



I write today to express my concerns regarding the Proposed Chidswell Development Ref: 2020/60/92331/E. I have been involved in the Chidswell Action Group since 2019 and strongly support their work to oppose this development which would have significant impact on the local biodiversity, ancient woodlands, traffic, and congestion on local roads.

Specifically, in relation to the current application I would like to raise a number of concerns:

Despite Natural England's requests for site-specific surveys to assess the quality of the land, this has not been completed. The Landowner states that the need for new housing and employment outweighs the loss of agricultural land. A Land Assessment Survey is required to ensure the Planning Department are provided with clear indication if this land is of better agricultural value than the Landowner claims.

The Ecological Survey is outdated, a recent walk through was undertaken which stated that species such as Skylarks and Yellow Hammers are foraging or passing by, however reports indicate that regular sightings have been reported of Schedule 1 species such as Kingfisher, Red Kite and Barn Owl, yellow hammers and red kites. The Ecological Impact Assessment carried out states "with a development of this scale, some impacts remain significant and are very hard to mitigate" A full and up to date Ecological Survey is required.

The latest reports from Biodiversity Net Gain states that the waterways have dried up and does not classify as being part of KWHN, Kirklees Council own data includes this area in the KWHN this should be investigated and the correct information sought. the reference to the waterways is completely invalid as the assessment was undertaken during a period of significant drought. the assessment should be carried out under normal rainfall values. A report based on the October Ecologist walk-over, claims the development will deliver 10% more biodiversity than in its current state. A previous Biodiversity Net Gain report, based on exact same conditions, was assessed at 14% Net Loss this creates a disparity of 24%? The net loss in 2020 was advised independently by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

The Forestry Commission has issued its advice in relation to the ancient woodlands and the Woodland Trust have strongly objected.

The traffic assessments show all junctions to be over capacity and these are also outdated. there is no mitigation in place and no assessment has been made of Either Chidswell lane or the main junction leaving Gawthope village from Leeds road onto Owl lane.

Many local residents have expressed their concerns with me about this application, specifically around the impact, two development sites, Chidswell and Heybeck, will have on local transport networks, and on the health and wellbeing of local people.

I would be grateful if you would consider these concerns and address them as the application progresses, specifically conducting a new Ecological Survey, a reassessment of the Biodiversity New Gain figures, and a Land Assessment Survey.