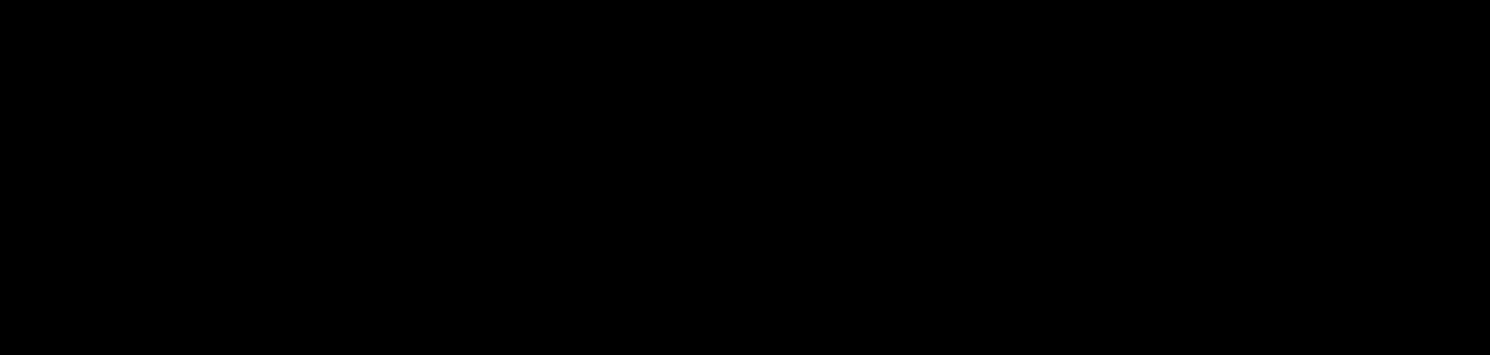




I oppose the application for permitted development at the site known as Far Lakes Farm



DET/2025/0041

The owner purchases 2 fields in open country in a tranquil setting with the intention of building on the land. A collection of random buildings and machinery has been added to the site gradually ticking boxes to obtain planning permission to build dwellings. His needs and requirements have changed to suit criteria. A building that was apparently needed for agricultural use obtained planning permission. That same building is now been proposed for conversion into 2 dwellings.

The site has a long history of planning applications and has been for some time in breach of enforcement not removing a static caravan and retuning the plot back to its original state. Last year an application for a dwelling on the site was refused by planning so there is no reason now why permission should be given for 2 dwellings. This is not a case of a farming family who have had a farm on the site for generations and need accommodation for the family to continue farming. It is a case of somebody going through the process to profit from building on a site.

My home is greatly impacted by the noise and disturbance from the site. The noise carries across the field in volume. Whilst the site was occupied during the time a temporary dwelling was on site I was unable to sleep at night and work from home due to human noise, machinery noise and vehicles coming and going. If dwellings on the site were to be occupied it would be a return to these conditions. Another family living adjacent to the site will be affected by the same disturbance but feel unable to come forward to comment. This is a tranquil part of the open countryside where one should hear birds sing and have peace and quiet as it used to be. The Tawny owls that nested in the trees above the buildings for years left their nest site whilst the site was occupied and disturbed by light pollution and noise. They returned to their nest this year as the site became unoccupied again.

The entrance to the site from the highway is on a narrow lane. Historically there was not an entrance here it came about during a storm when the wall collapsed.

Flooding has always been an issue at this point. Any attempts to cure this have only been temporary. Flash floods are becoming more frequent with global warming. This washes over agricultural land and through the sheds carrying agricultural run off into the adjacent water course that flows into the River Churnet. Shirley Brook is one of the clearest streams that feeds the Churnet with a good population of aquatic invertebrates and breeding brown trout.

Please see the video, filmed last year, of a flooding event gushing through the site.

If these dwelling are given permitted development then every person in the Staffs Moorlands will be able to follow the same path of applying for barns and changing use to build houses all over the open country. This is not appropriate all over the countryside that should have protection from planning.

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