

Reflections

By Eleanor Flack, Okehampton Quaker Meeting

I read this week that seahorses and colonies of rare worms are holding up a £175 million development in South Devon, including 137 luxury homes, a 5-star hotel, a spa, a conference centre, and offices. It is feared their habitat will be damaged by dredging.

As humans we have ability to express abstract thought in words. This gives us great power. Do you believe that humans are pre-eminent, with rights over all other species, to the extent that our disregard of their habitats causes their extinction?

Or do you believe that we are but one species of many on the planet, all of whom live interdependently in an intricate, wonder-full, ecological web of biodiversity? Add to this our belief that we are unique also in having a spiritual dimension.

This leads us to awareness of an awesome responsibility to understand and fulfil our role in that web, to use our power for the welfare of the planet, not to abuse it for our own ends.

"All things by immortal power, near or far,
hiddenly to each other linked are
That thou canst not stir a flower
without troubling a star."

Francis Thompson

Do you believe that humans are pre-eminent among species, with rights over all other species, to the extent that our disregard of their habitats causes their extinction?

Okehampton Times, 21 January 2010

Eleanor Flack