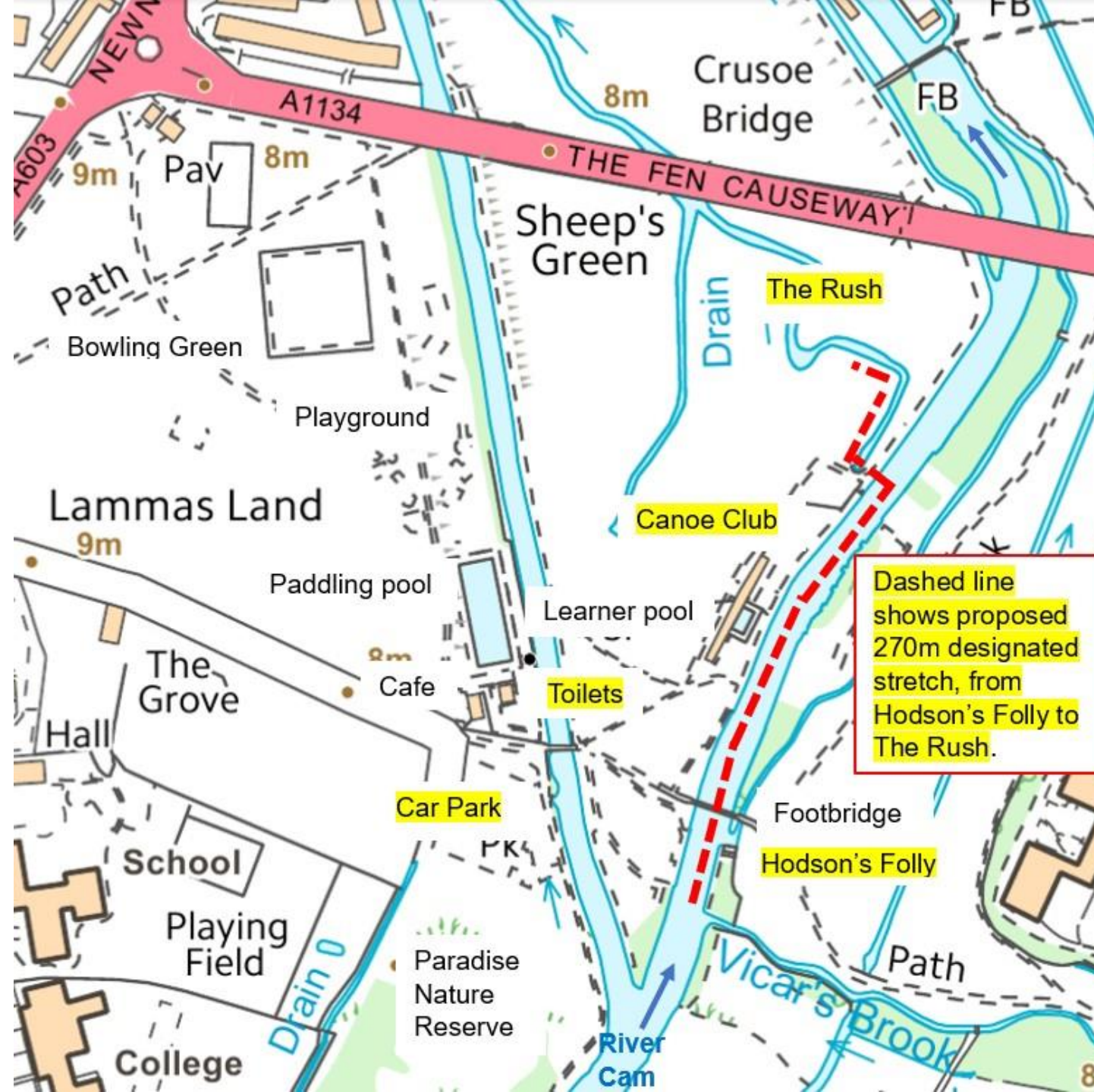


# Bathing Water Designation for the Cam at Sheep's Green

Consultation Event  
Newnham Sports and Social  
Club

29 August 2023

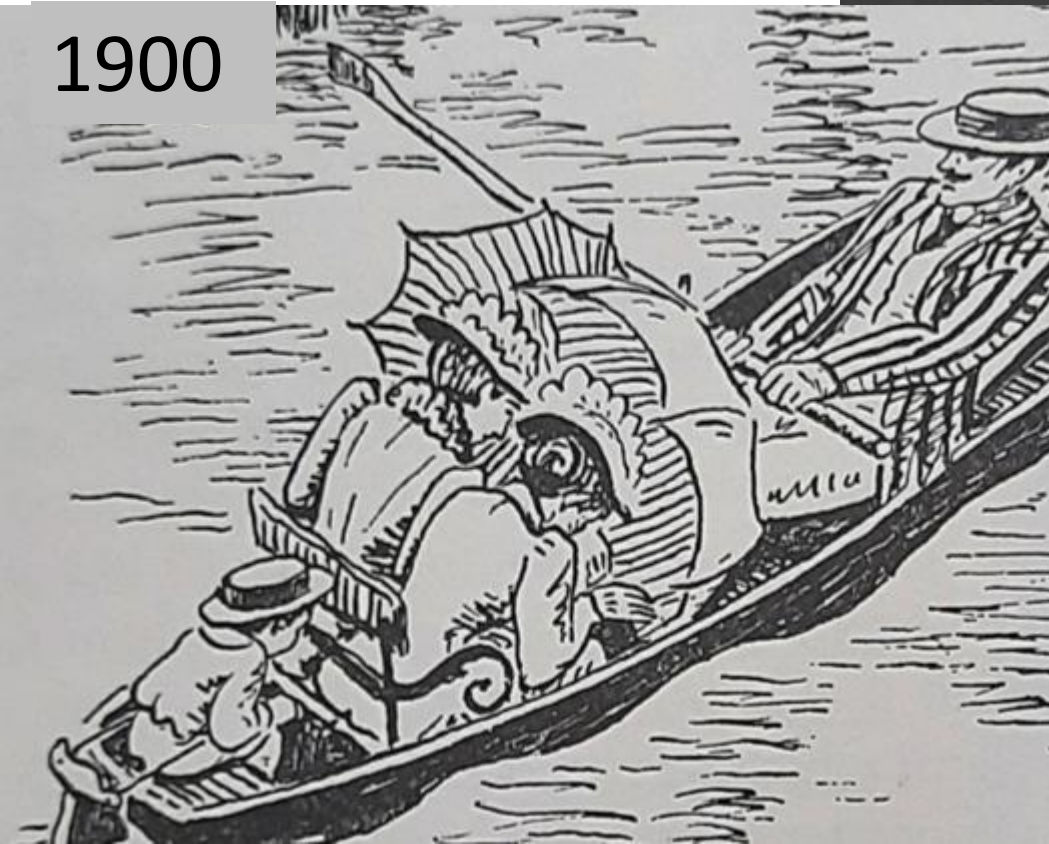


# A brief history of Swimming at Sheep's Green



# Sheep's Green

1900



1970s

# Cam Swim Picnic July 2023



# Bathing Water Designation

*Aim: "to protect the environment and the health of Europeans by attaining good bathing water quality throughout the EU"*

This involves

- Information for "bathers"
- Measures to improve "poor" quality water

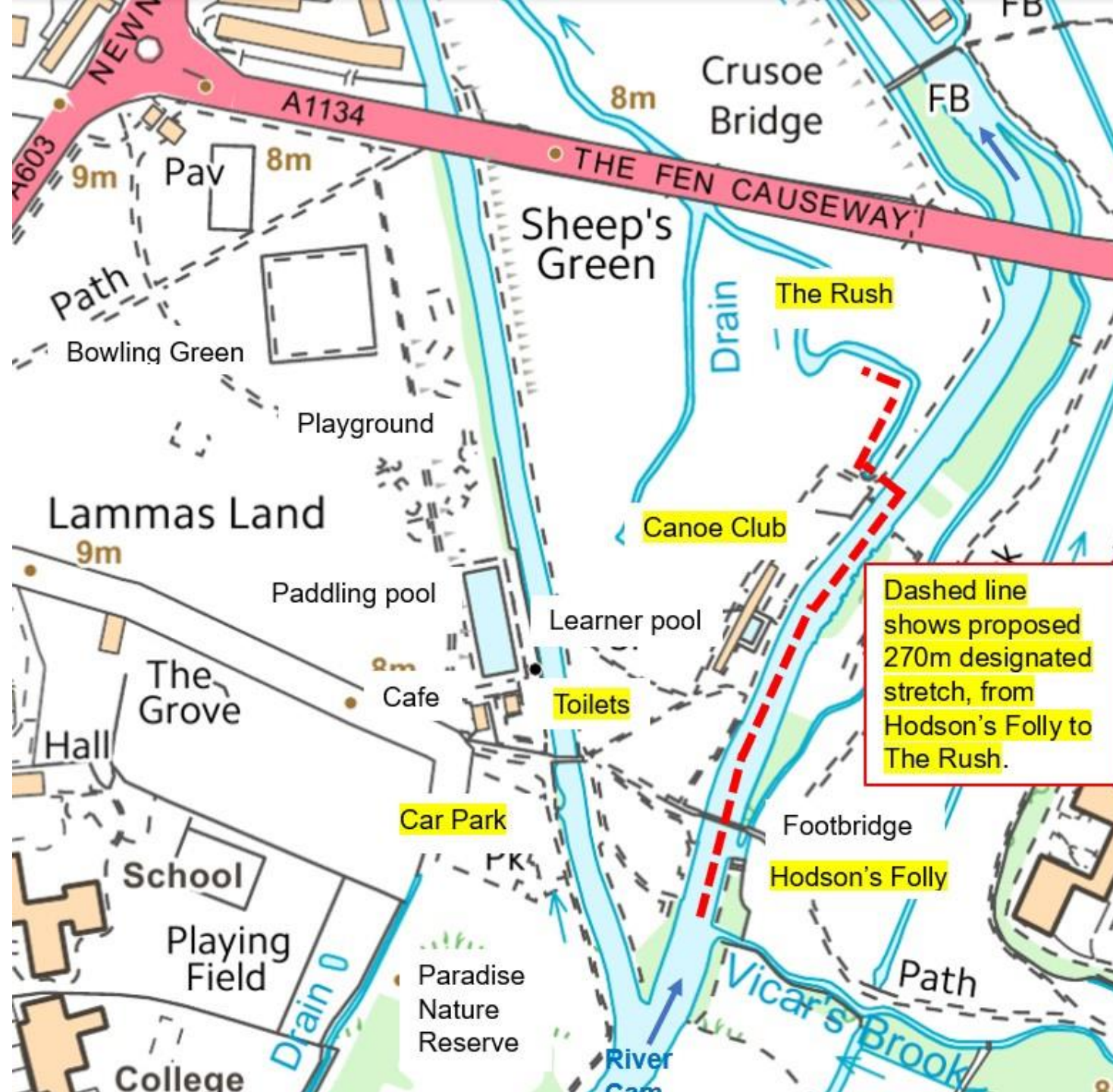


[https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water/bathing-water\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water/bathing-water_en)

# Proposed site: Hodson's Folly to The Rush

Sites must have

- People “bathing” here
- Toilets within 500m
- Other infrastructure to support swimming
- Be less than ~500m



# Information for bathers:

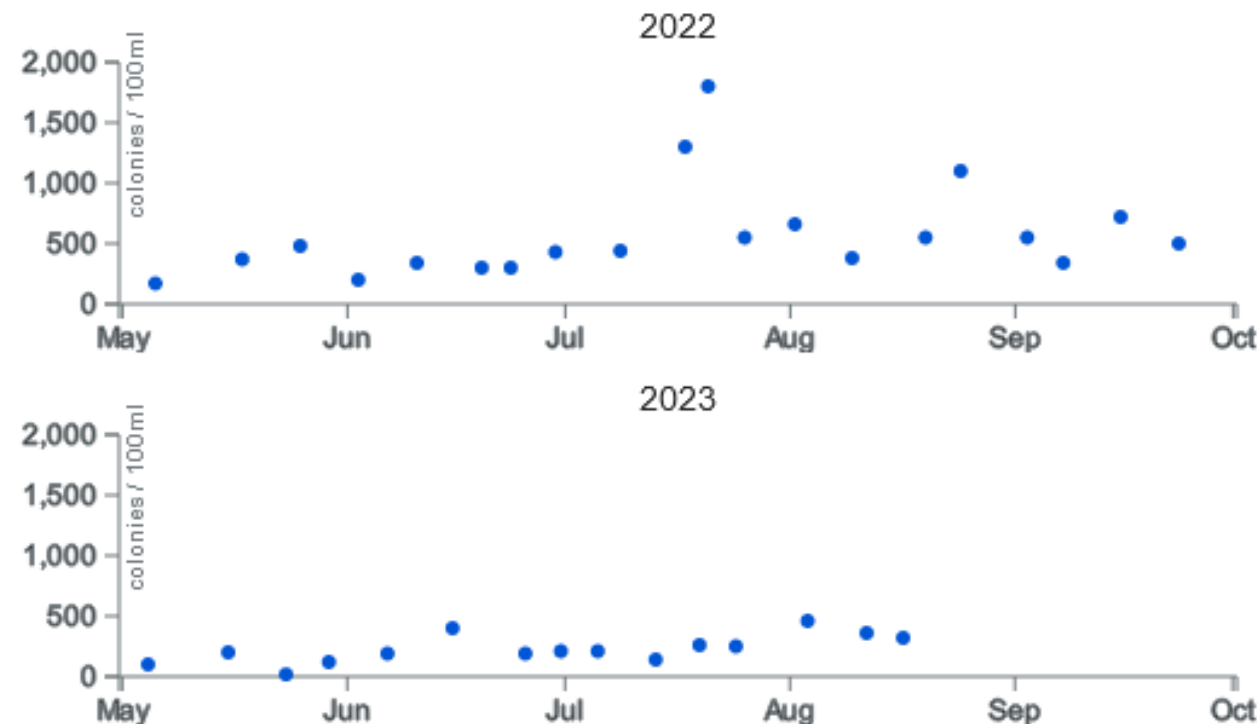
- A council notice on-site
- Information on the Defra website



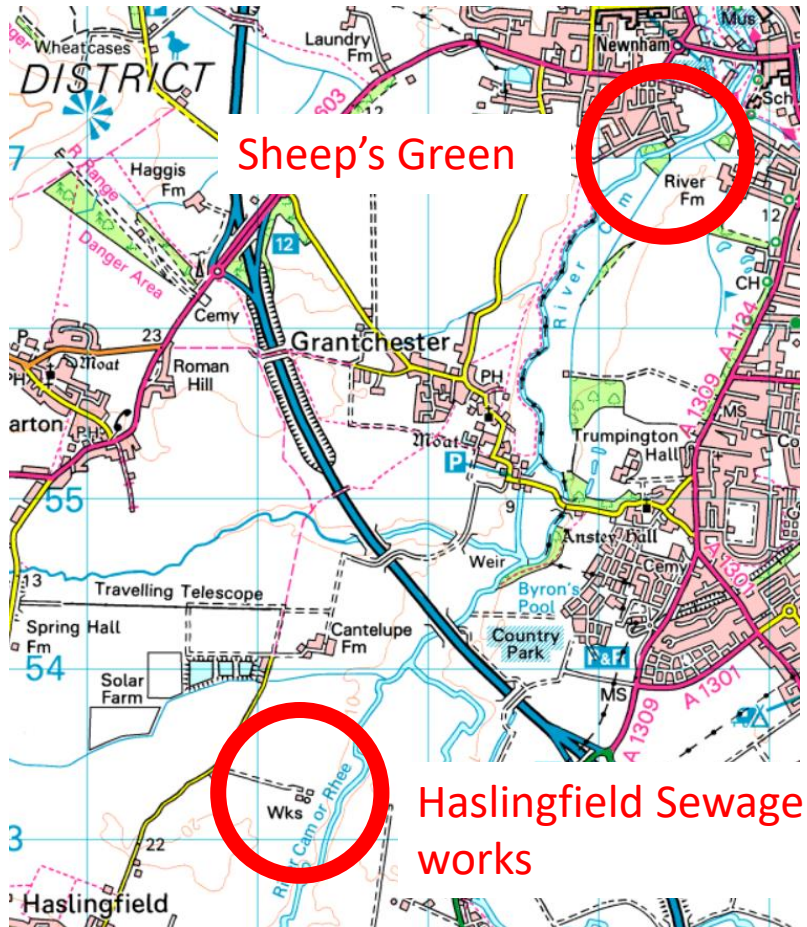
Oxford's Designated Bathing Water site at Wolvercote Mill Stream

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/>

Escherichia coli (EC)



If the water quality is “poor,”  
it accelerates clean-up



We had to apply for bathing status to secure the investment needed to clean the river up, just takes time to be done. Was better than waiting nearly 30 years for improvements which was what we were told when we started.

12:15 PM · May 26, 2023 · 38 Views



Cam Valley Forum at Haslingfield Sewage works, 2021

# Probably little impact on visitor numbers (due to designation)

- Other inland river designated sites have seen no change in visitors.
- The water quality will almost certainly be “poor” so “bathing is not advised”
- Only ~2% of visitors to the area swim in the river.
- City Council does NOT intend to “promote” it
- But numbers coming to our parks and nature reserves may increase for other reasons; eg pandemic, cost of living crisis, climate change..



*“We can confirm Bathing status does not increase visitor numbers”*

Prof Becky Malby, Clean River Ilkley, 27 July 2023

# What do we need to do?

- User surveys on the 2 busiest days of summer, showing that on average, over 100 “bathers” use the site during a 4 hour period.
  - We’ve counted
    - 237 on 10 August
    - 184 on 19 August
- To have consulted widely and have demonstrable support.
- To have formal City Council support



**Please give us your views.**



Consultation form

<https://camvalleyforum.uk/bathing-water-designation/>

# Simon Spooner

Environmental Scientist at Atkins, Specialist in Water Quality management  
Honorary Professor, Nottingham University

- What is really wrong with our rivers?
- What do we need to do about it in the long term?
- How does bathing designation help?
- And what doesn't it do?
- Why here?

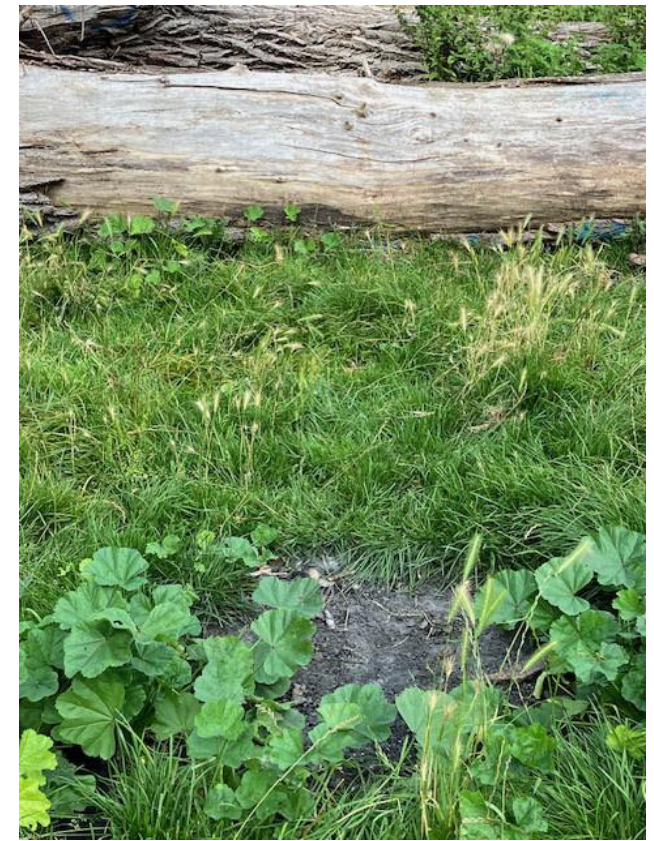


# How does bathing designation help?

- Acknowledging the fact that people do swim in the river
- More data about the quality of the water gathered and analysed
- Inland bathing water quality and the microbiological factors related to it are not well understood.
- Information will be shared.
- Up to bathers to make what they will of it.
- Will help to enable investment to improve water quality in this region of the Cam.



# Concerns for Paradise LNR



# Any questions?

Please give us your views.



Consultation form

<https://camvalleyforum.uk/bathing-water-designation/>

