

## About the application

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| Application number: 2024/92394   |  |
| What is the application for?:    | Development of an attenuation basin and associated access relating to planning p |
| Address of the site or building: | Land at, Merchant Fields Farm, off Hunsworth Lane, Cleckheaton                   |
| Postcode:                        |  |

## User comments

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| Type of comment: An objection  |                              |
| Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <p>I wish to object to this development. The proposed land was not in Kirklees Local plan and is still classed as agricultural greenbelt. This land until recently was used to raise and graze sheep and horses so cannot be classed as grey belt or any other fudge. A recent planning application for this land was "change of use from agricultural greenbelt", which was refused.</p> <p>Harron Homes who have submitted this application give no reasons in the application on why an attenuation lake is required for their development of 291 homes. The original plans for this site included 3 buried attenuation tanks which they stated would prevent flooding to homes below this development. These were assessed and approved by Kirklees planners! Are Harron Homes now saying that the plans they submitted and had passed were incorrect. Since this planning application was agreed Harron Homes have continually attempted to have them changed and watered down. This application is all about cost as an attenuation lake built in the green belt is cheaper than building and maintaining buried attenuation tanks. Why would any planning department agree to dig up thousands of tons of green belt land. Transport it on highly polluting vehicles through built up residential areas and roads then dump it in land fill for no other reason but to save a developer a bit of money.</p> <p>There biodiversity report says there will be little difference to wildlife and flora, this could only have been written by the same people who cut down and burnt all the hedges and trees in 2019 on Merchants fields and then commissioned a biodiversity report claiming there was little wildlife and wildlife habitation in the fields. There will be a biodiversity loss as there is with the main development and making good the loss in this area by planting more trees etc in Dewsbury and Huddersfield does not improve the health or wellbeing of residents living in the local area. This land is used by a variety of rare species to hunt and feed including bats and a tawny owl. With this area gone as well as the rest of merchant's fields the food source for wild life will be very limited plus the increase in light pollution from these developments will scare more wildlife away.</p> <p>Hidden at the very end of this application is to build an additional 42 homes again on greenbelt which was not part of the local plan. Also, section 3.5.1 under Legislative Context says "Given that the land is intended for future residential development the preliminary risk assessment presented herein has been undertaken" The document</p> |                              |

preliminary risk assessment presented herein has been undertaken. The document that states this land was intended for future residential development must be made public otherwise this must be seen as a misleading/false statement and this application must be thrown out. This statement seems to be an attempt to remove the full scrutiny this development must have. Let us be clear it is an attempt to increase the existing approved development by 15% via the back door.

Since the original development was passed in 2021 there have been literally hundreds of new homes built very close to this area and as we speak there are hundreds more under construction. Over the last 5 years this area has seen a high intensity of house building concentrated into a relatively small area but absolutely no improvement in the infrastructure. Where are the new school place and doctors etc to accommodate the increase in population. Kirklees council have a duty of care to provide these facilities prior to building more and more homes in concentrated areas. Where are the traffic assessments etc for this application, Harron Homes seem to think the original application ones are sufficient but as pointed out there are hundreds of new homes built or under construction that haven't been taken into account. Where is the assessment for Kilroyd Drive as vehicles queue to either enter or leave. The pollution levels will surely increase but no assessment is required according to Harron Homes. How much additional time would this development take. Kirklees council said Harron Homes must complete their passed development in 5 years but HH want 10 years, residents are still in the dark to actually how long has been agreed for it. Will residents have to put up with building work for between 7 and 12 years if this new application is passed.