

**CONSERVATORS OF THE RIVER CAM**

*Navigation authority for the River Cam, between Cambridge and Bottisham Lock*

## BBLI Project update.

### Costs

Overall, costs have reduced slightly from £1.514m to £1.510m due to variance between forecasts and actuals.

The Project is approximately £12k under the approved £1.523m budget.

The £1.140m construction sum and £113k risk allowance unchanged; some risk allowance has been spent already on the enabling works.

### Programme

The principal designer will issue the design document today. The principal contractor will price this, it will go to the reviewer for review, and then to the Conservators for approval as below.

The revised programme has been issued to the reviewer, and the principal contractor.

The principal contractor’s reviewed proposal will be tabled for decision by the Conservators on 27 May 2025.

Assuming Conservator’s approval, mobilisation for the start of start of the stabilisation phase of the Project will be the following day, Wednesday 28 May 2025.

Current forecast completion date is 19 August 2025, including three weeks of weather risk allowance.

### Key risks

* Principal contactor price for stabilisation work is too high and needs to be negotiated.
* Inclement weather causing a delay longer than the allowed three weeks.

## Jesus Lock update

### Multi Agency meeting

The second multi agency meeting was held on the 22 April 2025.

It was agreed to undertake a further survey of Jesus Lock with funding from the EA and City Council

The next update meeting will be held 06 May 2025

### Resilience meeting

Responding to Health and Safety concerns around a possible collapse of either one or both of the islands, it was proposed that the multi agency group initiate contact with the emergency services and local resilience forum to conduct a round the table disaster scenario response planning session.

As a result of this meeting, plans to move forward in arranging modeling imagery and analysis of the consequences of lock island failure and to hold an official joint meeting with the local resilience forum have been agreed.

Dates for the next meeting TBC.

## Wider engagement involvement

### Press interview with BBC Radio Cambridge

David and Helen were interviewed live by Tom Jackson from BBC Radio Cambridge on Friday 25 April at 10.45. The full broadcast can be heard [here](https://camconservators.sharepoint.com/Clerk%20Files/1.%20Lock%20Islands%202024/20250425%20BBC%20Interview.mp4) and you can also see the written article here   <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpdz5yz9e8qo>

We have had a few more enquiries from BBC News and will be communicating with them over the next few days.

### Cambridge University

The Conservators wrote to the Cambridge University Vice Chancellor asking for a meeting to discuss the Conservancy’s situation with the Lock Islands and a meeting has been arranged.

## Operational update

###  Registration, enforcement and communications

Three events have self-referred to the Safety Advisory Group.

The second audit of powered vessels is almost complete with the Baits Bite Lock to the start of Stourbridge Common (down stream end remaining).

The punt audit took place on 24April 2025 with some registration discrepancies that will be followed up.

Registrations continue to come in. There have been a few cases of non or partial payment citing the lock closures.

Vessels & Other matters

The annual servicing of vessels and plant has yet to take place, however officers have taken over the management of the arrangements to ensure that this is carried out as soon as possible. The total costs will be in the region of £25k which will come from the operational budget. Weed cutting downstream of Baits Bite Lock is unable to begin until the necessary repairs have taken place on the Conver.

The hydraulic oil used in the vessels and plant has been identified as contaminated and is not the required 100% biodegradable oil. Quotes have been obtained for an Oil Flush and Fill, they include the removal of Berky and the MC at Upware and storage while the work is carried out. The work on Berky will need to be carried out once Baits Bite Lock is re-opened. The total costs have been quoted as £55K+. Due to the exceptional costs related to this work, the Executive Committee were invited to provide their opinion on going forward with this work. It was agreed that this should go ahead.

## Looking forward

### Open day

The date has been confirmed for Tuesday 24 June. The event will be held at Cambridge Motorboat Club from 11am – 3pm.

### Proposed Cambridgeshire Unitary Authority

The government has requested councils in Cambridgeshire to restructure and submit their draft proposals by March 2025. There is a campaign to reform the local government into a new unitary authority. If this proposal goes ahead what impact will this have on the governance of the Conservancy?

Could this be an opportunity to look at the 1922 Act and ask for a review at the same time?

### Cambridge Waste Water project

The Government has agreed to the DCO even though the Planning Inspectorate was against it. The Conservancy will expect to hear from the Cambridge Water Company in due course.