

Help us close the gap



The Vision:

The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway is a planned 26km broad waterway at the heart of a series of Waterway Parks linking the Grand Union canal in Milton Keynes to the River Great Ouse in Bedford and the Fenland waterways beyond. It makes connections for boaters, walkers, cyclists, fishermen and all manner of other enthusiasts.

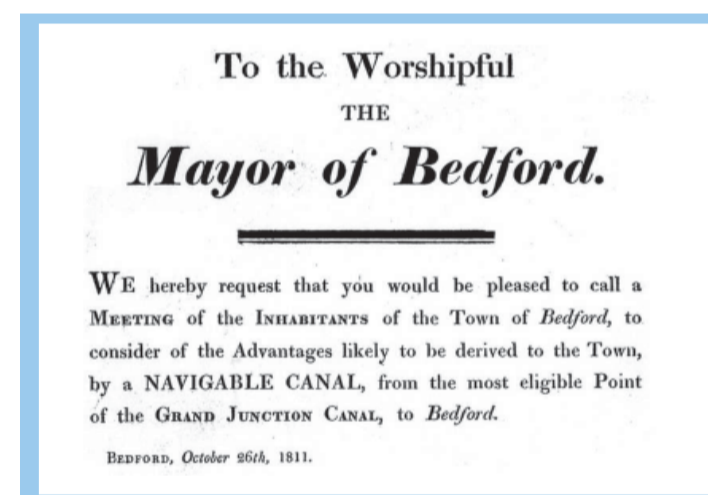
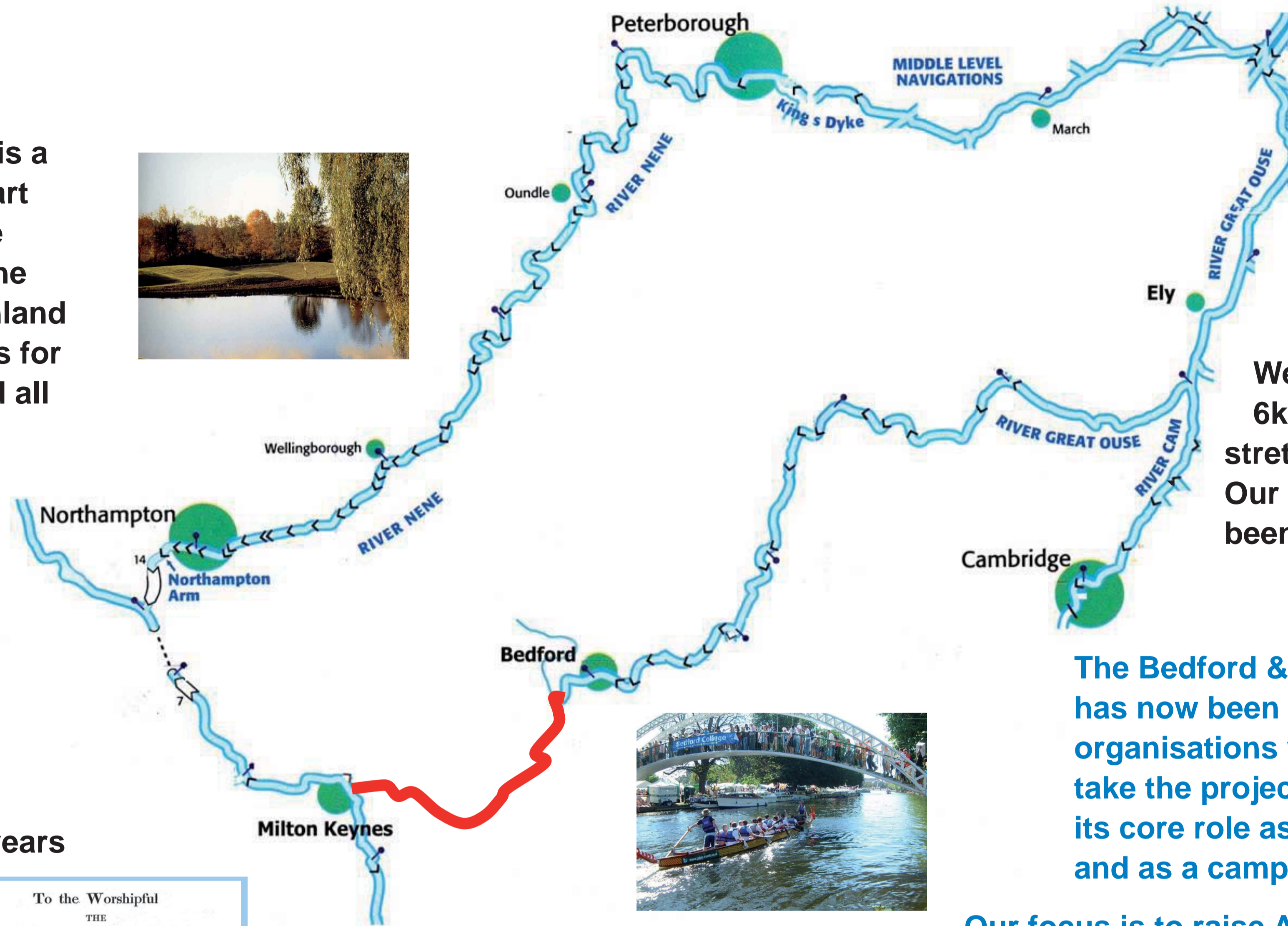
The Waterway will deliver sustainable recreational, economic, environmental and quality of life benefits to the local community and visitors alike.

The history:

The roots of the Waterway go back 200 years to October 1811, when a group of Bedford businessmen met to discuss the trade benefits to be gained from a link between the River Great Ouse and the Grand Junction Canal.

They hoped that the canal would lead to greater prosperity for towns along the route and into the Fens. They commissioned John Rennie, the famous canal engineer, to ride the route and report on possibilities. However, the project fell through, and Rennie's preferred route was taken by the Bedford-Bletchley railway in the 1840s.

The idea was resurrected in 1995 when the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust was formed to promote the development of the Waterway.

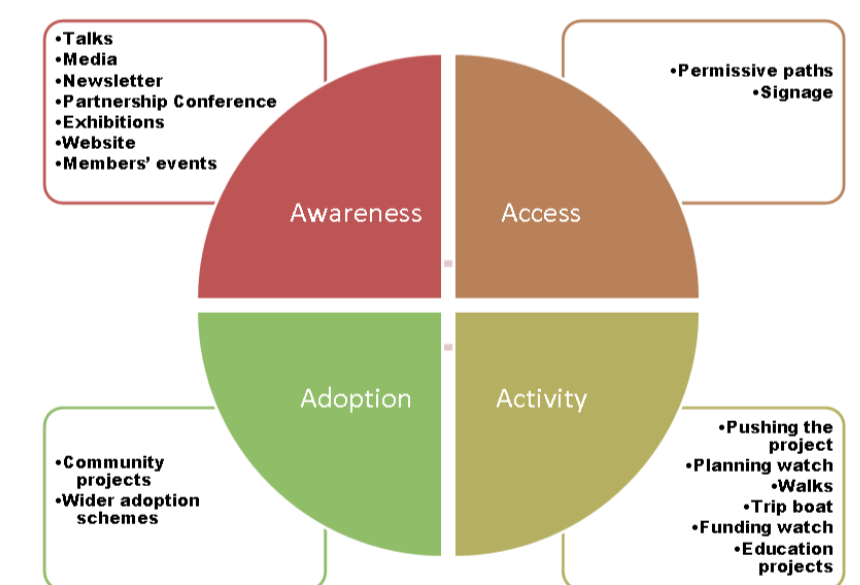


Progress:

We've achieved our goal of getting the Waterway into all relevant local plans. We have planning permission for the first 6km in Milton Keynes and for the central stretch near Stewartby in the Marston Vale. Our first structure (an underpass) has just been completed nearby.

The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Consortium has now been formed, bringing together the organisations with the resources and structures to take the project to the next level. The Trust maintains its core role as custodian of the vision for the Waterway, and as a campaigning and community involvement body.

Our focus is to raise Awareness in the Waterway, open up Access and mark the route, generate and stimulate Activities of all kinds on and around the water, and create Adoption opportunities for sections of the route by local people and businesses.



Please support us:

We welcome help from everyone who would like to get involved with promoting and informing people about the Waterway at events and festivals, fundraising, waymarking the route, arranging walks, designing displays, and working with schools and community groups.

In fact, anything and everything to help us maximise community involvement and ownership of our future heritage – a source of pride and enjoyment now that will be cherished for centuries to come.

This is your chance to get involved. Please join us.

Website: www.b-mkwaterway.co.uk

Contact: info@b-mkwaterway.co.uk for more info on volunteering