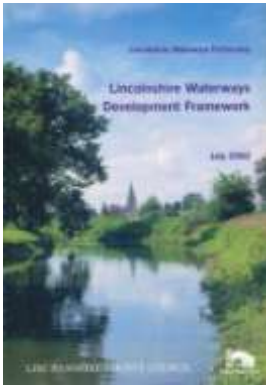


AINA CASE STUDY

TOURISM AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Lincolnshire Waterways Development Framework



The Lincolnshire Waterways Development Framework established a long term programme to improve the county's waterways

A ten-year county-wide approach has delivered major improvements as well as economic benefits

The Lincolnshire Waterways Development Framework is the first example of a county-wide strategy for waterways regeneration. The Framework is a strategic initiative to develop almost 1,200 kilometres of waterways across the county linked to a range of objectives such as improved opportunities to use the waterways and their towpaths to generating and increasing local economic activity.

The Framework has also been an important mechanism to raise the profile of Lincolnshire's waterways as a tourist destination and aims to create 'corridors of sustainable economic opportunity'. Mary Powell, who heads up the work, says: "Lincolnshire's decision-makers were looking for an initiative which would deliver a step-change in economic performance."

Project development has been closely connected with the development of the Fens Waterways Link, which will connect Lincolnshire's waterways with the rest of the national network. The Environment Agency are currently proceeding with this major initiative, which will bring added impetus to the county's waterway corridors.

The Lincolnshire Waterways Development Framework began in 2000 as an informal partnership made up of local authorities, East Midlands Development Agency, British Waterways, the Environment Agency, Sustrans, Lincolnshire Tourism, Church Tourism, the Inland Waterways Association and the Sleas Navigation Trust. Following the publication of the Framework in 2002, the County Council, the Environment Agency and British Waterways agreed to form the Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership to take the plans forward, initially assisted by substantial European funding.

The Partnership has completed a number of important new multi-user routes, linking Lincoln with Boston and promoting the Sleas Navigation as a leisure corridor for everyone to enjoy. Improved mooring facilities have also been provided, habitats have been restored and waterway based events are encouraged.

This large-scale project demonstrates the benefits of local authorities working together to develop an overarching strategy. An updated Framework continues to set a clear vision and provides a sound basis for securing funding and project development. The strategy has also created the potential for delivering major schemes which might be seen to be too expensive or complicated when viewed in isolation. Other successes include the provision of new facilities in rural villages and market towns and the promotion of farm diversification and rural regeneration.