

PPLO Report September 2024

A couple of weeks ago a group of resident walkers met with John Tennant of the Monarch's way association and walked the proposed diversion. He has made representations to the PC re the Monarch's Way section of the diversion and consequent changes have been made to the views of PC members.

The Riverside deviation of WN 19/72

The proposed diversion takes a route between the crop edge of the field on one side and dense wild brambles and other foliage on the other, on the lowest point of the field - hence the wettest during inclement weather - which allows no view whatsoever.

It takes the walker to the edge of the sewage works with its unpleasant smells, and despite its name of "River Walk", there is no view of the river anywhere along the proposed path.

Proposed changes to WN 19/71, WN 19/80 and WN 19/82 likewise deprive the walker of more open views confining them to lower, often wetter, narrow areas at the edges of fields.

This proposed diversion sets a strong precedent.

National Trails on land owned by the Newt

The Parish Council also need to be alert to changes that are being made by the Emily Estate to the Monarch's Way / Leland Trail / MacMillan's Way between the A 359 at Marl Pit Copse, South past Whitewood's Farm and onto Hicks' Lane. Many of the hedgerows that both lined and were viewed from the footpath have been removed.

Many residents will remember the subsidies given to farmers to pull out hedgerows and create one field where previously there had been many smaller fields. It is now well understood that this had a devastating effect on the natural environment and the consequent reduction in numbers of small mammals and insects. Today farmers are given subsidies to 're wild' and replant hedgerows. The Newt (Emily Estate) seems to take no responsibility for environmental impact.

Changes to the landscape made by the Newt and by the proposed diversion of WN19/72 etc. are being requested for **economic reasons** and set a precedent for many more such applications. There may come a time when all Rights of Way are restricted to walking field margins.