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Designation of the River Cam at Sheep's Green as a bathing water

Following Defra's national consultation on the proposal to designate the River Cam at Sheep's Green as a bathing water under the Bathing Water Regulations (S.I.2013/1675), we are pleased to confirm that the designation has been approved and the site will be added to the [list of bathing waters](#) ahead of the start of the 2024 bathing season in May.

Defra will publish a summary of the responses to the consultation and the government response on 13 May on our GOV.UK page: [Bathing waters - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk). **We therefore ask that you treat the information in this letter as confidential until this time.**

As a designated bathing water, the site will be subject to the requirements under the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 and will be included in the Environment Agency's monitoring programme from May 2024. The Regulations require public information about water quality and potential sources of pollution to be available at all bathing waters during the bathing season (15 May to 30 September), and Cambridge City Council will be responsible for providing this information.

The Environment Agency will prepare a bathing water profile for the site which will be available on its Swimfo website (<https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/>). Designation means the site will be subject to regular testing by the Environment Agency throughout the bathing season, giving bathers a clearer picture on water quality for public health. The Environment Agency will also assess what action is needed to improve water quality to meet the standards set by the Bathing Water Regulations.

During Defra's public consultation earlier this year, a minority of respondents raised concerns about the impact of bathing water designation on habitats and wildlife at the site. Given these concerns, we have written to Cambridge City Council to encourage them to include information on the bathing water signage about the site's wildlife value, its proximity to a local nature reserve, and the need for bathers to use the site responsibly and sensitively.

Cambridge City Council and Daniel Zeichner MP have also been informed of the successful outcome of this application for bathing water designation.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and all those who supported this application for putting this site forward for bathing water designation.

Yours sincerely,

The Bathing Waters Team
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