

DC Admin

From:
Sent: 13 October 2025 13:40
To: DC Admin
Subject: 2020/60/92331/E Planning Application Objection

I would like to register an objection to the above planning application, on behalf of our members who live on and near the Wakefield/North Kirklees borders.

The site at Chidswell is significant. It is an essential part of the greenbelt between the two districts (Wakefield and Kirklees) as well as a vital “green lung” for communities already blighted by air pollution from congested roads and the nearby motorway network. Adding further housing will exacerbate these existing problems.

However, we are most particularly concerned about the misapplication of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) rules. The point of BNG is to create NEW, ADDITIONAL habitats to replace those lost in development. There is a clear expectation that where possible, this will be achieved on-site, alongside a recognition that it may be achieved off-site. In choosing the latter option, Kirklees council and the developer have unbelievably chosen to lay waste to ancient, biodiverse woodland - already a safe space for nature. This cannot possibly be aligned with either the spirit or the letter of BNG rules. The development site is NOT woodland, but grassland - fields. Therefore, new habitat must be 110% of the area of the habitat being destroyed, and at better quality. This cannot be achieved through a pre-existing ancient woodland.

Both councillors and officers need to take a long hard look at this case, and the BNG rules, and just maybe we can arrive at a more logical, nature friendly, community friendly decision.