

Kirklees Planning Department

Civic Centre

Huddersfield

dc.admin@kirklees.gov.uk

Cc: **Michael Gove MP**, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations

michael.gove.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Sirs

Planning application number for **HS3 which is 2022/91735**

Site: Land off, Hermitage Park, Lepton, Huddersfield, HD8 0JU

Meadowland / Farmland next to Ancient SSI woodland Great Lepton woods.

We object to planning proposal of 2022/91735.

We need to protect the ancient woodland (SII), meadow land, nature, wildlife, scenic landscape, and English Heritage.

This plan to destroy the natural landscape is a scandal. The destruction of this expanse of meadow, verdant valleys, rolling oak tree canopies is vandalism on a vast scale.

This land was classed as green belt. Big business, planners and councillors have overridden this status. Kirklees councils are bending the laws for their own political reasons. Citizens points and objections are not listened to or heeded.

For Kirklees council to state this landscape is of no scenic value is beyond any decent person's comprehension and an insult to people's intelligence.

The pursuit of profit from exploiting nature is uncontrolled. It should be stopped in accordance with the law, climate change objectives, and an ethical and moral framework.

The natural landscape of meadow and ancient woodland is a precious natural asset that we value greatly.

We note and are pleased to see Paragraph 175c.

The National Planning Policy Framework for England was amended in summer 2018 after decades of campaigning by the Woodland Trust to give ancient woods and ancient and veteran trees greater protection from inappropriate development.

Paragraph 175c¹ states:

'When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons⁵⁸ and a suitable compensation strategy exists'

A development on the meadow land would have a significant and detrimental effect on the ancient woodland. The development would be inappropriate. It would be the **antithesis of protecting the environment, ancient woodland, protecting wildlife, protecting habitat, protecting a wildlife haven, protecting endangered species, preventing global warming, preventing wildfire, preventing flooding, preventing respiratory disease, keeping the air clean, reducing carbon content and air borne effluent. The development on the meadow land is a strategy that runs counter to the protection of ancient woodland and irreplaceable habitat.**

The life will be suffocated from the woodland and the impact of human activity will be detrimental. We have seen significant damage by human activity. From vandalising tree by burning and felling, cutting trees, air rifle shooting of ancient beech trees.

The law should be protecting the ancient woodland and meadowland as they need each other. They are in a symbiotic relationship. If the meadow land is built on the ancient wood, will turn stagnant and decay. Wildlife requires the woodland to live and the meadow land to feed upon. There is a whole food chain within the woods and the meadow land. Recent heavy and intensive slurry dumping has however destroyed the complex fields grasses in the meadow land. There was a complex ecosystem of diverse plants, flowers, and grasses supporting butterflies, bees, dragon flies, field mice, rabbits, raptors, barn owls, tawny owls, buzzards, and badgers and so forth.

Having now been subject to chemical warfare attack on intense scale, with Herons flapping around in the quagmire of slurry akin to an oil slick disaster; the land is now monoculture grass. The slurry load was super heavy, beyond normal spreading in the region. It was the first-time slurry has been spread on these fields. It has been ancient meadow and left to traditional farming methods of Autumn grazing only. Strange brown flies, unseen before appeared in the slurry. It is now monoculture grass which is devoid of complex grasses and life. Amino phosphate weed killers are hazardous to the people and wildlife. For some time the slurry created chaos and negative effects.

A year or so on hedge rows are managing to regenerate from the razer attack. With some wildlife trying to find some habitat in the fields. The habitat should be left to regenerate and not be concreted over. They are finding solace in the ancient woodland, available hedgerows, and coppices. Migratory seagulls are using the fields.

This great biosphere of life and the natural world should not be permanently destroyed by builders and planners. The meadow and woods are home to a great range of wildlife characters. From badgers and their cubs to roedeer and their young

fouls. Hares and leverets are under great threat at a national level. These meadows and woodland offer habitat and hope for the wildlife to spring back from a threatened status. Only a few areas of the UK have population of hare's which are adequate.

The ancient woodland is home to rare British birds, including tawny owls, barn owls, buzzards, , woodcock, sparrowhawks, woodpeckers, and herons.

BBC Naturewatch, Chris Peckham stated on the program that woodpeckers are increasing becoming rare. Great Lepton woods are home to red and green woodpeckers. The ancient oak trees have their nests (pecked out tree burrows) and their young within them.

There are many specimens tree dating before 1600. There are many **TPOs** which will be vulnerable to further destruction from development. TPOs in field have already been pruned excessively without permission. A fine for illegal felling has apparently been imposed. They were supposed to have a protection status of TPO.

We note the comments of the Woodland Trust. "Ancient trees in England should have the same protection status as old buildings, conservationists say, after research suggested there could be millions of unrecorded 'cathedrals of the natural world'.

Experts from the University of Nottingham estimated that there could be between 1.7 and 2.1 million ancient trees across the country — ten times as many as currently on official records.

The Woodland Trust is now rallying for these trees to receive the same heritage status as some of the nation's favourite buildings, including Buckingham Palace and the Old Bailey." See Links below.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-10968345/Charity-calls-Englands-two-million-ancient-trees-given-protection-old-buildings.html>

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jun/30/study-suggests-existence-of-up-to-21m-ancient-and-veteran-trees-in-england?CMP=share_btn_link

There are many brown fields sites in the area. There is also many building in Huddersfield which are abandoned, and derelict as noted by the press.

<https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/local-news/huddersfield-ghost-town-more-abandoned-22380720>

Counter strategies of intensive growing of trees as compensation is wholly inadequate. These are typically saplings of silver birch that never grow to maturity. They are dark lifeless areas providing no habitat for British wildlife. This can be seen at the old Elliot's Brick works station road, where mass residential housing has been built.

Moorland farming of pine and fern trees create dark, unfertile, and acidic soil environments. Which are lifeless and sterile. Devoid of a complex ecosystem. They

offer no compensation for deciduous woodland. Deciduous ancient woods offer a thriving and diverse ecosystem. A great home and community of British wildlife. These tree plantations are exactly that a profit driven plantation scheme which serves only investors in search of a cash return. The soil is depleted of fertility and is turned into an acidic soil. The land then is not suitable for agriculture or wildlife. Pine tree's do not offer oxygen production and habitat like deciduous trees. **The pine trees of Storthes Hall have been felled due to disease.** The environment was dark. Deciduous trees promote fertile brown soils, and habitat for British wildlife.

Great Lepton woods are a unique and enchanting woodland home to many species.

The oak, beech, birch woodland is of a significant acreage that is an anomaly, as many woods are thin due to intensive farming and the lay of land and geology which allows farming to take opportunity. The land of Great Lepton woods and the meadow land, has the geology of clay mines, shafts, and underground streams. Therefore, building on this area is unsafe, as well being an unethical and ecological disaster.

It is enjoyed by many for its beauty, diversity, and the meadow land. Great Lepton woods and meadow land can be admired from Highburton, Little Lepton, Emley, Almondbury, and Farley Tyap. It can be viewed from Woodsome Hall manor.

The area is of a high scenic value with spectacular views of Oakland woods, undulating meadows, (dells, dingles, valleys), with the exceptional vista of the historic Woodsome hall and the national monument of Queen Victoria's tower on Castle Hill. The vertical juxtaposition of the two heritage sites is a unique feature amongst the beautiful valleys which can be admired from the Great Lepton woods (SSI status). The landscape is a landscape worth protecting and saving. It is habitat and ecosphere that should not be crushed and laid to waste. Desolation and destruction through wanton building on meadow, especially next to ancient woodland is irresponsible. It is pure greed and selfishness, undesirable traits of the unethical and avaricious profiteers. This haven of wildlife, flora and fauna and complex ecosystem is to be sacrificed for self-serving interested parties.

Farmland is scarce and food supply shortages and supply-side shocks are now a common feature, due to economic, biological, environmental, climatic, and political factors. Farmland status must be maintained on these meadows to secure food supplies. Certainly, meadow land is fixed in supply and is reducing with a ratchet affect. Destruction of Greenfields is not sustainable. The UK will pay high price for allowing green fields to be concreted over to serve the short-term interest of some vested people.

With the global **Climate meeting in Scotland (Cop26)**, attended by world leaders, and measures to tackle climate change and co2 levels, are now accepted as critical to life. It is perplexing that Planning is making great efforts to build on green field meadows next to Oak woodland. Protection must be given to the meadow land and Oakwood land that is providing a solution to the problem that the global meeting is purporting to solve.

The challenge of solving climate change is to a great degree in protecting establish woodland and greenbelt. This habitat cannot be lost. Building on this area is an ominous harbinger to a climate disaster and the negative factors that will affect life.

All this exposes the high level of posturing on the climate and environmental protection, with no real actions to alleviate the problem.

The oakwood is already damaged from landowners felling trees, slurry, chemical sprays on fields above (turning brown and dying off) effecting woodland bluebells through runoff and spray, and recreational mountain bikers, excavating the ground, creating ramps, and cutting trees, turning it into a desolate leisure park.

Waste soil has extensively been dumped on the fields on one of the valley sides, above Beldon brook and Lepton dam. Excavations from building works have been laid on the farm field. It has defiled the valley as did the slurry and the cutting of the hedges. What will be the effects of the runoff?

The planning development will create runoff and silt into the dam, streams, and brooks. **ICI or Astra Zeneca, Leeds Road, fishing pond dumped their silt** into the river. They were fined. The development will create polluted streams.

Many years ago, objectors were deceived and palmed off by KMC councillors stating that they do not want to build on the land. In the background, plans and decisions were made to reduce the land status from Greenfield to an 'area of no scenic value'.

People were abashed by the level of nihilism, uncultured, and unethical attitude of councillors, who stated in their own words "I do not see what is scenic about it?"

The councillor and the director of the environment and climate change should answer for this decision.

It was unsettling and embarrassing that we have councillors who can make such unintelligent comments in a surly and belligerent manner. It is a vacuous mentality. It is the same mentality and opinion of the man who stated on television some many years ago that Buckingham palace should be knocked down. How do people of this mentality get into the decision-making process of government?

An appeal to reverse the decision and the unjust reclassification was stubbornly rejected.

What would be the opinion of the Queen on this destruction of the area around Queen Victoria's Tower?

The area is of high scenic value and the public believe it is of an area of outstanding beauty. With the rich verdant vales and deep oak woodland surrounding the valleys. The stunning landscape scenery of English Heritage of Woodsome hall and the national monument of Queen Victoria's tower, set in deep rich and beautiful woodland is valued by many.

Comprehensive Objections have been made for many decades.

Protecting the meadowland and oak woodland is the enlightening, intelligent, and logical decision.

The UK Biodiversity is at critically low level. Action needs to be taken.

It is officially recognised that the UK is the most nature depleted country, as noted by the BBC. It is also in terms of England already one of high population density. We must protect the woodland, meadow, and nature for our health and wellbeing.

If the plan goes through, the area will be devastated from Lepton to Highburton. Population levels, negative activity, and footfall will lead to eventual desertification of what is a wildlife haven.

The coined phrase by the planners, builders, architects, and marketing people of 'Urban wilderness', is an insult to people's intelligence. It is a cynical insult to environmental protection. Cloaking attempts, using terms such as 'green corridors' and 'urban wilderness', is a mockery and shameful.

The fact that they have used terms of Urban wilderness and Green Corridors, is admission that they are aggressively seeking to build on greenfield and wildland. The land should have the **green belt status reinstated**.

An appeal to reinstate the greenbelt status has been met with stubbornness and rejection. The land is of outstanding standing beauty of Ancient Oak Woodland, meadow land, an expansive landscape that is awe inspiring with majestic English Heritage. The view of Queen Victoria's tower and Woodsome hall, set in the verdant landscape is priceless.

Valid points have been made for the protection of the meadow land and the ecological area. Have politicians and planners noted?

There has been severe hedge cutting in the Greenfields next to Great Lepton wood. The hedge of been cut down from a high level to a very low level. Hedges in the field have been dugout completely.

The boughs and branches of the trees of Great Lepton woods have also been cut. Please see weblink to the Examiner and Yorkshire Post at the end of the email.

Oak Tree's with the status of Tree Preservation Order (TPO) have been cut. Oak and other trees within the hedges have been felled in half. They have been cut in half at the trunk (boles, stems).

Please see article attached. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, hedges rows can only be cut at certain times of the year for the protection of nesting birds.

The cutting of the hedges took place during the seasonal time-period, which is illegal, as stated in the article attached and as the rules stated by the **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981**.

Reckless and illegal cutting of TPO Oak trees, which is dangerously out of season.

Hawthorn hedges have been felled and cut out in the centre of the fields. Both in the plateau fields and the sloping fields. Three large hawthorn trees at the fields at the top and at least four to five on the sloping fields have been felled and dug out completely. They were mature and in full bloom of radiant white. Hedges rows have been cut to a low level, with felled trees left stacked on top creating a fire hazard.

The hawthorn hedges were fully mature have been in existence for decades. Certainly over 50 years old and probably longer since the fields were used for agriculture.

The Hawthorn hedges provided protection and habitat for nesting birds. The deep cover of thorns protected them from predators, including covid's, raptors, foxes, badgers, and cats. Hedge rows are at a low level and are no longer high for nesting. Ground predators would therefore attack any vulnerable birds. The small bird's nest in the hawthorn trees and hedges and they have been forced out.

Planning protocols and due diligence have been bypassed. It has been recognised as illegal cutting. All tree services know about TPOs. Apparently, no permission was granted.

The Trees and hedges were left vulnerable to disease due to the cutting of trees out of season.

The meadow land, adjacent to an Ancient Oak Woodland was officially Greenbelt. This was then demoted to a status of no scenic value. An unjust decision considering the beauty of the area, of meadow land fields, mature hedge rows, isolated hedges in the fields, Mature Oak, and Beech woodland; and the Heritage of the landmarks of the area including Queen Victoria's Tower, Castle Hill (a site of historic interest), and Woodsome Hall.

The area is surrounded by woodland, including a large wood Great Lepton wood which is an ancient woodland with the status SSI, with specimen beech trees and oak. There is the woodland in the Farnley valley and other smaller woodland, in the area. This area has been complemented by the Woodland Trust.

These important areas of woodlands and ecosystems should be protected, as they are the lungs for the people of Lepton, Highburton, and Farnley valley. They pump out oxygen and provide a means for the cleaning of air pollution, produced by vehicle traffic and other sources of air pollution.

The wanton destruction of this beautiful natural landscape is a harbinger to the inexorable despoilation of the English countryside. If economic agents and decision makers, legally or illegally, can force landscape of this nature to be destroyed and

used for house building. Then house building will be left unchecked with a clear path of destruction of our natural landscape. Environmental protection is required to meet the challenges of clean air requirements and ameliorating global warming.

Biodiversity is under threat for birdlife and mammal life. The oak tree is under threat and is stated as heading towards extinction. Please see attached.

“ Every tree species matters - to the millions of other species that depend on trees, and to people all over the world.”

Paul Smith, BGCI secretary general

BGCI secretary general Paul Smith said: "This report is a wake-up call to everyone around the world that trees need help."

Recycling and regeneration of urban land must be a government priority. Meadow land and hedges should be protected. English Heritage must be preserved and not sacrificed. The meadowland is a scarce resource. Note, English Heritage website.

I do not expect Kirklees Council to save the world. But they could do their bit for the environment in Huddersfield.

Kirklees Council leaders have complained that cuts have gone too far.

They seem content in sacrificing nature for their own interests and revenue streams.

Obviously, any research the council had done on wildlife in the area has been incompetent to suit their plans.

The destruction of this beautiful landscape, wildlife haven, spectacular scenery, and ecological site must be stopped. Planners and economic agents must not be allowed to plunder nature and obliterate this biosphere. They will be in effect contributing to the destruction of the oxygen atmosphere that protects life on earth.

Great Lepton woods is a sizeable SSI Ancient woodland, it is rare to have such a wood of its size and diversity of trees. Most woodland in the area is thin and narrow and only exists because it serves as screening, or the land cannot be used for farmland. Due to size and nature of the wood and being adjacent to meadow fields it offers habitat for a rich diversity of wildlife.

The meadow lands offer spectacular scenery and many people have commented on their beauty. Standing in rich nutrient meadow fields the beauty of the Ancient woodland and meadow fields is magnificent.

The vista from Great Lepton woods overlooking meadow lands, Oaklands, presenting the jewel of Yorkshires heritage, 'Queen Victoria's Tower', known as Castle Hill and the prestigious manor of Woodsome Hall. The rarity value of this epic scenic vista is truly magnificent and sublime. Once a sinister opportunistic decision

is made and deployed, we the people of England will have lost an absolute stunning gem of English Heritage and natural beauty.

To me you would have to travel to Castle Bolton to enjoy such a prestigious view. The benevolent, moral, ethical, decent and rationale behaviour would be to preserve the land as a nature reserve and protect English Heritage and English Nature.

The woodland is an SSI Ancient woodland, containing diverse biosphere, of mammalian life, avian, raptor, amphibian, fish, insect, plant, flora, and fauna.

The Ancient woodland, status should be higher as it contains the full range of British wildlife, including roe deer, badger, hare, fox, weasel, buzzards, , sparrow hawk, barn owl, brown owl, woodcock, King fishers, Heron, and bats. The tree specimens include large ancient Beech trees, Elm, Sycamore, and Oak trees, some of which have been felled by malicious fire. The practice of burning specimen trees at their base to fell them has occurred over the decades. Moreover, some have climbed the trees to hack off large branches to destroy the tree half-way up.

The government has announced the objective to plant trees to combat the significant and world recognized problem of carbon emissions, air pollution, and global warming. We therefore must protect the ancient woodland to meet these objectives. It is paramount that the area is reserved for woodland and greenfield to generate clean air and environment for people to enjoy responsibly.

The quality of Tree planting scheme can be varied. We have seen in other countries where ancient rainforest has been felled and replaced with palm trees. Which is a clear disaster. The government tree planting scheme proposed may be similar in effect. Land may be planted with high density saplings, which will create a dark life less environment and then later harvested. Tree planting for subsidises and grants, may well create mono environments of singular plants such as silver birch or spruce, to which will be harvested for paper pulp or furniture. These planting schemes can degrade the soil and environment, as they are intensive. A rich diverse wildlife which is exhibited in our ancient woodlands and meadows cannot be replicated by intense sapling planting.

Once these Ancient lands are lost, they are lost for good.

Tree planting is apparent near the reservoirs in the peak district. But it is monoculture, creating dark dense lifeless areas, which again will be harvested.

Carbon capture is low and transient. The soil is nutrient poor and acidic, with the natural life being near non-existent. These evergreen spruces offer a very degraded alternative to natural woodland.

First, we must protect existing deciduous woodland, which supports nutrient rich brown soils, strong deep biomass, where wildlife can survive, and oxygen can be generated, and carbon can be stored. Trees convert carbon monoxide to oxygen and absorb pollutants.

The objection to the building of a housing development on green meadow fields surrounding the SSI Ancient wood land in Lepton has strong environmental, ecological, health, geological, social, and economic arguments in maintaining and preserving the status of precious environment

The woods require the meadow lands adjacent to them to keep them vibrant with birds, insects, and mammals. The wildlife requires these meadows for areas of feeding and interaction. They support each other in their ecosystem.

We strongly object to the building on the meadow fields and present alternative policy of land reclamation of brown fields, for building residential homes.

Meadow land should be used for agriculture and food production. Britain needs arable land and grazing land to feed itself. It should be mandatory for meadowland to be preserved. We need agricultural capacity.

We need to be in a position of self-sufficiency. There is a difficult climate in Europe, global inflation, supply shortages, and conflict. Food could go desperately short. Shortages and high prices are viewed to be long term.

Agriculture land should be used for agriculture, not housing. We needed the land for food in WW2. We need it now for uncertain and difficult times. Inflation is high.

On the national news television broadcast Michael Gove MP, stated neglected brownfield site's should be used for new home and regeneration.

Note article Link below

<https://www.bdonline.co.uk/news/gove-criticises-housing-design-while-backing-brownfield-regeneration-and-beauty-agenda/5114027.article>

On housing, Gove said the government will invest in urban regeneration to put new homes on “neglected brownfield sites”, while at the same time “helping more of those who currently rent to own their own homes”.

...

Dowden hinted the government was planning proposals to “set out in law measures to protect our towns, villages and precious countryside from being despoiled by ugly development”.

Tom Fyans, deputy chief executive of countryside charity the CPRE, said the commitment to building on brownfield sites in Gove’s speech “signals the mood music on the government’s planning proposals has changed genre – and that our countryside and green spaces are now in safer hands since the reshuffle”. He added: “We hope this ushers in an age of positive changes to our planning system. We look forward to working with the government, local CPREs and rural communities to turn the housing secretary’s words into actions for people and nature.”

Ancient Woodland and Green Meadows provide.

1. High Scenic value land for people to relax and enjoy.
2. Protects our English Heritage.
3. Provides significant Health benefits.
4. Provides area for exercise.
5. Provides clean air to breath and respiration.
6. Ancient woodland oxygenates the area and remove toxins
7. Provides family meeting areas and social interaction.
8. Supports the objective and targets that the government strives to achieve of Net Zero Carbon Emissions, can they meet these objectives.
9. Provides protection from flooding and heavy rainfall.
10. Biomass and trees store carbon and excess water.
11. Maintains an environmental status of desirability and not congestion, which has a significant economic impact on the area.
12. An area of desirability enjoys better economic and social wellbeing.
13. Congestion will destroy the area.
14. Provides the environment for a diverse biosphere and ecosystem.
15. Habitat for a broad range of British Wildlife, mammals, amphibians, avian, raptors, insects (butterflies and dragonflies). Many of which are rare and protected.
16. Wildlife species deemed important by BBC Naturewatch.
17. Migrations and travel of wildlife. The meadow fields and woods offer a route to travel and migrate in various season across to the ponds and streams
18. Provides an educational facility for children to learn and meet pastoral needs and educational enrichment. Used by the schools.
19. Protect from motor bikers and vandalism
20. A tourist attraction, the area is recognised as desirable and pleasant. There are hotels, pubs, B&B, holiday cottages, and lodgings in the area and the Farnley valley, which provide economic benefits. Walkers, horse ridings, hiking groups, writers, use the area for inspiration and relaxation.
21. New development would be a significant traffic danger to school children of Rowley Lane.
22. Traffic congestion would pose a real threat to the community, in both accidents and pollution.
23. Meadow fields are synergistic to the preservation of the woodland ecosystem.
24. Fields are nutrient rich fields for grazing. It is vital that farming is sustainable, supplying the home market, and the UK not dependent on imports. Imports may be constricted in supply as new trade relations prevail.
25. Protection of the stream and pondlife. The meadow preservation will service to protect the stream and pond from negative human activity. The pond has rare amphibian and bird life. Toads, frogs, and newts are particularly rare in the UK.

26. Pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) are part of this habitat.
27. Raptor life has been flourishing in the area, with a slight downward trend in the population in the recent year. We have seen a flight 8 buzzards over the meadow fields. Flocking of buzzards is a natural occurrence, but groups of two is a more frequent event. Buzzards have taken decades to re-establish from persecution. Therefore, cynical comments suggesting buzzards are common are pathetic and irresponsible. We should value and appreciate the fact that a population of buzzards are inhabiting these valued natural environments. Moreover, sparrow hawks pass through the area. What is populating the woods and feeding in the meadows, which is rare are the owl population and woodcock.
28. The meadow fields, hedge rows, coppices, ancient woodland offers habitat to rare mammals such as hedgehogs and hares.
Hedgehogs while present, are getting rarer year by year. We must protect them.
29. **Meadow protection** is an objective of **English Heritage**. Meadows are one of the rarest habitats in the UK, with 97% of this habitat lost in Britain since World War II. English Heritage properties have some of the last remaining meadows, which are vital for biodiversity. See their website.
<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/conservation/gardens-and-landscapes/meadow-conservation/>
30. The Ancient woodland and meadows support's the reduction atmospheric pollution and the prevention of death by respiratory problems. Many thousands die young in the UK due to air pollution.
31. Prevents the conurbation of Lepton and Highburton. Which would have negative social, economic, ecosystem, and infrastructure consequences.
32. We need to prevent the area of natural beauty being forced into an urbanised city zone. This is last sector of our area which has a large deciduous woodland and meadows. Most of the area of Kirklees is urban, we need to preserve the rural balance. If not, state clearly politicians are indifferent to green issues and stop using them as a sound bite on the news pretending to care.
33. Rookies and their colonies have disappeared. This is due to urbanisation, and new farming methods and potential culling. Covid's of all types utilise the woods and meadows. But there are no large congregating rookies as once there was.

Why do the council wish to desolate a wildlife haven? This is greed and venality.

Who? is financing this persistent push Not to build on brown field sites. Many years (decades) have been spent by planning and at great cost on this effort to build on the green belt and adjacent to an ancient woodland. This should be clarified and exposed to the public, the rate payers who pay taxes. The expenditure and the cost of their salaries for

the planning, proposals and building on green belt should be made public.

“A [new report](#) led by King’s and published by the government’s Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) estimates that between 28,000 and 36,000 people [*≈ population of Apia, capital city of Samoa*] die as a result of air pollution every year in the UK. This is a significant increase on their 2015 figure of about 29,000.”

“The committee, chaired by Professor Frank Kelly, School of Population Health & Environmental Sciences, looked primarily at nitrogen dioxide and fine particulate pollution which are produced when **petrol or other fuels are burnt**. They highlighted that although this was the focus of their analysis, estimates of the number of deaths would inevitably include the effects of other pollutants that occur simultaneously such as ultrafine particles, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and volatile organic compounds.”

“ Prolonged exposure to these chemicals can **exacerbate respiratory conditions** and has been associated with a range of other **health problems**. **Young children and older adults are particularly vulnerable**.

Source:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/uk-air-pollution-could-cause-36000-deaths-a-year>
King’s College London

Defra states.

Impacts of Vegetation on Urban Air Pollution

2020-12-02

In terms of the interactions between vegetation and air pollutants in urban areas, vegetation and trees can both influence atmospheric composition of trace gases and enable dispersion and deposition of air pollutants, thus affecting the concentrations of pollutants that populations in urban areas are exposed to. A large amount of research has been undertaken to quantify the benefits of using vegetation to reduce concentrations in urban areas, however the research outcomes are variable and there is currently no clearly defined outcome to support the use of vegetation as a sole measure to improve air quality.

The effect of vegetation on atmospheric dispersion

The impact of trees on air flow and turbulence can influence the dispersal of pollutants across any area. The planting of trees locally (at a scale of 10 - 100m² area) will influence dispersal characteristics which can lead to redistribution of pollution but does not remove it. Completed studies show that where **vegetation acts as a barrier close to a pollution source, e.g. a road link**, concentrations immediately downwind of the planted area

can be reduced typically by a **factor of two**, relative to the concentration if the vegetation were not in place. Conversely, however, concentrations can increase on the source side of the vegetation area. The extent to which the vegetation area influences dispersal is dependent on the planting design and specific species being used, with taller trees and shrubs being more effective than ground cover plantings.

Overall, vegetation can contribute to a reduction in air pollution within urban areas, in particularly through their ability to influence the dispersal of pollutants across an area. However, they can only be a supporting solution to the air quality problems experienced on a city-wide scale in terms of displacement and redistribution rather than removal of pollutants. **Nonetheless, vegetation and green infrastructure in urban areas offers several other benefits, including improvements to biodiversity and wellbeing via improved mental health and recreational areas .**

<https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/laqm-faqs/faq105.html>

source: Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

The SII Ancient Woodland of Great Lepton and meadowland area is a biosphere which is about to be crushed and turned into a conurbation, joining Lepton and Highburton into a high-density suburb.

Once the area is destroyed, we will lose English Heritage and the precious ancient woodland and meadow.

Roe deer, badger, buzzards, barn owl, woodcock will have no habitat. And we will have no green and pleasant country to enjoy for the future.

People will decide not to live in our area, as the environment will have changed for the worse. Council taxes may suffer as a result.

It is likely that even during the build accidents will increase due to the traffic density at Hermitage Park.

Access is already difficult in in the morning and late afternoons as the children at Rowley Lane arrive and depart.

Building traffic of heavy equipment during the building period will create difficulties and higher traffic, a consequence of more houses. This poses the danger and possible deaths of children in the future. The egress and ingress areas, routes to school will be accident zones.

Access on to Penistone Road from Rowley Lane and indeed Station Road has already produced serious accidents. It is exceedingly difficult to enter and exit at these points.

Heavy traffic density has created tension in the traffic flow. Where drivers, are stressed and impatient, leading to accident prone conditions. A large roundabout with traffic lights is one proposal to the problem. This is the infrastructure of an inner-

city landscape. Not a rural area. Hence, the once beautiful landscape is transitioning further to a city zone.

Traffic is causing outrage amongst worried parents. Penistone road will need to be widened to alleviate some of the congestion.

Disruption during the build would be horrendous. The costs would escalate as commuters are hampered further and delays are extended. This has been evident when gas works, or broadband has installed on the main Penistone Road.

Congestion will be horrendous once completed. Ingress and Egress point are limited and constricted. They will have to pass on already congested residential streets, lanes, and roads. Hermitage Park being used as parking space for parents picking children up from school.

These routes onto Rowley Lane which is intense and dense with traffic. The plan will only allow an ingress and egress point from Hermitage Park for a large residential plan, which could be 300 to 400 cars flowing in a constricted fashion. Other ingress and egress point are not marked. If they are going to be other points this will mean more destruction and junction of constriction onto already busy residential areas and roads.

The building proposal is not in the interest of the quality of life our citizens, England's Heritage, Net Zero Carbon Emission targets, Clean Air quality, safety, landscape, or the economic and social functioning of our area.

Politicians from all parties agree to protecting and supporting the environment and are at pains to stress importance of green objectives. To many voters this only lip service and ticking the check box of sound bites, then doing what they want to do.

The plan must be stopped due to problems it will create.

We must

1. Protect the Children
2. Protect the Wildlife
3. Protect the Meadow fields, as English Heritage state.
4. Protects the people and green parks of Lepton and Highburton
5. Protect our Natural air cleaner, oxygenator, and pollution filter.
6. Protect our farming capability.
7. Protect the peoples' social well-being, physical, and mental health and recreational areas that contribute greatly to these ends.
8. The quality of life is important to all the people of Lepton and Highburton.
9. Climate targets of lower Carbon Dioxide levels and other emissions will not be met by destroying meadow fields and Ancient woodland. The fields and the woods absorb carbon dioxide.
10. Meadow fields and woods prevent flood damage.

The councils aim should be to create harmonious well-being, not fractious, hostile environments. We need parkland to relax and enjoy nature.

British Mammals

- Roe Deer
 - Badgers
 - Foxes
 - Rabbits
 - Weasels
 - Stoats
 - Field Mice
- Hedgehogs
Hares
Voles
Grey Squirrels

Raptors

- Buzzards
- Kestrel
- Sparrow Hawk
- Brown Owl
- Barn Owl
- Tawny Owl

Birds

- Herons
 - Woodpeckers
 - Snipe
 - Woodcock
 - King Fisher
 - Mallard
 - Wobblers
 - Coots
 - Partridge
 - Robins
 - Blackbirds
 - Wrens
 - Migratory Birds, including rare Woodcock.
- Song Thrushes
Jackdaws
Magpies
Pheasants
Starlings
Crows and rooks

Insects

- Dragon Flies
- Butterflies
- Moths and many others

Meadow land grasses (not intensive farmed).

Supporting life of the British wildlife. See **English Heritage**, meadow land, endangered and rare. **97% wiped out.**

Amphibians

- Toads
- Newts
- Frogs

Fish

- Carp
- Trout
- Perch
- Roach
- Rudd

Trees

- Ancient Beech (400-year-old specimens)
- Oak trees (large acreage of oakwood land)
- Sycamore
- Silver Birch (which have been planted because of arson)
- Elms
- Scots Pine
- Holly
- Hedgerows (which are now seen as vital to regenerate the health of the countryside).

The building of mass residential properties (HS1, HS2, HS3) between Lepton all the way up to Highburton, joining up this area to produce a highly developed area, may enrich the builders. This will impoverish the quality of life for all the inhabitants.

The continual urbanisation of 100s and ever-increasing number of houses. Likely to be 1000s. Will mean greater human activity, both in footfall, motorisation, pets (cats and dogs), which will destroy the wildlife.

There will be the need to provide greater infrastructure for 1000s more people. Current, infrastructure and public services are already buckling under the pressure.

The traffic congestion is already horrendous on Penistone Road, Wakefield Road, Rowley Lane. The pollution is alarming and noxious. The roads are narrow and cannot cope with the existing traffic. A dual carriageway would be needed. Which would not be possible due to existing houses on the roadsides. There have been several fatalities on Penistone Road and many accidents due to excessive traffic.

The department of planning should after years of pressure focusing on the building on greenbelt, meadowland, farmland and next to ancient woodland should be stopped. This zealous focus of desolating this epic landscape should be finally laid to rest. Urban regeneration and rejuvenation of existing urban areas and brown fields sites should be the focus.

It is time to move on from this grossly persistent debacle.