



Villages Oppose Warehouses (CIC)
12 Derbyfields
North Warnborough
RG29 1HH
Company Number 14403242

Dear Hart District Council,

We are writing in response to the LCWIP Consultation on behalf of many of the residents of Hook, North Warnborough and Odiham and wish to make Hart District Council aware of a vitally important and much loved “green grid” that already connects our communities. We would like Hart District Council to recognise the importance of this route in terms of its incredible heritage, its internationally rare habitats, and the wellbeing it brings to our communities. This route and the area immediately surrounding it is an important asset to Hart and we would urge Hart District Council to provide the support needed for maintaining and promoting it for the benefit of future generations. Odiham Castle is a stone’s throw from the route, and this is where King John rode out from in 1215 to sign the Magna Carta, a pivotal moment in our history, that marked the beginning of the freedoms we enjoy today.

The route which we have illustrated on the attached Map allows residents and visitors to walk between Hook, North Warnborough and Odiham, along public footpaths, without having to walk alongside the busy roads in the area. It is the only off-road route between the settlements, and it encourages social interaction between our communities. It provides a sense of space, particularly through the countryside within Lodge Farm and Palace Gate Farm, which are both located within the boundaries of the original Royal Deer Park. And this is hugely important for the physical and mental wellbeing of our community. From an economic perspective, the route connects all three settlements with the Locally Important Employment Site at Lodge Farm which provides access to several Class E businesses, including Newlyn’s Farm Shop and Café. This is located midway along the route, and it directly benefits from the many residents and visitors using the route.

The route and the immediate area surrounding it is steeped in history, due to its location being midway between Winchester and Windsor. It has direct links to the Roman Empire, King John, Henry VIII and Elizabeth I and records show that monarchs from William the Conqueror to James I have held property in the area.

The route passes through beautiful landscapes, protected habitats, a river valley, through two conservation areas and Hampshire’s village of the year. It runs alongside and across a rare Chalk Stream, the Basingstoke Canal and an historic Royal Deer Park. A rich array of wildlife and plants can be seen on the route <https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/nature-reserves/hook-common-and-bartley-heath> and <https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/blog/hiwwt/importance-chalk-streams> .

The route passes through the following locally, nationally, and internationally important sites.

Hook

Bartley Heath (Hook) a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Footpath reference numbers in order 728, 764b, 764a

North Warnborough (Hampshire Village of the Year)

Bartley Heath (North Warnborough) a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC)

Lodge Farm through which the River Whitewater flows, one of only 200 or so Chalk Streams in the entire World making it one of the rarest habitats on the planet, and itself a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC). The Government has recently embarked on a Chalk Stream

Restoration Strategy to restore and protect these incredibly rare habitats. Lodge Farm was originally part of the Odiham Deer Park and the current farmhouse stands on the site of the original hunting lodge where Henry VIII and Ann Boleyn stayed. The remains of a Roman Villa are adjacent to this site.

Newlyns Farm Shop and Café that showcases local produce and is one of several Class E businesses at the Lodge Farm Locally Important Employment Site.

Footpath reference numbers in order 64b, 64a, 25, 23, 24

Odiham (Hampshire Village of the Year)

The Basingstoke Canal a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Conservation Area

Odiham Deer Park frequented by several monarchs including Charles I, Henry VIII and Elizabeth I and part of a Conservation Area

Palace Gate the entrance to the Deer Park from the site of Odiham Palace where Elizabeth I stayed on the many occasions she visited Odiham. Elizabeth I would have ridden through the avenue of lime trees that marked the entrance to the Deer Park at Palace Gate. The Palace has since gone but the lime trees are still there today.

Footpath reference number 18

Public footpaths along the route are well established and generally signposted. They are used by Runners as well. The route also connects with a network of other public footpaths that allow users to access other nearby places of interest including Odiham Castle and the historic Mills along the River Whitewater

However, the route can become very muddy in Bartley Heath North and South either side of the M3 motorway and within the Deer Park close to the Basingstoke Canal and could benefit from improvements in this respect eg Boardwalks if possible. More information on signposts eg places of interest and their significance, directions, distance etc would also be welcome for the many visitors to this historic area.

We would welcome the opportunity of working with Hart District Council to promote this route and the unique area surrounding it, and to ensure that the character that gave it the accolade of **Hampshire Village of the Year** is protected for our future generations. In the short time we have been aware of the Consultation three hundred and fifty one residents and visitors have come forward to voice their support and we are attaching a list of their names. Such is the strength of feeling locally, that given more time this number would have been considerably higher.

Sincerely,

David, David and Sally
Directors of Villages Oppose Warehouses



- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bartley Heath (Hook) – Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) 2. Bartley Heath (North Warnborough) – Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) 3. Lodge Farm 4. River Whitewater – one of only 200 Chalk Streams in the World and a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Newlyn's Farm Shop and Café – one of several Class E businesses in the Lodge Farm Locally Important Employment Site 6. Basingstoke Canal – Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Conservation Area 7. Odiham Deer Park – a Royal Deer Park, frequented by Henry VIII dating back to the 11th century and a Conservation Area |
|---|--|

Key

.....	Footpath
.....	Cycle Path
—	Road
— — —	Railway
—	Walking Route