

PLANNING REF : 260774
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Pound House
: Basingstoke Road, Riseley, Berkshire
: RG7 1QL
SUBMITTED BY : Rebecca Hughes
DATE SUBMITTED : 14/05/2026

COMMENTS:

I am writing to formally express my utmost concern and objections to the proposed development in Riseley.

1. Location of the land

The position of the land is unsuitable for development as it is higher than the Basingstoke Road and the houses bordering it already have flooding issues.

There is already references to both Sun and Bull lane having flooding issues too.

The water companies in general are struggling to maintain the areas under their jurisdictions as it is - can Thames Water financially cope to upgrade the system we have at the moment to prevent this ongoing flood issue....I assume not as it would have been addressed by now....so how are they going to sort water access for this proposed development in regard to amenities etc and sort the ongoing water

issue?! This will cause problems with insurance companies and put premiums up for most people which with this cost of living crisis that does not seem to be improving, is not something many want or can afford to happen!

The fields are the natural absorbers of the rainfall and turning it into a hard standing area is going to cause many more issues!

2. Utilities

The area has no gas available so heavily reliant on electricity which we seem to have gone back to the 1970s with the power cuts happening more and for longer each time.

Mobile phone coverage is very hit and miss in some areas which although can be annoying, it is 'accepted' in a village which does not want phone masts everywhere to alter the views and to potentially cause health issues within the environment.

Bus service is limited and much would need to be done....ruined....for a bus to access this proposed site. Waste collection would have to have access to the development and be able to reach it safely and cater for the extra refuse to be collected.

Crime rate in general is on the increase so by having even more house/cars/people, this will naturally increase in the village....so we will require more direct access to help when such matters occur.

3. Local Facilities

Surgeries in the local area are already at breaking point and it is hard enough now to get an appointment. The NHS cannot afford for people to keep using their local hospitals as their 'surgery'. Schools in the area are over subscribed now....so where would the people of school age be going for education?! Obviously made harder by the infrequent bus operation which would mean more people on the roads.

4. Traffic

The roads themselves in the area are unfit for purpose as not maintained properly. The Swallowfield Bypass was supposed to stop the Basingstoke Road being over used but due to the ongoing congestion, it is used far more than it should be and the speed at which people drive through the village at, is unacceptable and it is not monitored as it should be. Too many animals, (domestic and wild), have and will be killed by speeding vehicles.....it's a wonder a child/adult has not been injured!

The T-junction is too close to the Sun Lane access as it is and if there is an increase in vehicles in the village, it will become more of a danger spot.

Sun Lane and Bull Lane are both narrow lanes in a rural environment for use by dog walkers, horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians generally as they are 'safe' from vehicles. To access this proposed site, will mean widening and thus ruining the established ancient hedges and banks, not only for the extra vehicles but for emergency services.

5. Environment

The extra traffic Riseley has to endure now from the people using it to avoid congestion and the Dukes Meadow estate, has already increased the levels of noise, light and air quality. Surely there must be priority given to the local ecology - wildlife and woodlands which have been there for centuries in some cases - which are decreasing all over the country as it is....we are losing our green land at a rapid rate.

We are all aware of the benefits of being in the countryside - it's educational as well as good for our health! The mental health issues are ever increasing and it affects people of ALL ages. In a generation....world....that is dominated by technology, the freedom of the outdoors is very important.

We need the trees to keep us alive as well as to give the birds and the wildlife protection and food sources....so the woods and hedges are very important to sustain them and us.

We are already close to the Hedgehog becoming extinct and losing even more green land will exacerbate this already critical situation. We are supposed to be a 'wildlife loving' country yet we are destroying it at a very fast rate....no different to the destruction of the rainforests....

Woods and hedges that are destroyed can never be the same again despite attempting to 'rebuild' them and species will disappear once their habitat is destroyed.

6. History

The village of Riseley consists of agricultural fields, pastoral land and historically dates back to the Roman times. When the Swallowfield By-Pass was created, 2 areas of Roman finds were discovered and in the early 1990's, the Berkshire Archaeological Trust did a survey

concluding that there was prehistoric activity in the area. The 2 fields ear-marked for this proposition will surely need to be investigated fully beforehand as this is a very important part of our heritage that may hold some valuable information of our past and

if built on, will be lost forever. The village has 3 Grade II listed properties situated very close to this proposed site and should be preserved and not suffocated by more unnecessary housing for this area. We have already lost land to the Dukes Meadow development and we are close to losing our status as a 'village' which is why many people have moved to it in the first place.

Riseley is a tranquil, pretty village in a rural setting which needs to be preserved before it is too late. It is on the border of Shire/Hampshire but this should not mean it can be subjected to relentless proposals for development that will ruin it for the future. The residents deserve to be treated fairly as we have already accommodated the Dukes Meadow development.

I strongly urge the council to please refuse this application.