

# Shipping container holiday homes proposed for Durham Green Belt



An example of the type of accommodation being proposed although it is twice the size of that shown above.

A planning application is to be heard in March which will determine whether a scheme such as that shown above can go ahead on protected countryside within the Durham Green Belt at Poplar Tree Garden Centre in Shincliffe.

The developers describe the scheme as “small scale” since the current application is for four units each formed from two large shipping containers, although the planning application is for an area which could accommodate many times that number. Addressing a Shincliffe Parish Council meeting the developer refused to rule out future expansion of the scheme which gave rise to grave concern.

Not only is the site part of the setting of the conservation area it is also on a flood plain and residents are justifiably appalled by the idea of having converted shipping containers supported on stilts sitting on their doorstep.

The area is rich in wildlife and has been enjoyed by Durham residents and visitors alike for generations. Not only residents but bodies such as the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the Durham Green Belt Group and City of Durham Trust all oppose the application since it is also contrary to the policies which the County Council only approved in 2020.

A spokesperson for the newly formed Shincliffe Green Belt Action Group said:

“ Developments such as this destroy the very thing that people come to the area for in the first place. We are determined that this beautiful countryside is protected and remains open and unspoilt for the benefit of all and for generations to come. Those opposing this scheme are not against enterprise and would support projects which benefit the local economy but the economic benefits of this scheme are limited to a small number of individuals and cannot be used to justify the destruction of an amenity enjoyed by many”.