



I would like to register my objection to the plan, based on the following reasons:

- Green Belt Release – The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) clearly states that development on green belt should only be permitted under exceptional circumstances. Following representations by Kirklees Council and the Church Commissioner, landowners relating to site MX1905 Chidswell, it is clear that these circumstances do not exist, and the site allocation should be removed from the Local Plan.

- Loss of Valuable Agricultural Land – This is an important and more recent concern given the ongoing war in Ukraine. Natural England have requested site-specific surveys to assess the quality of the land, but the Landowner (Church Commissioners for Church of England) has refused to do so.

The Landowner states that the need for new housing and employment outweighs the loss of agricultural land. The Planning Department have admitted they do not know if the land is of better agricultural value than the Landowner claims and it appears there are no plans to conduct the assessments repeatedly requested by Natural England.

- Loss of Local Ecology – The net loss in 2020 was advised independently by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, but it appears the Planning Department and Landowner have ignored the comments made by the YWT Ecologist. I live in a house overlooking the proposed site and have frequently seen Red Kites and Buzzards flying over the site. In fact, we have observed a Buzzard in our back garden, happily feeding on it's prey. Bats are crucial to our ecology, and we have seen bat activity on or around the site.

- Flood Risk – Kirklees Council have removed reference to any exception test requirement for the site and failed to address the flood risk affecting the whole site. As a local resident whose property overlooks the proposed development area, I am concerned that the natural watercourses, that border the site, will be inadequate to take surface water runoff once the site is developed.

- Highway Issues – Kirklees Council has suggested some wording to overcome the highway issues on Leeds Road and other roads and streets. This is wholly inadequate and does not address the problems of increased traffic congestion and air pollution particularly adjacent to Shaw Cross Infants School. Our concern is also that Chidswell Lane will become a worse Rat Run than it is already.

- Schools – The Council have only provided a watching brief to allow for secondary education in the area. Woodkirk Academy, which is outside the Kirklees Area, is already at capacity as is Manor Croft Academy and no provision has been made in the Plan to provide increased capacity. The local Primary schools are already either near or are over capacity right now, never mind when an additional 1500+ houses are built in the area.

- Ancient Woodland – The Council have failed to allocate a large enough area of protection for land surrounding Dum Wood and Dogloitch Wood, putting both woods at great risk and threatening the loss of a public asset. Local wildlife will also suffer as a result. Woods, streams, and fields contribute to climate resilience and act as a cool zone. Changes to land use affect its health and ability to fight climate change,

- Public Footpaths – During the Covid19 lockdown we have noticed an increase in the number of people using the footpaths, which cross or border the site, these will be lost if the development goes ahead.