

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 June 2026 17:12
To: Planning
Subject: Objection to Hammond Ground planning
Attachments: IMG_2219.jpeg; IMG_1021.jpeg; IMG_2189.jpeg; IMG_9811.jpeg; IMG_6986.jpeg; IMG_3067.jpeg; IMG_8659.jpeg

 External Email

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Application Ref 3/2026/0356

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed housing development on Hammond Ground in Read, Burnley, Lancashire.

Hammond Ground is an historically significant site closely connected to Read Hall and the history of the Pendle Witch Trials. The land is also historically believed to be associated with the burial of Roundhead soldiers following the Battle of Read Bridge. Development on this site would risk damaging an important part of local heritage and eroding the historical character of the area forever.

The land is also actively and continually used for grazing cattle and sheep and forms part of the longstanding rural landscape that defines the entrance to the Ribble Valley. This area is widely regarded as a beautiful and important gateway into the Ribble Valley countryside, and replacing open fields with housing would cause serious harm to the visual character and identity of the area.

In addition, Hammond Ground supports a wide range of wildlife including deer, badgers, bats, owls, foxes, and numerous bird species. In the last few weeks I have personally seen four deer killed at the side of the road (due to traffic on Whalley Road), suggesting there is a large population. There are often foxes, rabbits and badgers killed due to traffic on this stretch of road. The destruction of natural habitat and increased disturbance from development would have a damaging impact on biodiversity and local ecosystems. It is bordered by ancient and historical bluebell woodlands.

There are also serious concerns regarding infrastructure. The proposed site is located on an already extremely busy main road which regularly experiences heavy traffic. Sometimes it can take 20 minutes to just leave [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to join the main road, there is a blind bend and motorists do not realise there are houses with people entering and exiting driveways. There have been many road accidents and several deaths, both pedestrian and as a result of crashes on this stretch of road - where the 5 year traffic data has come from I have no idea, I have seen at least 3 serious crashes recently and several where the police have closed the road, where is that data? Additional housing would inevitably increase congestion and create further road safety concerns. Heavy goods vehicles use this road to gain access to the M65 and tractors use it often due to its rural location. There are many other sites more suitable, such as the land next to the large housing estate in Simonstone and the land at the back of Simonstone Lane which is hidden from view.

Local services are already overstretched. The road often floods, (see attached photo) this development will worsen that. Schools in the area are effectively full, and there is a lack of accessible GP and healthcare provision nearby. Approving a major housing development without adequate infrastructure improvements would place an unacceptable burden on existing residents and services.

Hammond Ground is an important green space with historical, environmental, agricultural, and scenic value. Once lost to development, these qualities cannot be replaced.

The photos on the site are laughable, taken on a foggy day and from strange angles, it doesn't look like that at all. (I have attached some photos of what it actually looks like.) The developers/landowners have purposely grown the hedge recently (that was always only as high as the wall and the hedge opposite) so it isn't possible to see the estate properly from the road - also 'Read Hall Estate' isn't just the physical house, it's an historical estate and the surrounding trees, ancient woodlands and countryside, including Hammond Ground, are part of that too.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully urge the Council to reject this planning application and protect this important site for future generations.

Yours faithfully,

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