

I object most strongly to speculative planning application PL/2026/02717.

In addition to my previous objection, I have been made aware of the following by the renowned Warminster Historian, [REDACTED]:

There is a former greensand quarry pit, used in the late 1800s, early 1900s and up until about the 1920s, located on the site. After the sand had been removed, it remained as a large hole in the ground, but sand martens continued to nest there up until the 1950s. The trees around it (since felled) were home to bats. During the late 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s it became a rubbish tip, which local people called Spooks or Spooky Tip.

At least 30 cars and vehicles (possibly as many as 50) were dumped in there including some vans that Stiles Bros. used to deliver pink paraffin with, and the van that pig farmer [REDACTED] of Bishopstrow used to use. Also, a Ford Prefect that once belonged to [REDACTED] of Copheap Lane. And many more [REDACTED] used to regularly dump engineering waste in there.

A lot of fowsty and unsaleable corn from Bishopstrow Mill used to get dumped in there too, which attracted hundreds of rats.

Also dumped in there were many old agricultural chemical drums, oil drums, etc. Plus old car batteries and scrap metal.

Also dumped in that tip were many asbestos roofing sheets, dumped by builders demolishing old sheds or replacing barn and shed roofs with more modern methods.

In the mid to late 1970s there was a row of elm trees that had died of Dutch Elm Disease on Home Farm, between the Front Field and the Cotes Field. These were felled and the huge boles with their roots were pulled up, pushed across the fields and used to finally fill over the top of the rubbish tip.

Everything that was dumped in the old sand pit is still there, underground. The area today is a square near the south west corner of Barn Field, adjacent the top end of Grange Lane, now covered in brambles, scrub and one or two small trees.

Bellway Homes proposes to build houses over this pit and near the knotweed. No environmental assessment has been made to ensure the ground does not contain toxic material or that development activity will disturb the contents of the dump thereby releasing toxic material. The knot weed is still thriving.

I believe Wiltshire Council should insist on a thorough environmental health investigation of the dump to ensure no toxic waste has leaked into the surrounding ground or if disturbed through development, make the surrounding area toxic, before granting approval for this application.

I have enclosed a 1942 map with white markers, showing the site of the dump.

In addition, I have enclosed a hand drawn map by the historian, showing the location of the dump and the site of the Knotweed which is prevalent in the field.



Fig 1 – 1942 Map with Rubbish Tip highlighted with white markers

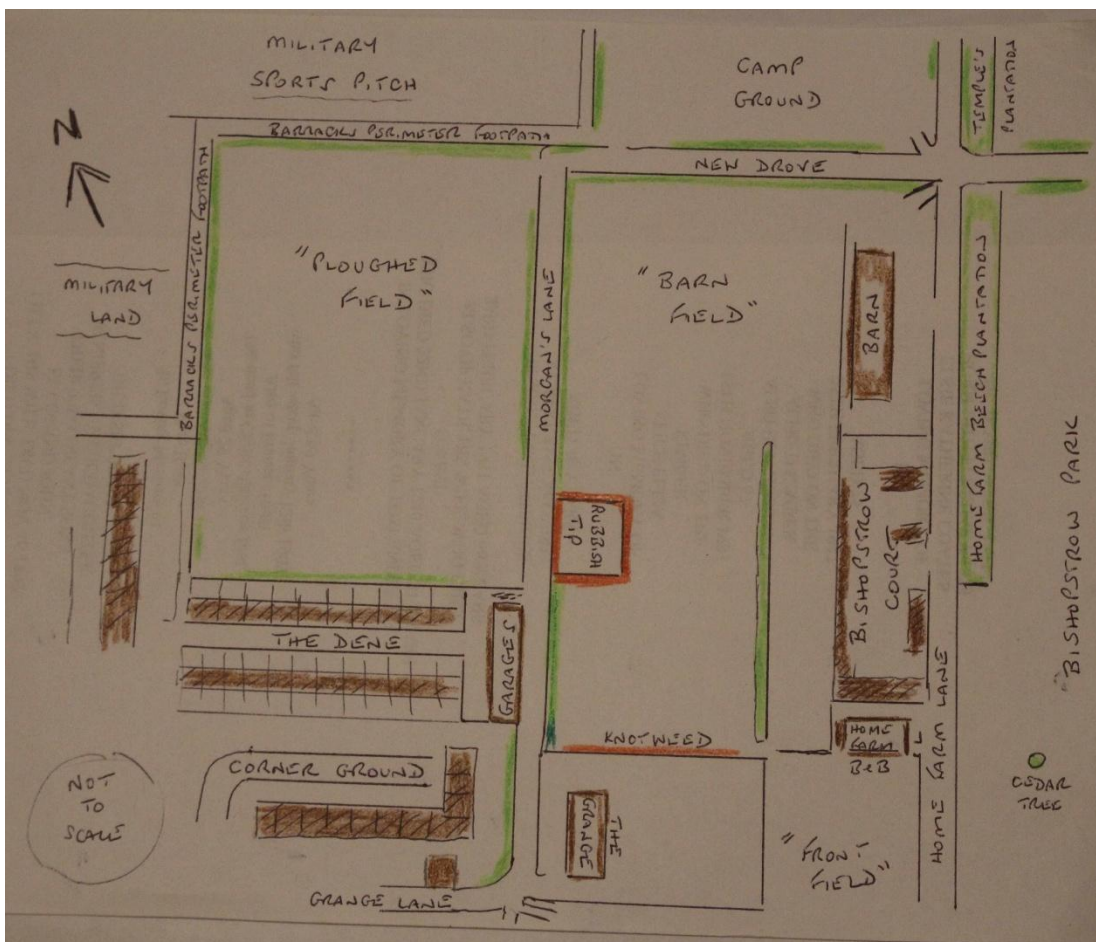


Fig 2 Hand drawn diagram showing location of rubbish tip and knot weed.