

About the application

Application number: 2020/92331	
What is the application for?:	Outline planning application for demolition of existing dwellings and developmen
Address of the site or building:	Land east of, Leeds Road, Chidswell, Shaw Cross, Dewsbury
Postcode:	

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<p>I'd like to object against the kirkless local plan, specifically 2020/92350 & 2020/92331.</p> <p>The farm land to be lost surely provides crucial grain for the UK economy, given the recent shortages and cost of living crisis it doesn't make sense to lose such a valuable resource. Further the land to be lost has not been surveyed correctly, Natural England have requested site-specific surveys to assess the quality of the land but the Land Owner (Church Commissioners for Church of England) has refused to do so – are they afraid the land will be found to be prime agricultural land? I also note the Kirklees Planning Department have admitted they do not know if the land is of better agricultural value than the Land Owner claims and it appears there are no plans to conduct the assessments repeatedly requested by Natural England</p> <p>There are endangered birds which breed on this land in numbers such as the endangered Skylark and Yellow Hammer. The Ecological Impact Assessment states: “with a development site of this scale, some impacts remain significant, and are very hard to mitigate”. Given the Ecological survey which is years out of date and was updated after a drought who can really say what damage will be done.</p> <p>On a daily basis I see Grey Partridges in the field behind my house, according to the RSPB their conservation status is Red and they're protected by The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Similarly, I had a Sparrowhawk in my garden this morning scanning their territory they're also protected under the same act with an Amber status. We've had a Tawny Owl sit on our wall (Amber conservation status), the Sparrowhawk is a regular visitor, and we see Red Kites all the time, this is not to mention the Starlings, Sparrows, Blue Tits and Robins we have come on a daily basis. We see bats regularly and I wonder how much longer they'll be able to remain in the area if there's night lighting in the development, at the moment, even though there's roads and homes nearby I'm sure the land currently benefits from Dark Sky, and should be protected.</p> <p>Unrecorded protected species have been evidenced on site by local community as noted above. These species have additional protection in the planning process but are</p>	

noted above. These species have additional protection in the planning process but are not considered if they are not in the Ecological Surveys. We have evidenced Schedule 1 species: Kingfisher, Red Kite and Barn Owl. The Land Owner has dismissed our evidence to say the species are only foraging on site and not resident. The Kingfisher has been recorded regularly on the waterway just below the site and if waterways become polluted it will lose its feeding ground. This is not being considered in the planning process currently.

I've been advised objections from CPRE & the Woodland Trust were redacted by the Planning Department, to remove details of who they were from when published on the Planning Portal. What is being hidden by the council here, why so clandestine and underhanded.

If we take a minute to think about the impact on climate change – the woods, fields, streams and fields all contribute to climate resilience and act as a cool zone. Changes to land use affect its health and ability to fight climate change not to mention the value the land has as a green lung for the local area. Pave this over and you won't be able to see a difference between, Leeds, Wakefield and Kirklees and ramblers and dog walkers will lose their daily/weekly paths.