
Response to Local Plan Site R15 Valley Road Barham

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Comments on Site R15

I am writing with my concerns for the inclusion of this site in the Local Plan 2026.

This began as a proposal for 9 dwellings, this has successively been increased to 24.

Suitability and Sustainability

Barham Church of England Primary School in Kent is considered highly oversubscribed, with data indicating it is significantly over its published admission number (PAN) of 30, with 117.2% oversubscription in recent reports.

Only about 46% of applicants who list this school as their first choice receive an offer.

GP surgeries in the Barham area and throughout Kent and Medway are currently under significant pressure and are generally considered oversubscribed, with high patient-to-doctor ratios.

The local NHS has an Acute Trust currently in a Recovery Programme following issues with Maternity Services, patient safety with unacceptably long A&E waits in corridors at all the main sites.

Without a significant increase/investment in infrastructure any new houses are only going to add to the pressures.

Transport and Access:

Many local roads are narrow and generally poorly maintained; I would suggest that there is a likelihood of a lack of capacity for increased traffic.

There is already significant congestion in the village at peak travel/school times and the increased traffic from the site directly onto Valley Road will only add to this.

Barham is not well served by public transport with the last buses through the village from Canterbury

ry and Folkestone at 6.25pm and 6.35 pm respectively; thus encouraging "car dependency," which contradicts national planning policies regarding a low-carbon economy.

Biodiversity Loss:

There is, by the Council's own assessment, the possibility that protected species could be affected as the site adjoins the River Nailbourne/ Little Stour to the western side of the plot.

There is likely to be a significant effect on the river with run-off down the slope from any development into the river, not just increasing the likelihood of flooding, but washing chemicals and other pollutants into the river.

I am assuming that the mature trees on the site would be subject to tree preservation orders as are many similar aged trees in the village.

Use of Greenfield site

According to the latest (2025) Brownfield Land Register for Canterbury City Council there are already sufficient "deliverable" brownfield sites for 1,489 houses.

This does not include the current 22 house development on the old site of Barham Court Farm, or the huge developments on greenfield sites nearby at Wincheap and by Dover Council in and around Aylesham.

The availability of new houses on nearby developments and prioritising the use of brownfield sites must be considered before resorting to use of valuable Grade 3 Agricultural land space.

Barham is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, please keep it that way !

Karen Stone



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