

Tom Hawkes

From: Emily Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 October 2025 18:16
To: Consultations
Subject: Re: Objection to Merton Park

--Email From External Account--

Subject: Formal Objection to Merton Park Development – Impact on Stuppington Lane and Surrounding Environment

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a resident of [REDACTED], I have lived here for 13 years moving in after the historic [REDACTED]. My family and I are formally objecting to the proposed Merton Park development and its impact on our community and environment.

Loss of Biodiversity and Protected Species

The fields and orchards surrounding Stuppington Lane is a thriving habitat for wildlife. We regularly observe bats flying from nests in Stuppington Court Farm to our gardens in Stuppington Lane, dancing in the summer evenings outside of our home. These bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which make it illegal to disturb or destroy their roosts or flight paths without proper ecological assessment and licensing.

In addition to bats, we frequently see badgers, hedgehogs, dormice, and a variety of nesting birds in the orchards and hedgerows. The proposed development would fragment or destroy these habitats, leading to a significant and irreversible loss of biodiversity. Under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), developments must deliver a measurable biodiversity net gain and avoid harm to protected species and local wildlife corridors (Paragraphs 174–179).

Finally, these orchards are home for many birds, 38 different species have been spotted of which 11 of these are listed as endangered. This was discussed in a recent community meeting on Friday 17th of October in Wincheap Scout Hut, evidence is available upon request.

Loss of Public Green Space and Dog Walking Routes

The fields and orchards are not only ecologically important—they are also cherished recreational spaces for local residents. Stuppington Lane and its surrounding green areas are widely used for dog walking, family outings, and nature appreciation. During covid the open countryside proved to be an essential lifeline for many in the community in south and central Canterbury, since this period we have seen a sustained increase in visitors frequently using this space. We regularly observe visitors to the area stop to take photos of the outstanding beauty of the landscape. The development would eliminate one of the few remaining accessible green corridors in south Canterbury, which is already deficit in green space contrary to Local Plan policies that promote public access to open space and green infrastructure. Providing green spaces within the development will not address the concerns with the biodiversity, green meadow cannot replace this and the open areas within Merton Park would not be comparable to Thannington Rec and the football and basketball areas which are currently free to use.

Traffic Congestion and Road Safety

Stuppington Lane is a narrow, rural road already under pressure from existing traffic.

The air pollution in Hollow Lane and the Wincheap area has already been designated by the council as having the highest air pollution count in Canterbury, the Merton Park development would dramatically increase vehicle movements and additional pollution levels. There are also concerns during construction and once the new homes are occupied with additional permanent vehicles using the surrounding road system. This raises serious concerns about:
Increased congestion on Stuppington Lane, Ethelbert Road, Old Dover Road, and surrounding routes particularly Hollow Lane.

Greater risk to pedestrians, cyclists, and schoolchildren

Emergency vehicle access being compromised

No clear mitigation strategy has been presented to address these issues, and the current infrastructure is not equipped to handle such a dramatic increase in traffic volume.

Pollution and Environmental Impact

The increase in site traffic and long-term vehicle use will inevitably lead to higher levels of:

Air pollution, as above affecting respiratory health and contributing to climate change

Noise pollution, disrupting the peace of this semi-rural area

Light pollution, which will affect nocturnal wildlife and the character of the area

Construction activity itself will also generate dust, debris, and disruption for existing residents, with little evidence of how this will be managed or minimized. These concerns may warrant a full

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the EIA Regulations 2017, given the scale and sensitivity of the site.

General infrastructure concerns

The recent development of Saxon Fields has been reported in Kent Online this week, the lack of appropriate additional school places would be an increased concern with the addition of 2000 houses. The local GP services are under intense pressure with already limited opportunities to see a doctor when needed. The water supply is widely concerning, we already have low water pressure in our property, how would the system cope with the additional demand if the proposals went ahead?

In Summary

The Merton Park development threatens to:

Destroy a legally protected and ecologically rich habitat

Eliminate cherished green space used by the community

Overwhelm local roads and infrastructure

Degrade air quality and increase noise and light pollution

I urge the planning authority to reject or significantly revise the proposed plans to protect the environmental, social, and historical integrity of Stuppington Lane and its surroundings.

I suggest that land further south of the A2 towards Lower Hardres would be a more suitable option with less adverse impact to the local community and the environment.

Canterbury council should protect the amazing green spaces that currently exist and not look to invent alternatives that do not support the environment, reflect the views of local people, or the views of our young people who use this area.

Thank you for considering this objection.

Yours faithfully,

Emily Williams

[Redacted signature block]

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From: Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 3:33:50 PM
To: Emily Williams [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Objection to Merton Park

Thank you for your response to the draft Local Plan: Focused consultation 2025.
Unfortunately, we are unable able to record responses without a first and last name as sign off in your email. This is to ensure we are only receiving 1 rep for each consultee and we and not receiving duplicates.

Would you kindly resend your email and include your first and last names as the sign off please. Once this is done, we will be able to confirm it has been recorded and will be considered in the next stages of the Local Plan process.

Kind Regards,
Consultations Team
Canterbury City Council

From: Emily Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 October 2025 22:19
To: Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection to Merton Park

[REDACTED]

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