

PL/18/3946/FA | Erection of agricultural barn | Challen's Chick Farm Marsh Lane Taplow
Buckinghamshire SL6 0DE

Appeal against the council decision to refuse permission.

The Hitcham and Taplow Society has been in existence for some sixty years. It has a main objective to ensure that all development within the district is of the highest standard and preserves the quality of the environment. It represents a significant proportion of the residents of Taplow.

The Society raised objections to the initial application and these comments will already have been forwarded to you. Nothing has changed. The appeal should be rejected as an unacceptable incursion into the Metropolitan Green Belt.

We believe you should be aware of the overall circumstances affecting the site and their total impact.

Until being acquired by the present owner, the site in question was simply a grazing meadow in the Metropolitan Green Belt, not part of any working farm.

Egg production now takes place in mobile sheds which, being supposedly temporary, apparently require no planning permission. Having argued that these hens needed residential supervision, the owner was granted permission for a three-year temporary accommodation (17/02314/FUL). An application for permission to build a permanent residence (PL/20/0746/FA) has recently been withdrawn but has been resubmitted in modified form (PL/20/3519/FA alongside the current appeal against the refusal to permit a barn development for quail rearing (PL/18/3946/FA). This appeal cannot be considered in isolation. The quail barn application being appealed makes no mention of a requirement for residential accommodation and thus misrepresents the true situation.

There are no “exceptional circumstances” to support this gradually expanding operation in the Green Belt. Any and all business case considerations are irrelevant. If an original application had been made to establish industrial level egg factories for both hens and quail with supporting residential accommodation on a grazing meadow in the Metropolitan Green Belt it would surely have been rejected outright. To permit its creation by creeping stages would make a mockery of Green Belt protection and set a precedent that any business which could operate successfully in the Green Belt should be permitted to do so.

The appeal should be refused, the temporary accommodation approval should not be renewed and the egg-laying business restricted to a level not requiring residential supervision.

Roger Worthington, Secretary Hitcham and Taplow Society

c/o Littlemere, River Road SL6 0BB