

CPRE Worcestershire – Dr Peter King

The following are my proposals for changes. I suspect much of this will be minor amendments, largely for clarity, which I would ask the Council to make. Altered text is in **bold**:

Proposal for changes to protect Dunclent Irrigation Scheme of Lord Foley:

- Policy 32.3 item 8 insert to read ‘...natural **and historic** features ...’
- Policy 32.4 item n: change ~~practical~~ to **feasible**.
- Same item: re-order wording for clarity to Historic **features and water bodies**.
- Policy 32.4 additional item: Make specific provision as to the intended buffer between the irrigation ditch and built development, *so that this buffer is required as planning policy, rather than merely as a concession by the developers. I am here asking for no more than the developers and Council were proposing.*

I am also suggesting that the brook on the west of the site should be called **Offmoor Brook** (unless a more authentic name can be found).

Note also the following points of accuracy, relating to the evidence base. These are not directly relevant to Examination, but it is better that errors (fake news) should not be repeated:

Heathy Mill is described in Historical Environment Assessment [HER01a, p.175] as having been a spinning mill. The latest research (mine) suggests that this is not correct, and it was always a corn mill: Peter King, 'Textile Mills in north Worcestershire', *Wind and Water Mills*, 33 (2014), 2-26.

I have very recently written up research done about 15 years ago into the irrigation system which I hope to publish. This is currently in a slightly unfinished state, but I can make this available to the Council and developers. My conclusion is that the original scheme was made by Edward Brode probably in the late c.1630s. This includes the original Dunclent Course, which runs (or ran) one field east of the edge of the proposed development. The Hurcott Course (now wholly defunct) was created by Thomas Foley in 1662. The Upper Dunclent Course (of which the watercourse on the east side of the Kidderminster East Extension is part) sated from the period between 1713 (creation of Lord Foley) and 1722 (death of Sir Robert Throckmorton).