

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Planning Policy](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Test Valley Draft Local Plan  
**Date:** 17 March 2024 17:05:36

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Dear sir/madam,

Having read the Test Valley Council's draft local plan, I wish to make the following observations and objections, related to the proposed housing development on Velmore Farm.

1. Loss of green area, impact on wildlife and recreation

Velmore Farm is adjacent to the woodlands of Hut Wood and Chilworth and is part of an important ecosystem that supports uncommon species including woodcock, breeding nightjars, buzzard, tawny owl and hobby, and many species of butterfly including holly blue, white admiral, fritillaries etc. The loss of habitat which Test Valley Council plans would result in irrevocable species loss. There are well-used public footpaths and bridleways which provide rare local countryside access for the residents of Chandler's Ford, Chilworth and Eastleigh through and around Velmore Farm and the proposed development would destroy the value of these amenities.

2. Impact on facilities in Chandler's Ford and Eastleigh

The proposed development appears to be cynical attempt by Test Valley Council to offload the impact of their planned housing development onto the borough of Eastleigh. The impact on local facilities, such as schools, medical and dental services, road traffic, libraries etc. would be enormous and unacceptable, given the already stretched nature of the local facilities.

3. Flooding

The adjacent roads, such as Templars Way, are already subject to frequent flooding, particularly at roundabouts, and the resulting standing water is a serious hazard. Concreting over Velmore Farm would result in dangerous surface water and groundwater flooding of the adjacent areas of Chandler's Ford.

4. Loss of separation between Southampton and Chandler's Ford

The proposal would remove a considerable amount of the green space between Southampton and Chandler's Ford and would inevitably start the process of spreading of the city of Southampton to engulf Chandler's Ford in a continuous concrete sprawl.

For the above reasons, I object in the strongest fashion to this cynical and irresponsible plan.

Yours faithfully,

William R Roche.

Prof William R Roche

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