

BMK RIVER WALK 23 MAY 2010

Salient features to note

1 Bedford town lock and Mill Meadows

Lock is useable but needs to be realigned to be safer. It is proposed to improve the mooring at Mill Meadows. Long-term possibility of mini marina outside Borough Hall

2 Bletchley railway line bridge

The 2m headroom needs the creation of a drop lock (or raising the bridge) Lock pumps would keep footpath, which would need to be lowered, well drained

3 Twin Bridges, Mainline railway bridges

Side arches could be used to give an extra half metre headroom

4 Queens Park Islands

Some Riverbank realignment needed

5 Kempston Mill footbridge

Needs to be raised 1.2m with ramps to minimise impact on flood plain

6 Western Bypass

Waterway would pass under the Bypass & join river below Kempston Weir

Investigations required

Bedford to Kempston river dredging. Environment Agency responsibility

Bio-diversity survey

Negotiations required with Network Rail, electricity and gas suppliers.

Footpath creation and up-grade

A "Waterspace Strategy" has been funded by the Environment Agency & Bedford Borough Council looking at the Willington to Bromham corridor – report towards the end of this year