

Proposed phosphate mitigation land in Galhampton

I address this inquiry as the Parish Paths Liaison Officer for the combined Parish Council of Galhampton, Woolston and Yarlinton.

As the letter sent to the inspector from the Parish Council details, the proposed mitigation land for phosphate contamination would have a devastating impact on the current, very well used Rights of Way in Galhampton, namely WN 19/1, 19/2, 19/3, 19/5, 19/6, 19/9.

This land would be sealed off from the public, thereby closing these Public Rights of Way. No public access would be permitted, because of dog fowling etc.. This regulation stays in place unless mitigation regulations change or the land is put down to broad leafed woodland in perpetuity.

The Parish Council has recently invested much effort and time in forming a network of eight circular walks. The Parish Council accessed grants and donations to finance display boards for large maps, signage, leaflets and web design to facilitate this project. Volunteers gave their time and energies to this project. Several of the walks encompass the footpaths, which would become prohibited if this mitigation of land at Galhampton were to proceed. All this money, time and effort would be lost.

I refer the inspector to a map of the land put forward, as appears in the SSDC documents attached to the letter/email sent to the inquiry by the Parish Council Chairman, Malcolm Hunt, and a map showing where this conflicts with established rights of way in our Parish. The land is not contiguous with the proposed development site in Castle Cary, nor indeed anywhere near it.

Phosphate contamination from this development would still happen, seeping into water courses in and around the site and the nearby River Brue. Land offered for mitigation is meant to compensate for and balance out this pollution however, the phosphate discharge remains.

I therefore reiterate that this mitigation proposal would have far reaching implications for the 'right to roam' of residents of North Cadbury and visitors and long distance walkers on historic Rights of Way which link with the Monarch's Way national route, which passes through the proposed development site adjacent to Castle Cary Station.

Susan Fone (Parish Paths Liaison Officer North Cadbury Parish Council.)