

CAM VALLEY MATTERS No. 17 2 February 2015
The Occasional Newsletter of the Cam Valley Forum
<http://www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/cam.valley.forum/>

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Floating pennywort In a 6-week programme during November and December 2014 the Environment Agency removed more than 1000 tonnes of wet cut invasive weed on the River Cam and the Ely Ouse. Mats of floating pennywort were up to 22m long and 10m wide. The clearance extended only up to Baits Bite Lock though some infestation is known to occur as far as Byron's Pool.



The Cambridge Lakes Another tiny step towards public access was taken at a second meeting in the Guildhall addressed by Patsy Dell, the City's Head of Planning Services on 29 January. The Managing Director of the Anderson Group (which is one of the land/water owners, together with Peterhouse and the City Council) was present and announced that a public exhibition and consultation process would be initiated at a suitable local venue probably at the end of February. Ecology Solutions Ltd. has agreed with Guy Belcher, City Conservation Officer, a comprehensive ecology survey of the entire area on both sides of the railway including the bodies of water. This began with wintering birds in January and will broaden from March to June. The investigation will be combined with desk-based research. The Anderson Group has ascertained that an appropriate

legal structure for future governance is feasible. Representatives of CHADAC, the Cherry Hinton and District Angling Club, hitherto apparently rather self-absorbed, also attended the meeting. At present, its members have exclusive access to the Lakes. Unlike Canute the representatives did not try to push back the advancing tide but, in keeping with the general mood of the meeting, spoke of the wish to preserve the tranquillity of the Lakes and their surroundings.



The newly-formed **Friends of Ditton Meadows** held a meeting on 21 January in Fen Ditton to discuss proposals for the cycle and footbridge across the River Cam on one side or the other of the railway bridge shown in the photograph. This would constitute a link in the Chisholm Trail from the planned new railway station, just beyond this railway bridge, to Cambridge Station. The Friends believe it is not appropriate to spend £4.5m of public money when there are other bridges a short distance upstream and that the small cycling benefit does not justify the potential damage to the important floodplain habitat. Their website is at www.friendsofdittonmeadows.org.uk A video of the full meeting is available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffPMclhRfcI Opinions in favour of the bridge were also strongly expressed.

The Cam Valley Forum AGM will be held at 7.15pm on Thursday 26 March in the Trumpington Pavilion. The main speaker will be **Jed Ramsay, the River Manager at Cam Conservators**, who will talk about the work of the Conservancy and current problems.