

LOUTH NAVIGATION FEASIBILITY STUDY

MASTER PLAN

LOUTH NAVIGATION TRUST



Community led initiatives are better than imposed solutions

This Master Plan is in skeleton form only, except for the Access Improvement Projects, which are to be regarded as short-term projects achievable by 2008. All dates are subject to revision. The Master Plan is subject to the approval of the Feasibility Study Steering Group.

Master Plan

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1. Access Improvement Project	2005		2008		
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2. Four Navigation Walks Brochures	2005	✓	2006		8
Walk 1. Two Churches & A Canal	2005	✓	2005	✓	
3. Bailey Bridge Project Funding applied for	2005		2007		10
		✓			
4. Tetney Lock Slipway Project Funding applied for	2005	✓	2007		13
		✓			
5. Covenham Reservoir Project Funding applied for	2005	✓	2007		15
		✓			
6. Keddington Meadow Project Consultation process begun	2005	✓	2008		17
		✓			
2. ELDC Waterways Strategy	2005	✓	2005		19
3. Louth Navigation Boat Club	2006		2006		20
4. Restoration of Locks Without Gates	2006		2009		21
5. Development of Louth Riverhead	2010		2020		22
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1. ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

1.1 Overview

Government has recognised the important contribution that a well maintained and easy to follow rights of way network can make to peoples' lives. Regular exercise by walking and cycling can improve health and well being, and making short journeys without using motor vehicles helps to reduce pollution and congestion.

The rural economy and tourism can benefit from visitors to the countryside making use of local goods and services.

In the light of the completion of a ***Feasibility Study for the Restoration of the Louth Navigation*** and to promote the government's views on improvement of access to footpaths and other alternative means of travel, the LNT and its Partners propose that the following project be seen as part of the overall ***Master Plan*** for the restoration of the Louth Navigation.

Aims:

To review the Louth Navigation and towpath together with the associated intersecting footpaths, relative to the current and future needs of boaters, walkers, cyclists, anglers, the blind or partially sighted and others with mobility problems, families with pushchairs, and the elderly.

Produce an ***Access Improvement Project*** as a means of enabling such needs to be satisfied.

Objectives:

Boating:

Progress the ***Bailey Bridge, Tetney Lock Slipway*** and ***Covenham Reservoir*** projects, as set out in the ***Master Plan***¹ for the restoration of the Louth Navigation, which will initially enable limited boating on the waterway.

Walking:

¹ See Master Plan for details of these projects

1. Access Improvement Project

Research the current needs of walkers in terms of the use of the towpath and related circular walks.

Establish that the existing towpath goes to where people want to be, or go, and subject to an identified need, to investigate the possibility of creating new routes.

Ensure that the towpath and intersecting footpaths are easy to find and to follow.

Review the present level of towpath and related footpaths maintenance and to propose any improvements.

Review and where possible make provision for the needs of the blind or partially sighted and others with mobility problems, families with pushchairs, and the elderly.

(Please also refer to 1.2 of the Master Plan re. Navigation Walks Brochures).

Cycling:

Research the potential for cycle routes along or near the Louth Navigation in conjunction with Sustrans and others.

Angling:

Consult with the Witham and District Joint Anglers Federation regarding any conflict of interests relating to other canal and towpath users.

Research any towpath improvements that would benefit anglers.

Local Economy:

Encourage the provision of accommodation, shops, camping, picnicking, catering, parking and toilet facilities within or close to the canal corridor.

Natural Environment:

1. Access Improvement Project

Research the opportunities for enhancing the canal corridor by planting indigenous flowers, shrubs and trees for the benefit of wildlife, boaters, walkers, cyclists and anglers.

Action:

As a preliminary, to join up with other plans by consulting with:

LCC Access Development Officer regarding Lincolnshire Rights Of Way Improvement Plan [LROWIP] see

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countryside/section.asp?catId=7027

Countryside Agency regarding the improvement of coastal access links. Explore the potential of the Louth Navigation and its towpath in the context of waterborne, foot and cycle access.

Market Town's Initiative committee

Boating:

Encourage small boat enthusiasts to use the canal by the implementation of the **Bailey Bridge, Tetney Lock Slipway** and **Covenham Reservoir** projects.

Walking:

Identify how and where the Louth Navigation and its towpath combined with other associated circular walks routes, links services and facilities for locals.

Identify potential amenity and recreation journeys for tourists within the canal corridor.

Produce a user Demand Forecast for the towpath and associated footpaths.

Where necessary, renew or repair existing finger posts and propose new locations where posts should be erected. Erect such posts, following the Lincolnshire Waterways Design Standards.

Research what regular maintenance is currently carried out on the towpath and associated footpaths and propose any improvements to these levels of maintenance.

Review the current types of styles, gates and other closures used on the towpath and associated footpaths and propose any improvements.

1. Access Improvement Project

Investigate and report on the possibility of meeting the needs of the community by making more short circular routes available, close to where people live and work.

Contact individuals and organisations representing the blind or partially sighted and others with mobility problems, families with pushchairs, and the elderly, with a view to resolving difficulties which they may have in accessing the towpath and associated footpaths.

Cycling:

Contact Sustrans and seek their views on the opportunities for cycling along parts of the towpath and associated footpaths having in mind the close proximity of their proposed National Cycle Route 12.

Angling:

Contact representatives of the Witham and District Joint Anglers Federation to seek their views on the encouragement of boaters in particular and the Access Improvement Project in general.

Elicit any ideas for improvements to the towpath for the benefit of anglers and others.

All:

Organise a twice-yearly canalside snapshot study of waterway and towpath users.

Encourage Local Access Forum [LAF] involvement by initiating a presentation to be made by Bullen's or others, using the theme that the canal has the potential to provide opportunities for access improvements.

Formulate (following the Lincolnshire Waterways Design Standards), produce and distribute relevant access literature and brochures, highlighting the opportunities provided by local rights of way for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and enjoyment.

Local Transport:

Research how local bus services link with canal locations and measure their efficiency and if necessary propose new services to meet the needs of the community and tourists.

ELDC: Through the ELDC Tourist Office to meet with local business people to explain our aims and to encourage their support and entrepreneurialism.

1. Access Improvement Project

Seek advice regarding the planting up of selected sites along the Navigation and draw up an Action Plan as a preliminary.

Resources:

Benefits:

Review/Monitor

ACTION

START DATE

FINISH DATE

1.2 Four Navigation Walks Brochures

Aim:

Encourage the use by walkers of the 11 miles long Louth Navigation towpath and adjacent footpaths, bridleways and minor roads, for the benefit of their health and the local economy.

By attracting walkers to contribute towards a reduction in pollution levels by avoidance of motor vehicle usage.

Objectives:

To produce a series of four navigation walks brochures based on the canal. Three circular walks and one linear walk.

1. Walk one - Two Churches and a Canal, project completed
2. Walk Two - circular based on Covenham to be routed
3. Walk Three -circular based on Tetney - to be routed
4. Walk Four - linear, Woolpack to Crown & Anchor, Tetney Lock also to be used as promotional leaflet for Trust

Action:

1. Make applications for funding based on the cost of producing the brochure for Walk 1.
2. Obtain estimates from printers.
3. Identify routes – work out mileage.
4. Produce draft brochures for walks 2, 3 and 4.
5. Identify points of interest.
6. Draw up list of wildlife: species, flora, fauna etc.
7. Take photographs and make a selection from these for inclusion in the brochures.
8. Determine what artwork is needed.
9. Produce final draft.
10. Order print runs.
11. Identify outlets and arrange for distribution of brochures.
12. Seek feedback from users.

Resources:

1. Funding
2. Volunteers to trial walks – *try local RA*

Benefits:

1.2 Four Navigation Walks Brochures

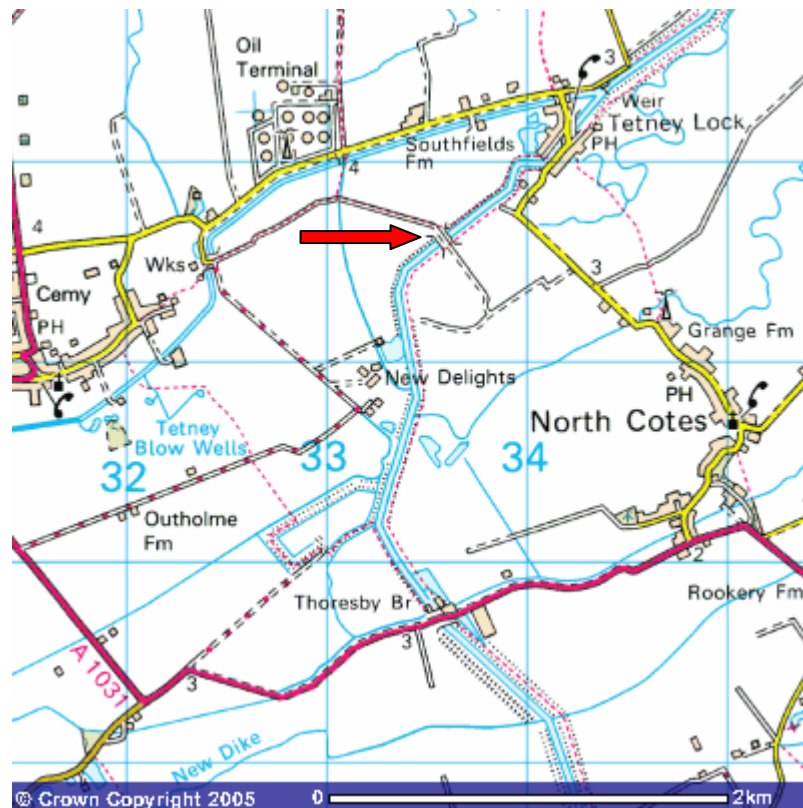
- Regular exercise by walking can improve health and well being. (implementation of Access Improvement policy).
- Making short journeys without using motor vehicles helps to reduce pollution and congestion.
- The rural economy and tourism can benefit from visitors to the countryside purchasing local goods and services.

Review/Monitor

Feedback from users to be noted and if appropriate, used in new or revised/reprinted walks brochures.
Steering group and LNT Committee to monitor progress at their meetings and revise accordingly.

ACTION	START DATE	FINISH DATE
Funding applied for	June 2005	

1.3 Bailey Bridge Project



Aim:

To raise the Bailey Bridge resulting in the opening up a 2 mile section of the Navigation, from the Twin Tilting Weirs at Tetney Lock to Thoresby Bridge, allowing small craft to navigate.

Action:

1. Consult a fully qualified engineer for an appraisal of the feasibility of raising the bridge and for a long term view of the efficacy of following such a course of action.
2. Appoint a Project Co-ordinator
3. Seek the help of IWA to carry out an engineering survey
4. Draw up a detailed Proposal Document

1.3 Bailey Bridge Project

5. Produce a technical plan assisted by IWA
6. Obtain Cost estimates
7. Approach Landowner for permission to carry out the work
8. Obtain necessary permissions from the Environment Agency:
 - i. To lift the bridge
 - ii. Land Drainage Consent [Environment Agency]
 - iii. To allow craft to navigate between the Twin Tilting Weirs and Thoresby Bridge
9. When all permissions are granted, to seek the WRG support and agree dates in 2006 for the work to be carried out, subject to funds being available
10. Apply for funding [✓]
11. When funding granted to formulate a programme in conjunction with the WRG, to be agreed by all private and public parties involved, for the work to be carried out
12. Book WRG accommodation

Resources:

Financial

Cost of materials, transport, fuel, mini-digger hire, room hire
Volunteer time, mileage

Human

Bullens – Engineers?
WRG volunteers
LNT volunteers

Machinery

Mini digger
Lorry
Jacks & a crane

Programme

1.3 Bailey Bridge Project

No.	Item	Start	Finish
1	Co-ordinator		
2	Survey		
3	Proposal		
4	Tech. Plan		
5	Costings		
6	Landowner		
7.1	EA Bridge		
7.2	EA Drainage		
7.3	Navigation		
8	WRG		
9	Funding	2005	
10	Programme		
11	Room Hire		
12	Project work		

Benefits:

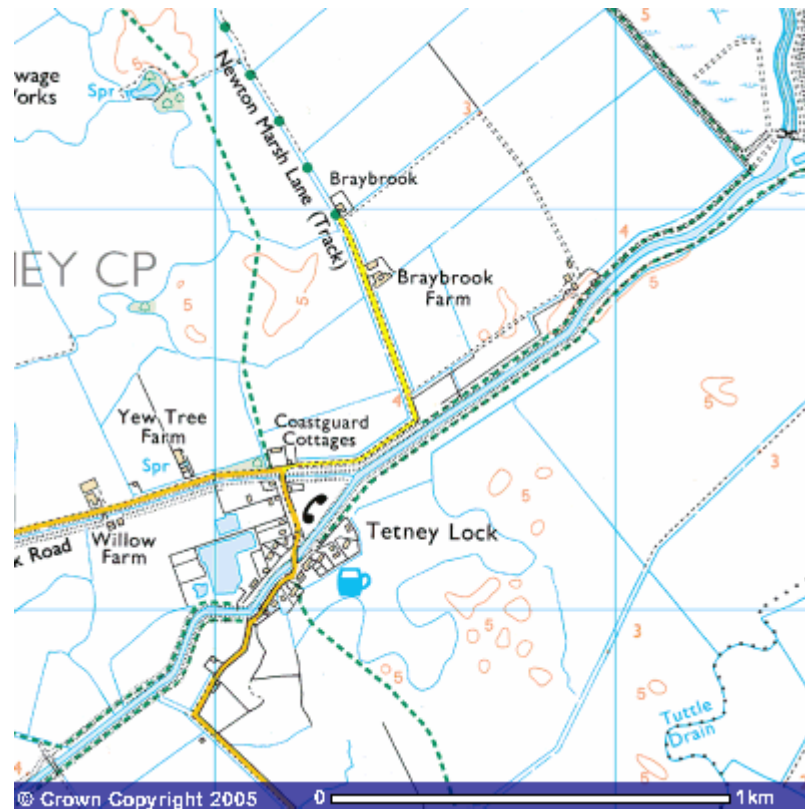
- Act as a catalyst to start a Louth Navigation Boat Club, with its HQ in the Crown & Anchor
- Be used to trigger an ELDC Waterways Strategy

Review/Monitor:

Project Co-ordinator to report progress to the LNT Management Committee meeting throughout the length of the programme

ACTION	START DATE	FINISH DATE
Funding applied for	June 2005	

1.4 Tetney Lock Slipway Project



Aim:

To find a suitable location for a slipway, allowing access to the Navigation for boating – thus restoring the canal to its original use; plus landscaped car-parking and picnic area.

Active Partners:

LNT, GWL, Bullens

Action:

1. Appoint project co-ordinator
2. Design plan
3. Apply for funding
4. Approach landowner with the help of FWAG
5. Obtain permission from Environment Agency

1.3 Tetney Lock Slipway Project

6. Obtain planning permission
7. Liaise with Crown & Anchor re. facilities
8. Implement plan

Resources:

Benefits:

Review/Monitor:

ACTION

START DATE

FINISH DATE

1.5 Covenham Reservoir Project



Aim:

To create an area of outdoor activity involving; boating, walking, cycling & horse-riding, combining the resources of both Covenham Reservoir and the Navigation. To be linked in with Navigation Walks Brochure No. 2. Create access via landscaped car-parking and picnic area.

Objectives:

Whose facilities?
What facilities?
Footpaths & walks
Cycle routes
Nature aspects

Approach:

- Sustrans
- Mr & Mrs Keeton (Firebeacon) 01472 388296 Boatbuilders with land adjacent.
- Firebeacon
- Thoresby Bridge
- Richard Drinkall

1.5 Covenham Reservoir Project

- Safety Aspects - Life savers & rings

Action:

1. Apply for Funding [✓]
2. Approach Landowner
3. Approach CWSA (www.cwsa.co.uk)
Hon Sec. Richard Watkinson 01472 220185
4. Planning - Landscaped Car Park (Tetney)
5. Planning - Landscaped Picnic Area (Tetney)
6. Planning - Slipway (see Bailey Bridge)
7. Promotional Leaflets

Resources:

Benefits:

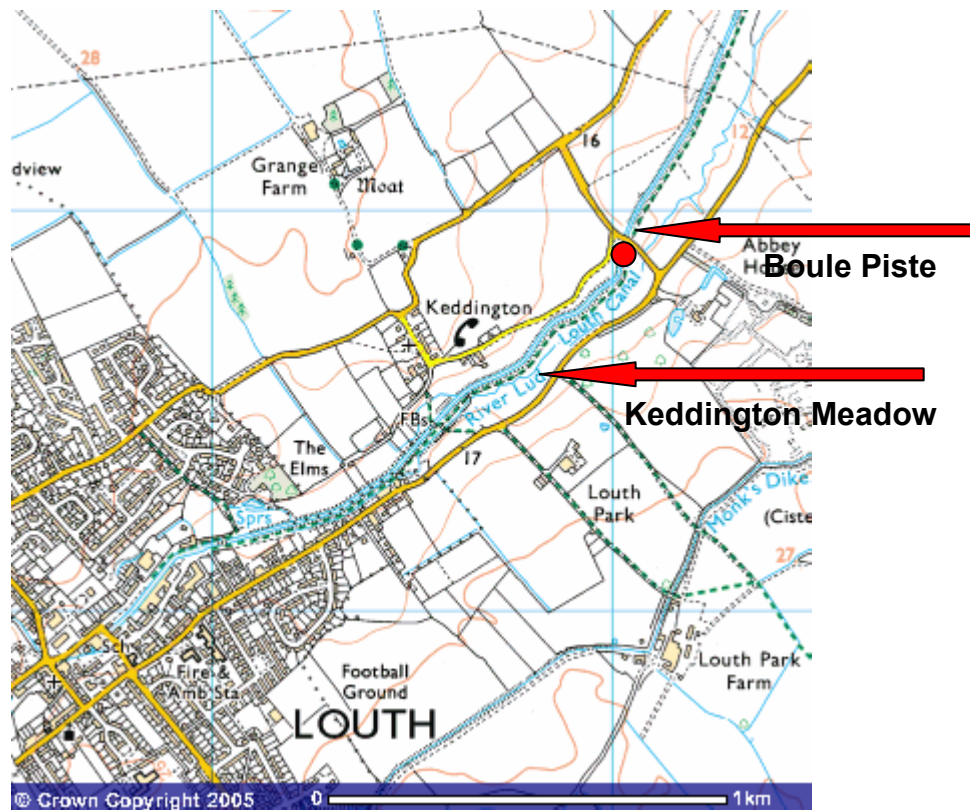
Review/Monitor:

ACTION

START DATE

FINISH DATE

1.6 Keddington Meadow Project



Aim:

To create a local nature reserve at Keddington Meadow and to improve access to both the meadow and the boule piste by creation of landscaped car-park & picnic area.

Objectives:

Action:

1. 2nd Meeting to be held 11th July 2005 Navigation Warehouse (4p.m.)
FWAG, ELDC?, GWL, LNT.
Advice being sought on habitat creation etc. and approach to Landowner

Resources:

Benefits:

1.6 Keddington Meadow Project

Review/Monitor:

ACTION

START DATE

FINISH DATE

2. ELDC Waterways Strategy

Aim: in conjunction with the Horncastle Canal Society, to persuade the ELDC to adopt a Waterways Strategy for the district and to incorporate the plan into the Local Plan or its successor

Objectives:

Action:

1. Draft plan
2. Approve it with HATCH
3. Post to ELDC

Resources:

Benefits: Will give some weight to the two societies' aims, in restoration of their individual projects. Will balance the LWS and hopefully encourage a more global approach to the county's waterway policy. Will help with funding bids.

Review/Monitor:

ACTION

START DATE

FINISH DATE

3. Louth Navigation Boat Club

3. Louth Navigation Boat Club

Aim:

To form a Navigation Boat Club under the Trusts auspices based at the Crown & Anchor, Tetney Lock

Objectives:

Action:

1. Approach Crown & Anchor. ✓

Resources:

Benefits:

Review/Monitor:

ACTION

START DATE

FINISH DATE

4. Restoration of Locks Without Gates

4. Restoration of Locks Without Gates

Aim: To restore the five listed locks, to prevent further deterioration, subject to the proposals in the Feasibility Study.

Objectives:

Action:

Resources:

Benefits:

Review/Monitor:

ACTION

START DATE

FINISH DATE

5. Development of Louth Riverhead

Aim: To restore the Riverhead to its original function as an inland port and to encourage suitable development to reflect the area's heritage, and allow people access to the Riverhead area with full boating amenities.

Objectives:

Action:

Resources:

Benefits:

Review/Monitor:

ACTION

START DATE

FINISH DATE

6. Development of Tetney Lock

Aim: To identify a suitable site for sheltered moorings and encourage an appropriate waterside development, either on or near the Louth Navigation. To encourage greater access to the Navigation at the Tetney Lock end.

Objectives:

Action:

Resources:

Benefits:

Review/Monitor:

ACTION

START DATE

FINISH DATE

7. New Locks & Installation of Lock Gates

Aim:

To further increase the navigability of the canal by building two new locks and installing the gates on the restored listed locks so water levels can be manipulated.

Objectives:

Action:

1. Bird Survey

Resources:

Benefits:

Review/Monitor:

ACTION

START DATE

FINISH DATE

8. Navigability of the Canal by Raising Bridges & Associated Work

8. Navigability of the Canal by Raising Bridges & Associated Work.

Aim: To finalise the restoration of the canal to full navigability by raising bridges that are a hindrance to the passage of vessels, and ensuring that there is an adequate infrastructure for dealing with increased levels of domestic and tourist use.

Objectives:

Action:

Resources:

Benefits:

Review/Monitor:

ACTION

START DATE

FINISH DATE