November 24, 2026: Charity slams revised bid for 1,500 homes

New plans for farmland near Uckfield fail to address major concerns.

Campaigners have criticised a revised bid for 1,500 homes on farmland near Uckfield.

CPRE Sussex has raised a host of concerns about the proposal for Owlsbury Farm, Little Horsted. It says the development would impact on biodiversity, increase the risk of flooding and damage the character of the Low Weald.

This is the second time CPRE Sussex has objected to the plans after developers revised an earlier bid for 1,700 homes. However, nothing in the re-consultation addresses the charity's fundamental concerns.

Nancy Duckels, CPRE Sussex campaigns and communications manager, said: "This application is unsustainable, inappropriate and would destroy an area of countryside valued by Uckfield residents. We are calling on Wealden District Council's planning committee to reject the plans and show they value nature over developer profits."

CPRE Sussex says the development bid conflicts with national planning policy and the Wealden Local Plan. Key concerns include:

- The urban sprawl of Uckfield, challenging environmental sustainability and climate goals.
- A lack of sustainable transport options increasing reliance on cars.
- The adverse impact on areas including Ashdown Forest Special Area of Conservation, Low Weald and Uck Valley Green Corridor.
- Replacement of vegetation and permeable soils with housing and roads increasing the risk of flooding and runoff causing water pollution.

The charity also says the development risks turning the Uckfield Bypass into a town road, increasing nose and pollution and leaving it as congested as the local streets it was intended to avoid.

Consultation on the revised application ends on December 19. Have your say by searching for application number WD/2025/0922/MEA on the Wealden District Council website.

Read more about CPRE Sussex's objections to the plans here.

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Notes for editors:

For press inquiries and interview opportunities call Nancy Duckels on 07795 551852.

About CPRE Sussex

CPRE Sussex is shaping a greener future for Sussex. Our priorities are:

- Beautiful landscapes, rich in nature and greener towns and cities
- Countryside and green spaces which are accessible to all, enriching lives and health
- Sustainable development for thriving communities
- Effective responses to the climate emergency

We engage with decision makers, influencing them and challenging them to protect the Sussex countryside and green spaces. We inform on environmental issues and empower individuals and communities with robust evidence to defend and enhance the green spaces they love. We believe in collaborating with others to ensure a greener future for our county. We research and provide advice on planning issues. Together we can shape a greener future for Sussex.