

APP/18/00380

3, The Malvern,
Havant,
Hants PO91SS

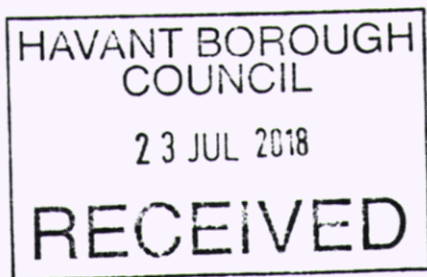
23rd July 2018

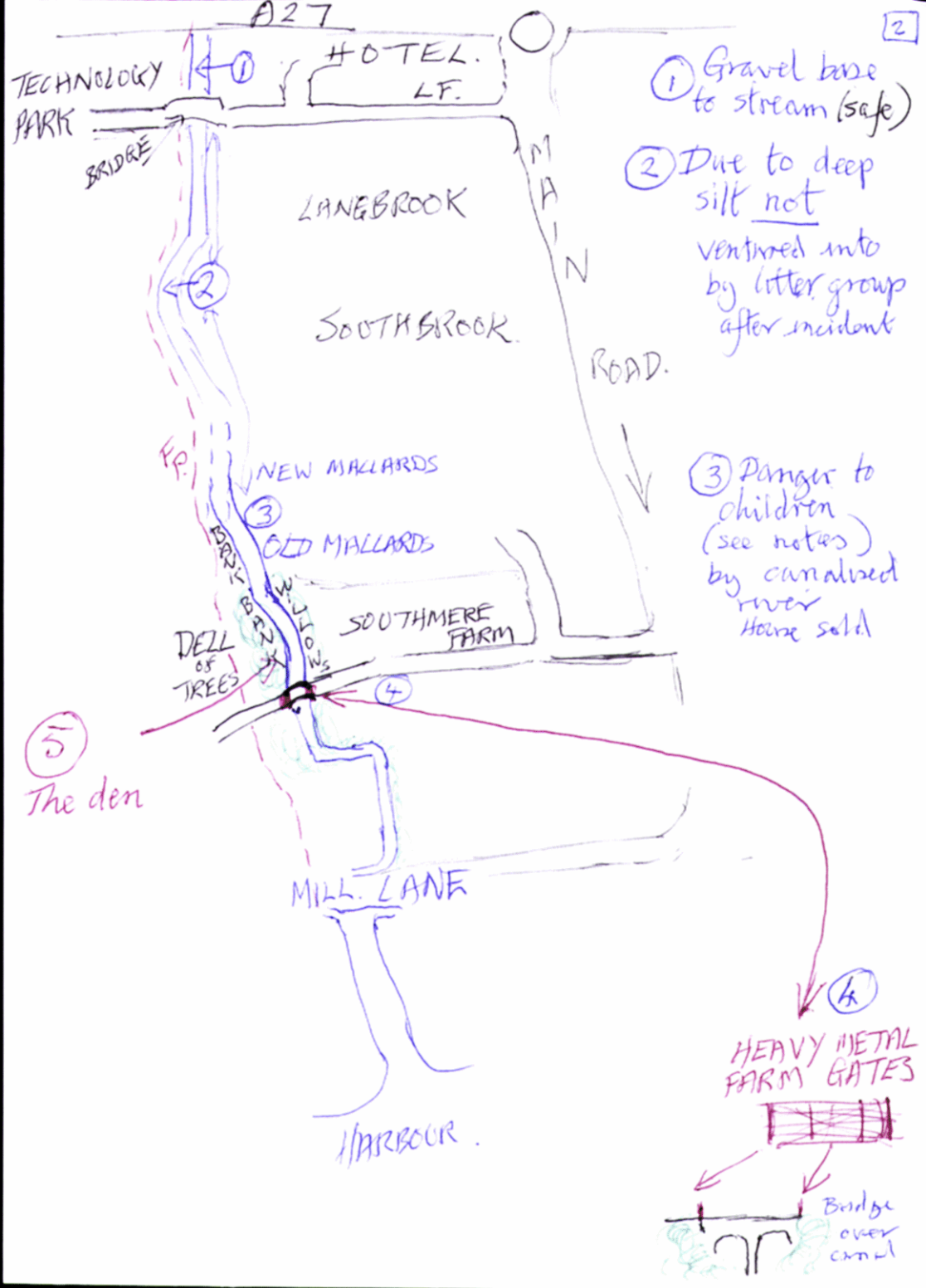
Dear Mr. Eaves,

I have written before about the proposed dwellings at Southmere Farm.

This letter is about concerns of a different nature - which should be thought about (quite apart from the flood zone!) So be patient as you plough through my missive.

Yours sincerely

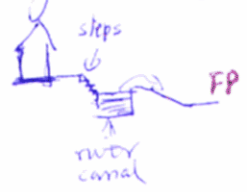




- I am viewing this from the experience I have from litter picking this stream (wading in it);
- from knowing something about its history e.g. altering its route, turning it into a raised canal (to power West Mill in West Lane)
- from living in the old Mallards (1982)
- from making risk assessments concerning children and hazards.

YOU NEED THE SKETCH MAP

- ① The stream - safe to enter into where there is a gravel base (waders / wellington boots).
- ② South of the bridge not considered safe due to an incident - a fully grown man stepped into the stream to litter pick, and promptly sank into the silt. He struggled out, furious about the state of his jacket, and that ended any further litter picking south of the bridge, in the stream.
- ③ By now we have reached the old Mallards (1982)
 - a) Originally these houses had short gardens which dropped abruptly into the canal. Their gardens ended at the canal.
 - b) Then one-by-one they purchased land beyond the canal. When the canal floods it returns to its old route flooding their new gardens and the footpath. Recently a river Mallard changed hands after P.T.O.



only a brief stay. This must be for the first [4] time, that children have lived in an old Mallard beside the canal. The steep drop to the steep sided canal was far too dangerous for his children/grandchildren. So he has moved out.

Which brings us to your 3 houses, and both (4) and (5) on the map.

Once the canalised river leaves the old Mallards it disappears into a wild heavily overgrown area bordered with willow trees. Remember, this is a raised canal. To the east you have the farmyard barns and to the west the footpath enters a dell of trees at a lower level



No-one would know the canal was there unless they saw it overflowing into the dell.

Wandering through the dell a year ago I saw some litter leading up the hidden bank, and guessed this was a secret teenage den. If you clear them, they lose their attraction, and this wild area would be safe. When I scrambled up the bank through the undergrowth, I discovered more litter and also a quite beautiful unspoiled area. There was the canal up to its brim, the willows, fallen branches - then it occurred to me there must be a lot of silt building up here, plus the bridge's design could (with fallen boughs) dam the water. and cause flooding. It was then, that my

teaching experience - 'beware of hazards and children', alerted me to just how out of sight and out of mind this place was. What if a younger child ventured into here, wandering away from the footpath. He'd climb up here thinking "Oh, a stream, I will go for a paddle" or "let's climb that bough over the stream" But this is a steep-sided canal - think back to the adult sinking into the silt. Who would be aware of this spot, or the canal. How long would it take to find this child or, sadly his body?

Now let's look at (x) the farm gates. This is a working farm, with cattle etc, Only the Farmhouse can have access to the river footpath via these gates. Unless you are a Mallard with a bridge, all other Mallards can only reach the footpath by Mill Lane or the Technology road. This is private land with obvious safety concerns. However, we have been children ourselves. A farm child is experienced and careful, but to an urban child the barred gate offers little problems - it's a challenge. It can be climbed or squeezed through - and from that point on he/she is out of sight

and within a few days will be exploring the [6] den etc, unaware of the canal and its dangers. I expect one of your houses will border land near the canal, I would suggest a high fence for safety reasons.

Going back to the old Mallards. People moving in during 1982 would have been middle-aged so the house which changed hands so quickly did so, because the original owner had died.

Your new houses will have young families probably with 4-5yr olds - its worth looking at the environment surrounding the houses - the canal, moving cattle and heavy vehicles when considering this application. Children can be adventurous, unpredictable, and nowadays because both parents are working, unsupervised.

Thank you for reading this.