PuntSeq Cambridge | Health and the River Cam, Public Survey Analysis

Year by year, Cambridge rowers, swimmers and punters claim to experience serious infections associated with pathogens obtained from our river Cam's water. To get a better qualitative understanding of this issue, we have conducted a public online survey assessing Cambridge citizens' general contact with the river as well as people's actual experiences. The results reveal that the majority of river users stay healthy, however around 20%* of all respondents have reported infections likely to be attributed to Cam water contact (*potentialy biased by the participants). This might explain why most Cambridge citizens and visitors approach the prospect of a Cam swim with a potentially healthy dose of scepticism.

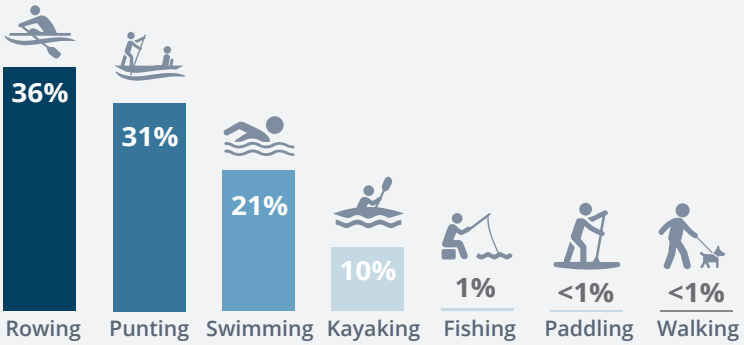
Who Responded?

4%
Others

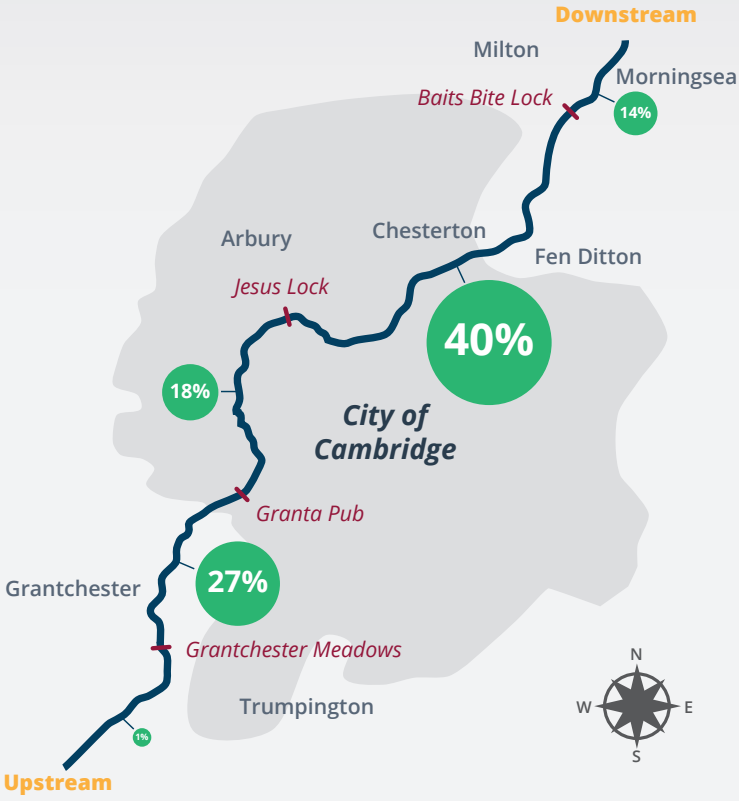
96%
Current citizens of Cambridgeshire

2 out of 3
have regular direct contact with the river Cam's water

Activities people do on the Cam



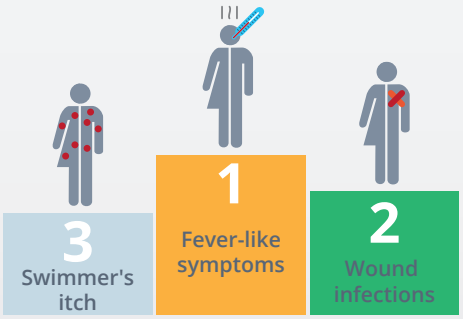
Location of water contact



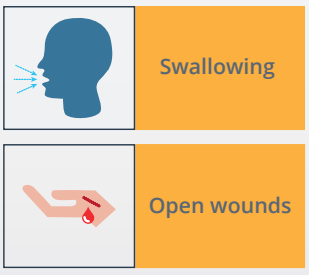
Disease cases

1 out of 5
obtained an infection likely attributed to Cam water contact

Infection types



Most reported infection ways



What people associate with the Cam

dirty
murky
rowing
green
brown
gross
polluted
disgusting
weil's-disease
cold
swimming
punting
variable
turbid
muddy
still
grim
avoid
clean
fine
beautiful
peaceful
infections
unhealthy
swans
bacteria
dangerous
kayaking
lepto
weedy
urghh
slow
murkey
tranquil
liquidy
filthy
lots
dark
wildlife
cow-poo
non-swimmable
questionable
undercurrent
fresh
yukky
wonderful
diseased
unclean
brilliant
odorous
bodied
full
skinny-dipping
cleaner-than-people-think
pathogenic
reasonable
caution
river
refreshing
leptospirosis
smooth
natural
calm
wet
dirt
fun
muggy
row
pleasant
muddy
peaceful
avoid
infections
unhealthy
still
grim
beauty
gross
yuck
clean
tranquil
slow
weedy
murkey
polluted
disgusting
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