

My name is Ruth Bodsworth and I live, with my family, at [REDACTED] and I oppose this development for a number of reasons, including those that I am about to mention.

In recent years Takeley has grown from a number of small, connected hamlets of a few hundred houses to what could almost be described as a small town, which, when current ongoing developments are completed will have around two and a half thousand houses. This increase in number of homes has not been matched by improvements in infrastructure to support this increase in population.

Individual developments have been agreed piecemeal, with no overall plan to look at how the building developments, in their totality, impacts on things such as roads, bio-diversity, education, healthcare and indeed the mental welfare of residents. In my opinion the

proposed, draft, local plan which has only just been put out for consultation, still does not address these issues. This particular development was part of a larger, proposed development which was rejected, on appeal, some months ago. Despite the changes made by the developer many of the reasons the inspector gave for refusal remain valid. One of these is the gap, which has been referred to as the “Pinch Point”, at the north west part of the development where access and egress are proposed. The gap, when measured from the concrete boundary post in the hedge to the south of the gap to the nearest tree trunk in the Ancient Wood is almost exactly 16 metres. If measured to the canopy it is 9 metres. Photos to substantiate this have been accepted as a document in this hearing.

If a 15metre buffer zone needs to be left to protect the Ancient Woodland and this buffer zone cannot be made up of road, cycle or footpaths how does the developer

propose to do this without chopping down trees in a protected wood.

The developer has talked about housing that will improve the village and cycle and footpaths that will connect various parts of the village. There are already good east/west and north/south links along main routes and existing foot, cycle and bridle paths. The proposed additions of lighting to some of these links is likely to have an adverse effect on both residents who live adjacent to this proposed site and wildlife such as protected species like bats along with deer, foxes, badgers and birds. A recent report by Josh Davis for the Natural History Museum published on 23rd September 2023 states that the UK is one of the most nature depleted countries on Earth and that unless we change our behaviour 16% of species in the UK could become extinct. This proposed development is on prime farming

land that could continue to feed not only humans but also the wildlife that depend on this land.

The developer talks about offering new open spaces for people to walk and exercise but the very fields that the developer is proposing to bury under concrete are already offering those very open, natural spaces that people move to the countryside for. In fact, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill that came into force on October 26th states that “The Act will ensure the homes we need are built where they are needed in urban areas rather than concreting over the countryside.”

During the recent pandemic this field, ancient woodland and other local countryside footpaths became the lungs of the village for both their physical and mental wellbeing.

For all of these and my reasons in my written submission

I URGE YOU TO REJECT THIS APPLICATION.

Thank you for listening to me

