

# <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/stopfarmlanddevelopment>

## Help the Save Rural Southwater Campaign

**Join our campaign and sign the petition to stop Berkeley Homes building an additional 1500 homes and traveller site on farmland to the North of Great House Farm and between Worthing Road and Two Mile Ash Road.**



Berkeley Homes (BH) are submitting a Planning Application in July 2022 for a proposed development of an area they are calling North West Southwater. The farmland in question belongs to the Aubrey-Fletcher Trust and Christ's Hospital School.

BH held a consultation process between 29<sup>th</sup> April and 15<sup>th</sup> May, unfortunately the announcement of this event did not reach all residents of Southwater and Two Mile Ash denying many their opportunity to participate in the consultation. Save Rural Southwater (SRS) started a campaign group (supported by Keep Southwater Green & The Stammerham Amenity Association) and petition to show the strength of objection to this proposal.

We acknowledge a national housing shortage so why do we object?

1. This development represents a substantial loss of irreplaceable countryside, farmland and rural landscape totaling well over 200 acres. We need these fields to continue contributing to food production and the biodiversity of the area. The land in question is used for grazing and arable crops. This land is important for the production of food, contributing towards food security, as highlighted on BBC Countryfile (June 26<sup>th</sup> 2022.)
2. BH are already in the process of creating a substantial new development, Broadacres, located to the south of Great House Farm.
3. The land is criss-crossed with footpaths/bridlepaths giving access to the Downs Link and the ancient woodland in Courtland Woods and its ghyll which is a designated Local Wildlife Site (LWS)
4. Southwater has seen a substantial amount of development in recent years and we would argue needs time to absorb this increase before more is added.
5. A major complaint within the village is the traffic delays at peak times at Hop Oast and Pollards Way roundabouts. The traffic generated by an additional 1500 homes can only worsen the situation.
6. Village amenities including GP Services will be further stretched.
7. The land supports a variety of fauna and flora important to this area including deer, several species of bats, foxes, badgers rabbits, squirrels, doremouse, Canada Geese and a large Rookery and in the ponds rare Great Crested Newts to name but a few. The pollinators contribute to the biodiversity of the area.
8. THE BIG ONE! Water Neutrality - Sussex North is very short of water and Southwater falls into one of the areas worse affected by this. Currently no building approved after September 2021 can take place until a solution for this chronic water shortage can be found, as reported on BBC Countryfile (May 2022)
9. There are several other historically important buildings close to the proposed development site, whose setting will be adversely affected.

