

Statement to the Planning Inspector
22nd September 2026
Appeal No: 260817
Location: Land at Denham's Corner, Horton Heath

Thank you for this opportunity.

My name is Christopher Davidson, and I live at [REDACTED] which is across countryside from the proposed development. I am speaking today to express my strong opposition to this appeal and to urge you to dismiss it. I support the reasons in Eastleigh Borough Council's decision and in Durley Parish Council's representation in objection as well as opposition by over 80 local residents. My opposition is rooted directly in the planning policies and local evidence set out in the core documents. This appeal should be dismissed based on the following key grounds:

- **Conflict with the Development Plan :** The proposed development fails to align with the established vision for Horton Heath. The Council has not earmarked this site, this is a speculative proposal. The land is open countryside and established woodland, and the proposed development erodes the distinct separation of our local settlements at Horton Heath and Durley that the Council and residents want to maintain. It is the natural progression from urban area to countryside up to the South Downs National Park that starts at Lower Upham.
- **Severe Traffic and Infrastructure Capacity:** Local infrastructure, particularly our existing road network, is already operating at or near capacity. The cumulative traffic impact from this development, combined with the recent developments at Boorley Green and the developments at One Horton Heath that are now underway, will result in congestion, a decline in highway safety, and further delays at key local junctions. In particular, Snakemoor Lane is a winding lane that is ill suited as the entrance to a development of 150 houses. Traffic accelerates from Denham's Corner roundabout and then goes around a corner on Snakemoor Lane before the entrance to the proposed development. Queues can build on the upward side. The exit from Oakmore Park (where there are 5 houses) onto Snakemoor Lane is difficult. Entrance and exiting from the proposed site with 150 houses, in a much more dangerous location, would be hazardous. It is highly unlikely that residents of the proposed development would walk or cycle for their daily needs and cars would be the preferred use. There is no bus service on Snakemoor Lane. There is a car dependent reality.

- **Unacceptable Visual and Environmental Impact:** The proposal disrupts the landscape character of the area. It undermines local ecology and removes valued open space that defines the rural setting of Horton Heath and Durley. From walking in the woodlands for over 15 years I regularly see deer, badgers, bats and birds such as buzzards and red kites which would all be affected by this development. In addition, the fields regularly flood and there are severe water and drainage issues on Snakemoor Lane (it floods every year).
- **Infrastructure problems:** Local health services, school places and community amenities are already overstretched. For example, Durley Primary School has 139 pupils against a capacity of 112. The appeal fails to demonstrate that adequate, timely infrastructure will be delivered to mitigate the added burden on the existing community.

Conclusion

The core documents demonstrate that Horton Heath has already absorbed significant growth, and any development must be plan-led, sustainable, and properly supported by infrastructure. This proposal fails on all three counts.

I respectfully ask you to uphold the Eastleigh Borough Council's planning decision and dismiss this appeal.

Thank you.