

Good afternoon, I would like to raise some points and questions about the proposed 200 dwellings that will be built to the west of Neverstitch Road, Skelmersdale. I am writing to you as I do not believe all environmental aspects of the felling of trees and land which is used by Pheasants, Eurasian Jays, Wood Pigeons, Collared Doves, Sparrowhawks and Bats among many other species are being considered fully. Not to mention the increased light pollution, noise pollution and devaluation of properties in the area due to more people and more strain being put on existing infrastructure and public services (which are already poorly maintained for the most part in Skelmersdale). There don't seem to be any plans for preserving wildlife in the planning - documents. Not only is deeply worrying to someone who campaigns for the preservation of areas of natural beauty in Skelmersdale, it also holds a sentimental value to the many residents who walk through it, have lived there for a very long time but also for people who enjoy nature and wildlife right on their doorstep.

Another less important point I would like to raise is the increased levels of light-pollution. I do astronomy as a hobby, therefore dark skies and the absence of artificial lighting is crucial. Not only is this the only place I can do astronomy in the local area, the increased levels of artificial lighting may cause issues with migrating bird species and cause further damage to the already dwindling bat population in the area while noise pollution will disturb the sleeping patterns of birds and disrupt their day-time activities. Also, hedgehog numbers in the area have also been dwindling. The areas of shrubs, tall grass and low traffic where the 200 proposed houses will be built is perfect for them to scavenge around safely and hibernate in the winter. My concern is that when the houses are built, many will be killed in the construction phase while many more will die later due to loss of habitat along with many other species.

What I am trying to get at, is that this area of Skelmersdale is one of the only, if not *the* only place where the fruitful history of Old Skem is still visible, and I believe this is another reason this land should be preserved and left to nature. I would like my voice to be heard, and for the building to either not happen, or to be done somewhere else. If there is no other way of moving the construction plans to a different site, proper precautions should be taken with accordance with the law to ensure local wildlife populations are impacted as little as possible.

The duck-pond (formerly a sand-wash reservoir) has been a project of my friend and me (and groups of other litter-pickers and magnet fishers) for a long time. We have spent many months cleaning the pond of litter and debris, while also building streams so the pond water can get diluted with clean rain water and the excess can flow away (this never used to be the case). I will attach a before and after picture of the area for comparison. If a play area is built (according to the plans one will be built near the duck pond), not only will the nesting habits of ducks, geese and many other birds be impacted, but Skelmersdale will lose yet another wonderful natural attribute.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email, I hope this makes some small difference in the planned devastation of the local area.

-Tudor, 15