

23rd February 2015

To Members of Ilminster Town Council Open Spaces Committee,

I am a Scout Leader with 1st Ilminster Scouts and I am writing to request permission to place Geocaches on land under the control of the council. I hope to place a number of Geocaches around Ilminster. I wish to use these Geocaches as a navigation activity on a troop night, working toward the achievement of several activity badges. These geocaches would also be available to members of Geocaching, for them to enjoy.

Geocaching is a hobby which uses a global positioning system receiver to locate a hidden container. These containers are found by using latitude and longitude coordinates freely available on the Internet at <http://www.geocaching.com/faq/>. It is a non-commercial hobby which encourages people to locations of interest, views and simply to get out and go walking.

It is a fun, family oriented activity that promotes people getting outdoors and introducing them to areas of historic, natural, or scenic interest. Children thoroughly enjoy finding a geocache and its contents, which are often small toys and trinkets. Finders are expected to exchange things from the cache.

Geocachers are usually environmentally minded people. Caches do not destroy, deface or disturb property. Wildlife and their habitats are not harmed in the placing and pursuing of Geocaches. Guidelines are set out to denote the fundamentals of placing Geocaches, the guidelines set by Geocaching.com are listed here, <http://www.geocaching.com/about/guidelines.aspx>.

Great care is taken to hide the containers out of view of the public eye (although they are never buried). This is partly to avoid being plundered by whoever happens to walk by and to preserve the sport. It also ensures that the addition of a cache will in no way detract from the beauty of the location. Typical cache containers range from tiny ones the size of a fingernail, through tubes and cylinders with room just for a small pencil and log sheet, up to plastic or metal boxes with space for several "swap" items and a log book

Once a geocache has become established, it will get a visit every one to two weeks on average, although there are more visits initially. This however varies on the location and population around the Cache. Here is a typical cache page (visitor logs at the bottom):
<http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache...DWE&Submit6=Go>

If this matter were to be approved I would be more than happy to provide a list of geocaching locations to whomever would require them along with a list of sizes hidden. I do not wish to harm our beautiful town and the caches would be well hidden to ensure that they do not mark the countryside.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.
Yours sincerely,

Hannah Jackson.

1st Ilminster Scout Leader.