



43 Bowden Rd
Templecombe
Somerset
BA8 0LF

28th January 2023

Reference planning application: South of Bowden Road 22/03560/OUT

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to express my profound objection to the proposed development to the south of Bowden Road, Templecombe, Somerset.

I have lived in Templecombe all of my life, 84 years, and in Bowden Road for over 50 of them with my wife and family. My concern over the development is for the environmental impact, for the effect on Bowden Road and on Templecombe as a whole.

The proposed site of the development is farmland, a greenfield site. This is by far the best use of this land. It is home to wildlife, ancient hedgerows and is a precious environmental resource.

The other significant impact is on Bowden Road itself, which has already been affected by development in Vine Street and West Street already as all of the traffic can only leave via Bowden Road due to the one-way system of Vine Street. Bowden Road is already significantly congested on a daily basis. The addition of a proposed 140 houses and their multiple vehicles also using the road would be unsafe. Ambulances have had difficulty accessing due to the congestion when I have had need of their urgent services. There is no pavement in Bowden Road which will increase the risk to any pedestrians using the road – not those on the new development, but those who already live in either Bowden Road, West Street and Vine Street.

Bowden Road forms the start of a through-road to Milborne Port, it is used by agricultural vehicles of significant size and the increase of traffic will lead to greater congestion and risk to safety.

On the occasions where the A357 is closed, Bowden Road and the through-road to Milborne Port is heavily used, even though it is never allocated as an official diversion. The increased traffic that would use this as a result of the development would create further obstruction and risk to safety of the residents.

The infrastructure of Templecombe is already at capacity, and the addition of more homes would overwhelm it. The school, the GP, services, etc. are all under strain. There is also little here to sustain such a development, which would contravene planning guidance.

The proposed cycle and pedestrian access/egress directly onto the A357 is incredibly dangerous. Despite the speed limits for traffic, these are not adhered to and it is not safe to exit onto this road.

The capacity of the A357, onto which Bowden Road exits, is already under immense pressure from the developments along its length locally, both at Henstridge and Stalbridge, and at the north end of Templecombe itself (Slades Hill) – with development completed, underway or not yet started. The land on which all of this building is taking place will run out. Will the council notice in time, or will they allow green fields and ancient hedgerows to disappear first?

The scale of the proposed development is completely out of proportion to Templecombe – a Rural Settlement, and is therefore inappropriate to consider. As a Rural Settlement we have already more than met our quota for development and as a council you should be listening to the voices of the locals for whom you are appointed to represent, and are also responsible for preserving our heritage as a Rural Settlement.

Yours sincerely,

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