

Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway

Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes Joint Local Access Forum

1 October 2013

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Broadbeam 21st Century Waterway



Agenda

Introduction / reminder of the project

Where does it go

Talking points

Dimensions

What might it look like

Economic impact

Closing thoughts and discussion



National and Regional Significance

Close The Gap



Creates the first broadbeam link
between main UK canal network
and the Fenland Waterways



Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway

.... the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway will be a new 26Km link between the River Great Ouse at Kempston in Bedford and the Grand Union Canal at Newlands in Milton Keynes

.... the Waterway will be located within a green corridor in three sections, the Bedford Waterway Park, Marston Vale Waterway Park and the Milton Keynes Waterway Park



Partners sign up to the Consortium in 2010



B&MK Waterway Consortium 2010

Aims & Objectives set out in Terms of Reference

- no contract or legal agreement between Members
- Consortium actions require Members internal approvals
- agreement to work together
- freedom for individual members to deliver if they wish
- points towards a Single Purpose Vehicle in the future

Role of Consortium Members

- consistent, constructive advocacy
- exert influence to promote the project
- ensure supported in policies and plans
- work in partnership and foster partnership working



Waterways Trust Awards 2011



Winner

Strategy and Masterplanning

Runner up

Partnership

Winner

Outstanding Achievement

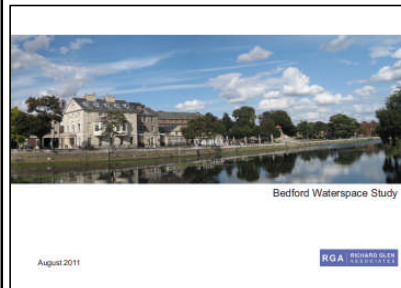


Contribution of Expertise

Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Milton Keynes Council	planning, economic development, transport planning
Canal & River Trust	advice on procurement, design, consultants and technical
Environment Agency	River Ouse, flood, water recreation, leverage funding
Marston Vale Trust, Parks Trust	maintenance and funding model
B&MK Waterway Trust	maintain vision, community & user group liaison



Waterways Trust Awards 2012



Runner up

Strategy and Masterplanning



Where does it go?



Talking points ...



Marston Vale Innovation Park



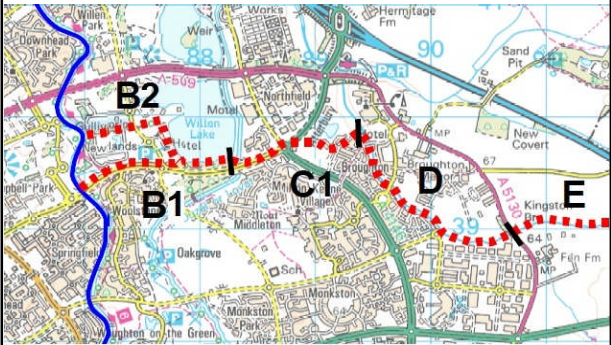
Masterplan Option



Under the M1



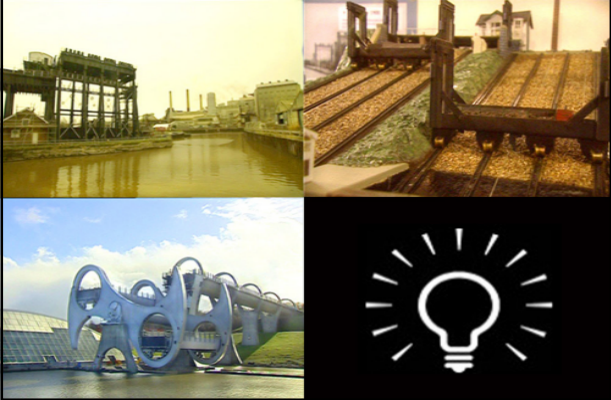
Grand Union-Willen Lake



Under A421 Bedford-J13



Brogborough Hill



More issues being progressed ...

River Ouse bridge headroom
Head of Navigation to Kempston Weir
Station Road Marston
Ridgemont Station/ProLogis
A421 M1 J13 – Milton Keynes
Eagle Farm/Magna Park

SUSTRANS NCN 51 Kempston-Marston



...waterway cross-sections...

...open aspect...



...or traditional hard sided...



Navigable width normally 15m minimum, reducing to 9m minimum (two boat widths) for short sections with good visibility and no obstructions

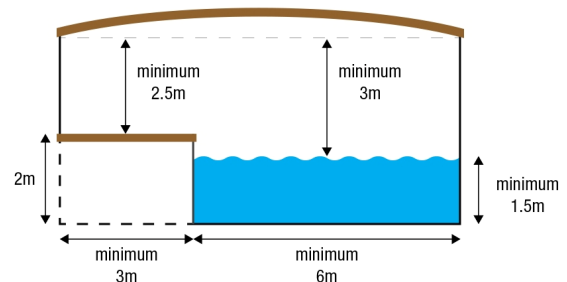
Depth 1.5m minimum for the width of the channel – can be deeper within engineering constraints



Dimensions?



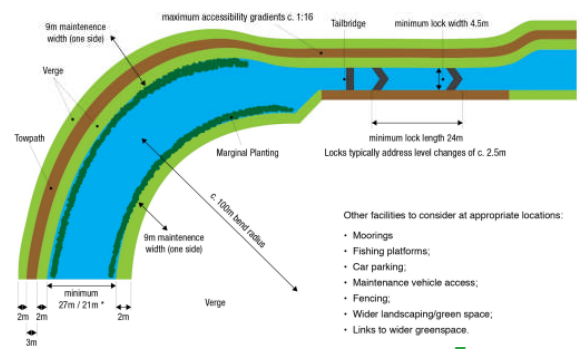
...underbridges...



B&MK Waterway Developer Guides



...bends, locks, paths and facilities...



What might it look like?



Waterway with open water



Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine



Waterway with hard edges



so... yes to spectacular buildings ...



Brindley Place, Birmingham



Waterway with soft edges



... with water built in ...



Brindley Place, Birmingham



... and landmark buildings ...



Swan Hotel, Bedford



... around established homes ...



The Embankment, Bedford



... as waterside apartments ...



Bedford



... around new homes ...



Kidderminster



... as a basin or marina ...



Yeading



... but not like this ... please ...



Leamington Spa



you can put the Waterway in like this



Economic Impact Assessment, SQW, 2007

- Benefits measured
 - recreation, boating, visitor economy, tourism, eco-system services, transport, regeneration
- Gross Value Added (when Waterway open)
 - Land based activity £14.7-£23.2m pa
 - Water based £3.8m pa
 - Total £18.5-£27.0m pa
- plus 50-90 businesses relocations, 450-900 jobs
- Other benefits not measured
 - property uplift, construction employment, place shaping, green infrastructure



... why not like this ...



What we think we are looking for

- iconic feature at Willen Lake
- iconic feature at Brogborough Hill
- destination point at Kempston Junction

2-4 marinas for 150-200 permanent moorings each
plus 5,000 hire weeks - 150-200 boats

location, customer access, boat travel times

??? business parks, tourist spots, pubs, cafes,

- economists view vs accountants view



What is the economic impact?



... audiences ...



... closing thoughts ...

- Capital cost in economic downturn
- Capital funders vs benefit gainers
- Continue to monitor planning issues
- Shift water-focus to park-with-water
- More engagement!

