

## The Planning Inspectorate

### COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

Please note that comments about this case need to be made within the timetable. This can be found in the notification letter sent by the local planning authority or the start date letter. Comments submitted after the deadline may be considered invalid and returned to sender.

**Appeal Reference: APP/L1765/C/23/3334938**

#### DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference: APP/L1765/C/23/3334938

Appeal By: MR C BLYTH

Site Address: Springbridge Farm, Highbridge Road  
Highbridge  
EASTLEIGH  
Hampshire  
SO50 6HN

#### SENDER DETAILS

Name: MR KIERANS GILLINGHAM

Address: 43 Orchard Close  
Colden Common  
Winchester  
Hampshire  
SO21 1ST

Company/Group/Organisation Name: Itchen Navigation Preservation Trust

#### ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

In what capacity do you wish to make representations on this case?

- Appellant
- Agent
- Interested Party / Person
- Land Owner
- Rule 6 (6)

What kind of representation are you making?

- Final Comments
- Proof of Evidence
- Statement
- Statement of Common Ground

Interested Party/Person Correspondence

Other

### YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

Since 2016 Springbridge farm have infilled approx. 150m of water channel to the west of the site without any environmental permits or permissions. Blue water pipe was laid in the channel before backfilling with the soil from two newly dug ponds. Around 15m of this water channel still exists including the brick culvert in the south that goes underneath the B3335 Highbridge road although more recently more sheds, some containing animals have been built over part of this. The brick culvert to the south is now heavily silted up and the remainder of the ditch is often used for the disposal of chicken manure and drains into and pollutes the River Itchen SAC on the south side of the road. The water channel and foot bridges can be seen clearly on google maps dated 2014, 2015 and construction work and completed infilling is shown clearly on 2016 maps. This water channel was originally the bypass channel of the Itchen Navigation Allbrook lock and dates to around 1838 when the lock was rebuilt by the London and Southampton Railway company. The water channel and sluice can be clearly seen on the 1946 OS map and parts of the water channel on google streetview between 2008 and 2023. The loss of this water channel is not only a great loss to the natural heritage value of the Itchen Navigation, it also is a loss to the protected Southern Damselfly that may have been resident in this channel and are present in the old water meadows the channel flowed into. This historic water channel - the bypass channel of Allbrook Lock, should be reinstated to its original length and width otherwise the possibility of physical restoration and reconnection to the river in the future as a flood relief channel and water meadow carrier stream will be lost. The two new ponds should be drained, backfilled, and reseeded. Springbridge farm have moved approx. 175m of their boundary fence onto the unregistered footpath reducing the original width of the right of way and removing established hedgerows in the process. The original boundary fence is in the middle of the hedge approx. 1m away and in places up to 2.5m away. The original fence is still in place in some areas and has grown into and through mature trees so is clearly visible. The public right of way is the Itchen Navigation towpath and protected by an act of parliament and documents show this towpath is protected 4.5m from the waters edge and should have a minimum path width of 2m. Springbridge Farm have extended the bank into the river a number of times using incorrect materials such as logs and soil and they have done this without the correct environmental permits and without any consideration to the wildlife or members of public using the right of way. The new fencing should be removed and the original boundary fence and hedge line reinstated. The path and riverbanks that have been extended into the river should be reinstated with the correct materials.

The land of Springbridge farm has always been rough pasture with occasional animal grazing and had wonderful views from the Itchen Way right of way towards Bishopstoke in the south. Springbridge Farm has had a huge negative effect on the rural character of the area with many walkers complaining of being verbally abused by the landowners and restricted by the close proximity of the boundary fencing. The large numbers of campers in the summer using the gateway onto the right of way, the river for swimming and the footpath for picnicking have also resulted in many members of public not wanting to use that stretch of path.

Maps showing water channel attached

**COMMENT DOCUMENTS**

**The documents listed below were uploaded with this form:**

**Relates to Section:** REPRESENTATION  
**Document Description:** Your comments on the appeal.  
**File name:** July 2021.jpg  
**File name:** Sept 2014.jpg  
**File name:** April 2015.jpg  
**File name:** March 2022.jpg  
**File name:** Aug 2016.jpg  
**File name:** Sept 2015.jpg

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