



Submitted, 28 May 2021 to Derbyshire Council, Ref Planning Application [21/00130/FUL](#) - "Erection of rural workers dwelling and agricultural/food production building | Land East Of Turlowfield Lane Turlowfields Lane Hognaston DE6 1PZ"

It is feared that the planned "agricultural/food production building" is intended to be a slaughter house for captive bred rabbits – which makes the application 'obtrusive by design' in my opinion. There are a number of reasons why such a facility is obtrusive/objectionable:

- The welfare of the rabbits currently held at Atlow Farm was covertly investigated 16 – 20 March 2021 and found to be lacking – "...our investigators found rabbits in barren individual hutches, unable to socialise and with no free access to the outside" - [Animal Aid](#) . This kind of inhumane treatment does not conform to general animal welfare as encapsulated within the "[Five Freedoms](#)" (Bramwell 1979) – a common reference point for minimal animal welfare considerations. The decent into cruel and barbaric battery farming is a risk – a practice which the applicant (Mr Philip Kerry) has advocated in the past ("[Rabbit battery farms could return to UK](#)," The Guardian, 29 April 2011);
- There is the risk of disease, not only from captive bred stock to wildlife in the vicinity (eg. "[The virus \[RHVD\] is believed to have jumped from domestic rabbits or farms into wild populations..](#)" - "[The deadly plague that could devastate the US rabbit population](#)," The Guardian, 15 July 2020), but also onward human transmission, including such captive bred stock acting as a potential reservoir for COVID-19 and the potential to pass the virus on during the handling and/or slaughtering process - "[Rabbits susceptible to SARS-CoV-2: Red flag for potential virus reservoir](#)," News Medical Life Sciences, 30 August 2020.
- With any slaughtering process there is not only the question of humane treatment of the victims, but also the control of inevitable waste products - how will waste be disposed of, both from every day accumulation of rabbit droppings etc., the 'left-overs' from natural attrition ('[fallen stock](#)' rabbit deaths) and the slaughtering process? How will any uncontrolled run off and/or ingress of wildlife into the facilities adversely affect the local ecology/biodiversity? What risk assessment has been done to ensure the proposed intensive rabbit farming/slaughtering facilities do not pose a human health risk in the handling, slaughter (including local run-off of waste in the immediate environment) and consumption (human and/or [pet food](#)) of the rabbit derivative products from such a facility?
- Due to a loop-hole, if rabbits are bred for meat in the United Kingdom (UK), when the rabbits are slaughtered for meat and derivative products, then the [rabbit pelts \(fur products\) can also be sold](#) as a by-product. However, this is clearly an ambiguous grey area, where rabbits could potentially be bred for slaughter for their fur/derivative products (and not for meat) - how is this regulated with any degree of transparency (Note: fur farming was [banned in the UK in 2003](#))?;



- There have been objections raised for captive rabbit breeding and slaughtering facilities also proposed by Mr Philip Kerry at Cornwall (Ref. Planning Application [PA20/08566](#), refused 19 March 2021 - [application rejected](#), The Falmouth Packet, 21 March 2021); Buckinghamshire (Ref. Planning Application [PL/21/0130/FA](#)) [[Decision - Application Refused](#), 11 May 2021]; and Rutland (Ref. Planning Application [2020/1439/FUL](#)) – public opinion clearly does not support the commercial exploitation and slaughter of rabbits with [successful campaigns to remove intensively farmed rabbit meat](#) from supermarket shelves in the UK.

In conclusion, the proposals for “*rural workers dwelling and agricultural/food production building*” on the “*Land East Of Turlowfield, Lane, Hognaston, DE6 1PZ*” to provide facilities to commercially exploit rabbits is an unwelcomed spectre, unlikely to enhance Derbyshire Dales’ image as a desirable tourist destination that has exemplary animal/wildlife welfare standards as a core mission.