



Canal &  
River Trust



B&MK

# Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Park

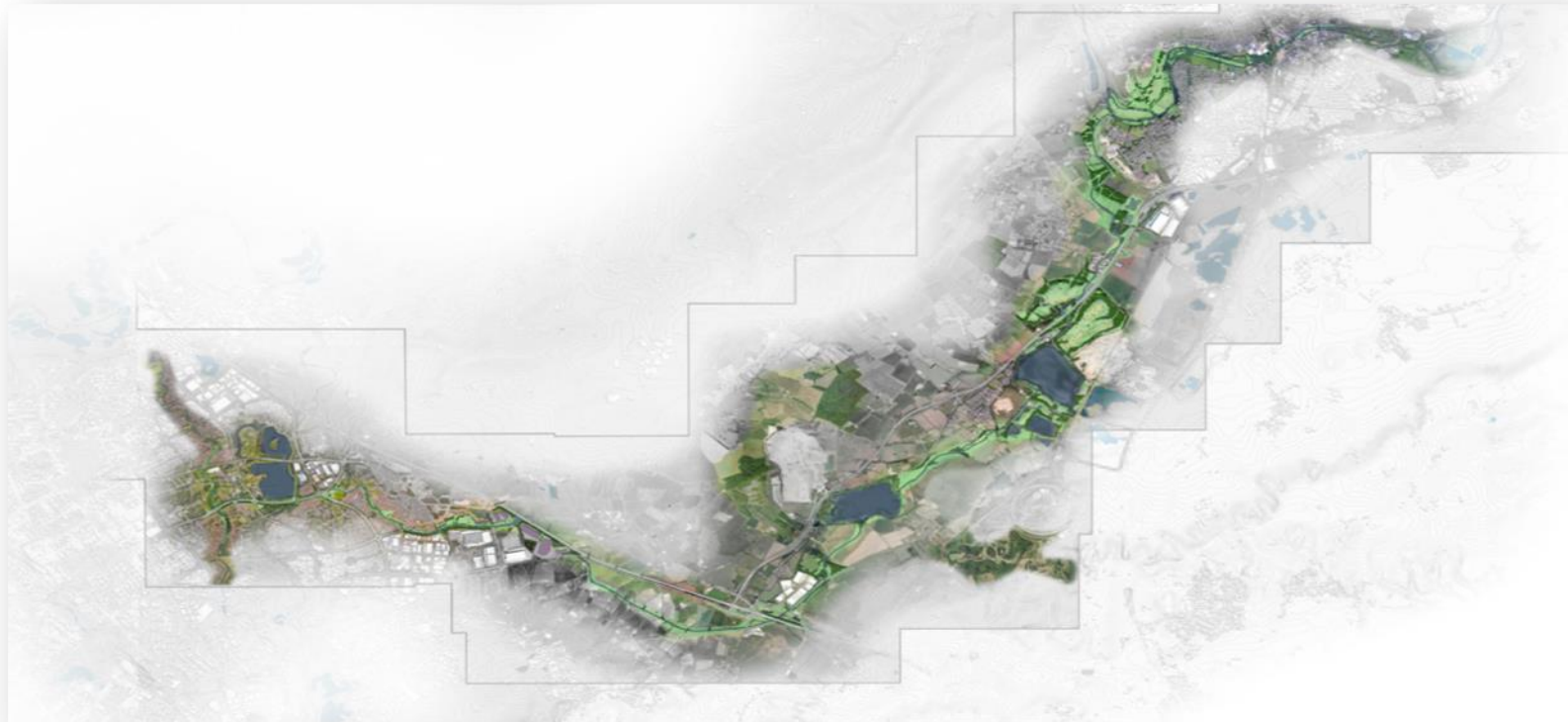
James Clifton & Jane Hamilton

27 October 2016

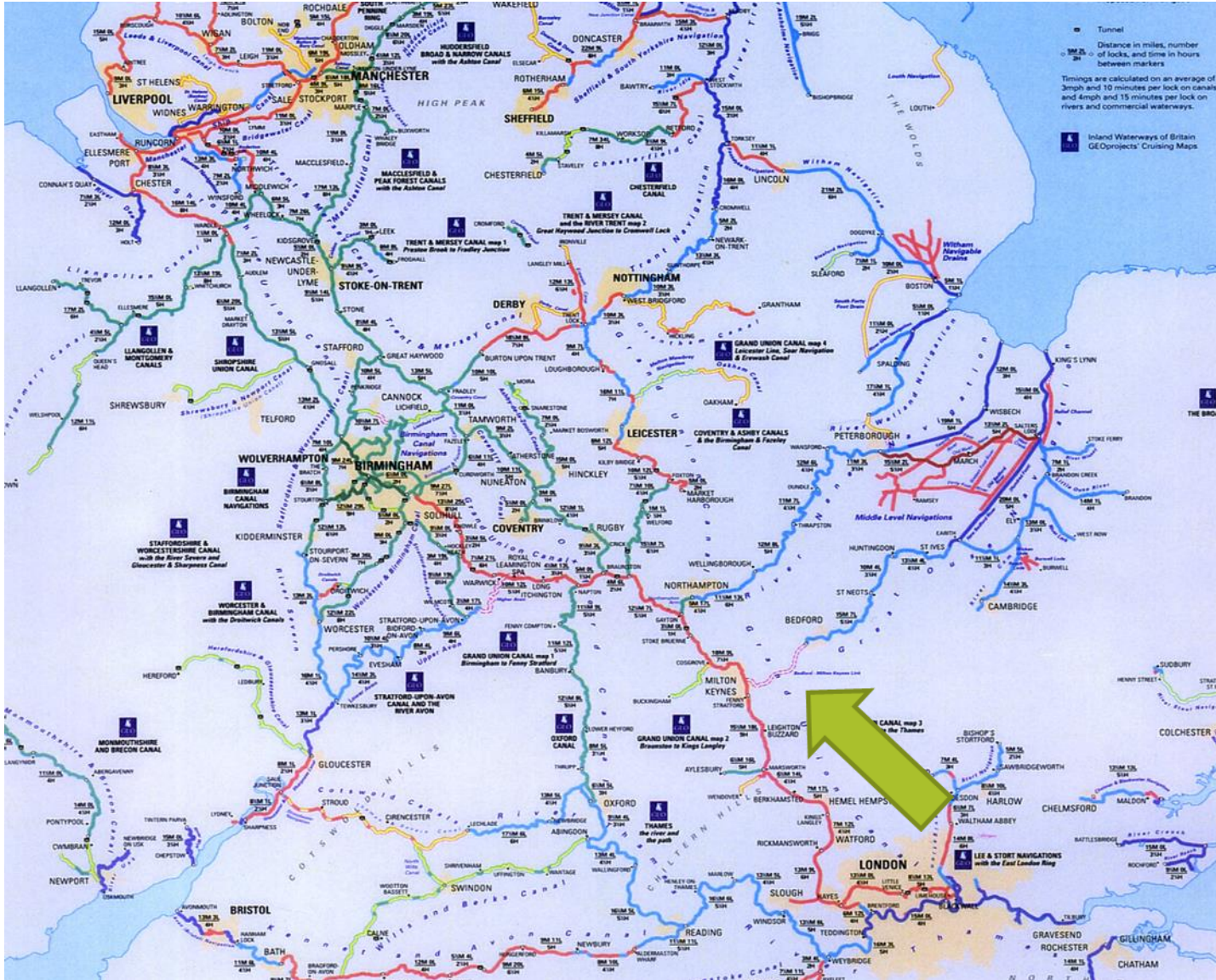
# Our Vision

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To create a nationally recognised Waterway Park linking Bedford and Milton Keynes for the social, economic & environmental benefit of our communities

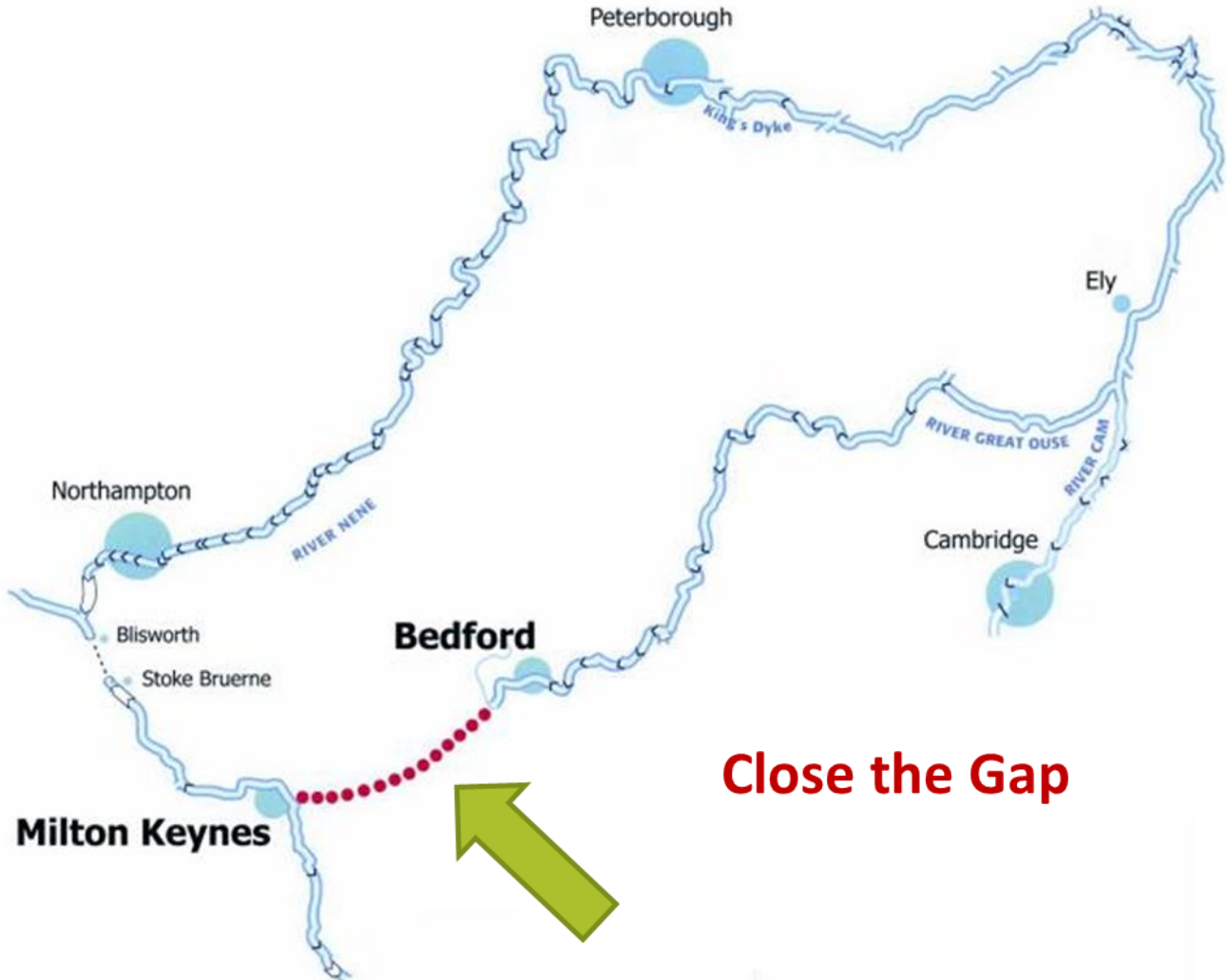


# Trans-regional project



# Closing the Gap

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**Close the Gap**

# New Waterway Park

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- Catalyst for environmentally led regeneration
- Generate new jobs in leisure & tourism
- Promote healthier lifestyles
- Increase biodiversity by linking major wetlands
- Greatly improve water management in the region
  - water storage
  - flood and drainage
- Build the first waterway for 100 years
- Create a vital link in the Anglian regional waterway network
  - Linking the Severn to Wash



# Leisure Benefits

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- Development of over 26Km of new footpaths, bridleways
- Opening up a wide range of recreational opportunities
- Focus on Healthy lifestyles
  - Walking, Rambling
  - Cycling
  - Horse riding
  - Fishing
  - Water based recreation and sports
- Making new areas of countryside accessible to public
- Increasing biodiversity through linking major wetlands
- Introduction of new wetlands on the bank of canal

# Create an iconic visitor centre

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- Access 50% of the UK population < 2 hrs drive
- Develop a visitor centre and attraction similar to the Falkirk Wheel
- Offer
  - Range of land and water based activities

# Economic benefits

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Visitors to the Waterway Park: 85,000 day visitors / year

Boating & Boating Expenditure: 7,200 boat movements = £633k

Hire Boat Usage: +£599k

Visitor Expenditure: up to £4 million pa



# National Infrastructure Commission

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## Cambridge/MK/Milton Keynes growth corridor

- Call for evidence
- Maximise potential of the corridor
- High quality environment
- Homes and Jobs
- Priority Green Infrastructure

