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You may or may not have heard of the sport of geocaching – it is a worldwide activity and involves hiding and seeking “caches”, mostly dedicated plastic boxes containing small items that finders can swap with other items that they may leave in the box when found – or not, as they choose. This might sound a little boring on the face of it, but the whole object of the sport is to get people out walking/cycling in the countryside and/or visiting places of scenic or historic interest that they would otherwise not know about. It involves accessing a website: <http://www.geocaching.com> to find details of hidden caches and also to log the fact that individual caches have been found. Almost all “geocachers” use a handheld GPS receiver, as locations are indicated by geographical co-ordinates. It has been dubbed “an electronic treasure hunt”.

It is a serious business! There is a national association, the Geocaching Association of Great Britain (GAGB) (<http://www.gagb.co.uk>) which promotes and regulates the sport in this country. It sets guidelines and rules of conduct and has negotiated several agreements with landowners all over the country including, for example, in our area, the Forestry Commission (for the New Forest and Dorset), Hampshire County Council and the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

The main point of this rambling is to say that I would like to do two things:-

- (a) Start the ball rolling with a view to possibly getting some sort of agreement in place with the Town Council, if appropriate/necessary, and
- (b) Hide a cache in the Poulner Lakes complex. I know the area is maintained by the Council and that the fishing is controlled by the RDAA. One of the guidelines for setting caches is to obtain the permission of the landowner prior to doing so and I would like to do this.

I would be very happy to come in and have a chat with you (it’d be nice to catch up, if nothing else!) – I have details of the various agreements the GAGB has in place, the specific agreements with the three bodies mentioned above and the guidelines laid down. I also have the details for my proposed cache so you can see what would be involved.