

**KIRKLEES METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
INVESTMENT & REGENERATION SERVICE**

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) – SECTION 70

DELEGATED DECISION TO DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Reference No:	2025/62/92651/W
Site Address:	Wingfield, Far Cliffe, Cliff House Lane, Holmfirth, HD9 1XA
Description:	Change of use of land to domestic garden
Recommending Officer:	Joshua Merriman

DECISION – Full Conditional Permission

I hereby authorise the approval of this application for the reasons set out in the officer's report and recommendation annexed below in respect of the above matter.

Kirsty Nicholls

AUTHORISED OFFICER

Date: 17-NOV-2025

Officer Report – 2025/92651

Site Description

The application site refers to Wingfield, Far Cliffe, Cliff House Lane, Holmfirth, HD9 1XA, a two-storey detached property faced in stone, with a pitched tiled gable roof, and timber windows and doors. The application property is set away from neighbouring properties, however, they are of a similar character, appearance, and age. Furthermore, the application property benefits from amenity space to the front, sides, and rear.

The rear amenity space is the subject of this application.

Description of Proposal

The Scheme

The application is seeking planning permission for change of use of land to domestic garden.

History of Negotiations / Amendments Received

No amendments have been requested by Officers.

Relevant Planning History

There is no relevant planning history at the site.

Representations

Publication of the application has been undertaken in accordance with the Council's Development Management Charter (July 2015).

The application has been publicised as affecting the setting of a listed building, affecting a public right of way, on the Council's website, by site notice and by press advertisement. The expiry date of the publicity period was 13/11/2025. One letter of representation raising a general comment.

Letters of Comment

- While the applicant states the grass will not be changed, the exemption must be considered in terms of overall impact and operational use of the land going forward. The garden could be planted with invasive shrubs or further developed with sealed surfaces which would have a negative ecological impact. Therefore, the existing biodiversity value of the grassland must be considered, and this compared to garden habitat.

- Holme Valley Parish Council have expressed their support of the application.

Officer Comment: Noted.

Consultation Responses

No consultations were considered necessary for this application.

Allocation and Policy

The site is allocated in a Strategic Green Infrastructure Network Area within the Kirklees Local Plan (adopted 2019). The site is also designated as a Grade II Listed Building, within the proximity of PRow HOL/113/30, and in an area with previous swift nesting records.

The following legislation, policy and guidance is considered relevant to the determination of this application:-

Kirklees Local Plan

- LP1 Achieving Sustainable Development
- LP2 Place Shaping
- LP21 Highway and Access
- LP22 Parking
- LP24 Design
- LP30 Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- LP31 Strategic Green Infrastructure Network
- LP35 Historic Environment

Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan was adopted on 8th December 2021 and therefore forms part of the Development Plan. Policies within the plan relevant to the consideration of this application are listed as follows:-

- Policy 1 – Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape Character of Holme Valley.
- Policy 2 – Protecting and Enhancing the Built Character of the Holme Valley and Promoting High Quality Design.
- Policy 3 – Conserving and Enhancing Heritage Assets
- Policy 12 – Promoting Sustainability.
- Policy 13 – Protecting Wildlife and Securing Biodiversity Net Gain.

The application site is located within Landscape Character Area 4 () of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan. The key characteristics of which are below:

- Framed views from the settled valley floor to the upper valley sides and views across to opposing valley slopes and beyond towards the Peak District National Park.
- Boundary treatments comprised largely of millstone grit walling. The stone walling which runs parallel with Upperthong Lane is representative of local vernacular detailing.
- A network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) including the Holme Valley Riverside Way which follows the River Holme from Holmbridge through Holmfirth and downstream. National Cycle Route no. 68 follows minor roads through Upperthong towards the centre of Holmfirth before climbing the opposing valley slopes.
- Mill ponds reflect industrial heritage and offer recreation facilities.

National Policies and Guidance

National planning policy and guidance is set out in National Policy Statements, primarily the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published December 2024, the Planning Practice Guidance Suite (PPGS) first launched 6th March 2014 together with Circulars, Ministerial Statements and associated technical guidance.

The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and is a material consideration in determining applications.

- Chapter2 Achieving sustainable development
- Chapter12 Achieving well-designed places
- Chapter14 Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
- Chapter15 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
- Chapter16 Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

Supplementary Planning Documents / guidance

- Kirklees Highway Design Guide (adopted November 2019)
- House Extensions & Alterations SPD (adopted June 2021)
- Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan – 2021
- The Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Advice Note

Legislation

- The Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).
- The Town & Country Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990
- The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 sets out that in considering planning applications the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise

When making a recommendation in respect of a planning application affecting a Listed Building or its setting, attention must be given to Section 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 which requires the Local Planning Authority to 'have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of a special architectural or historic interest which it possesses'.

Assessment

The following matters are considered in the assessment below –

1. Principle of development
1. Impact upon the character and appearance of the area (including impact upon historic environment)
2. Impact upon residential amenity
3. Impact upon highway safety
4. Climate Change
5. Other matters – e.g. trees/ecology (e.g. bats)
6. Representations
7. Conclusion

1 – Principle of Development

Sustainable Development

NPPF Paragraph 11 and LP1 outline a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Paragraph 8 of the NPPF identifies the dimensions of sustainable development as economic, social and environmental (which includes design considerations). It states that these facets are mutually dependent and should not be undertaken in isolation.

The dimensions of sustainable development will be considered throughout the proposal.

Paragraph 11 concludes that the presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where specific policies in the NPPF indicate development should be restricted. This too will be explored.

Policy LP2 of the KLP sets out that all development proposals should seek to build on the strengths, opportunities and help address challenges identified in the Local Plan. Policy LP24 of the KLP is relevant and states that "good design should be at the core of all proposals in the district".

The proposal is for the change of use of land to domestic garden. The land was previously agricultural land which has been used as a residential garden for many years without an regularised change of use of the land use. The proposed use would be in keeping with the surrounding area and current use of the land.

In this case, the principle of development is considered acceptable, and the proposal shall now be assessed against all other material planning considerations, including visual and residential amenity, as well as highway safety.

These issues along with other policy considerations will be addressed below.

2 – Impact on character and appearance of the area (including impact upon historic environment):

Visual Amenity

Section 12 of the NPPF discusses good design. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, it creates better places in which to live and work and helps to make development acceptable to communities. Local Plan Policies LP1, LP2 and most importantly LP24, are all also relevant. All the policies seek to achieve good quality design that retains a sense of local identity, which is in keeping with the scale of development in the local area and is visually attractive.

Local Plan Policy LP24(a) states that all proposals should promote good design by ensuring the following: *‘the form, scale, layout and details of all development respects and enhances the character of the townscape, heritage assets and landscape’*.

Principle 7 of the House Extensions and Alterations SPD requires development to ensure an appropriately sized and useable area of private outdoor space is retained.

Historic Environment

Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservations Areas) Act (1990) states that for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Building & Conservation Areas) Act (1990) is mirrored in Policy LP35 of the Kirklees Local Plan and Chapter 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Furthermore, LP35 states that: *“development proposals affecting a designated heritage asset...should preserve or enhance the significance of the asset. In cases likely to result in substantial harm or loss, development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposals would bring substantial public benefits that clearly outweigh the harm.”*

The application relates to the change of use of land to a domestic garden to the rear of the application property. The land is currently designated as agricultural lane, however, is used as a residential garden and boundary treatments are erected as so. The surrounding area is predominantly

residential so the change of use to residential use is considered appropriate and would not cause harm to the character of the surrounding area or the application property as a Grade II Listed Building as there would be no changes on site.

3. Impact on Residential Amenity

Sections B and C of LP24 states that alterations to existing buildings should:

“...maintain appropriate distances between buildings’ and ‘...minimise impact on residential amenity of future and neighbouring occupiers.”

Further to this, Paragraph 135 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that planning decisions should ensure that developments have a high standard of amenity for existing and future users.

The proposed garden space would not significantly reduce the separation distance between the residential curtilage of the application site and neighbouring properties as there are no neighbouring dwellings immediately to the rear of the application site. Therefore, no significant harm would be caused over and above the existing arrangements on site.

4. Impact on Highway Safety

Policies LP21 and LP22 of the Kirklees Local Plan and Chapter 9 of the NPPF relate to access and highway safety and are considered to be relevant to the consideration of this application. The Council’s adopted Highway Design Guide seeks to ensure acceptable levels of off street parking are retained are also considered to be of relevance.

The proposed development would not result in the intensification in the domestic use of the dwelling, so the existing parking provision is acceptable. It is considered that the change of use will not cause any additional harm in terms of highways safety and the proposal complies with LP21 and LP22 of the Kirklees Local Plan.

5. Climate Change

On 12th November 2019, the Council adopted a target for achieving ‘net zero’ carbon emissions by 2038, with an accompanying carbon budget set by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. National Planning Policy includes a requirement to promote carbon reduction and enhance resilience to climate change through the planning system and these principles have been incorporated into the formulation of Local Plan policies. The Local Plan predates the declaration of a climate emergency and the net zero carbon target. However, it includes a series of policies, which are used to assess the suitability of planning applications in the context of climate change. When determining planning applications, the Council will use the relevant Local Plan policies and guidance documents to embed the climate change agenda.

Considering the scale and nature of the proposed development, especially that it is for private use, it is considered that the proposed development would not have an impact on climate change that needs mitigation to address the climate change emergency. The proposed development would therefore comply with Chapter 14 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

6. Other Matters

Impact upon Ecology

Chapter 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework is relevant, together with The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 which protect, by law, the habitat and animals of certain species including newts, bats and badgers.

Policy LP30 of the Kirklees Local Plan requires that proposals protect Habitats and Species of Principal Importance. Whilst it is acknowledged that the site is located within an identified swift nesting area, the proposals are relatively modest, and in this case being for a single storey extension would not impact upon the existing roof space which has the potential for providing a nest for swifts. Therefore it is considered unlikely that the proposals would have a significant impact on the swift population. Should the application be approved, an informative is recommended to be included making the applicant aware that if swifts are discovered on site during the works, any development shall cease, and the applicant is advised to contact Natural England for advice on how to move forward. Subject to informative the proposal is considered to be acceptable in this regard.

7. Representations

One letter of representation has been received raising the following general comment:

- While the applicant states the grass will not be changed, the exemption must be considered in terms of overall impact and operational use of the land going forward. The garden could be planted with invasive shrubs or further developed with sealed surfaces which would have a negative ecological impact. Therefore, the existing biodiversity value of the grassland must be considered, and this compared to garden habitat.

Officer Comment: *It is stated in the application form that the garden will not be changed in any way, therefore, the comment is noted and not considered as something that requires a condition. The application satisfies the de-minimis exemption for Biodiversity Net Gain.*

8. Conclusion

The NPPF has introduced a presumption in favour of sustainable development. The policies set out in the NPPF taken as a whole constitute the Government's view of what sustainable development means in practice.

This application has been assessed against relevant policies in the development plan and other material considerations. It is considered, the proposed development would constitute sustainable development and is therefore recommended for approval.

**Recommendation
PERMISSION**

CONDITIONAL FULL

Decision Authorisation: Delegated Powers

Application Number: 2025/92651

Officer Recommendation: Conditional Full Permission

Conditions

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun within three years of the date of this permission.

Reason: Pursuant to the requirements of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

1. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in complete accordance with the plans and specifications schedule listed in this decision notice, except as may be specified in the conditions attached to this permission, which shall in all cases take precedence.

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt as to what is being permitted and to accord with Policies LP01, LP02, LP21, LP22 & LP24 of the Kirklees Local Plan, Principles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 15 of the Council's adopted House Extensions & Alterations Supplementary Planning Document and Policies within Chapters 2, 9, 12 and 14 of the National Planning Policy Framework

NOTE: The applicant is advised that under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2018, the developer is required to take account of the timing of works in relation to the bird breeding season. An inspection to check for the presence of nesting birds is advised if demolition and/or site/vegetation clearance works are likely to take place during the bird breeding season (1st March to 31st August inclusive). If swifts are discovered on site development shall cease and the applicant is advised to contact Natural England for advice.

Plans and specifications schedule:-

Plan Type	Reference	Version	Date Received
Location Plan	-	-	22/09/2025
Block Plan	-	-	22/09/2025

Plan Type	Reference	Version	Date Received
Proposed Site/Block Layout	-	-	22/09/2025
Application Form	-	-	22/09/2025

Pursuant to article 35 (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2015 and guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework, the Local Authority have, where possible, made a pre-application advice service available, complied with the Kirklees Development Management Charter 2024 and otherwise actively engaged with the applicant in dealing with the application. No amendments were sought as it was considered that the proposal was acceptable as submitted.

Report Dated:

13/11/2025