



**Way Forward**  
**9**

The timing of the Fens Waterways Link connections and their implications for the development of boating on the Rivers Welland and Glen are vital. It is important that this study is seen in the context of the completion of the Fens Waterways Link from Donington Bridge and Surfleet Seas End to Spalding and Crowland together with the connection to Peterborough and the River Nene. These links are necessary to the Spalding area becoming a major waterway destination.

In preparation for the FWL a number of initiatives can be undertaken to raise the awareness of the waterways, to stimulate local boating activity, enhance environmental quality and increase the use of the river corridors for a variety of leisure activities. Many of the opportunities identified in the study will require close partnership working to make sure they can be delivered and are appropriate. To achieve this it is important that organisations such as the Environment Agency are contacted early on, particularly where they have a statutory or regulatory role.

Recommended actions fall into six key areas:

### **1. Delivering the Fens Waterways Link**

- Black Sluice Navigation to River Glen
- River Glen to Vernatt's Drain at Surfleet Seas End
- Vernatt's Drain to River Welland, at Spalding's northern bypass
- River Welland to River Nene at Crowland/Peakirk

### **2. Improving the Navigational Infrastructure**

- Promote the Rivers Welland and Glen for navigation.
- Identify obstructions to navigation.
- Relocate Fulney Lock & Marsh Road Sluice downstream of the proposed waterway link.
- Identify the Coronation Channel as providing a circular waterway around Spalding.
- Manage water storage to ensure sufficient levels are maintained for navigation.
- Create opportunities for improvement of flood defence.
- Improve waterway management.

### **3. Developing the Waterspace – 'Clusters of Activities'**

#### **Explore development of marina facilities**

- Surfleet Seas End.
- Spalding – North end of Cowbit Washes.
- Crowland/Peakirk.

#### **Explore development of moorings**

- Visitor and short stay moorings.
- Long stay moorings.
- Boating facilities.

**Spalding**

- Expand Spalding Water Taxi service.
- Improve waterside facilities through the town.
- Explore extending navigation on the Coronation Channel.
- Explore trip/restaurant boat facilities, punting, rowing, canoeing and boat hire.

**Crowland**

- Connect 'The Lakes' canal to the River Welland.
- Create moorings on the edge of the village.
- Improve links to village facilities and historic attractions.

**4. Managing demands on the waterspace**

- Navigational needs of commercial and private craft.
- Navigational needs of powered and unpowered craft.
- Access for water festivals, watersports and informal recreation.

**5. Enhancing Spalding's waterway corridors**

- Reaffirm the River Welland and Coronation Channel as the main green corridors in Spalding.
- Create a parkland setting for the River Welland corridor.
- Improve pedestrian access from the town and historical attractions.
- Improve walking and cycle links and ambience along the river.
- Improve bridge access, riverside paths, seating and facilities.
- Improve traffic management and decrease where possible parking provision, particularly where there is no riverside footpath.
- Investigate feasibility of navigation to the west of Spalding using the Vernatt's Drain and South Drove Drains.
- Investigate the idea of water-based residential development to the south west of town, creating a new urban quarter.

**6. Promoting tourism and economic development**

- Promote Spalding and South Holland District as a major waterway destination for a variety of visitors.
- Encourage community participation through water festivals and other events.
- Create destinations and provide visitor moorings at Spalding, river villages, wildlife reserves, places of interest and historic sites.
- Develop the network of trails and cycle routes using the river corridors to connect with nearby facilities and attractions.
- Identify self-catering holiday opportunities close to waterways, which are accessible by trails and cycling routes.
- Promote provision of local facilities by local small businesses, accommodation, hospitality, boat hire, cycle hire etc.
- Enhance the visitor economy of towns and villages.