

**From:**  
**To:** [DCAdmin](#)  
**Subject:** Planning refs. 2020/92350 & 2020/92331.  
**Date:** 23 November 2022 14:00:13

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***Please acknowledge receipt of this email of objection to Planning applications 2020/92350 & 2020/92331 before 24/11/22. I have tried to object via your website but it wasn't working today.***

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to object to Planning Applications 2020/92350 & 2020/92331. I am very well aware of the significant importance of the jewel that Heybeck and Chidswell is for nature and the wildlife that lives there, and I would like to point out that this jewel is not only of local significance but also of remarkable regional importance. The destruction of these two sites for housing would have a devastating impact on Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network and for other wildlife sites in Kirklees and neighbouring boroughs. For example, the buffer around Dum and Dogloitch Woods is not substantial enough to prevent their destruction should this application be accepted. Simply not building on those woods would not enable their survival. They would simply die. Wildlife depends on a network of habitats of which Heybeck and Chidswell are crucial.

Heybeck and Chidswell is a habitat for endangered species like Skylarks and Yellowhammers, and Schedule One species of Kingfisher, Red Kite and Barn Owl, the presence of which the landowner (not an ecologist) dismisses as 'foraging, not resident' - but that habitat would naturally provide homes for those species and foraging is the way they survive! Also dismissed by the landowner (not an ecologist) are the over 9,000 recorded bat calls in these two areas - bats are as you must know a protected species and therefore legally have the right to protection. Has Kirklees Council had an independent bat survey done on the basis of this recorded evidence? The area is a rich habitat and sanctuary for biodiversity. Ancient Woodlands are critically endangered in England despite being wonderfully rich habitats and sanctuaries for biodiversity. They support many species that would only be 'discovered' by a proper ecological investigation by a reputable and independent ecology company, and yet alarmingly, and completely unacceptably, the Ecological Surveys for Heybeck and Chidswell are years out of date and have only had one 'walk-over' by an ecologist in 2022 after a drought, which would render findings abnormal in any case. Furthermore, and perhaps significantly, the ecologist who walked across the land was not independent but in the employ of the landowner. It is entirely insupportable that the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Ecologist's Biodiversity Net Gain independent report which assessed a 14% Net Loss has been disregarded and dismissed by not only the landowner but also by Kirklees Council's Planning Department. It would be extremely concerning too if the fact that the Planning Department redacted objections from the Planning Portal made by the reputable Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and the renowned Woodland Trust was done so that those

two bodies' professional, expert and independent credentials and objections to these applications would be withheld from public debate. Indeed, if that were the case, would it really be a democratic exercise in public consultation if authoritative, independent and expert opinions were removed from the public domain that was supposed to allow and enable public debate, or could it simply be viewed as a greenwash of pretence when the outcome had already been decided?

Surely Kirklees Council owes a duty of care not only to the environment and nature but also to the physical and mental wellbeing of its residents? Has all of the independent research which demonstrates how essential nature and green spaces are for the health of humans somehow passed it by? Does it not understand that it will be held accountable by future generations for the unforgivable loss of the wildlife haven and beautiful green space of Heybeck and Chidswell if it is destroyed to become just another housing estate where nature has been irretrievably laid waste with no capacity for its residents to find physical and mental solace in?

I hope that Kirklees Council understands that although houses are needed they have to be built in the right places and that therefore building them on the land in question here would undoubtedly be in the wrong place for all of the above reasons. These planning applications should consequently be rejected.

Kind Regards,

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