

[REDACTED]

I wish to object to the above planning application on the following grounds:-

Emsworth would lose one of the few remaining open field country walks left. The footpath is very popular with ramblers, dog walkers, joggers and families out for a stroll. Relocating the footpath would put it right next to the River Ems, potentially making it unusable in winter.

The area is a natural soakaway for the surrounding area and in the winter is often waterlogged. During the winter the water table is less than half a metre below the surface and the site is liable to flooding. Havant BC rejected a planning application on this site in 2013 on the grounds of the risk of flooding – nothing has changed since.

The development would include 116 car parking spaces. It is estimated that there will be at least 200 extra car movements a day down Westwood Close, Wickor Way, Westbourne Ave and the New Brighton Road. Getting out of these roads is already difficult at peak times of the day.

There is a risk of polluting the River Ems, which is home to many species, including water voles and salmon. The area is also home to four species of bat, two of which are endangered, and which feed above the hedgerows that would be removed.

The site meets all the criteria to become a designated green space, which would protect it for the future enjoyment of the community. Building on the site will damage attempts to maintain the green corridor between the South Downs National Park and Brook Meadow Nature reserve.

Havant Borough Council's draft Local Plan has identified sufficient sites to meet its housing requirement. It would still meet that requirement without this site.