

WBC LPR REGULATION 19 OBJECTION

I object to the North-East Thatcham development plan (SP17) with its proposal to build 1500 to 2500 houses in NE Thatcham as part of the West Berkshire Council's Local Plan Review for the following reasons:

Housing development should be focused on brownfield sites and those within urbanised areas wherever possible, not greenfield sites in an AONB. The impact on the AONB, environment, the common, biodiversity, wildlife and local amenities of this development would be extremely detrimental.

The development would effectively join the distinct settlements of Thatcham and Upper Bucklebury.

The development would also have a huge negative impact on the already overstretched provision of infrastructure and services including health care (hospitals, GP surgeries, dental practices, pharmacies), education, public transport. These services are already stretched beyond capacity leading to anxiety and stress for those trying to use them. The roads through Upper Bucklebury would not be able to accommodate the extra traffic predicted by West Berkshire Council. They would no longer be safe for non-motorised users, such as horse riders, walkers and cyclists who seek the quiet safety of rural roads.

In 2007 Thatcham suffered very badly from pluvial flooding. All the proposed urbanisation of the suggested allocated land will have to drain through the existing development at Thatcham, which will only exacerbate the existing flood risk situation.

Dr Lynne Mitchell

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]