

Northern Area Policy 7 (NA7): Land to the east of Ludgershall

Dear Sirs,

I would like to take this opportunity to register our concerns and objections on behalf of Biddesden House Farm Partnership for the Proposed Housing Allocation featured in the draft local plan 2040. Our main concern is the parcel of land to the north of the A342, opposite the Murco petrol station as it is contiguous to Biddesden land. Inevitably the scale of the whole proposal will affect us to a certain extent.

Obviously, this proposal will ultimately lead to good agricultural land being taken out of food production forever at a time when food sustainability is very much in the limelight. This aside the environmental benefits that exist naturally alongside responsible farming practices will also be lost.

At Biddesden we have dedicated a considerable acreage to environmental schemes and as members of the Wessex Farm Conservation Cluster Group work together with like-minded neighbours to create wildlife corridors and complimentary schemes thus enhancing the landscape and biodiversity of the area for people to enjoy. A significant housing development is going to be disruptive to this process. There are a number of areas that have been designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation on Test Valley Council plans, some of which are on Biddesden or local to the proposal that benefit directly from our endeavours or those of other cluster group members.

Our conservation efforts have encouraged significant numbers of birds, small mammals including dormice, owls, badgers, bats and deer. While the land parcel in question borders only a small part of Biddesden land there is however a well-established belt of trees and field margin which the presence of such a large development will undoubtedly have an adverse effect upon.

Such a large-scale development would no doubt impact on the beautiful landscape associated with the area, particularly from Biddesden and the Chutes. Inevitably there would be light pollution, increased traffic and further pressure on already stretched local resources.

The increased number of people and vehicles would have a direct operational effect on our farming activities, particularly at each end of the day. We already have significant numbers of vehicles using Biddesden Lane as a cut through and combined with an increased amount of recreational activity a development of this scale would make moving stock and large farm equipment even more difficult. We have also seen an increase in people not sticking to recognised rights of way, abusive/antisocial behaviour and uncontrolled dog incidents.

The Environment Agency regularly monitors our water usage, so any development that puts strain on water supplies is obviously going to be a concern. Sewerage and drainage could also affect us; as we have seen this winter with existing facilities needing constant pumping and tankers transporting effluent away.

I trust that our concerns will be considered and look forward to be kept informed.

Yours Faithfully

James Anderson

Farm Manager
Biddesden House Farm Partnership

