

# Comment....

Water-based tourism is a theme that has resonance with both Leicestershire and Rutland. The Leicester Line of the Grand Union Canal represents a water based tourism resource within the Leicestershire tourism market. From Northamptonshire and into Leicester where the canal joins with the River Soar, the Leicester Line is a quiet section of canal that passes through rolling hills and beautiful countryside. Included within this section of the waterway is the landmark attraction of Foxton Locks, which is the highest point of the Grand Union Canal.

Foxton Locks possesses an inclined plane boat lift which has been nominated as one of Leicestershire's favourite attractions and one of East Midlands' seven man made wonders. The site is considered to be one of the significant visitors assets within Leicestershire.

British Waterways, on behalf of the Foxton Locks Partnership, completed the first phase of restoration and interpretation in June 2008 at a cost of £2.9m, with generous assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the East Midlands Development Agency, Leicestershire County Council and others. British Waterways is now considering whether it is economically viable to restore the boat lift to full working order. With funding from East Midlands Tourism, the Foxton Locks Inclined Plane Trust and others, the Partnership has commissioned research to assess this. A masterplan is now being developed for the local area as a means to support the reinstatement of the inclined plane boat lift and establish Foxton Locks as a regional tourist destination.

This consultation seeks comments on the emerging Masterplan proposals. In addition to the working boat lift, the proposal will include several projects to improve facilities for visitors and make better use of the site, as well as contributing financially towards a sustainable boat lift.

These proposals will provide a high quality experience for visitors, as well as creating a substantial number of new jobs and enabling investment in the boat lift. On its own, a working boat lift is not economically viable.

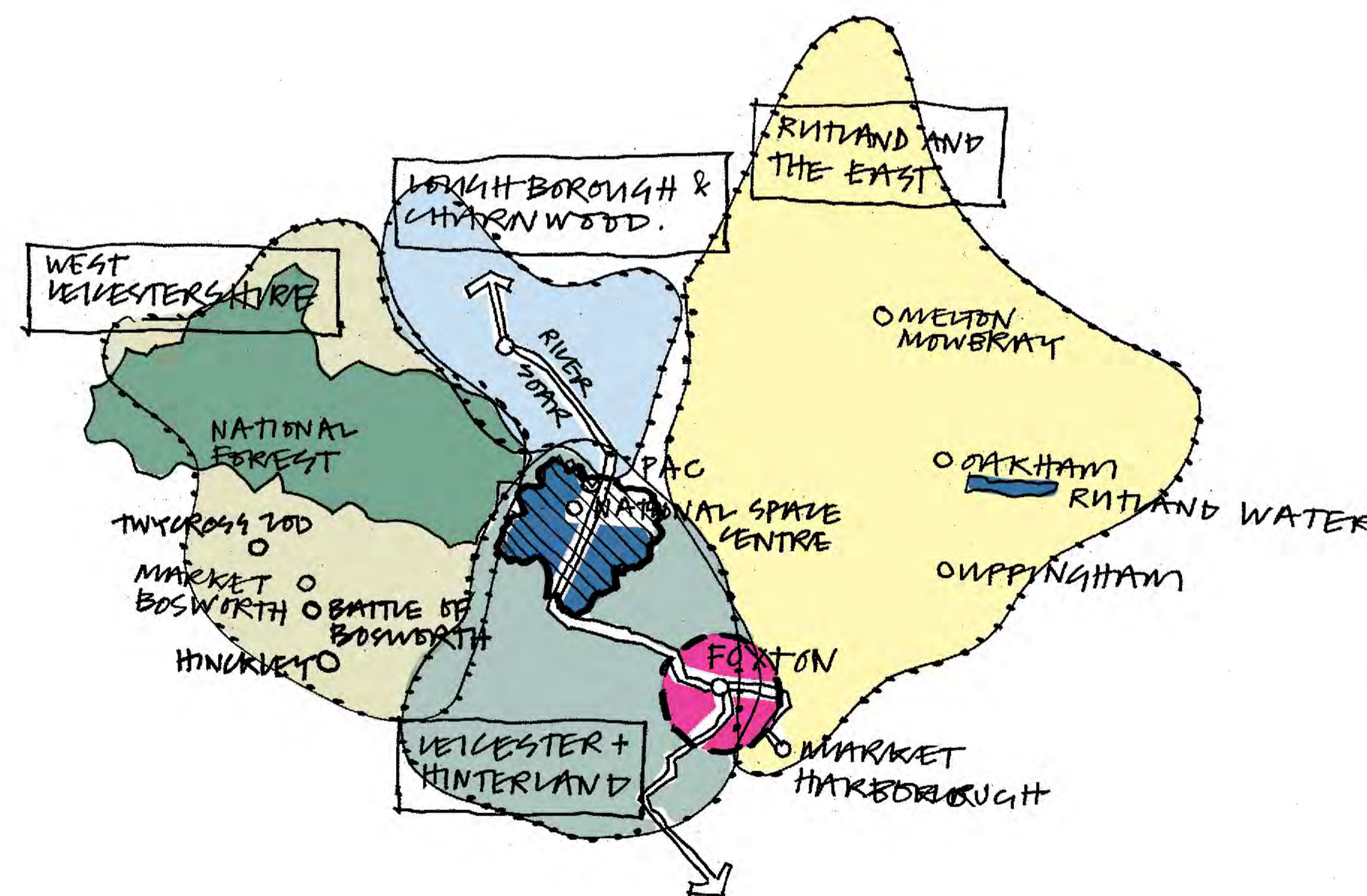
# Aspirations....

Restoration of the inclined plane.

The creation of more of a 'wow' factor.

Provide a more integrated, customer focused approach to establishing Foxton Locks as a key visitor destination.

Make the place easier for visitors to use and open up important links, both within the site and to surrounding destinations.



Foxton Locks and neighbouring visitor attractions

# Feedback from the 'ideas workshop' ....

Boat Rides

Quality base for short breaks

Overnight stays

Child friendly eating

Visitor centre located to allow views across the canal

Discovery trails

Show place for historic boats

Car park capacity is a problem on sunny days

Needs more for children e.g trails

Walking, bird watching, trails and photography

Interpretation about social history