rivers Witham, Welland/Glen, Nene and Ouse, the southern portion of which lies within the River Great Ouse catchment. A pre-feasibility study and implementation study have been completed which indicate that the project is both technically feasible, economically viable and offers opportunities for significant environmental benefit.

## 3.0 Implementing the Plan

During the lifetime of this Plan, work on the Fens Waterways Link (FWL) will focus on improvements to the link between the River Nene and the Ely Ouse. In partnership with the Middle Level Commissioners (as navigation authority for the Middle Level system) and Inland Waterways Association (IWA), we have completed a study of the Salters Lode/Old Bedford Sluice complex to appraise options for improvement or replacement of these structures to provide an easier and safer tidal crossing to Denver.

Other Fens Waterways Link related works will overlap with the Waterway Standards work outlined in section 3.2. In determining the level of facility provision on the Ely Ouse, we will take account of the potential future requirements of the Link.

**The Nar-Ouse Link** is a project to integrate urban regeneration with the development of a new marina and navigation link in King's Lynn. Working with the Borough Council and developer, within the Nar Ouse Regeneration Area Project, it is proposed to create a new marina and sea lock at Boal Quay, South Lynn and a new link to the River Great Ouse Relief Channel. This development will create a new inland and off shore boating destination in King's Lynn and create a new inland link between Denver and the tidal river at King's Lynn.

During the lifetime of this Plan we will work with partners to generate funding to allow this project to progress. A feasibility study completed in 2004 provides a technically, environmentally and economically viable option for the marina and link. Securing the £15.5m required to complete the project will be our priority for this scheme. It should be noted that progress on this project will depend on securing the necessary funding.

**Bedford-Milton Keynes Link** this is a project lead by the BMK Trust, which aspires to create a new waterway link between the Grand Union Canal at Milton Keynes and the Great Ouse at Bedford. We will continue to provide support to the Trust by membership on the Board. We will continue to have only a small funding involvement in this project.

**Little Ouse navigation** there is an (unfunded) aspiration to restore navigation on the River Little Ouse from Brandon to Thetford. Working with local partners we have completed a pre-feasibility study looking at costs and options for the restoration. This study indicates a project cost of c. £12m, with costed sub-options to allow for a phased programme of construction. We will continue to work with partners, within funding and resource constraints, to enhance the recreational use of this section of waterway.

**Other enhancement projects** there are a number of other ongoing projects along the waterway which will increase access to the riverside. The 'Green Corridor' project in and around St Neots is a good example. In this project the Agency is working with partners to enhance both access to, and biodiversity within, the river corridor between Eaton Socon and Little Paxton.

Each year many aspirational projects are brought to our attention. Our level of support for such projects will depend on the relative costs and benefits of the project and on available resources. During the first year of this plan we will develop a framework within which we will assess all such aspirational projects against the key priorities of this plan. All projects in which we become involved will be plotted on the waterway development reach maps, **map numbers 12 –23**. These maps will be updated on a regular basis and will be available on the Environment Agency website. We believe that this will provide a valuable update for partners and public alike, on the progress we are making in delivery of plan targets.

The type of projects included on the aspirational maps cover any aspect of water based recreation and navigation. The following section of this report 'Sport and Recreation' identifies examples of these projects and outlines our priorities for them over the next five years.





## 4.0 Sport and recreation

### Rowing

Rowing is a significant recreational and sporting activity in the Great Ouse catchment, notably at Cambridge, Ely, St Neots and Bedford. Cambridge supports by far the largest number of boats and whilst we are aware of issues of overcrowding on the river, the Cam Conservators are the navigation authority on the busy city reaches of the river. Rowing in Cambridge will not therefore be addressed by this plan.

On the reaches of the river we control and where rowing takes place we will work with clubs and colleges in support of competitive and recreational rowing. We will also seek to minimise potential conflict between rowers and other users of the river.

### Canoeing

The British Canoe Union (BCU) has an individual membership of over 25,000, 469 affiliated clubs and 145 approved centres. The British Canoe Union pays us a fee that allows each of its members to register a canoe. This is recouped from the yearly membership fees.

As part of our plan to improve and develop facilities on the river we have developed a programme of works to construct canoe portage facilities at all locks on the system. We are also keen to explore opportunities for greater canoe access on the system and to this end we will seek to open the Cut-Off Channel for canoeing, between Mildenhall and Denver. At the present time much of this work is un-funded and we will seek to work in partnership with others to turn these aspirations into reality.



### Sailing

Sailing is a popular pastime in the Great Ouse catchment and although sailing takes place largely on enclosed or off-river lakes, there are river-based clubs at Denver and Saddlebow. A combination of high banks, power lines and bridges tend to deter many sailing craft from using the river, however there are opportunities for greater use of the river on the larger channels, for example the Relief Channel between Denver and King's Lynn.

“As part of our plan to improve and develop facilities on the river, we have developed a programme of works to construct canoe portage facilities at all the locks on the system”

## 4.0 Sport and Recreation

“There is an extensive network of rights of way associated with the river and in the fenland reaches of the river; much of this activity takes place on Environment Agency land”

### Angling

There are some 120,00 licenced anglers in the Anglian Region, many of who fish the Great Ouse. Getting more people into fishing brings significant economic and social benefits. Angling can contribute to social inclusion, promote environmental awareness and deliver sustained reductions in crime and antisocial behavior among young people. A national “Get Hooked on Fishing” scheme, supported by the police, specifically targets young people at risk of offending and has achieved:

- Zero offending
- 80% reduction in truancy
- Increased literacy and general education performance.

Angling is also one of the most popular sports for people with disabilities.

We will work with our internal colleagues to fulfill the aspiration of the Agency strategy for angling ‘Angling 2015’.

### Walking, cycling and horse riding

There is an extensive network of rights of way associated with the river and in the fenland reaches of the river; much of this activity takes place on Environment Agency land.

The ‘Fen Rivers Way’ and the ‘Black Fen Way’ are just two examples of long distance footpaths developed in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council and Fens Tourism. There are also sections of the Sustrans national cycle network that run along side the river.

The development of the existing network provides an important opportunity to encourage more people to enjoy the delights of our waterways, thereby contributing to our agenda to provide an improved quality of life by encouraging informal outdoor recreation.

Depending on location, such improvements could include additions to the network using Environment Agency land, improved infrastructure such as car parks and better surfaces, or simply better way marking, interpretation and promotion of existing routes.

In all cases we will seek to work with partners to increase the limited budget for this work.

### Heritage

The River Great Ouse provides a richly textured heritage landscape, with a significant concentration of historic buildings, parks and scheduled ancient monuments. The diversity and wealth of these built heritage sites, and in particular the man made landscapes of the fens, are key to the unique landscape character of the river. They provide a powerful reminder of the work and way of life of earlier generations and providing places of enjoyment for local people and visitors today.

Promoting the enjoyment of these areas and sites will form a key component of encouraging greater access to the river. Working with the Fens Tourism Group and others, we will seek to enhance the leisure and tourism potential of the area.





## 5.0 Visitor risk management

Visitor safety is paramount to us. We want visitors to the river to return home happy and satisfied with their experiences.

We have a legal and moral obligation to consider their safety, and protect them from unnecessary or unreasonable risk. Successful risk management demands a partnership between the manager, the visitor and other groups (such as governing bodies of sport), recognising that each carries a share of the responsibility for safety, dependent on the type of activity and location.

Different types of river user have widely differing expectations: from white water canoeists seeking adventure, difficulty and challenge, to parents looking for a place for their children to picnic and play without coming to harm. In guarding against these risks, we must take care to avoid implementing safety measures that conflict significantly with our access, recreation, landscape, heritage and environmental responsibilities. Nor should we take away people's sense of adventure and freedom.

**“Visitor safety is paramount to us. We want visitors to the river to return home happy and satisfied with their experiences”**



## 6.0 Targets, monitoring and review

It is important to be able to judge over time how successful we are in meeting the plan's core objectives to:

- Improve and promote access and information for all users (on water and land)
- Improve and maintain the river infrastructure and facilities and services for all users
- Contribute to enhanced biodiversity, heritage, and landscape value in the waterway corridor
- Increase use of the river and its corridor.

We will judge the plan's success by the following key performance measures:

- The numbers and mix of people using the river
- User satisfaction
- Achieving waterway standards
- Enhanced biodiversity, heritage and landscape value.

We will need to establish robust baseline data and measure changes. For boating, the number of craft registered provides a reliable measure. However we will need to find ways to measure levels of participation in sport and recreation (for example number of oarsmen, canoeists, walkers, anglers and cyclists.)

It would also be very valuable to establish a programme of research that measures user satisfaction and identifies the extent to which use is socially inclusive.



Our Key Indicators of success in maintaining the river's infrastructure and facilities will be the reduction of maintenance arrears and progress in meeting the waterways standards. Advice is particularly sought on ways to measure enhanced biodiversity, heritage, and landscape value in the waterway corridor. This could include areas of new riverside habitat created, and lengths of natural riverbank retained.

The following table, 'A Better Quality of Life - River Great Ouse Navigation' contains a summary of actions that we will be undertaking over the foreseeable future. Our next financial spending review with government is in 2008 and we will use this process as an opportunity to review this plan to measure its effectiveness to deliver our actions. We will continue with the revised plan from 2008 and beyond.

“We will need to establish robust baseline data and measure changes”

## 6.0 Targets, monitoring and review

Outcome	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/2011
<b>A high quality local environment for all so that everyone has a clean and healthy environment. Improved quality of the environment in the most deprived areas.</b>					
Reduce the backlog of Agency Navigation Assets that are not in a safe working order by 85%	Reduce the backlog of Environment Agency navigation Assets	Reduce backlog from 20% to 15%	Reduce backlog from 15% to 10%	Reduce backlog from 10% to 5%	Reduce remaining 5% backlog
Operation Public Safety (OPUS)	Deliver the ongoing programme of inspections and remedial work arising from the inspections	Deliver the ongoing programme of inspections and remedial work arising from the inspections	Deliver the ongoing programme of inspections and remedial work arising from the inspections	Deliver the ongoing programme of inspections and remedial work arising from the inspections	Deliver the ongoing programme of inspections and remedial work arising from the inspections
Map areas of social need in relation to their proximity to navigable waterways and use this information to prioritise access projects in and around urban areas	Within Waterway Plans, identify and map areas of social need  Overlay this information with map of Environment Agency landholding to prioritise access projects	Deliver programme of targeted access improvements in urban and urban fringe areas	Deliver programme of targeted access improvements in urban and urban fringe areas	Deliver programme of targeted access improvements in urban and urban fringe areas	Deliver programme of targeted access improvements in urban and urban fringe areas

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>
Aspirational Projects – Each year, many ideas for improving the navigation and recreational activities are brought to our attention. Support for these projects depends on the relative costs and benefits and available resources	Develop a framework within which to assess all aspirational projects against the key priorities of the River Great Ouse Waterway Plan	Plot agreed projects on the Waterway Development Map and publish on our Website	Plot agreed projects on the Waterway Development Map and publish on our Website	Plot agreed projects on the Waterway Development Map and publish on our Website	Plot agreed projects on the Waterway Development Map and publish on our Website
Improve provision of facilities and services on the navigation	Develop improvement plans with local authorities as partners  Seek to submit bidding documents for internal funding for local authorities AND to develop joint European funding bids where appropriate	Undertake the production of the joint Strategic Planning waterways development plan zone 1  Review the improvements that can be delivered using 10% of the Environment Agency’s budget	Undertake the production of the joint Strategic Planning waterways development plan zone 2  Prioritise and deliver improvements to standards of services using 10% of the budget	Undertake the production of the joint Strategic Planning waterways development plan zone 3  Prioritise and deliver improvements to standards of services using 10% of the budget	Undertake the production of the joint Strategic Planning waterways development plan zone 4  Prioritise and deliver improvements to standards of services using 10% of the budget
Ensure that management and improvements to the navigation take account of any impact of climate change	For high flows, ensure we provide strong steam advice to our users  For low flows, ensure locks are maintained as efficient structures to reduce leakage	For high flows, ensure we provide strong steam advice to our users  For low flows, ensure locks are maintained as efficient structures to reduce leakage	For high flows, ensure we provide strong steam advice to our users  For low flows, ensure locks are maintained as efficient structures to reduce leakage	For high flows, ensure we provide strong steam advice to our users  For low flows, ensure locks are maintained as efficient structures to reduce leakage	For high flows, ensure we provide strong steam advice to our users  For low flows, ensure locks are maintained as efficient structures to reduce leakage

## 6.0 Targets, monitoring and review

Outcome	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/2011
Progress strategic development of the waterway	Monitor use of facilities constructed to promote the Fens Waterways Link	Monitor use of facilities constructed to promote the Fens Waterways Link	Monitor use of facilities constructed to promote the Fens Waterways Link	Monitor use of facilities constructed to promote the Fens Waterways Link	Monitor use of facilities constructed to promote the Fens Waterways Link
	Nar Ouse – Work with partners to generate funding to allow the project to progress	Nar Ouse – Work with partners to generate funding to allow the project to progress	Nar Ouse – Work with partners to generate funding to allow the project to progress	Nar Ouse – Work with partners to generate funding to allow the project to progress	Nar Ouse – Work with partners to generate funding to allow the project to progress
	Continue to support the BMK Trust through membership of the Project Management Group and Board	Continue to support the BMK Trust through membership of the Project Management Group and Board	Continue to support the BMK Trust through membership of the Project Management Group and Board	Continue to support the BMK Trust through membership of the Project Management Group and Board	Continue to support the BMK Trust through membership of the Project Management Group and Board
	Focus on improvements to the Link between the River Nene and the Ely Ouse	Focus on improvements to the Link between the River Nene and the Ely Ouse	Focus on improvements to the Link between the River Nene and the Ely Ouse	Focus on improvements to the Link between the River Nene and the Ely Ouse	Focus on improvements to the Link between the River Nene and the Ely Ouse
Enhance Biodiversity on our waterway	Look for opportunities for wildlife enhancements in the work we are doing for both capital and revenue works	Look for opportunities for wildlife enhancements in the work we are doing for both capital and revenue works	Look for opportunities for wildlife enhancements in the work we are doing for both capital and revenue works	Look for opportunities for wildlife enhancements in the work we are doing for both capital and revenue works	Look for opportunities for wildlife enhancements in the work we are doing for both capital and revenue works
	Develop recreation honey pot sites away from conservation sensitive areas	Develop recreation honey pot sites away from conservation sensitive areas	Develop recreation honey pot sites away from conservation sensitive areas	Develop recreation honey pot sites away from conservation sensitive areas	Develop recreation honey pot sites away from conservation sensitive areas

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>
Improvements to Canoe Access	Undertake a study to assess the feasibility of opening up the cut off channel for canoeing between Mildenhall and Denver	Develop a funding strategy for the 'Cut Off Channel' canoe access project	Deliver facility provision for the 'Cut Off Channel' canoe access project	Monitor use and 'satisfaction' rating for users of the new canoe access	Implement comments from review as required/practicably feasible
	Seek funding opportunities with our partners to construct canoe portage facilities at all locks on the system	Construct canoe portage facilities at all locks on the system within the constraints of available funding	Construct canoe portage facilities at all locks on the system within the constraints of available funding	Construct canoe portage facilities at all locks on the system within the constraints of available funding	Construct canoe portage facilities at all locks on the system within the constraints of available funding

## 6.0 Targets, monitoring and review

Outcome	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/2011
<b>More people from more diverse backgrounds will be enjoying water based recreation</b>					
Increase the number of Environment Agency sites (including those we lease as fisheries) that provide public access by 7%	Enhance recreational access to Environment Agency sites by 1.4% in partnership with others	Enhance recreational access to Environment Agency sites by 1.4% in partnership with others	Enhance recreational access to Environment Agency sites by 1.4% in partnership with others	Enhance recreational access to Environment Agency sites by 1.4% in partnership with others	Enhance recreational access to Environment Agency sites by 1.4% in partnership with others
Health and Well being – working with Sport England East Region we will continue to promote healthy lifestyles in the countryside	In conjunction with our regional Sports England partners and our Head Office function, we will actively support and conduct research into the health benefits for all – identifying the benefits and how they can be achieved	In conjunction with our regional Sports England partners and our Head Office function, we will actively support and conduct research into the health benefits for all – identifying the benefits and how they can be achieved	In conjunction with our regional Sports England partners and our Head Office function, we will actively support and conduct research into the health benefits for all – identifying the benefits and how they can be achieved	In conjunction with our regional Sports England partners and our Head Office function, we will actively support and conduct research into the health benefits for all – identifying the benefits and how they can be achieved	In conjunction with our regional Sports England partners and our Head Office function, we will actively support and conduct research into the health benefits for all – identifying the benefits and how they can be achieved

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>
Promote sport and recreation both on and by the water	Seek positive media coverage to raise the profile of opportunities on the river	Seek positive media coverage to raise the profile of opportunities on the river	Seek positive media coverage to raise the profile of opportunities on the river	Seek positive media coverage to raise the profile of opportunities on the river	Seek positive media coverage to raise the profile of opportunities on the river
	Provide accurate and up to date information about sport and recreation opportunities on the river	Provide accurate and up to date information about sport and recreation opportunities on the river	Provide accurate and up to date information about sport and recreation opportunities on the river	Provide accurate and up to date information about sport and recreation opportunities on the river	Provide accurate and up to date information about sport and recreation opportunities on the river
	Maintain an atmospheric photographic image library	Maintain an atmospheric photographic image library	Maintain an atmospheric photographic image library	Maintain an atmospheric photographic image library	Maintain an atmospheric photographic image library
	Support, and or attend national, regional and local shows, events or exhibitions to promote the Anglian and Fens Waterways	Support, and or attend national, regional and local shows, events or exhibitions to promote the Anglian and Fens Waterways	Support, and or attend national, regional and local shows, events or exhibitions to promote the Anglian and Fens Waterways	Support, and or attend national, regional and local shows, events or exhibitions to promote the Anglian and Fens Waterways	Support, and or attend national, regional and local shows, events or exhibitions to promote the Anglian and Fens Waterways
	Promote footpath links and cycleways to the river, particularly from urban areas	Promote footpath links and cycleways to the river, particularly from urban areas	Promote footpath links and cycleways to the river, particularly from urban areas	Promote footpath links and cycleways to the river, particularly from urban areas	Promote footpath links and cycleways to the river, particularly from urban areas
Improved information so that people with disabilities are able to make an informed decision about suitability of access	Undertake a disability audit for all relevant Environment Agency sites with public access	Implement findings from disability audit	Implement findings from disability audit	Implement findings from disability audit	Implement findings from disability audit

## 6.0 Targets, monitoring and review

Outcome	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/2011
<b>More people enjoying and caring about their environment</b>					
With others promote greater awareness and use of our waterways for recreational use	Promotional campaigns in local and national press	Promotional campaigns in local and national press	Promotional campaigns in local and national press	Promotional campaigns in local and national press	Promotional campaigns in local and national press
	Improve signage and visitor information at key locations	Improve signage and visitor information at key locations	Improve signage and visitor information at key locations	Improve signage and visitor information at key locations	Improve signage and visitor information at key locations
	With others, produce and promote visitor guides to our waterways.	With others, produce and promote visitor guides to our waterways.	With others, produce and promote visitor guides to our waterways.	With others, produce and promote visitor guides to our waterways.	With others, produce and promote visitor guides to our waterways.
	E.g. Fens Tourism	E.g. Fens Tourism	E.g. Fens Tourism	E.g. Fens Tourism	E.g. Fens Tourism

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>
Heritage - Include heritage attractions in promotional material. Produce interpretation facilities such as interpretation boards at relevant sites	Ensure heritage features are included in River Guides/relevant web sites and any other literature developed with key partners	Ensure heritage features are included in River Guides/relevant web sites and any other literature developed with key partners	Ensure heritage features are included in River Guides/relevant web sites and any other literature developed with key partners	Ensure heritage features are included in River Guides/relevant web sites and any other literature developed with key partners	Ensure heritage features are included in River Guides/relevant web sites and any other literature developed with key partners
	Manage Environment Agency land buildings and structures (such as locks bridges and weirs) of historic interest, in harmony with their setting, design, materials and construction methods	Manage Environment Agency land buildings and structures (such as locks bridges and weirs) of historic interest, in harmony with their setting, design, materials and construction methods	Manage Environment Agency land buildings and structures (such as locks bridges and weirs) of historic interest, in harmony with their setting, design, materials and construction methods	Manage Environment Agency land buildings and structures (such as locks bridges and weirs) of historic interest, in harmony with their setting, design, materials and construction methods	Manage Environment Agency land buildings and structures (such as locks bridges and weirs) of historic interest, in harmony with their setting, design, materials and construction methods
		Develop heritage trails with key partners	Develop heritage trails with key partners	Develop heritage trails with key partners	Develop heritage trails with key partners
			Provide interpretation boards at relevant sites or promotional material at museums and visitor centres as appropriate	Provide interpretation boards at relevant sites or promotional material at museums and visitor centres as appropriate	Provide interpretation boards at relevant sites or promotional material at museums and visitor centres as appropriate

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