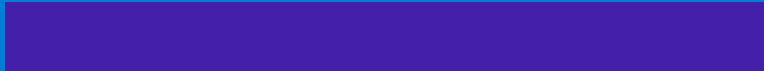




River Perspective



Clive Brown
Pip Noon



Clive's Background

- Local resident and boat-owner
- Cam Conservator
- Sailing



Pip's background



- River Manager since 2006, previously with the Environment Agency
- Dinghy racing
- Offshore sailing
- Open canoeing

Your navigation authority



- Independent navigation authority for Cambridge, formed by Act of Parliament in 1702
- Prime duty is to maintain navigation
- Statutory powers and byelaws
- Area of jurisdiction: Grantchester to Bottisham

Managing the River Cam

- Conservancy Area defined in three sections:
 - Upper River (Byron's Pool to the Anchor Pub)
 - Middle River (the Backs to Jesus Sluices)
 - Lower River (Jesus Sluices to Bottisham Lock)

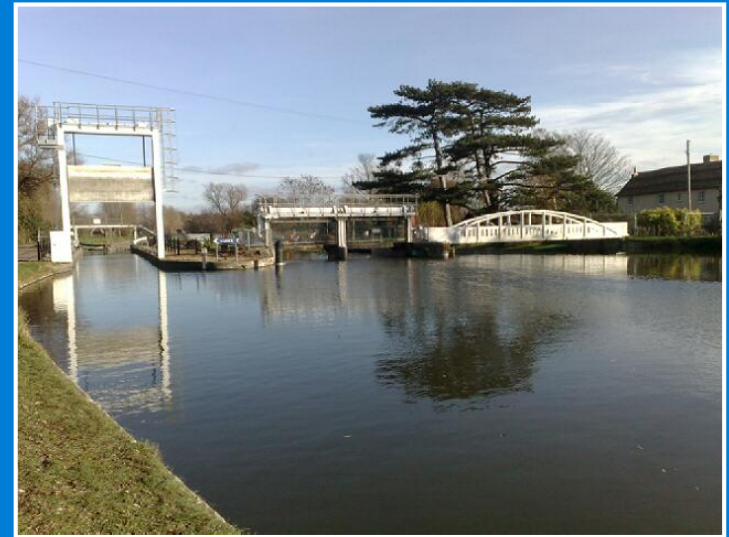
Administration:
Baits Bite Lock



Operations:
Clayhithe

Rules of the navigation

- Signage based on byelaws
- For your **safety**
 - E.g.
 - sign upstream of Baits Bite – danger, sluices ahead
 - change priority signs, Plough Reach



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River Environment

- Normal flow



- In spate



Chesterton, looking downstream from Green Dragon footbridge

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Water temperature

- Groundwater-fed river: 3°C – 10°C
- Accidental immersion - drowning
- How long?



instant/3-5 mins
cold shock



30 mins
swimming failure



30 mins
hypothermia



at rescue/hrs
post-rescue
collapse

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Safe Boating

- Care
- Consideration
- Common sense
- Conservators' Byelaws
- CUCBC Handbook / British Rowing
- Collision Regulations

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The River Cam

- You share a crowded bit of water with a variety of craft with different characteristics



- Large number of river user groups and events
- Towpath – a Public Right Of Way

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Narrow-boats and Dutch Barges



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The Georgina and Battleship Bob



Riverboat Georgina



Robin's Nest ('Battleship')

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Cruisers and Yachts



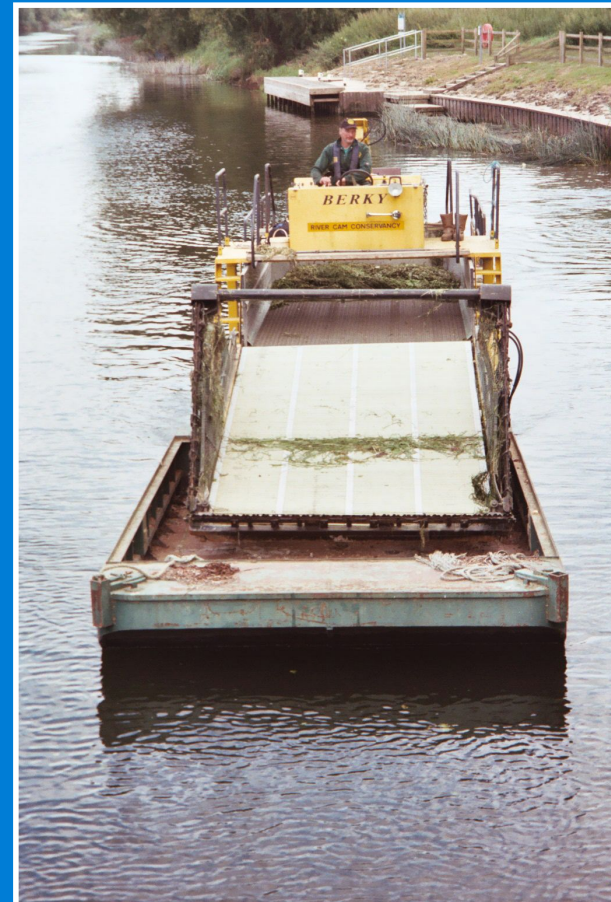
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Conservancy workboats

‘Michael C’



‘Berky’
(+ barge)



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Sailboats and smaller craft





Dealing with other vessels

In order to navigate safely on a crowded river, it is necessary to understand about other boats:

- How they behave
- Their limitations



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A few things about powered vessels

Heavy boats are
difficult
to stop



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A few things about powered vessels

Ability to
Manoeuvre



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A few things about powered vessels

Restricted

Visibility



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And a few more things

- Some power boats go a lot more slowly than you do
- Diesel engines are noisy
- Visitors to Cambridge



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Irritating/dangerous things rowers can do

- Overtaking, then stopping or spinning
- Overtaking on the starboard side
- Squeezing past the bow or stern of a boat that is turning

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General Points

- Look and think ahead
- Duty to avoid collisions
- Generally boats do not go in the direction they are pointing
- Be patient
- Sound signals

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Sound signals

- One blast - turning to starboard
- Two blasts - turning to port
- Three blasts - operating astern propulsion
- Five or more blasts - What are your intentions? (get out of my way)

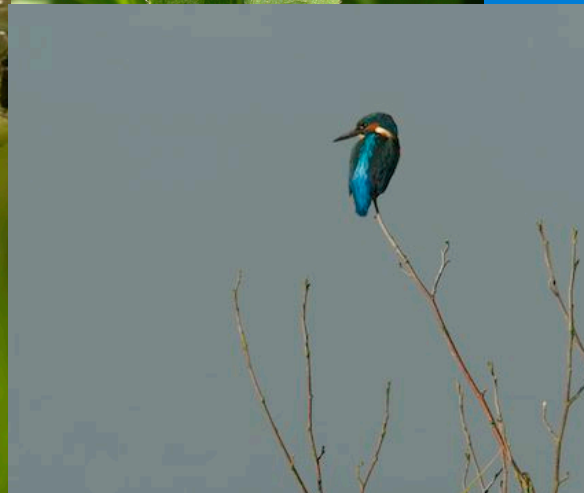
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General Behaviour

- Sound carries across water
- Please avoid bad language
- Report unacceptable behaviour
- Be considerate to fishermen – poles difficult to see
- Be careful of wildlife

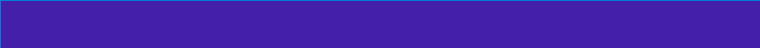
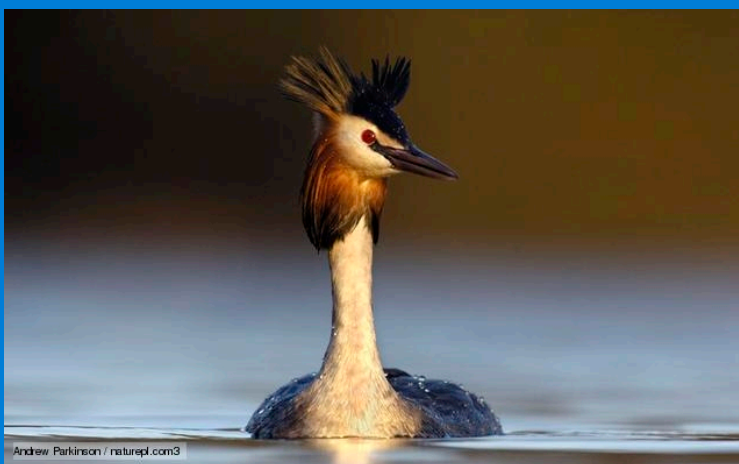
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River Cam Corridor



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The River is a County Wildlife Site



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Moored Boats

- They are entitled to be there – Licence Holders
- They are not an extension of the bank
- On narrow-boats, if necessary push off against fenders or the tarred bottom above the waterline
- Never push off against the hull of a wooden or plastic boat (CUCBC Handbook guidance, R)
- Please do not practice racing starts beside moored residential boats
- People live on boats - unexpected movement can cause accidents
- Apologise and own up – honesty is appreciated



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Moored Boats



ROWERS
PLEASE KEEP
YOUR OARS OFF
OUR PAINTWORK

⋮

Events in Conservancy Area

- Over 180 ‘approved’ events on River in 2009
 - E.g. club racing at Cam Sailing Club, rowing regattas, Cam Canoe & Kayak Marathon, sponsored walks along the Towpath, charity duck races etc.
- River Manager requires 28 days’ notice from organisers to approve
- Events published within Conservancy notice-boards and on website
- Banner for Baits Bite footbridge



- Risk Assessment: who is your **emergency point of contact** on the race day?

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Community Involvement



The Great Cam Clean-Up

Types of incidents

- Between January 2007 and June 2009, **282 recorded incidents** in the Cam Conservancy Area
- Typical examples:
 - Collisions with moored vessels or riverbank
 - Boat-on-boat collisions (steering error, inappropriate use of speed), sometimes resulting in boat damage, accidental immersion and/or injury
 - Deliberate and/or accidental release of moored vessels
 - Deliberate disruption of races
 - Personal assault, stalking, air rifle fire, stone throwing, dog bite
 - Oil spills
 - Livestock in river (cattle, ponies)
 - Dead or injured wildfowl, conversely aggressive wildfowl (“Mr Asbo”)
 - Obstructions in river (trees, large debris, picnic tables)
 - Illegal vehicles using towpath (quad bikes, mini-motos, scooters)
 - Illegal fishing during ‘Close Season’ (15 Mar to 15 Jun inclusive)

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Incident ‘hot-spots’

- **Boathouses** – loss of concentration, accidents happen within 10 minutes of ‘home’, look-out for stationary vessels when setting off, beware edge of hardstanding if water levels are high
- **Riverside** – constrained channel heightens collision risk, oil spills (drain overflow)
- **Green Dragon Bridge** – missiles from above, collision risk on corner
- **Stourbridge Common** – vessels adrift, noise complaints
- **Long Reach** – assault, speeding motor vessels
- **Ditton Corner** – morning ‘log jam’, collisions
- **Plough Reach/The Gut** – collision zone, fallen trees, illegal fishing
- **A14 bridge** – antisocial behaviour, vandalism
- **Baits Bite** – late spinning, vessel collisions, mini-motos and quad bikes on towpath

Incident Reporting

- Collisions/immersions/near misses:
 - BR Incident Report Form within 24 hours
 - cc. River Manager
- Assault/aggressive behaviour:
 - Emergency - Police 999
 - Non-emergency - Police – 0345 456 456 4
 - Ecops (Ecops.Eastchesterton@cambs.pnn.police.uk)
- Vehicles on towpath:
 - Police or River Manager
- Fallen tree(s):
 - River Manager
- Pollution Incident:
 - Environment Agency Incidents Hotline 0800 80 70 60
- Injured swan:
 - RSPCA 24-hour helpline 0300 1234 999
- Visit River Manager at Baits Bite Lock (weekdays 9am to 5pm)



Contact

Conservators of the River Cam
Baits Bite Lock
Fen Road
Milton
Cambridge
CB24 6AF

Telephone: 01223 863785

Fax: 01223 863847

Email: river.manager@camconservators.org.uk

Website: www.camconservators.org.uk

Adrian Hoyes (River Bailiff) mobile 07710 000527



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Questions?