

## Alexander Gunyon

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**From:** Harriet Simms [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 01 June 2024 15:26  
**To:** Consultations  
**Subject:** Objection to Policy W4 Land at Brooklands Farm.

**Categories:** Blue category

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Harriet Simms, [REDACTED]  
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Objection to Policy W4 Land at Brooklands Farm.

I am writing as a nearby resident to express my strong objection to the proposed housing development known as Brooklands Farm.

Brooklands Farm is a precious green field site, in a rural area offering a vital sanctuary for wildlife and contributing to the overall ecological balance of our community. There is now so much evidence available about the benefits of the natural environment to our mental and physical health. There are empty properties in the county which could be utilised first in order to address at least some of the issues of housing requirement, before yet more valuable areas of natural importance have huge numbers of ill conceived housing, and in many cases, unaffordable to those in most need, built on it. New housing needs to be in smaller quantity, in less sensitive areas and built sustainably - with solar, heat pumps, proper public transport and other significant infrastructure to support current and incoming residents.

#### 2) Habitats, flora and fauna.

There would be a deterioration of irreplaceable habitats including ancient hedgerows and the Swalecliffe Brook. The significant impact the development would have on the local wildlife and their natural habitats is of grave concern. Birds of prey, sparrow hawks & buzzards etc, use the hedgerows for hunting. Bats are seen regularly across the fields, as is the albino squirrel. An abundance of birds use the hedgerows for nesting. We have regular sightings of woodpeckers, greenfinches, wagtails, goldfinches, and all the usual wild birds. There are many slow worms on the site and hazel dormice. The destruction of this green space would result in the loss of biodiversity and disrupt the delicate ecosystem that currently thrives in the area. Preserving such natural habitats is essential for maintaining a sustainable environment and ensuring the well-being of future generations. The site lies outside of the town boundary on good quality agricultural land and will result in the unacceptable loss of open green space. It is Rural, not Urban, and should remain as such.

#### 3) Sewage.

Brooklands Farm is situated in an area that already faces significant challenges with flooding & sewage. The increased strain on the existing system due to the additional housing could lead to overflows, pollution of water sources (the Swalecliffe Brook also), and a decline in water quality.

Southern Water is clearly unable to cope with the present pressure it is under, let alone supplying an additional 1400 houses. 1400 more houses with one or two toilets will add to its already overstretched capacity.

The Swalecliffe Brook flows through the Thanet Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) before joining the north Kent coast to the east of Whitstable, a section of the coast which forms part of the Saxon Shore Way. It runs through Brooklands Farm.

#### 4) Flooding.

Brooklands Farm's green fields currently act as natural drainage, absorbing excess rainwater during heavy rainfall and reducing the likelihood of severe flooding. The replacement of these fields with impermeable surfaces such as buildings and roads would disrupt the natural drainage system and potentially exacerbate flooding issues, placing both existing and future residents at risk. The fields are London clay which is highly susceptible to volumetric changes which can lead to many problems near the ground surface, including structural movement and fracturing of buildings, fractured sewers and service pipes/ducts and uneven and damaged road surfaces and pavings. Insurance companies have now increased the cost of premiums for buildings located in the most susceptible areas where damage occurred, where the clay is close to the surface.

#### 5) Traffic.

Our roads are already busy and often quite narrow and at certain times of day are unable to cope with the amount of traffic which already exists, let alone that which will be created by hundreds of extra cars. Then there is the increase in pollution, noise and disruption. The planned new junctions for the A299 would be dispensing traffic onto roads that are ill equipped to deal with it. The additional traffic then going through to Chestfield, South Street and Canterbury will create a significant impact on not only the roads and residents in the area, but going to Canterbury, the road goes through ancient woodland, and pollution and noise etc will have a detrimental impact on wildlife.

I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed housing development on Brooklands Farm. It is essential to thoroughly evaluate and address these concerns to avoid any negative consequences for both residents and the environment. The preservation of this green field site, the mitigation of sewage issues, the protection of wildlife and their habitats, and the prevention of flooding should be of utmost importance. It is crucial to explore alternative options that prioritise sustainable development and do not compromise the well-being of our community and environment.

Thank you for considering these concerns and in advance, for taking the appropriate action.

Harriet Simms

