

From: Sutter, Tim [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 May 2026 12:49
To: Consultations
Subject: Wincheap Orchards

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

--Email From External Account--

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing in regards to the proposed plans to build the Merton Park developments on the current Wincheap Orchards and fields. As a local resident living on [REDACTED] who has recently moved down from London, perhaps I can offer a unique point of view that has not yet been expressed. I appreciate the position that the council and city are in, in needing to deliver housing. But at what cost? Destroying the charm of the city? Ruining what separates it from so many others across the country and indeed the world?

I'm originally from America, and my wife is from Dublin. Both of us have lived around the world and different continents, and could have settled down just about anywhere. We first visited Canterbury from London 8 years ago and fell in love with the city. Part of Canterbury's charm is not just the palpable history and tradition laced throughout, but how the city seamlessly coalesces with nature, with sprawling wildlife just on the doorstep. That is a real rarity, and something that struck us both immediately. Indeed a *massive* reason for us to lay down roots in Wincheap was its proximity to both the city to nature. I can't begin to tell you how beneficial the walks through the orchards have been on our mental health, and helped us through some dark times. Appreciating that this alone isn't reason enough to block building on this site, but there are some striking and compelling reasons that should make the council think twice before proceeding.

Blocking UNESCO Heritage site.

The thought of the best view of oldest and arguably most important Christian site in this country being overrun with a stream of soulless, flat-pack houses, is sickening. Would you dare built an apartment complex inhibiting views of Mont-Saint-Michel? Or housing near Mecca, Mount Athos, or the Great Living Chola Temples? Of course not! So why is the thought of doing so here even entertained?

Water

Or lack thereof! We all saw the news around the water shortages across Kent and the country as a whole. Experts estimate that by adding these additional houses, you'll leave thousands without water.

Another consideration is the knock on effect of tarmacking over greenfields that are at a higher elevation point. The road coming into Homersham already floods. How much worse would this get?

No A&E or Sufficient Infrastructure

There is certainly concern around making the local school a building site, but how prudent is it to almost double the population of a city that is lacking in necessities like A&E? Or schools? Etc?

Wildlife and Orchard preseervations

Wincheap is *the only* suitable site for an orchard, and currently home to dozens of birds on both the Red and Amber lists. Surely looking into Brownfield locations is the more responsible move? Surely the same counsel that said it wants more orchards would take a very simple step by not destroying this one?

When I picture a post-Merton-Park world and what that looks like, it's depressing.. rendering the city almost unrecognizable. I hope that you thoroughly consider the irresponsible nature of this and can revisit your considerations.

Kindest Regards,

Tim Sutter

