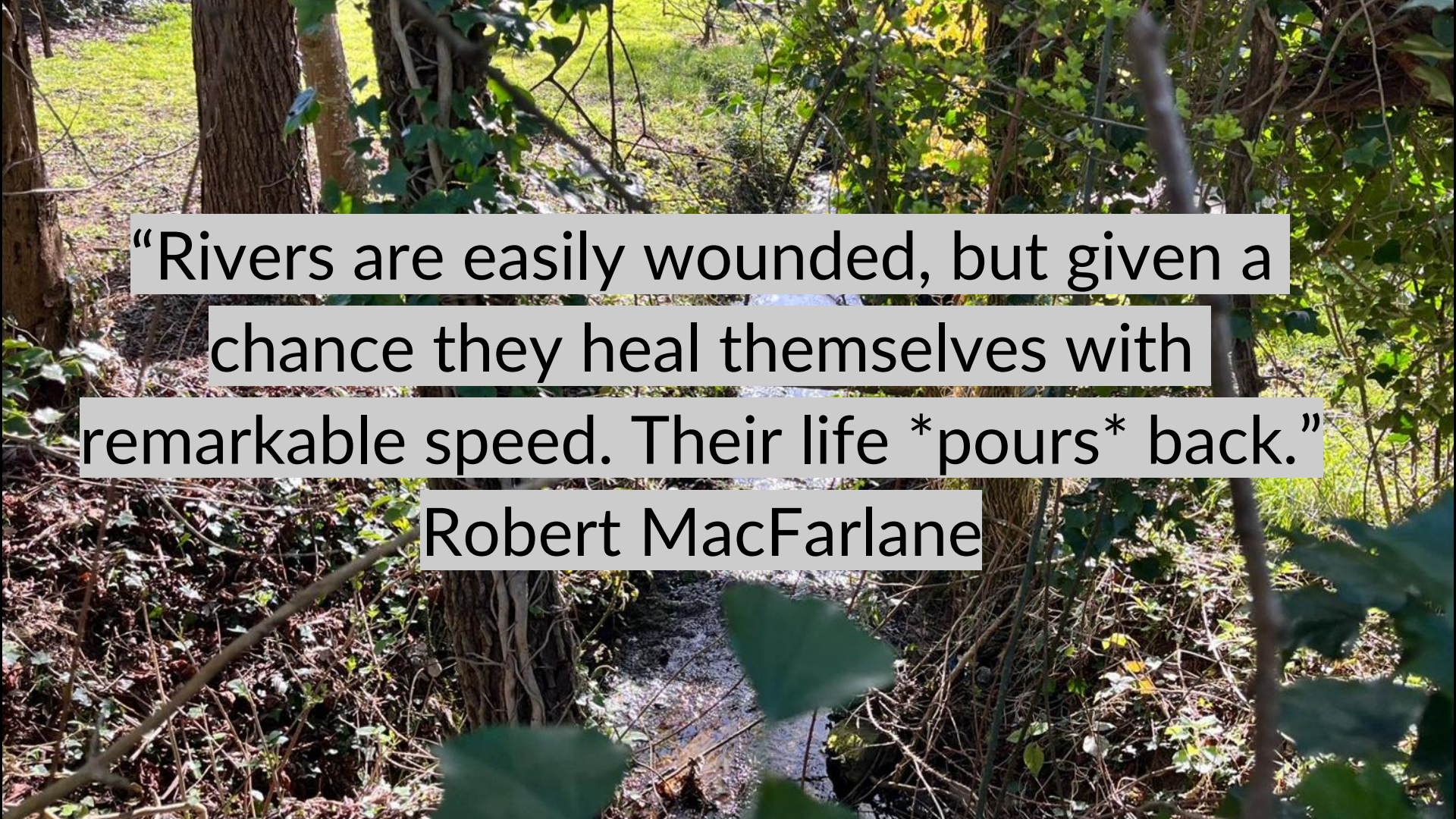
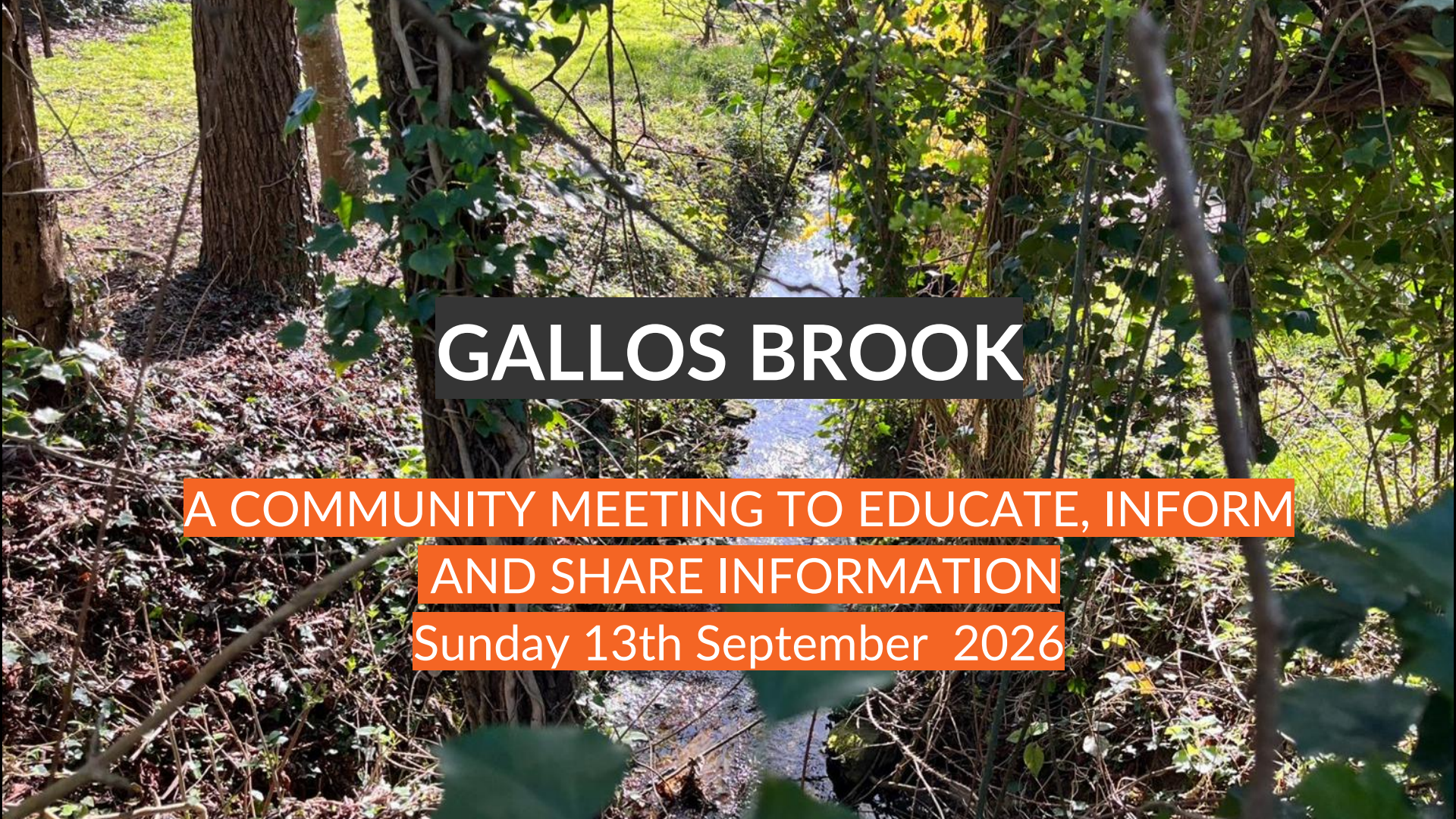

“Rivers are easily wounded, but given a chance they heal themselves with remarkable speed. Their life *pours* back.”
Robert MacFarlane


GALLOS BROOK
A COMMUNITY MEETING TO EDUCATE, INFORM
AND SHARE INFORMATION
Sunday 13th September 2026



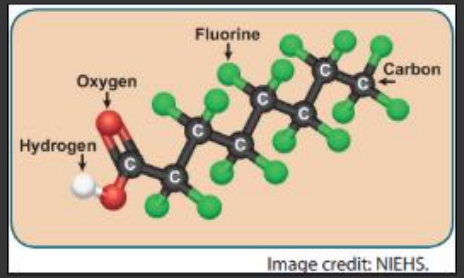
Structure

- **Introductions**
- **Short presentation**
  On PFAS, the locality, what factually we know so far and update on actions we have taken in the last month
- **Update & Map and story of what happened when -**
  Charlie & Charlotte
- **Update on test results & what they mean**
- **Challenges we are facing…**
- **DIscussion Questions & Next steps Closing remarks -**
  what actions we can take & next meeting
- **8-8:30pm End**

Forever chemicals - PFAS & PFOA

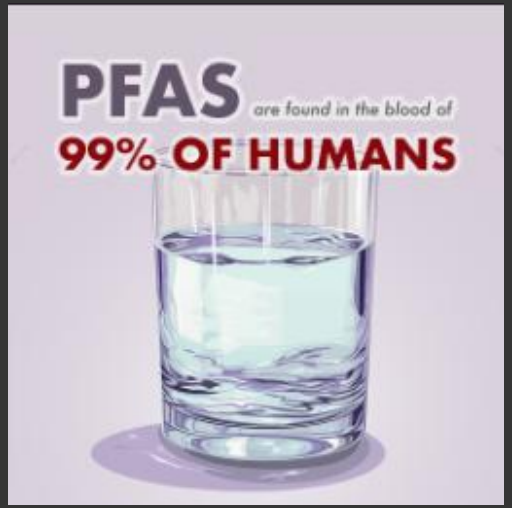
PFAS stands for Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

- 16,000 man-made chemicals
- defined by a chain of carbon and fluorine atoms.
- Known as forever chemicals because the carbon - fluorine bond (C- F) is one of the strongest in organic chemistry.
- They are extremely resistant to breaking down in the environment or in the human body.



Two specific types are of highest concern:

- PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic Acid): Used in non-stick coatings and firefighting foam.
- PFOS (Perfluorooctane Sulfonate): Also used in firefighting foam and stain-resistant products.



Products containing PFAS



Stain resistant products



Nonstick cookware



Takeout containers



Waterproof apparel



Furniture & textiles



Firefighting foam

PFAS contamination routes



Working in an industrial facility where PFAS chemicals were produced or used



Drinking contaminated municipal water or private well water



Eating fish caught from water contaminated by PFAS chemicals

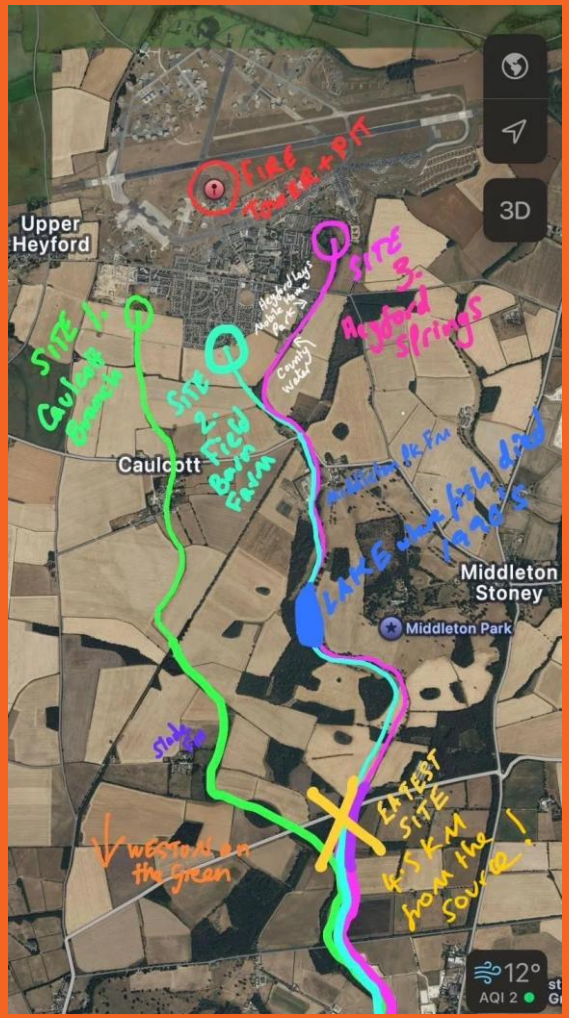


Eating food that has been contaminated during growing, packaging, and/or proceessing



Accidentally swallowing contaminated soil or dust

© Tennesse state Governmemt



History

The Environment Agency's tests have identified high levels of PFAS in Gallos Brook approximately 4.2km downstream from Upper Heyford AIr Base

➔ Environment Agency Data

The 2023 sample was 2,021 ng/l. (nanograms/ litre)

The 2025 sample was 2,249 ng/l

➔ Source of contamination

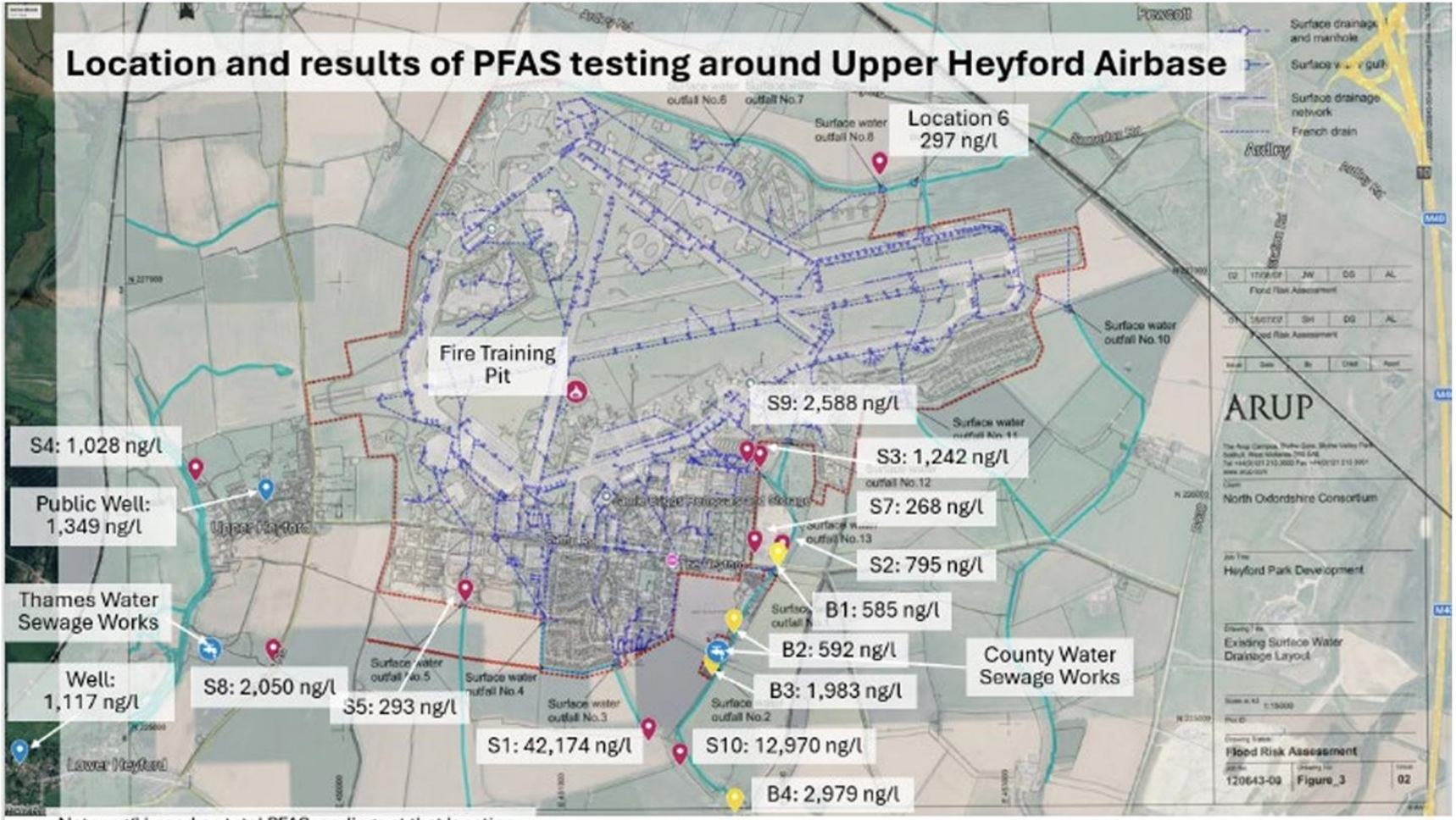
The stream flows from the former Air Base. As far as we are aware, the EA have not investigated the source

➔ Likely contaminant

Aquaeous film forming foam (AFFF) contains high levels of PFOS And PFOA

➔ What next...

We tested surface water to verify the results are linked to the airbase...



Note: ng/l based on total PFAS readings at that location.

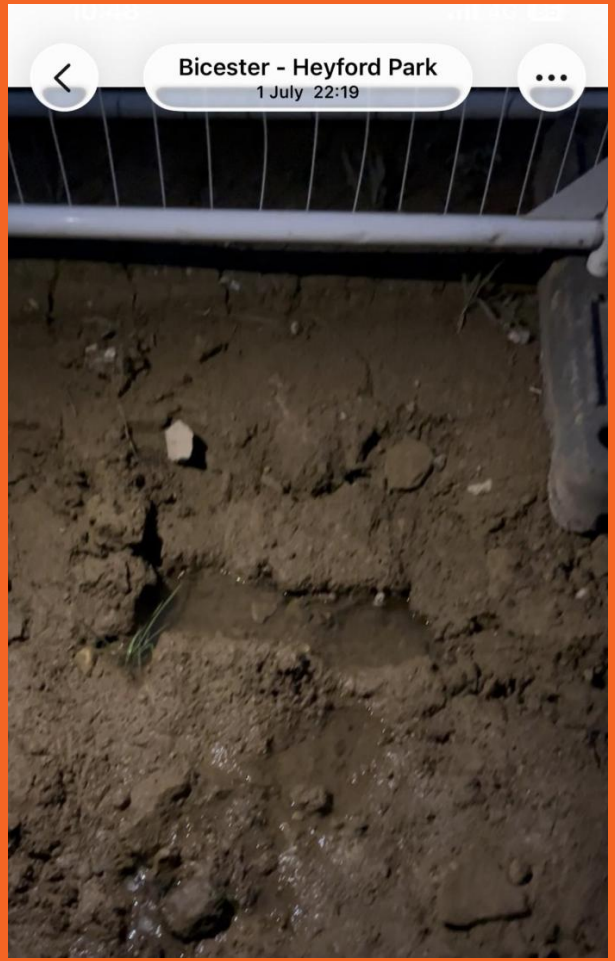
Heyford Springs - PFAS Puddle

Taken just off Rose Way. The water is seeping up from ground water and the puddle contained **268.24 ng/l of PFAS** compounds.

It contained **20.9 ng/l of PFOS,** approximately 32 times the UK statutory EQS of 0.65 ng/l for PFOS in surface water.

We emailed DWH homes, CDC and the EA.

We got a response from **Julian Hodder Regional Managing Director for Barratt Redrow Southern Region**



Heyford Springs - PFAS Puddle

“There is no evidence that this sample was taken within our development and the results presented do not in themselves constitute a credible report of any alleged contamination present. Heyford Springs development is a private development and therefore the unauthorised commissioning of uncontrolled and unverifiable reports is not agreed or accepted by Barratt Redrow. Should you wish to see the required Ground Investigation and testing results these are available on the Cherwell District Council website.
I can confirm there is no accepted evidence of PFAS contamination at our Heyford Springs Development and therefore we will not be taking any further action as requested in your email.”
Julian Hodder Regional Managing Director for Barratt Redrow Southern Region

Sample collected 1/7/26



DWH own Geo-Environmental Site Assessment January 2022

“Groundwater was generally encountered in the east of the site in proximity to a stream running down the east boundary of the site. It is therefore considered likely that shallow groundwater in the eastern area of the site is in **hydraulic continuity with the surface watercourse.** ”



Camp road sewage pipe

Written to OCC / CDC / EA / Thames water.
Recieved the below from The EA

‘If there is ground or water contamination at the location where excavation is proposed, we share some of the concerns raised in the email. Any disturbance could lead to a groundwater activity which is an offence without a relevant Environment Agency permit (Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016, S. 12).

I would strongly recommend that unless evidence can be provided that there is no contamination at the location, that prior to the works being permitted by yourselves, investigation to include sampling and analysis of soil and groundwater for a minimum of: total petroleum hydrocarbons, polyaromatic hydrocarbons and PFAS to appropriate limits of detection is undertaken. This should be carried out by specialists familiar with carrying out such work.’ JT The EA

2 minutes 27 seconds



According to our research DWH have not got the right permission to connect sewer to Thames water STP.

The work have continued exposing construction workers and residents to PFAS in dust & air.

The works are approaching where we believe the most contaminated stream is flowing underground

Stream by allen's lock **1028ng/l**



Stream by STP lock **2050 ng/l**

PFAS into Oxford Canal **3078 ng/l**

Both streams flow from airbase
Have reported to **EA / CRT**
No response (yet) nor indication of action to take.

Sewage Sludge

'Treated sludge—often rebranded as nutrient-rich "biosolids"—is routinely applied to millions of acres of agricultural land, home gardens, and forests. Journalists highlight that the practice continues with minimal testing, transparency or regulatory limits.'

We have placed a FOI request to Thames Water asking about County Water's disposal of their sewage sludge.

Technical Assessment of Catchment Hydrology, Hydrogeology Biotoxicity in Respect of Upper Heyford

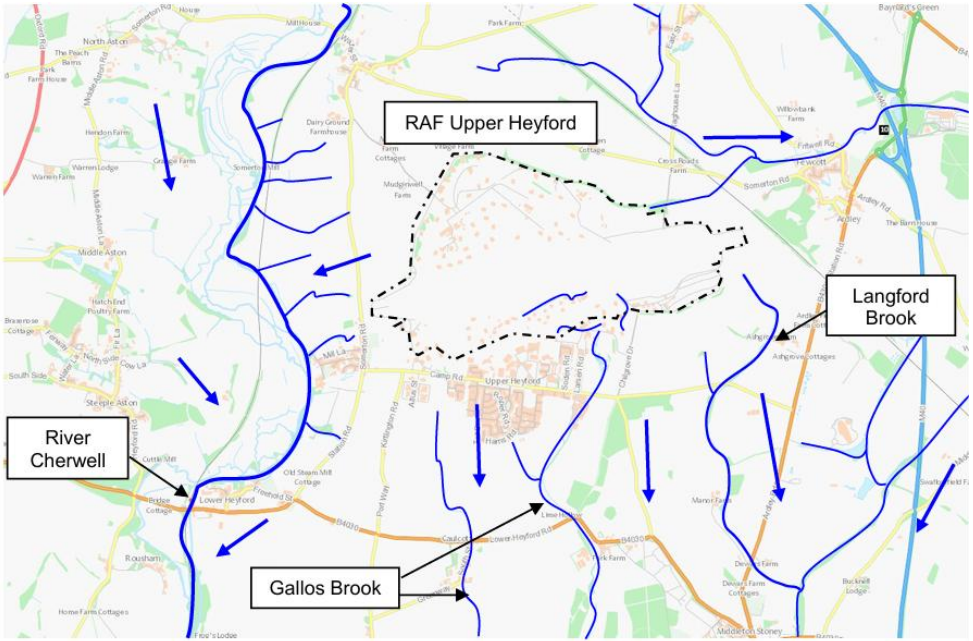
Scope

Water Resource Associates (WRA) was engaged by the Gallos Brook Group to help understand the hydrogeology of the area and its role in the spread of PFAS contamination

Conclusions

1. Upper Heyford sits on top a principal aquifer, classed as highly vulnerable, and which is an important source of water for drinking and agriculture
2. Rainfall carries contamination into streams, groundwater and potentially the aquifer
3. Surface water and groundwater are connected
4. Contamination likely to flow for many miles

Water courses around RAF Upper Heyford



Source: Water Resource Associates, Gallos Brook PFAS Contamination, July 2026

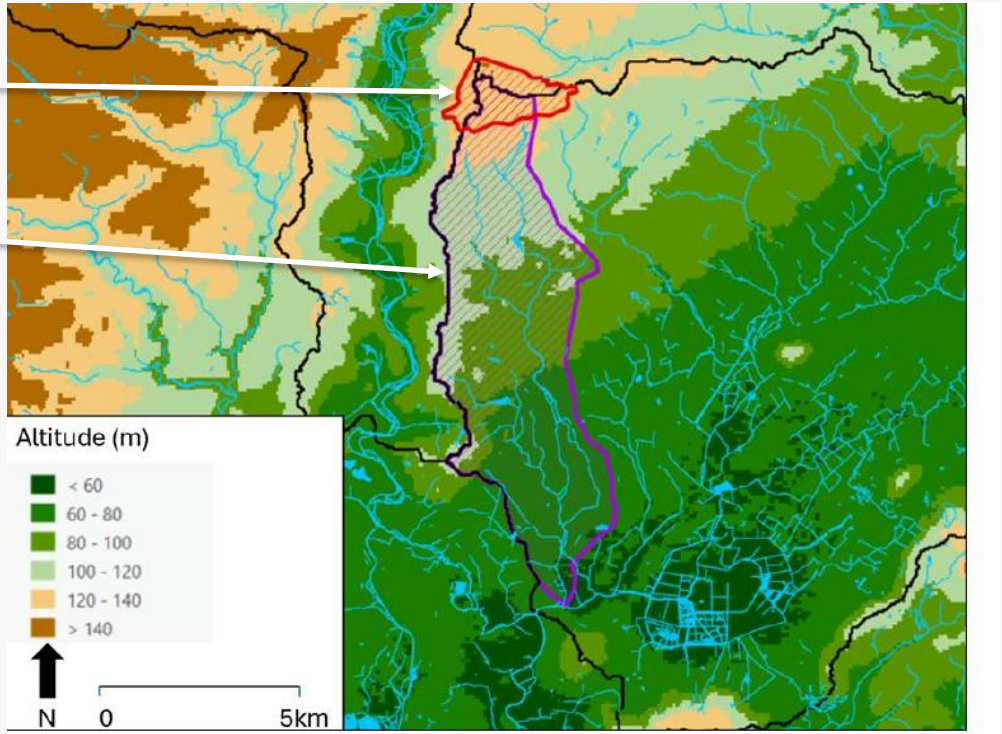
Topography

RAF Upper Heyford sits at a high point in the area; water runs off it to lower lying areas

Tan high, green low

RAF Upper Heyford (red)

Gallos Brook catchment area (purple)

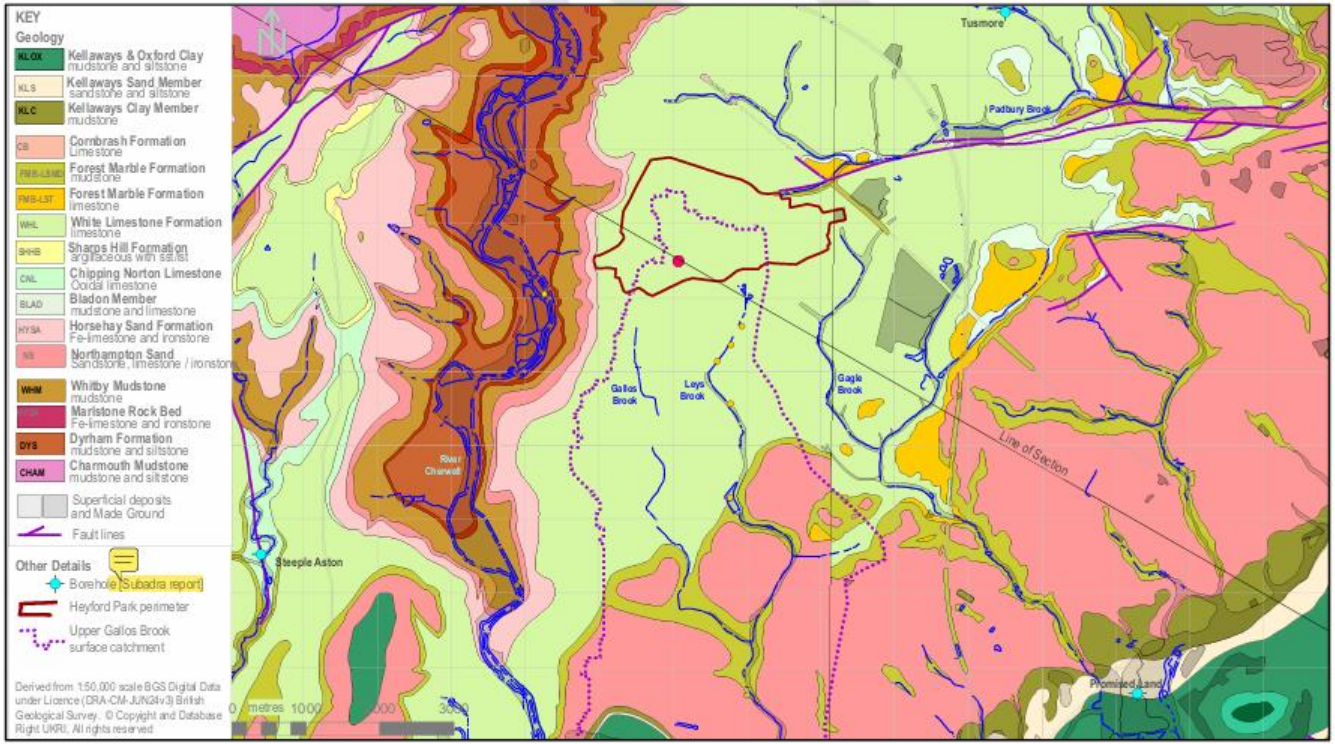


Source: Water Resource Associates, Gallos Brook PFAS Contamination, July 2026

Hydrogeology

A significant proportion of the Gallos Brook catchment is underlain by permeable limestone bedrock (Great Oolite Limestone Plateau), which dips from north-west to south-east.

Geological map for the area around Upper Heyford.



Source: Water Resource Associates, Gallos Brook PFAS Contamination, July 2026

Hydrogeology

This means that groundwater from the airbase would be expected to flow to the SE from the groundwater divide, i.e. into the Gallos and Gagle Brooks, as well as Cherwell Valley and Bedford Ouse catchment

A cross section of the geology from north-west to south-east.

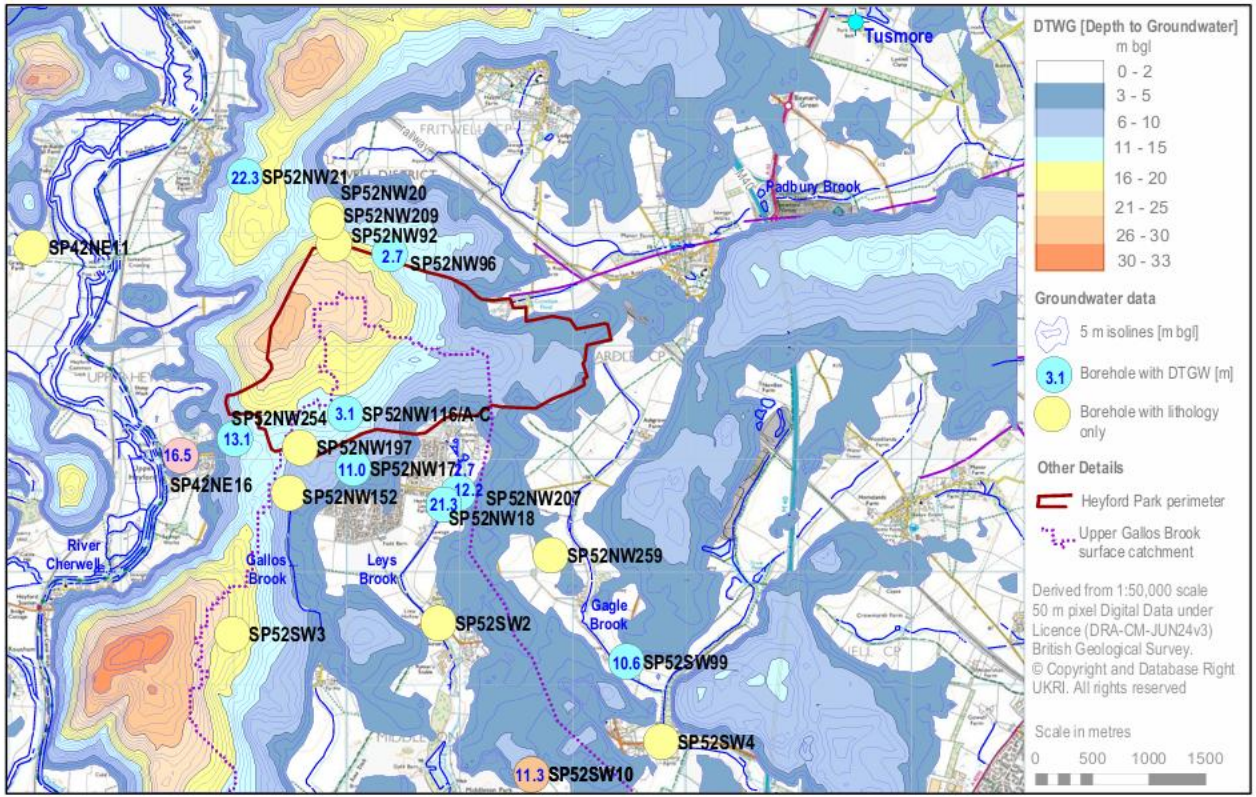


Source: Water Resource Associates, Gallos Brook PFAS Contamination, July 2026

Ground Water

At the same time, the ground water level is very close to the surface on the eastern and southern side of the site (purple and blue)

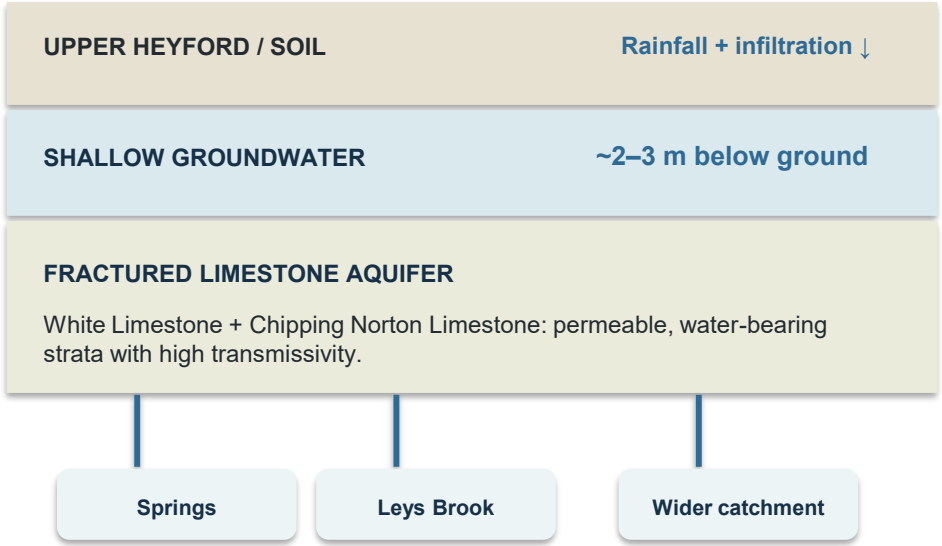
Ground water levels



Mobile Contamination

The local hydrogeology explains why contamination moves vertically and horizontally

Simplified pathway



Mudstone layers can impede/deflect flow; faults can enhance circulation.

1 Permeable geology

Rainfall is expected to recharge the limestone groundwater by direct infiltration.

2 High / shallow groundwater

The report identifies a shallow water table at 2–3 m and groundwater close to the surface around Leys Brook headwaters.

3 Connected pathways

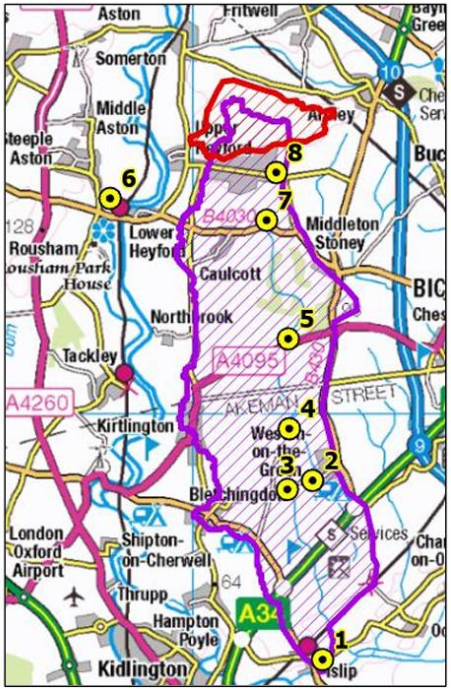
Groundwater/runoff interaction occurs in the catchment. Estimated groundwater movement from the airbase: 65% west toward Cherwell valley-side springs, 30% toward Leys Brook and 5% toward the Padbury fault zone.

Source: Water Resource Associates, Draft Technical Note, July 2026

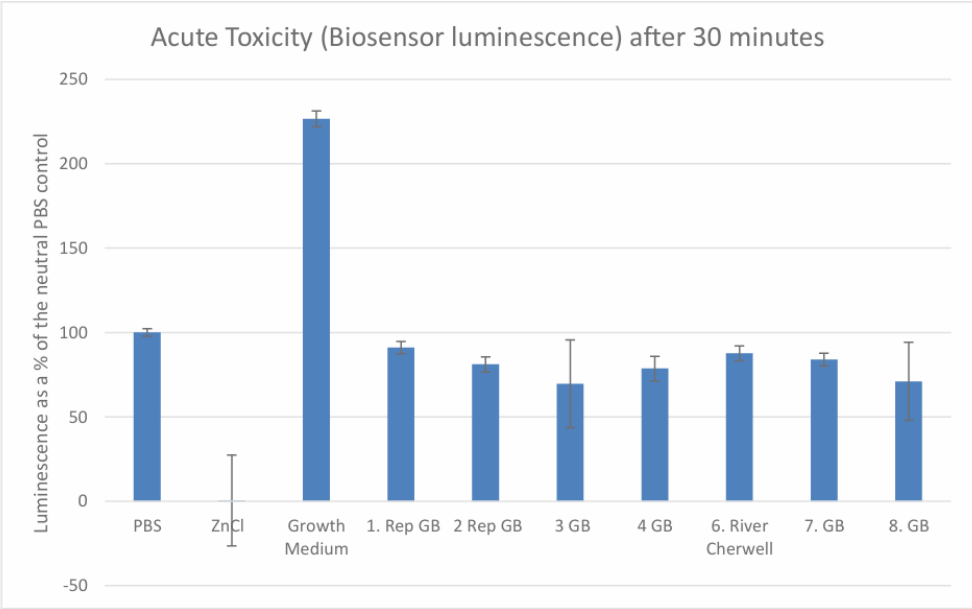
Toxicit

Most toxic: Weston-on-the-Green and Leys Ditch at Upper Heyford showed the greatest reductions in biosensor luminescence: 38% and 36%.

Sampling Locations



Toxicity Test Results



Strategic rail freight interchange

Tests on Northern Bomb Store Stream is 297 ng/l

This stream flows through Fewcott and across the Northern section of the SRFI and then Fewcott and then Baynard's Green Warehouse depot.

There are other streams that we haven't yet tested that flow across the Freight park.

There is a meeting on 29th September if anyone can meet it we can share the details.

It is likely there will be more contamination we are unaware of.





What is the best way to deal with contaminated land?

(a) Make the polluter pay to clean it up.

USA does this

(b) Build houses and schools on it.

What the UK govt does through the planning system

ISLIP FUEL DEPOT

OPERATED BY US AIRFORCE:

1969 -1994

USED TO PUMP JET FUEL TO UPPER HEYFORD

PERMISSION GRANTED FOR 150 HOMES AND A CARE HOME IN JULY 2026

CDC DISMISSED CONCERNS OVER PFAS

‘less than UH air base’



ISLIP - Fuel depot





1000 litres of PFAS protein foam

Highest known UK soil reading Higher than 3M





1000 litres of PFAS protein foam



Highest known UK soil reading
Higher than 3M plant in Swansea



PLATE 07 – Shed with Containers.



PLATE 08 – Above Ground Tank in the Northern Area of Site.



- CDC does not appear to have added the condition about verification of remediation strategy prior to occupation that EA recommended
- Full remediation should happen prior to any development due to severe nature of contamination
- Ideally don't build any houses there – it's very toxic!

Islip readings

- Extremely high levels of PFAS found in soil samples from the floor of this structure
- Total **PFAS: 3,743.25 µg/kg**
  1,248 times higher than average
- **PFOS: 2,665 µg/kg**
  205 times safe limit for residential use
- Possibly the highest level of PFOS contamination reported in UK soil
- Was this area used for fire training?



Clip from ‘In our Blood’ ITV

Dorchester Living's statement from June

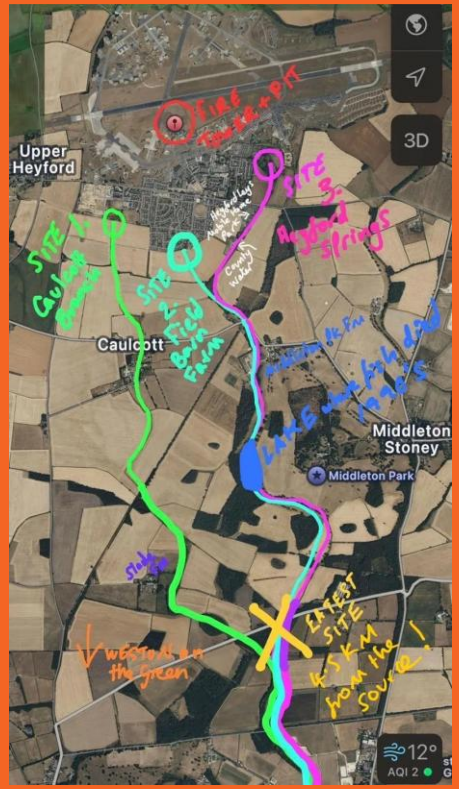
The identification of PFAS as a potential risk does not mean that unacceptable harm is occurring and the PFAS measured in this location is some 5km from our site and could have come in part or wholly from other sources, these other potential sources including an ex-military site and landfill site would also need to be investigated. The UK planning and environmental regulatory processes are designed to manage such issues through investigation, risk-based assessment and where necessary remediation and monitoring, with these actions secured via planning conditions.

The regeneration of Heyford Park through a controlled and regulated planning process offers far greater environmental protection than leaving the land unmanaged or undeveloped. The development will proceed in line with national planning and environmental guidance. Where contamination is identified, land will be remediated to ensure that it is safe for its intended use. This is precisely why it is better to redevelop brownfield sites where historic uses which could give rise to contaminants are identified and can then be remediated through its re-development.



The plans include 6,000 new homes

What challenges we face collectively



- ➔ Inaction & denial of the issues we face
- ➔ Sewage pipe on camp road - CDC / OCC / highways / EA need to take action
- ➔ Council proposes that Continued Development will improve it. d Development in not remediation.
- ➔ Testing - widespread strategic testing Results shared publicly with community Developers cannot be relied on to do proper testing.
- ➔ EA test rivers and streams - protect the canal & the animals and life within it.
- ➔ Legislation regarding PFAS and development & governmental strategies for councils to follow

How to get involved

- ➔ Lobby politicians for a PFAS plan
- ➔ Lobby councils
- ➔ Help us with our campaign
- ➔ Talk about PFAS with your friends and neighbours, share information and broaden everyone's knowledge.





Actions & Demands...

- ➔ CDC to engage the Environmental / Public health concerns, this isn't simply for the planning department.
- ➔ DL close all culverts on the base and test before they release potentially contaminated water into surrounding streams.
- ➔ Test HP residents gardens, dust from building sites & inside houses
- ➔ Test soil & dust in public areas & playgrounds
- ➔ Optional Blood testing for residents (particularly long-standing residents in UH, LH & Somerton)
- ➔ Regular testing on boreholes on the base - readings shared publicly
- ➔ Lobby Government for better PFAS regulation & more guidance to developers and planning departments

How to help

Donate to crowdfunder

Sign our petition

Report PFAS Pollution to EA



From this river I used to drink…
Mary Oliver

But when I came back I found
That the body of the river was dying.
"Did it speak?"

Yes, it sang out the old songs, but faintly.
"What will you do?

I will grieve of course, but that's nothing.
"What, precisely, will you grieve for?"

For the river.
For myself, my lost
Joyfulness. For the children who will not
Know what a river can be – a friend, a
Companion, a hint of heaven.



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