

# Water contamination fears are 'unfounded'

**FEARS that a town's water supply may have been put at risk by a farmer using poison to tackle a rabbit infestation have been denied by water officials.**

An investigation was started after people walking their dogs reported finding dozens of dead rabbits around Faringdon Folly and complained their pets had later become ill.

A Vale of White Horse council spokesman confirmed receiving a num-

ber of complaints. The council's Environmental Protection Unit is looking into the problem.

Maintenance work was carried out on drains below Faringdon Folly at the same time as the complaints were being received by the Vale council.

Thames Valley Water spokesman Nick Tenant said: "Routine maintenance has been undertaken in that area, but there was no risk to the water supply, as the cell within the aquifer was

empty at the time."

Vale environment protection unit head Alastair Greatbanks told the Courier that a farmer with a rabbit infestation problem had been exterminating the vermin within Ministry of Agriculture guidelines over the use of poisons.

But he said: "The farmer has been advised to clear up the rabbit carcasses, as this can be upsetting to some people.

"We are satisfied that no pollution has taken place."