

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PlanningPolicy](#)  
**Subject:** WBC LPR Regulation 19 Objection  
**Date:** 26 February 2023 20:59:13

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Dear West Berkshire Councillors,

I am writing to raise my strong objection to the proposal of developing land for housing on the farmland between Upper Bucklebury and the A4 and Floral Way.

West Berks Council has increasing opportunities to redevelop existing and emerging brownfield sites to accommodate the required extra housing before considering destroying yet more greenfield sites in the beautiful Thames Valley.

Out of town business parks and retail parks built in the late 1990's early 2000's in the Newbury and Thatcham area, which includes the Vodafone HQ and Pinchington Lane Retail Park, has resulted in the slow demise of Newbury and Thatcham town centres due to losing traders, shoppers, businesses and office workers.

More recently, advances in technology has enabled people to shop and work from home and as a result, towns are rapidly becoming ghost towns.

Now with the recent occurrence of a global pandemic, and the requirement for home working and internet shopping, even more premises in towns and out of town business parks and retail parks in Newbury, Thatcham and Reading are increasingly becoming vacant spaces.

These brownfield sites have a lot of infrastructure already in place and can be revived, improved, enhanced and developed for housing.

As well as benefiting nature and its biodiversity, our green spaces are proving invaluable for more people than ever before as we search for peace and pleasant experiences to clear our minds and breathe fresh air.

In my opinion, it is poor foresight to develop greenfield sites when brownfield sites are increasingly becoming underutilised.

Planning departments are at the forefront of enabling change and making the right decisions for the future, allowing building and development to keep encroaching on the beautiful countryside is not the right decision for the future of the country or the planet.

Thank you for considering my objection.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Lewington

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