River Trent

The navigable River Trent links the Trent and Mersey Canal at Shardlow with the Humber, a distance of 95 miles, connecting en route with the Erewash Canal, River Soar, Fossdyke, Chesterfield Canal, the South Yorkshire navigations and the River Ouse. North of Cromwell Lock, near Newark, the tidal part of the Trent navigation extends for over 50 miles. The non-tidal part of the river is heavily used by a wide variety of recreational vessels, and powered leisure craft use the tidal section to gain access to other inland waterways.

The Trent is also an important freight waterway. In 1964, over a million tonnes of cargo were carried inland of Gainsborough, while the northern part of the tidal river still handles over 2 million tonnes of cargo annually, mainly in seagoing ships. Barge traffic currently amounts to about 200,000t/y, mainly on the tidal reaches, but potential for an additional million tonnes of barge traffic has been identified, including use of the non-tidal river. IWA supports the development of such multi-functional use of waterways for freight and leisure.