

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 September 2026 08:14
To: Planning
Subject: Planning objection

Categories: Comments Received



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Planning application DC/25/2114

Potential pollution risk to grazing horses

Dear Mr Holmes

I am concerned about the potential for pollutants from the proposed development to reach land used close by re animals, where horses graze and one recovering.

I have used this land for many years and am very familiar with its conditions. It is within Flood Zone 3 and the field floods during the winter, with the surrounding watercourses playing an important role in draining the land. Any additional surface water reaching this field could therefore increase the risk of flooding and could carry pollutants onto land where animals graze and may ingest contaminated water, soil or vegetation. This is a particularly serious concern for vulnerable horses, for which ingestion of pollutants could have serious consequences. The field already relies on the surrounding drainage system and most certainly cannot safely accommodate additional potentially contaminated runoff from the proposed development.

I am aware that the proposed development includes a swale intended to receive and treat surface-water runoff before it is discharged through a pipe to the surrounding watercourse. However, a swale does **not remove 100% of pollutants** from surface-water runoff. Its inclusion therefore does not, in itself, eliminate the potential for pollutants to remain in the discharge and reach the receiving watercourse and surrounding land.

The Environment Agency identifies **runoff, field drains and infiltration as potential pollution pathways**, including for sediment, nutrients, bacteria and chemicals.

This is particularly important because the receiving watercourse is associated with land used by animals. There is therefore a potential pathway from the development, through the proposed drainage system and receiving watercourse, to land and vegetation accessible to horses. Any pollutants reaching grazing land could potentially expose horses through grazing.

I ask the Council to establish, before determining the application, **what pollutants could remain in the surface-water discharge after treatment by the proposed swale, where the discharged water will travel, and whether there is any potential risk to the grazing land and horses.**

The relevant legislation and Government guidance include the **Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016**, the **Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2017**, and the **National Planning Policy Framework**.

Yours faithfully

Kind regards

neighbouring plot