

# Welland Water Transfer

A presentation to local councils and groups  
that may be affected by a proposal made  
by Ken Otter, the flood warden at Tallington.

First presented December 16<sup>th</sup> 2020

# Welland Water Transfer

This presentation is in 3 parts.

1. The current position
2. The present situation
3. The latest proposal

Thank you for attending. There will be an opportunity for questions after each part but if you need clarification please ask.

# Welland Water Transfer

## 1. The current position

As we know, our local reservoir is Rutland Water.

It is owned by Anglian Water and filled with water abstracted from local rivers under license (and at a cost) from the Environment Agency; the navigation authority for the Stamford to Folly River section of the Welland that we are concerned with.

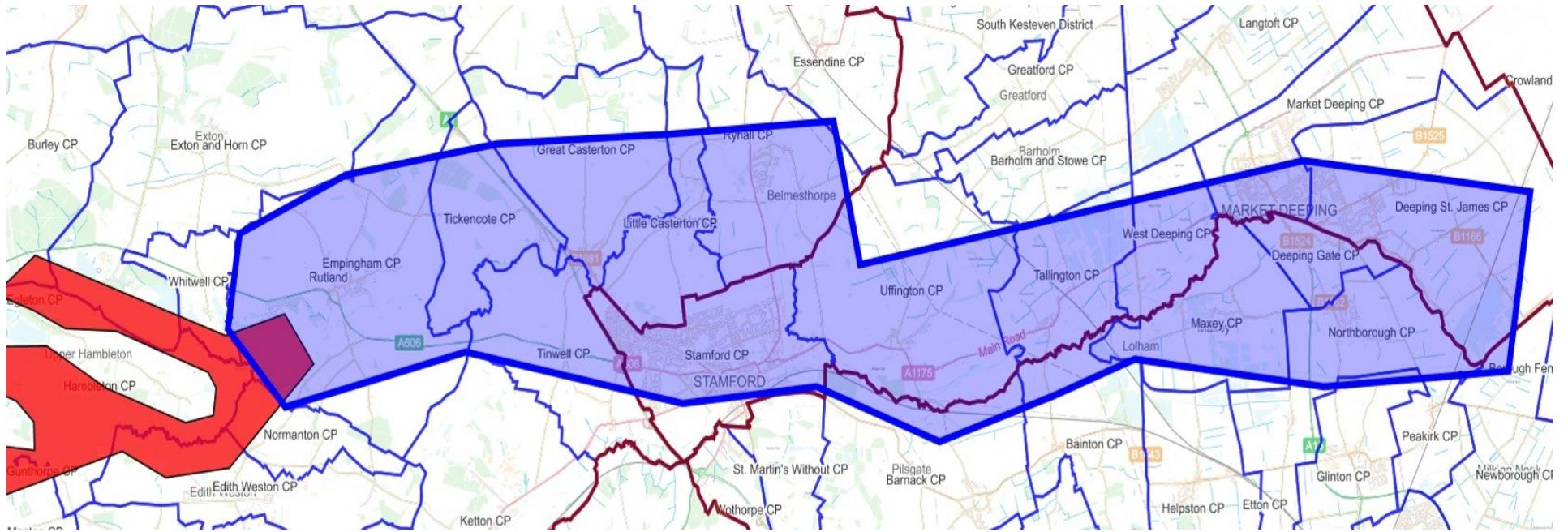
# Welland Water Transfer

To create the reservoir, the River Gwash was dammed up and it took about 3 years to fill.

The River Gwash does help keep it topped up, but 95% of its water actually comes by pumping it in pipes from the River Welland and the River Nene.

The map following is the area that affects us.

# Rutland Water to the Folly River



The blue area covers the parish councils alongside the output from the reservoir. The southern edge is also the subject of the Langdyke Trust's involvement with the John Clare Countryside project. The Folly River is in the bottom right corner.

# Welland Water Transfer

What you see isn't necessarily what you think!

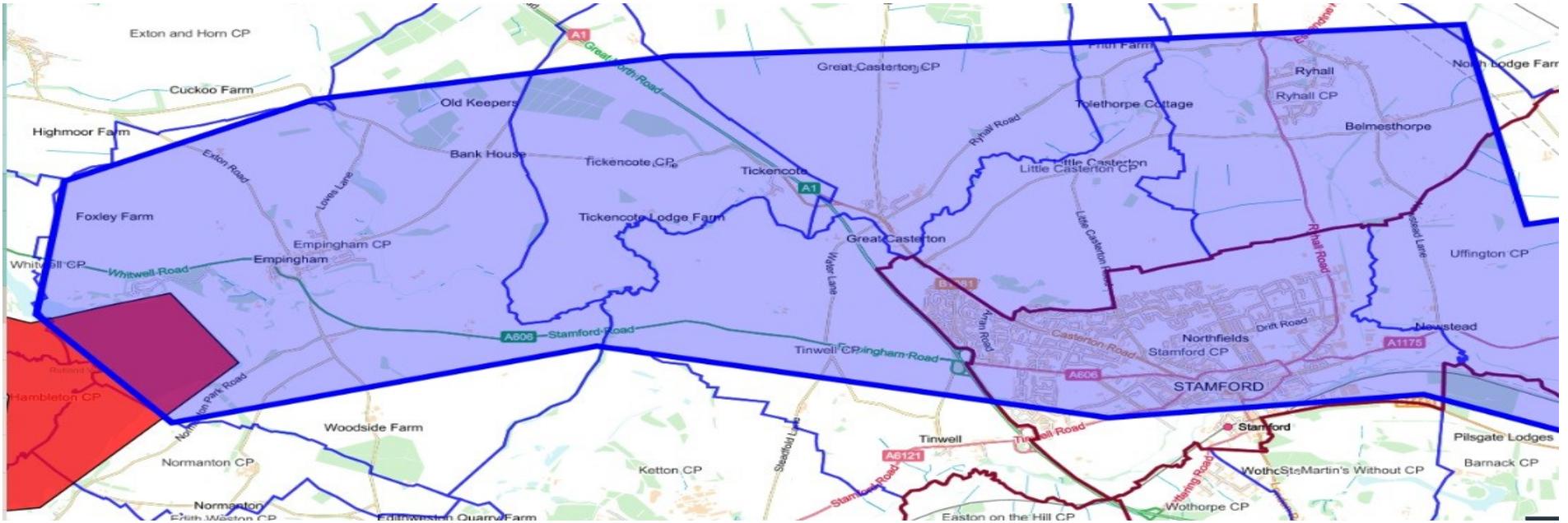
The River Welland here is a managed river.

None of the flow is natural from Stamford.

The Maxey Cut was built in the mid 1950's to stop  
the regular flooding of the Deepings.

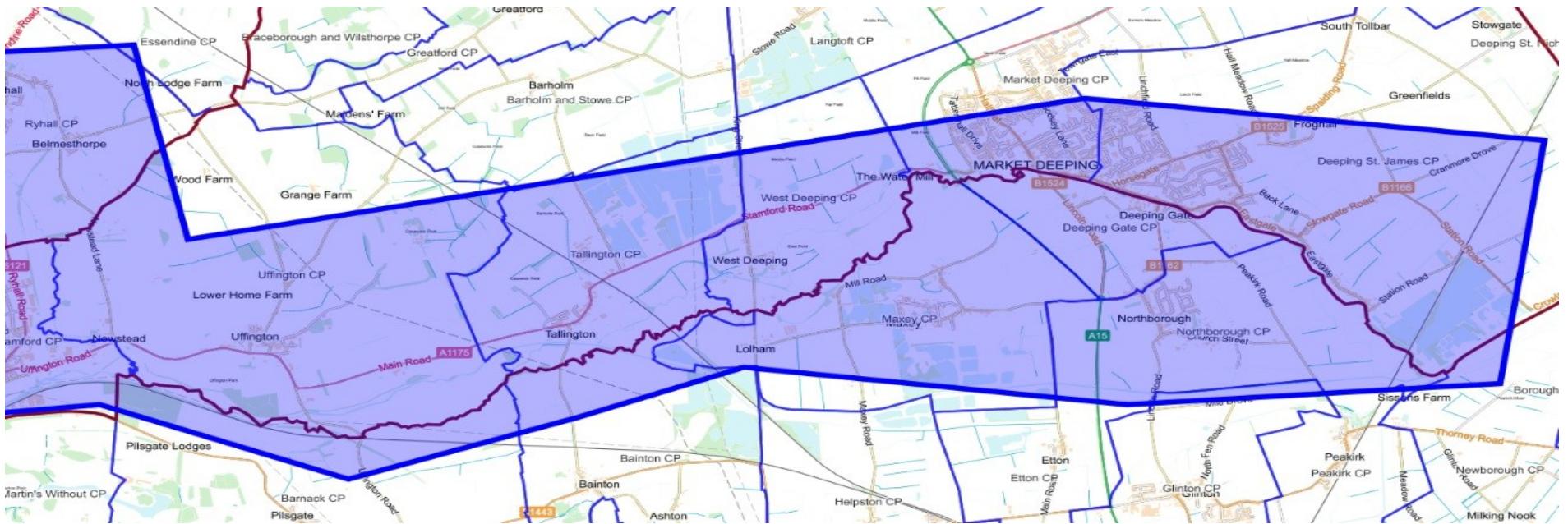
Rutland Water was completed in 1977 and its  
output is controlled to ensure a flow is maintained  
over the weir at Tallington to keep the Cut in water

# Rutland Water to Newstead



The upper reaches include the River Gwash from Empingham to Ryhall & the River Welland through Stamford until it meets the River Gwash near Newstead corner.

# Newstead to the Folly River



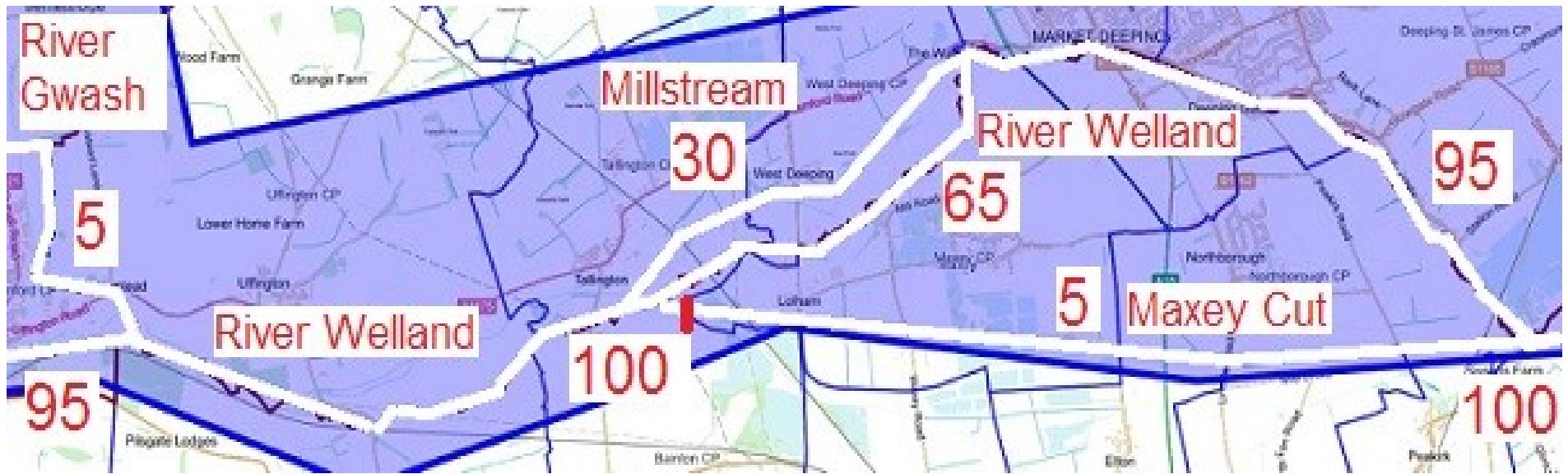
The River Welland then continues to Tallington, then goes via two routes to Deeping St James before rejoining the Maxey Cut which goes direct to the Folly River junction.

# In textual terms

The River Welland and the Gwash provide 100% of the flow that reaches the weir at Tallington.

About 30% goes via the millstream sluice to West Deeping and Molecey Mill. 65% goes via the Lolham sluice (as the River Welland) to Market Deeping where it is joined by the millstream water. 5% goes over the Tallington weir into the Maxey Cut which continues to rejoin the Welland at the Folly River junction - completing the 100% flow.

# A picture is easier!



The Millstream and River Welland flows below Tallington are constants to stop flooding. In drought conditions, the Gwash can be increased to keep a flow in the Maxey Cut. In flood conditions, the Maxey Cut takes the full increase in the flow - so is variable.

# Welland Water Transfer

So – the only way to get more water in the Maxey Cut under ‘normal’ conditions is if Anglian Water releases more water from Rutland Water via the Gwash (which they have paid for!)

They are doing that at the moment to improve the flow for fish and eels to use the new eel passes so it is possible. But that isn’t a long term solution for the Langdyke Trust’s aims of improving the area.

# Welland Water Transfer

More water over the weir at Tallington would obviously help but someone has to pay the price!

I will return to this once I have explained the major reasons for this talk.

Are there any questions about part 1?

# Welland Water Transfer

## 2. The present situation

### **What is the problem?**

More domestic water is required in south Lincolnshire than Rutland Water can supply!

**The solution? To build another reservoir!**

Where? and, more importantly, How to fill it?  
are the next questions.

# A new South Lincs Reservoir?

Before I start answering those questions..

My original involvement was only because I was interested in the new Boston to Peterborough navigation link being created to join the waterways between the Trent, Ancholme, South Forty Foot Drain, the Glen and Welland to the Nene for narrow-boat access.

# A new South Lincs Reservoir?

The main requirement was a new lock at Boston into the South Forty Foot Drain which has taken many years to plan and is almost complete.

Only after I recently gave a talk to the Inland Waterways Association on the Stamford Canal was I told that the Boston link was going to be used for another purpose as well as navigation. Another reservoir was required and this link would provide an open water transfer solution for it.

# A new South Lincs Reservoir?

The location of the reservoir hasn't been disclosed but a good guess can be made, due to the water transfer route from the River Trent – i.e. somewhere between Spalding and Holbeach.

OK, no-where near here! BUT there are problems!

There is a 3m difference in height at the Glen where water needs pumping up, and it would take many years to fill unless another source could be found – like pumping water from the River Nene!

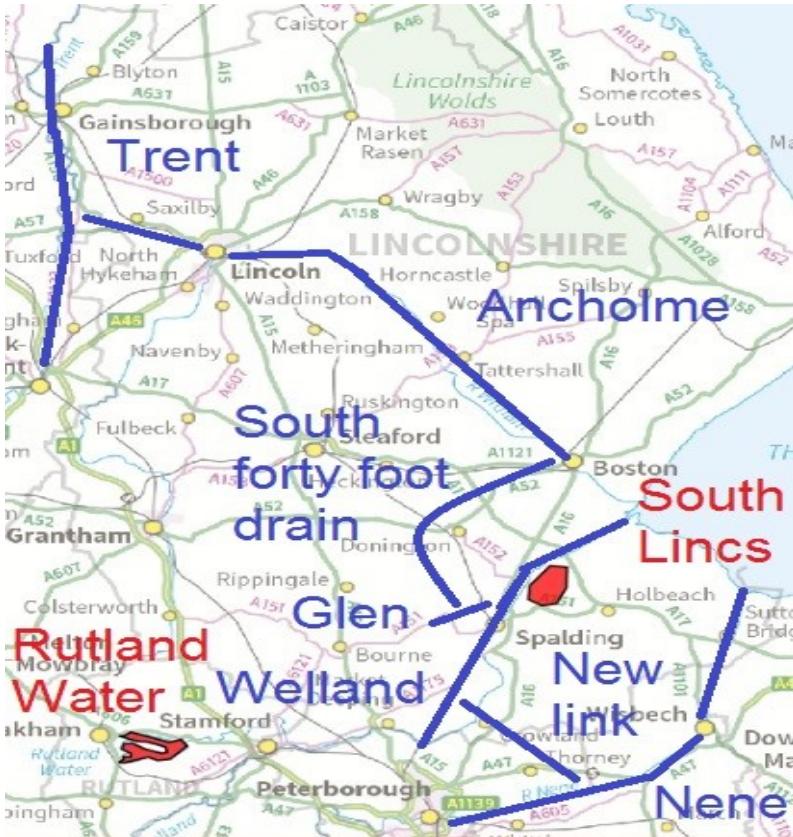
# A new South Lincs Reservoir?



This is where the SL Reservoir may be located in relation to Rutland Water.

An obvious problem being that it is out on the fens

# A new South Lincs Reservoir?



To keep it filled Anglian Water is proposing to use the Boston link to bring water from the Trent and pump it up from the Glen and across from the Nene into the Welland before pumping it into the SLR

# Welland Water Transfer

That is the present situation.

Both Anglian Water and the Inland Waterways Association can use the waterways without a problem and shouldn't have any conflicts.

Are there any questions about part 2?

# Welland Water Transfer

## 3. The latest proposal

Looking at the situation from a local perspective I have been able to come up with a solution that should help all parties.

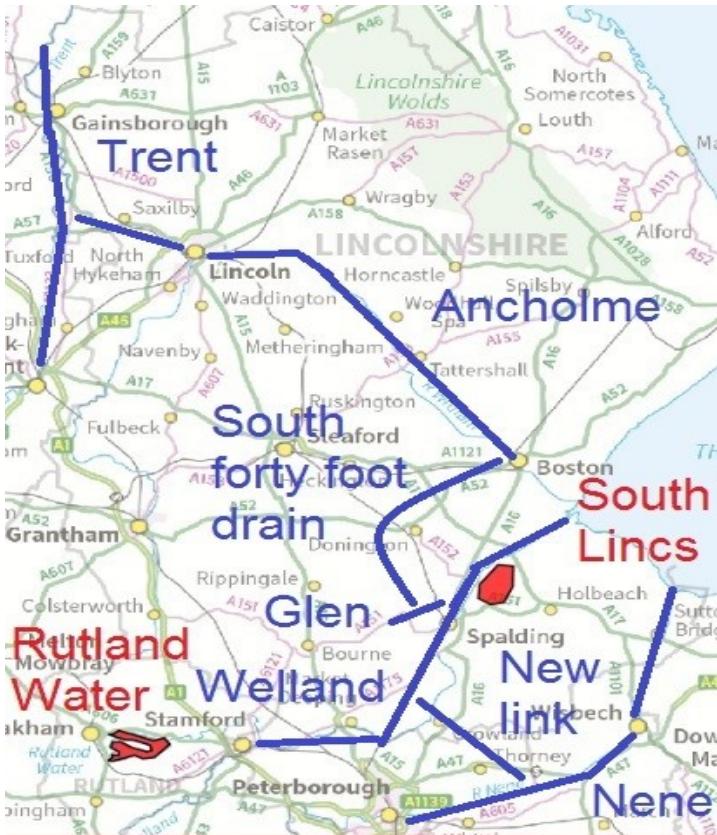
Anglian Water, the Inland Waterways Association, the Environment Agency, the Langdyke Trust and Stamford will all benefit both from an environmental and a financial basis.

# A new proposal



As these waterways are to be used for recreational purposes - bringing narrow-boats into the area on a 3 Cathedrals ring, joining Lincoln, Peterborough and Ely, a question was asked by an IWA member....

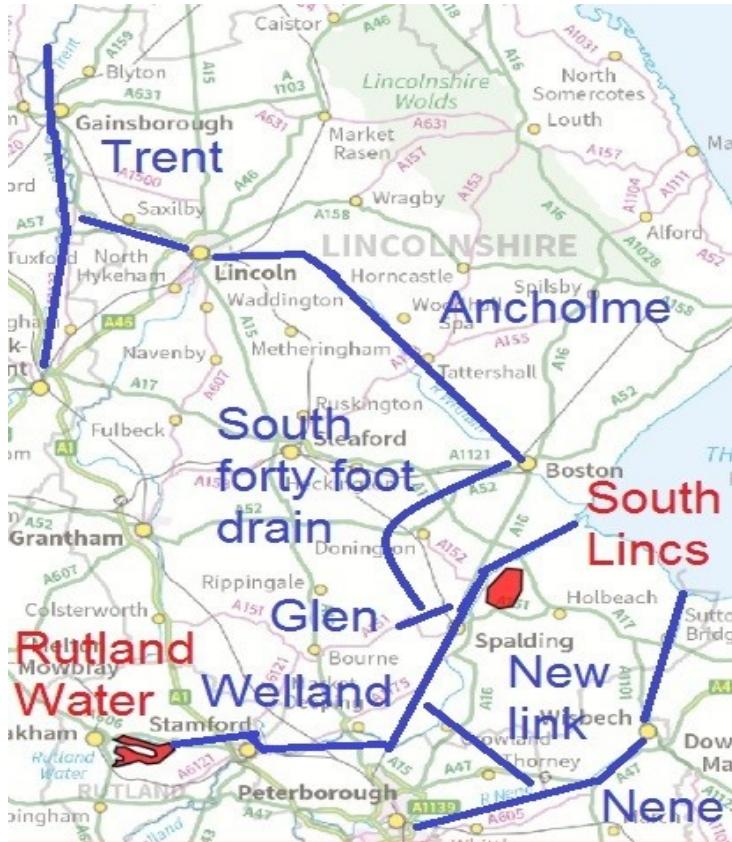
# A new proposal



Why not include Stamford on the narrow-boat ring by restoring the Stamford Canal?

As I had just given a talk on the canal I was asked to submit a proposal for a full restoration – which I did.

# A new proposal



Obviously the canal would need water and its original source was the River Glen.

So this raised another possibility to help with part 1 of tonight's talk, a greater flow means improved Maxey Cut flows at below flood times.

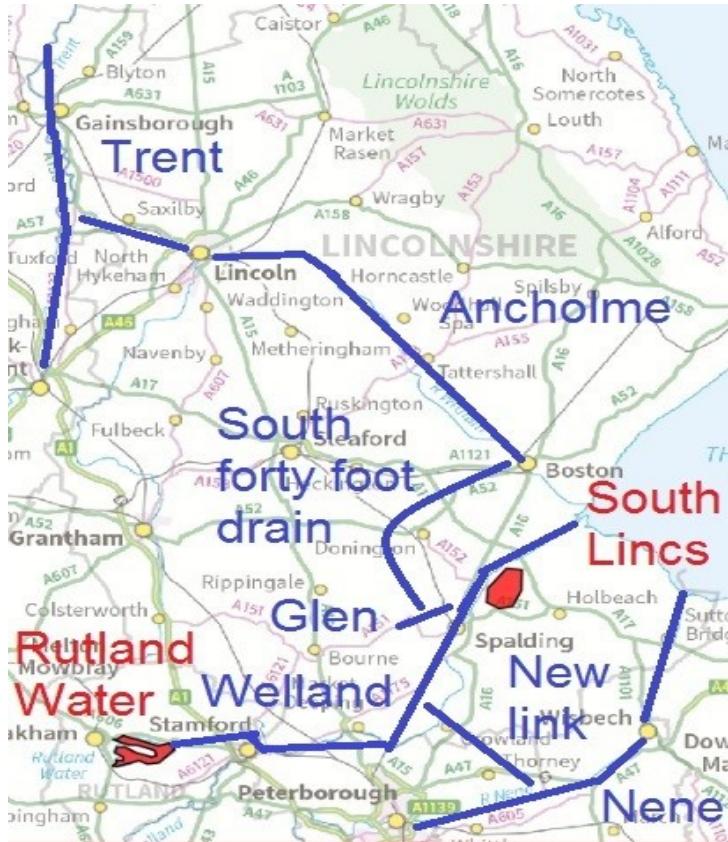
# A new proposal



But this means Anglia Water  
'wasting' water they have  
already paid for!?

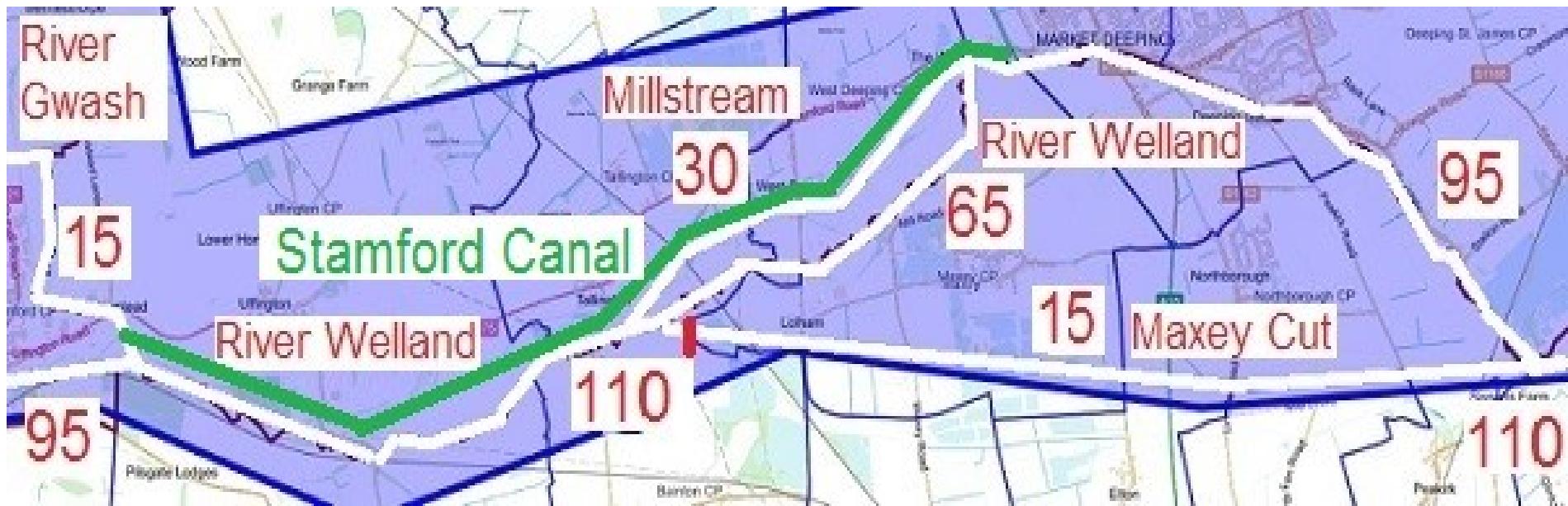
NO.... After discussing my  
proposal with them it was  
realised that this solution  
saves them a lot of money  
(and equipment)

# A new proposal



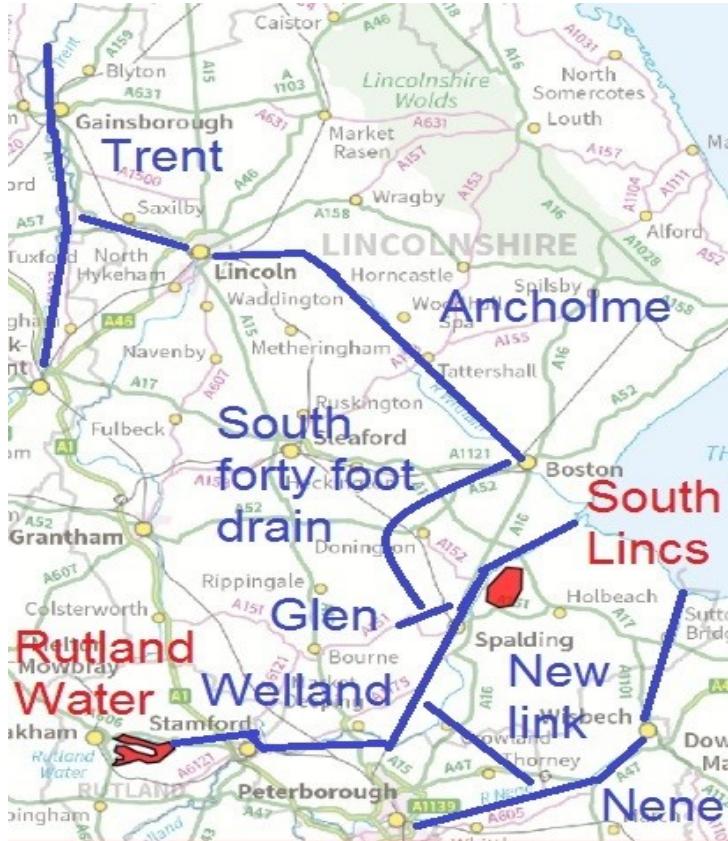
By using the Gwash to transfer water from Rutland Water via the River Welland and re-pumping it into the SLR means it isn't wasted. By using the water to fill the Stamford Canal adds value to the whole project and allows better transfer control for AW.

# A picture again is easier!



By allowing a steady greater flow from Rutland Water that can only go via the Maxey Cut until the Stamford Canal is restored then 10% more water is available at the SLR for re-abstraction there (at no cost). The canal would only use water occasionally.

# The new proposal is:



**To restore the Stamford  
Canal for recreational  
AND water transfer use  
as soon as possible.**

Any questions?  
Please see  
[StamfordCanal.org](http://StamfordCanal.org)  
for further details.