

RIVER CAM MOORINGS CONSULTATION

Cambridge City Council Community Services Parks & Recreation

For many centuries the River Cam was a vital trading route into Cambridge delivering the needs of both Town and Gown. Following the drainage of the Fens some thought that navigation on the River Cam had been adversely affected, so in 1702 the Conservators of the River Cam came into being with a responsibility to safeguard and enhance navigation on the Cam in Cambridge.

Although the trade has gone, the River Cam has taken on a new role as a major recreational resource for the City. Rowers, anglers, walkers, residents and holidaymakers all enjoy the river and the adjacent commons and colleges. In recent years a community of riverboat residents has grown up making the City their 'home base'.

These increased recreational and residential users all make their differing demands on water and bank space. Therefore the City Council and Conservators are working together to create a policy that enables residents and visitors alike to enjoy the River Cam. In their role as guardians of navigation the Conservators have a duty to ensure that safe navigation is maintained on what is a busy and narrow river. The City Council, as owner of large areas of riverside commons, has a broader brief in deciding which stretches of its river bank can be used for mooring without prejudicing the use of the commons themselves by other residents, visitors and users.

This consultation seeks your views on where mooring should take place and whether it should continue to be free or whether fees should be charged. On the 24th March 2005 the Community Development and Leisure Scrutiny Committee will consider a report that will report the outcome of the consultation and recommend a future policy.

I would be grateful if you would take a few minutes to complete this consultation paper and return it by 11th FEBRUARY 2005 to:

John Roebuck, Head of Parks & Recreation
Cambridge City Council
Hobson House, 44 St. Andrew's Street, Cambridge, CB2 3AS

If you need more information Parks & Recreation staff will be at Wesley Church, King Street, Cambridge on 26th January between 3 and 8.30pm.

YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT!

Who does what?

What are the Cambridge City Council's powers and responsibilities?

- To control, if it so chooses, mooring on the commons' riverbanks that it owns (Midsummer Common, Jesus Green, Jubilee Gardens, Stourbridge Common) in the best interests of residents, river users (rowers, holiday craft, live-boards), anglers and open space users.
- To maintain the river bank piling along the commons it owns.
- To provide, if it so chooses, water and sewage disposal points for residential and tourist boats as at Jesus Green.

What are the Conservators of the River Cam's powers and responsibilities?

- To maintain unhindered navigation of the river and in that respect, where necessary, prohibit mooring.
- To ensure compliance with their byelaws, including registration of all vessels.
- To dredge and clear the river to ensure unhindered navigation.
- To maintain the locks in its area.

What are the Cambridgeshire County Council, Private and College landowners' powers and responsibilities?

- To maintain river walls, piling and banks where they are owners.
- To permit or prohibit mooring on the banks they own where it is not prohibited for navigational purposes.

The Current Situation

The City Council permits free 48 hour mooring at Jubilee Gardens and Jesus Green between Jesus Green Weir and Chesterton Road toilets, and Jesus Green Lock and Victoria Avenue Bridge.

Elsewhere, mooring is unrestricted and free where the City and County Councils are owners of the bank except where it is prohibited by the Conservators of the River Cam for navigational purposes. The attached plans identify the riverbank where mooring is already prohibited for this reason.

The Conservators of the River Cam have recently carried out a consultation with river users on navigational issues. The main outcome of this process was a decision to prohibit most mooring on Midsummer Common between 1st October and 31st March. However they have deferred finalising their decision until October 2005 so that they can take into account the views of the City Council's wider consultation.

Riverside is not owned by the City Council but is a public highway and is not within the scope of this consultation.

What are the Choices?

What are your views on the following choices?

Jubilee Gardens & Jesus Green

- Currently no mooring is permitted on Jesus Green between the lock and the Waterside public house (Area A) – no change is proposed for this area. Mooring on Jubilee Gardens between Jesus Lock Footbridge and Magdalene College (Area B) is unrestricted.

On area B should the Council: -

		Please tick in the box	
		Area B	
		Yes	No
1	Prohibit mooring completely?		
2	Permit permanent residential mooring all year round?		
3	Permit 48 hour mooring all year round?		
4	If permitted would you be willing to see 'double mooring'?		
5	If permitted would you be willing to see 'finger mooring' (boats moored end on approximately 60 degrees to a mooring post in the river)?		
6	Other comments		

- What mooring should be permitted on Jubilee Gardens between Jesus Green Weir and the public toilets on Chesterton Road (Area C)? No change is proposed for the 'Georgina's mooring. This is currently restricted to 48 hour mooring for visiting boats.

Should the Council:-

		Please tick in the box	
		Area C	
		Yes	No
1	Prohibit mooring completely?		
2	Permit permanent residential mooring?		
3	Continue to permit 48 hour mooring?		
4	If permitted would you be willing to see 'double mooring' (two boats parallel to the bank)?		
5	Other comments		

3. What mooring should be permitted on Jesus Green between Jesus Green Lock and Victoria Avenue Bridge (Area D)?
Mooring is currently unrestricted here.

Should the Council:-

		Please tick in the box	
		Area D	
		Yes	No
1	Prohibit mooring completely?		
2	Continue to permit permanent residential mooring?		
3	Restrict to 48 hour mooring?		
4	If permitted would you be willing to see 'double mooring'?		
5	Other comments		

Midsummer Common

4. Mooring is currently unrestricted here except where restricted for navigational reasons.(Area E).
What mooring should be permitted on Midsummer Common? (Areas F & G)

Should the Council:-

		Please tick in the box			
		Area F		Area G	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1	Prohibit mooring completely?				
2	Prohibit mooring between 1 st October & 31 st March?				
3	Continue to permit permanent, unrestricted residential mooring?				
4	Other comments				

Stourbridge Common

5. Mooring is currently unrestricted here except where restricted for navigational reasons (Area J).
What mooring should be permitted on Stourbridge Common (Areas H & K)?

Should the Council:

		Please tick in the box			
		Area H		Area K	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1	Prohibit mooring completely?				
2	Continue to permit permanent, unrestricted residential mooring?				
3	Other comments				

What are your views on charging and type of mooring?

Long Term Mooring Charging

6. As those who live on boats benefit from almost all the services paid for by the local Council Tax the Council is minded to introduce a mooring fee based on Council Tax Band A for long term mooring on its river banks where it is ultimately permitted.

Please prioritise the following choices numbering 1 to 3 (1 being your preferred choice).

Should the Council :-

		Please prioritise your preferences 1 to 3
1	Continue with the current policy of free long-term mooring?	
2	Introduce a fee for long-term mooring equivalent to Band A Council Tax (£747 in 2004/5) per annum?	
3	Introduce a fee for long-term mooring? Please state your preferred fee level.	

48 Hour Moorings Charging

7. The Council is also minded to introduce a fee for holiday boats visiting the City.

Please prioritise the following choices numbering 1 to 3 (1 being your preferred choice).

		Please prioritise your preferences 1 to 3
1	Continue with the current policy of free mooring for 48 hour?	
2	Introduce a fee of £5 for 48 hour mooring?	
3	Introduce a fee of some other level? Please state amount.	

How should we prioritise moorings?

8. Should there be more demand for mooring than there are spaces which category of owner should take priority? Who should be permitted to use the long-term moorings on the commons?

Please prioritise the following categories numbering 1 to 4 (1 being your preferred choice).

		Please prioritise your preferences 1 to 4
1	People who live permanently on the boat?	
2	City residents who use the boat for their own holidays?	
3	City residents who use and hire their boat?	
4	Storage only	

If you live on a boat please complete the following questions.

9. Finger or double mooring is possible from a navigational point of view on Jubilee Gardens upstream of the lock (area B) Double mooring would also be possible on the remaining bank between the lock and Victoria Avenue bridge on either, but not both sides of the river (areas C & D)

Would you be prepared to use such moorings?

		Please tick in the box	
		Yes	No
1	Finger moorings (Area B)?		
2	Double moorings(Areas B,C & D)?		

10. If a licensing system is introduced would you prefer that the licence permits you:

		Please tick in the box	
		Yes	No
1	To moor in any permitted area on the city's commons so allowing you to move about?		
2	To moor on a specific common which reduces flexibility but ensures a space in a certain area?		
3	Vessels are allocated specific berths?		

About you!

11. Please indicate your interest in the river and the adjacent commons. You may tick as many boxes as are relevant.

1	City Resident	
2	Resident overlooking the river	
3.	Residential Boat owner currently moored in the city	
4	Non residential boat owner moored in the city	
5.	Member of rowing club or row on the river	
6.	Member of angling club or angler	
7	Representing a college	
8	Representing a local business	
9	Non residential boat owner moored outside the City	
10	Other	

Name.....

Address

Or, if you prefer, please just insert the street in which you live.....

If you need more information Parks & Recreation staff will be at Wesley Church, King Street, Cambridge on 26th January between 3 and 8.30pm.

Thank you!

John Roebuck
Head of Parks & Recreation

Cambridge City Council
Hobson House, 44 St. Andrew's Street, Cambridge, CB2 3AS

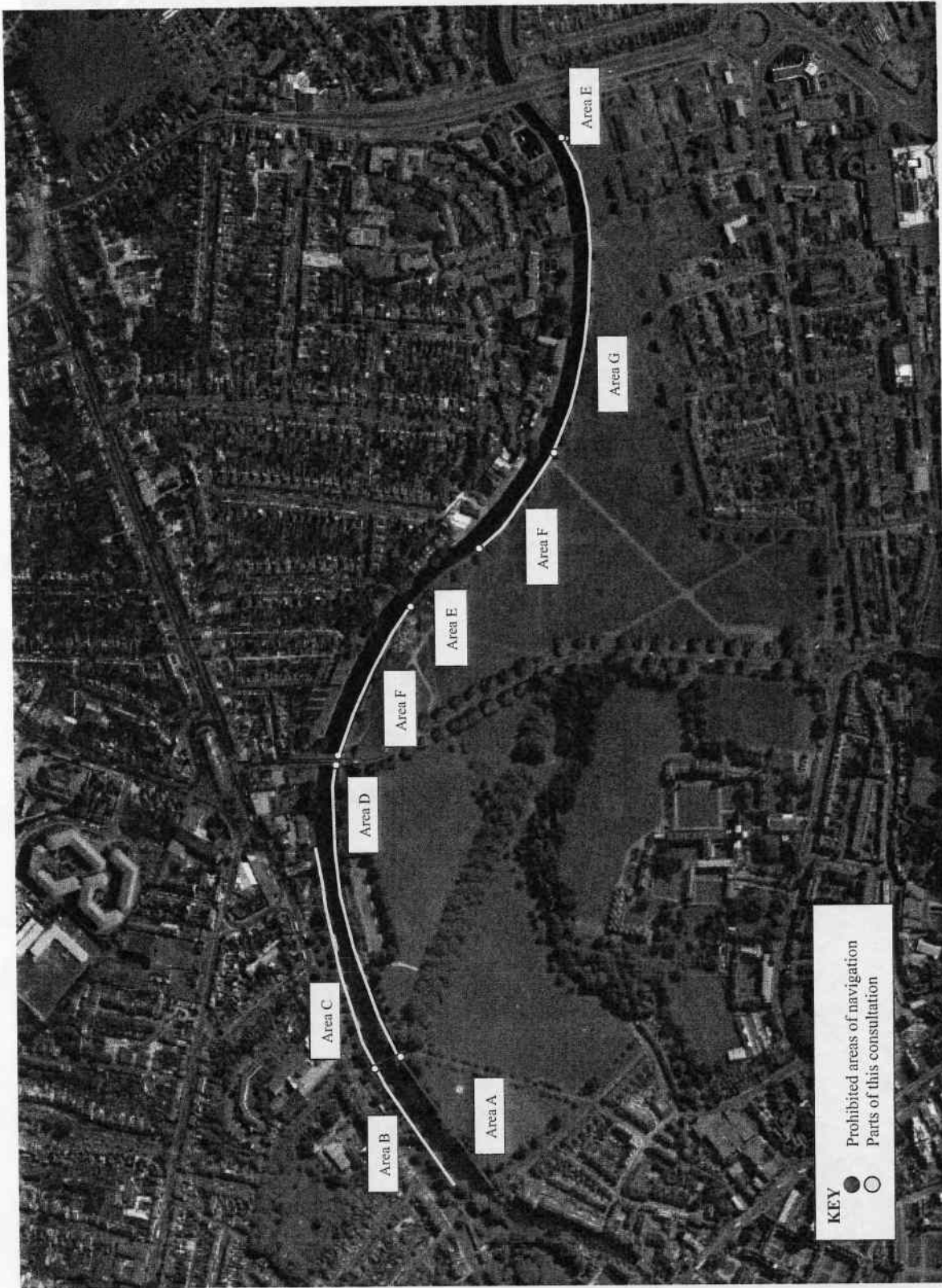


FIGURE 1. JESUS GREEN & MIDSUMMER COMMON

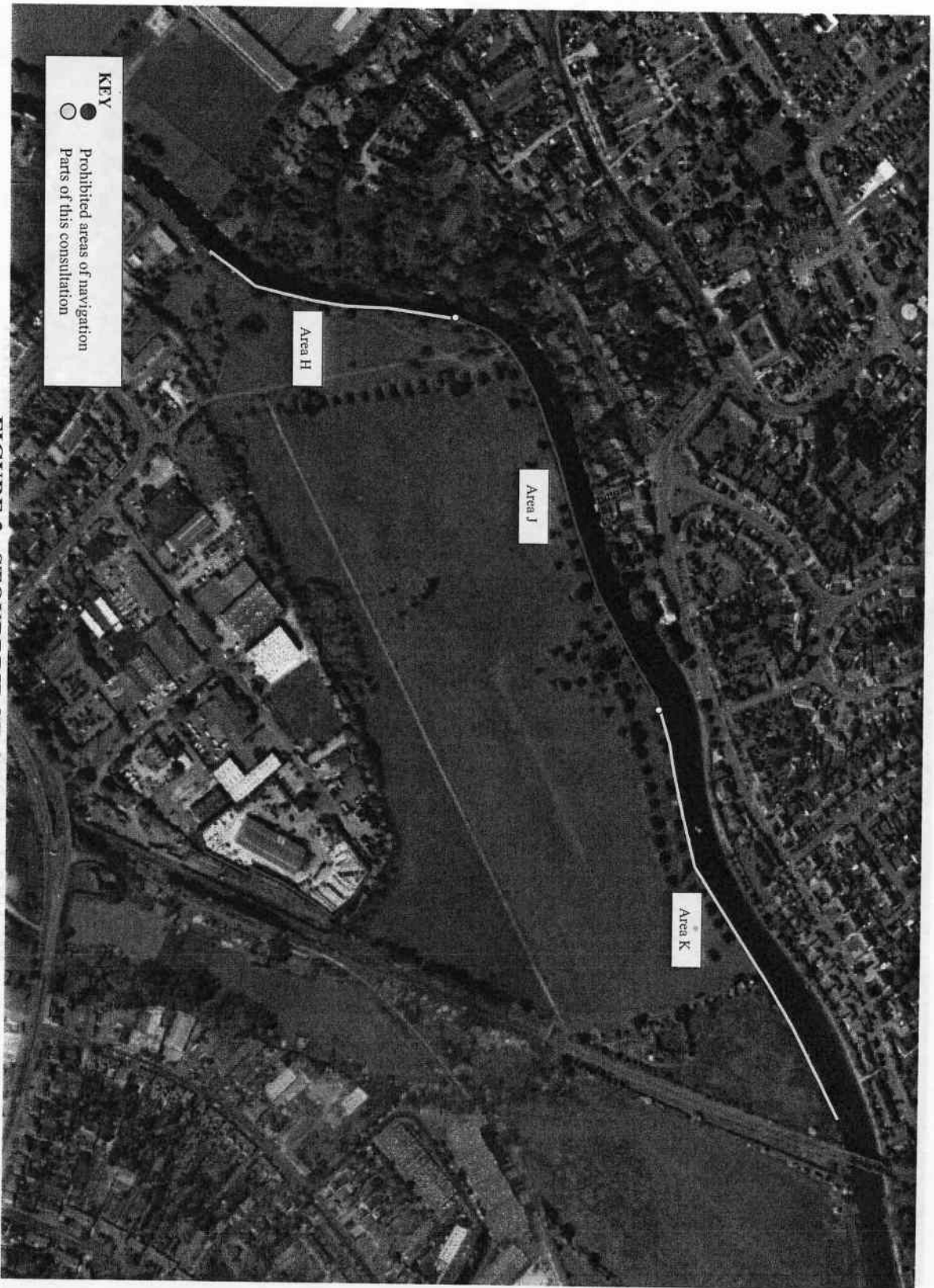


FIGURE 2. STOURBRIDGE COMMON