

Address: 4, Stocks Drive, Huddersfield, Hd8 8ey

About the application

Application number: 2025/92776	
What is the application for?:	Outline application, with all matters reserved, for residential development with
Address of the site or building:	land at, Eastfield, Shepley, Huddersfield, HD8 8HB
Postcode:	DH7 8XL

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	No
<p>I strongly object to the proposed development on land directly beside Shepley Spring, where bottled water is drawn and supplied nationally. The field lies within a Source Protection Zone 1, the most sensitive groundwater classification under Environment Agency guidance. Allowing a large housing estate so close to this site is entirely inappropriate. It carries a clear risk of contamination from surface water run-off, vehicle fluids, and household drainage. No buildings within the wider zone sit in such close proximity to the extraction site itself. This location is simply too sensitive for residential development considering the risk to public health on a national scale.</p> <p>The land has historically been used for roof-thatching straw, not for chemical-intensive crop farming, and this should be clearly recognised to avoid any suggestion of past contamination that might be used to justify redevelopment. It remains green, productive farmland.</p> <p>The transport information provided is also unreliable. The developers rely heavily on nation-wide data from the 2021 census, which reflected national lockdowns rather than real working patterns in a rural village. Locally, very few residents work from home, most are tradespeople, school and nursery staff, or carers who travel daily. Even now, outside rush hour, roads such as Station Road, Jos Lane, parts of Abbey Road and Marsh Lane are reduced to single-file traffic due to parked cars. Visibility from many junctions, especially around Abbey Road, is already poor and frequently raised as a concern by residents. Introducing hundreds more vehicles would worsen an already dangerous situation. The Sovereign junction continues to see near-misses, and despite repeated requests from residents, no effective speed enforcement or parking controls have been introduced. Without firm, detailed mitigation from highways, safety will deteriorate further. The junction reports also don't take into account the average age of Eastfield residents, with many retired, car journeys will dramatically increase as working families move into these houses. It's also telling the trouble Shepley First School has with traffic on one-way firth street, parents are dropping their kids to/from school on their way to/from work, not walking as the supporting documents suggest the residents of the new development will all walk or cycle to work and get their food shop</p>	

residents of the new development will all walk or cycle to work and get their food shop online - this is not the case.

The proposed site borders historic woodland shown on early Ordnance Survey maps and sits immediately beside the Grade II listed Shepley War Memorial. The plans reference woodland "management" that reads more like clearance, raising fear of future expansion on the other side and behind the memorial considering the wider boundary plans. Any loss of trees or encroachment into this setting would be deeply damaging to both the landscape and the heritage value of the area. The memorial is a quiet place for reflection. The designs themselves are generic and suburban, bearing no resemblance to the traditional character of Shepley.

Shepley has already taken on significant growth, with several developments towards Shelley and around 80 new homes approved for Vivly Living along the main road on a brownfield site - a far more suitable and accessible location without parked cars all along that stretch of the main road. While some locals aren't a fan at least their buildings aren't an eyesore. Building on this sensitive proposed site adds unnecessary strain to local infrastructure and permanently harms the setting of our war memorial, woodlands, and countryside, but it is deeply concerning the council would even consider development in a sloping field within a SPZ1 right next to a bottled water facility.

For these reasons, I believe the proposal is entirely inappropriate for this location and should be refused.