



Water way	Downstream Great Ouse & Little Ouse	Date	9 Jul 05
Weather	Sunny & warm	Engine hrs	4
Final mooring	Riverbank at Little Ouse	Miles	15.7
Cruise notes		Locks	0

Delayed start due to taking Tess to Prince of Wales Hospital for eye treatment - seen in 30 mins & successful. Terrible undocking from Lovey's, pleasant cruise to Little Ouse. Cary & Ricki found moorings for us. After tea, 4 of us went upstream for 3/4 hr, beautiful evening, then back to Ricki & Cary for dinner.

Nature notes - we saw about 30 geese in a big group in the middle of the river just outside Ely. Loads of tiny, electric blue dragonflies, a very short glimpse of a kingfisher on our evening cruise, plus about 3 herons, one of which we saw about four times. Also swans & black swan.

As we arrived back at Little Ouse, we watched a Barn Owl flapping and gliding alongside the bank.



Water way	At Little Ouse, downstream Little Ouse, Great Ouse	Date	10 Jul 05
Weather	Sunny, very warm	Engine hrs	2.5
Final mooring	Lovey's Ely	Miles	10.1
Cruise notes		Locks	0

After coffee, studio viewing (& purchase of print) at Cary & Ricki, set off at 10:40 am.
 Weather beautiful, water clear, surprising number of wrecks & dilapidated boats on the Little Ouse.

Stopped at Littleport for brunch, then on to Lovey's.

Butterflies, dragonflies, low-flying swans over boat on way back.

Moored at
Overcote



In Westview Marina,
Earith

&
what's left of
the water pump
impeller



Water way	Ely Great Ouse, Old West River & Great Ouse	Date	23 Jul 05
Weather	Overcast, short showers, becoming warm, bright	Engine hrs	5
Final mooring	Overcote (near Over) opposite pub & marina	Miles	17.3
Cruise notes		Locks	2

First boat & bike cruise to Over for Glyn Laughton's 69th birthday party.
Left Ely 12:50 & arrived soon after 6 pm in Overcote. Mooring taken by group of fishermen, but found gap in reeds for 'bow-in' mooring.

Managed undocking at Lovey's very well (cracked it!) plus through the 2 locks - noted that the £100K cruiser that we were with had a net on a stick poked at them for a tip - we were deemed too poor! Or too polite following our first visit to the lock and long conversation we know he likes smiling people who say thank you.

Nature notes: small hovering hawk over fields, 3 herons, loads of swans, geese, assorted ducks, pair black swans outside Ely. One small moorhen chick, several dogs on boats.

Soon after we started I noticed the engine running a little hot, when we stopped at the first lock I topped up the water but it hardly needed any. But after working through the lock things went very rapidly wrong, suddenly the engine overheated, the aft cockpit filled with what I thought at first was smoke (Tess was there like lightning with an extinguisher!) but it was steam from the engine water system. I switched off the engine and we drifted, luckily to near a bank I thought we could moor at although the wind was blowing against us, however with a little burst of engine I got us there and we moored and breathed a huge sigh of relief!

We gathered our thoughts, had a coffee, listened to the Archers whilst the engine cooled and tried to figure out what could have gone wrong. Luckily I could see the Westview Marina just up the river - although unfortunately on the other bank but I could see a mooring on the opposite bank near the marina if we could get across the river. Tess asked about the engine cooling system and I remembered about the dual system, the actual engine water cooling system like a car and then the river water system that is drawn in and pumped out to keep the cooling system cool! Sure enough the river water filter was clogged with weed, we cleared it, checked the oil and water (oil pressure had of course gone down with the temperature rise).

Hoping that we might have solved the problem we decided to set out for the other bank and perhaps the Marina itself, in fact going very slowly we managed to get across and into the Marina - what luck, as we gingerly cruised into a berth the Marina owner Les was already on his way down to the pontoons (floating as this part of the river is tidal!) to see if we needed help. Within minutes Les and his mechanic John were at work, we had correctly identified the problem as weed in the river water cooling system but it was worse than we hoped, the inlet pipe was also clogged up and after clearing that and running the engine they could see that the pump itself was not working - the rubber propeller blade starved of water then simply disintegrates (see picture of item!).

So we had to leave Nimue with them, we got our bikes off the boat and with a few essential items we could carry set off to a local pub for lunch and then cycled the 15 miles home - which would have been lovely except it rained and rained. As we passed through Oakington we saw that the Baptist Church was offering total immersions - believe me we had no need to avail ourselves of the service! So Tess will go up to Ely tomorrow to collect the car on her way to Peterborough and the boat hopefully will be ready sometime during the week - as soon as the replacement impeller arrives.

Water way	At Overcote to Westview Marina, Earith	Date	24 Jul 05
Weather	Dry, overcast	Engine hrs	1
Final mooring	Westview Marina, Earith	Miles	2
Cruise notes		Locks	1

First problem - see account opposite!



Water way	Old West River, River Cam	Date	29-31 Jul 05
Weather	Warm, light cloud	Engine hrs	10
Final mooring	Midsummer Common, Cambridge	Miles	33.1
Cruise notes		Locks	5

This was the recovery from the breakdown outside Westview Marina.

Westview Marina to Pike & Eel -	29 Jul 05	5.9 miles	2 hrs
Pike & Eel to Pope's Corner -	30 Jul 05	14.7 miles	4 hrs
Pope's Corner to Cambridge -	31 Jul 05	12.5 miles	4 hrs

Crew: Doug & Hannah (plus Luna, Ship's Dog)

Seals (mother + 10-week-old young one) seen at Westview Marina.

3-day cruise, 2 overnight stops.