

Report from Chris Wood
Paper 4a

I attach a plan (Paper 4b) which shows the land which is unregistered marked red. Our ownership is shown in green.

Regarding plot C, we are in contact with both the surveyors and the solicitors for the Donnington Hospital Trust. They are in contact with their client to establish if they believe they own the towpath and they have informed me their client is researching their records. I am in regular contact but we do have to allow them time to investigate. The important point is they are trying to help. I have made a diary note to contact them on my return.

Regarding plot F, we are in contact with the surveyors for New College. They have advised they have no records of ownership of the towpath. We have suggested New College make a claim for title of the towpath on the basis they must be the owner because they owned the adjacent land and if they are successful, we would then acquire the towpath from the College. This would need to be structured by way of a conditional contract, obliging the City Council to purchase the land if the college successfully claim title. We would therefore need to agree the terms for a transfer prior to entering into a conditional contract. It is encouraging that the surveyors have indicated they will discuss this proposal with the college and I am in regular contact to see if they have instructions.

There are three other sections (D, E and H) where the previous ownership details (of the land sold to the Council) are simply names and as such I think the only way forward is for us to use a researcher to try and establish who might now be the current owner. This is something [REDACTED] may be interested in doing and I suggest we could get his response to this at the meeting.

There is also the section to the front of the boathouse where we are not aware of any information to help us establish ownership. Again, [REDACTED] may be able to carry out additional research.