

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Planning Policy](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Draft Local Plan 2040 - Romsey Barge Canal Impact
Date: 14 February 2024 09:15:11
Attachments: [Policy BIO1- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation - Land North of Oxlease Meadows.png](#)
Importance: High

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Hello,

Re Draft Local Plan. Please see the blue marked area, in what has been previously described as "Land North of Oxlease Meadows". Locally, it is known as The Horse Field. Why has this been included in this draft when planning permission has only recently been refused on very good grounds, although only a draft, even allowing to be included in this plan seems to be making a mockery of the whole process???

I would also like to raise a major concern over the Romsey Barge Canal and the declining habitat that all these additional Cupernham Lane developments you subsequently allowed, which are virtually all in addition to Oxlease Meadows and not on the previous local plan, have clearly hugely contributed to its recent decline. All higher ground water runs into this canal, then into the meadows, then into the river Test. Huge amounts of polluted water from these various construction sites, including raw sewage have poured into the barge canal over the past 8 years and this has to stop before this important watercourse is completely destroyed. I am a very experienced coarse angler and five years ago I was able to catch good numbers of Roach, Rudd, Chub all the way along the barge canal and around the associated water courses, this winter I have visited the stretch twice and cannot even get a bite, this is a real concern, numbers must be hugely down. Even in the summer I regularly walk along this canal with my dog, when the waters run clear and shallow I have materially noticed it has become much harder to observe any fish life at all, even the Pike which are normally a good indicator that silver fish are present in numbers.

Please remember no or little fish life in this type of watercourse, means little other aquatic life as well, which flies in the face of all the good work and developing biodiversity attempts in the SSI protected Fishlake Meadows which the Romsey Barge Canal is a key element of.

Please can you ensure this area on the draft plan I mention, is seriously reviewed to remove from the plan as any further development is giving the canal or meadows no chance to recover, which now is vital and any further construction site allowed will only put this back at least another 5 years. I also hope whatever local plan is eventually approved you can stick to it and not let other things to creep in that are not then fully considered in context to other important factors, which is exactly what has happened along Cupernham Lane and the SSI controlled Meadows .

Hopefully, you are able to do the right thing, there really is no need or justification to further damage this area.

Regards

Mr Perress
[REDACTED]