



National Highways Planning Response (NHPR 24-02) Formal Recommendation to an Application for Planning Permission

From: Divisional Director
Operations Directorate
Highways England.
North East Region
PlanningYNE@nationalhighways.co.uk

To: Kirklees Council FAO William Simcock
CC: transportplanning@dft.gov.uk
spatialplanning@nationalhighways.co.uk

Council's Reference: 2024/92281

Location: Land adj, 17, Whitehall Road West, Birkenshaw, BD11 2LS

Proposal: Erection of 23 dwellings

National Highways Ref: NH/24/08082

Referring to the consultation on a planning application dated 25 September 2024 referenced above, in the vicinity of the M62 that forms part of the Strategic Road Network, notice is hereby given that National Highways' formal recommendation is that we:

- ~~a) offer no objection (see reasons at Annex A);~~
- ~~b) recommend that conditions should be attached to any planning permission that may be granted (see Annex A – National Highways recommended Planning Conditions & reasons);~~
- c) recommend that planning permission not be granted for a specified period (see reasons at Annex A);
- ~~d) recommend that the application be refused (see reasons at Annex A)~~

This represents National Highways' formal recommendation and is copied to the Department for Transport as per the terms of our Licence.

Should the Local Planning Authority not propose to determine the application in accordance with this recommendation they are required to consult the Secretary of State for Transport, as set out in the [Town and Country Planning \(Development Affecting Trunk Roads\) Direction 2018](#), via transportplanning@dft.gov.uk and may not determine the application until the consultation process is complete.

The Local Planning Authority must also copy any consultation under the 2018 Direction to PlanningYNE@nationalhighways.co.uk

Signature:	Date: 14 October 2024
Name: Paula Bedford	Position: Planning & Development
National Highways Calder view House Peel Avenue Wakefield WF2 7UA	

Annex A National Highways' assessment of the proposed development

National Highways has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such we work to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

Recommended Temporary Period of Non-Determination

Surface Water Drainage Strategy

This application for 23 housing units covers an area that was previously subject to two separate planning applications.

The surface water strategy agreed for these developments split the outfall between the northern and southern sections. The northern section outfall went via a Kirklees highways drain incorporating some existing highway (serving Whitehall Road West) which connects into the motorway drainage for the M62. The southern section connected to drainage provided as part of the adjacent Barratts David Wilson Homes Development without increasing flood risk in the locality.

This application amalgamates both areas and will connect both areas to highway drainage in Whitehall Road West which is a drainage system that already surcharges.

As such, National Highways require sight of the written justification requested by the Kirklees flood drainage lead for this change in surface water strategy prior to providing a response on this matter. The justification should clearly demonstrate that the proposed surface water strategy will not have a detrimental impact on the motorway highway drain.

Traffic Impact

The transport assessment submitted in support of this development assumes 22 AM and 16 PM peak hour trips. And, notwithstanding that the applicant has not applied the principles of DfT Circular 01/2022 to further reduce this impact, it is accepted that once distributed across the road network these trips are considered to fall within daily variation.

I will re-visit this recommendation no later than 20th December 2024

Standing advice to the local planning authority

The Climate Change Committee's [2022 Report to Parliament](#) notes that for the UK to achieve net zero carbon status by 2050, action is needed to support a modal shift away from car travel. The NPPF supports this position, with paragraphs 74 and 109 prescribing that significant development should offer a genuine choice of transport modes, while paragraphs 108 and 114 advise that appropriate opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport should be taken up.

Moreover, the carbon reduction hierarchy (avoid-switch-improve) as set out in clause 4.3 of PAS2080:2023 promotes approaches and measures to minimise resource consumption and thereby reduce carbon emissions.

These considerations should be weighed alongside any relevant Local Plan policies to ensure that planning decisions are in line with the necessary transition to net zero carbon.