



CONSERVATORS OF THE RIVER CAM

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

CONSERVATORS BRING SEVEN SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION

Yesterday in the Cambridge Magistrates' Court the Conservators of the River Cam brought a series of prosecution cases for non-registration of vessels.

Each case related to the year 2014-15 and was for the owner of the vessel failing to register with the Conservancy. This resulted in a criminal prosecution for 7 vessel owners.

The outcome of the trials were that a total of £1,500 in fines were issued and costs and compensation totalling £8,262 were ordered.

The Conservators make every effort to allow people to register their vessel with easy to complete online forms, monthly payment options and readily available advice from staff. Unfortunately despite all this a small number of vessels owners still fail to register and must face criminal prosecution.

Jed Ramsay, River Manager said "I'm pleased with the succesful prosecutions. It is important that all vessels are registered with the Conservators, as the registration process includes checks that relevant vessels have a "Boat Safety Certificate" and are insured for public liability. In addition, owners of punts let out for self-hire or chauffeured tours undertake, as a condition of registration, to comply with the Conservators' "Code of Practice for Commercial Punt Operators", which incorporates further safety recommendations and other protections for the general public. Members of the public may therefore enjoy some comfort that registered vessels should offer the safest possible experience on the Cam. No such guarantees can be offered in respect of the use of un-registered vessels."

The income from registration fees funds the ongoing maintenance of the River Cam, and allied environmental improvements, to the benefit of the vessel operators, the other river users, and the general public.

Jed Ramsay

River Manager

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