



I object to the proposed development on a number of grounds. I was born and raised in the village and my parents lived there for over 60 years. Their house overlooks the field in question and the ancient woodland. Building houses on that field would damage the character of the village and irrevocably change the landscape forever. The land is Green Belt and has been used for farming ever since I can remember, it is not greenfield or Grey Belt as the application states. Building on this site is not part of the Kirklees Local Plan.

Any development would have a significant impact on the biodiversity of the village. Kirklees Ecology Team states that the field is a significant wildlife corridor, including great crested newts, hedgehogs, reptiles and nesting birds. The T1 trees are a defining feature of the village and their removal conflicts with the Kirklees Local Plan Policy 33 and 24 (ii).

Yorkshire Water's report highlights the potential development as a flood risk, leading to pollution, and public health may be impacted. The YW report confirms the existing drainage issues in the village and confirms the site is not included in their Asset Management Plan because of its unallocated status. Any removal of soil would further impact on these issues, including additional surface water.

As well as the adverse effect on the land, a development would have a serious adverse effect on the Ancient Woodland of the Upper Dearne Woods dating back to the 1600's, as well as the heritage assets. I have further concerns regarding the environmental impact on Stephen Wood including the freshwater springs feeding the Ancient Woodland adjacent to the site. A number of sources, including The Woodland Trust, state that a 50m buffer zone would need to be put in place. Even then, the habitat of the woodland would inevitably be affected. On a recent walk I identified a number of birds including Blue Tit, Great Tit, Red Crossbill, Dunnock and the Eurasian Nuthatch. Woodpeckers also live there. I understand Kirklees have identified ants of "international importance" in the wood.

Add to this the additional noise and pollution from 123 new houses, with a potential 200+ more cars in the village, the environmental impact would be huge. The additional traffic would cause further chaos at the junctions of Carr Hill Road and at the Sovereign crossroads. Creating a new entrance on Barnsley Road would also increase the risk of accidents on an already busy road. The application incorrectly states that the train station in Denby Dale is 0.8km from the site. With only one bus per hour, new residents would have to use their cars to commute or get to neighbouring conveniences. The size of the proposed development would increase the village by a third and this would also impact the school (which doesn't have huge capacity for more children) and the GP surgeries in nearby villages in terms of access.