

## **Planning Committee – 28 February, 2007**

### **Report of the Development Control Manager**

#### **Enforcement Item**

#### **Parish: Tolland**

1. **File/Complaint Number** E161/41/2002
2. **Location of Site** The Ranch, Church Lane, Tolland, Lydeard St Lawrence.
3. **Names of Owners** Mrs P M Howe, Longrun Farm, Wellington Road, Taunton
4. **Names of Occupiers** Not occupied
5. **Nature of Contravention**  
Carrying out of extensive engineering operations.
6. **Planning History**

In July 2002 it was reported that extensive earth works were being carried out on land known as The Ranch. The land in question is a County Wildlife Site comprising of a series of riverside fields with marshy grassland and natural grassland on steep banks. Due to the importance of the site and the degree of unauthorised work being undertaken an Enforcement Notice and Stop Notice was served with the Chairman's agreement. Members will no doubt recall that on 2 October, 2002 they were recommended to endorse the action taken by the Solicitor to the Council in serving an Enforcement Notice and Stop Notice. All activity ceased on the land and it transpired that the person who appeared to own the fields was not the title owner. Over the last 3 years there has been no activity on the land. The requirement of the notice was to reinstate the land to its original state which would include re modelling the land and applying grass seed to stabilize the land. This was not done but over the years the land has self seeded and it is considered that to carry out the requirements of the notice at this stage would cause more harm to the visual amenities of the area than if it were left.

7. **Reasons for taking Action**

It is considered that the land has recovered from the extensive works carried out in 2002 to such an extent that it would not be expedient to require the Enforcement Notice to be fully complied with

8. **Recommendation**

Members to resolve to take no further action

**In preparing this report the Planning Officer has considered fully the**

**implications and requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998.**

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