

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:	2026/62/91385/W
Site Address:	Wild Acre, New Mill Road, Holmfirth, HD9 7LN
Description:	Change of use of land to extend domestic garden and erection of detached garage
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: 27-JUL-2026

Officer Report – 2026/91385

Site Description

The application site refers to Wild Acre, New Mill Road, Holmfirth, HD9 7LN, a two-storey detached property faced in stone, with a pitched tiled roof, and uPVC windows and doors. The application property takes access off Bramble Bank. The dwelling benefits from a hard-standing parking area to the front and side, as well as further amenity space surrounding the dwelling.

Description of Proposal

The Scheme

The application is seeking planning permission for change of use of land to extend domestic garden and erection of detached garage.

Supporting Information

In addition to the submitted plans the following documents have been submitted to support the application:

- Climate Change Statement

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 2024).

The application has been publicised as 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 the 03/07/2026.

Letters of Comment

- Holme Valley Parish Council have no observations on the application.

Consultation Responses

No consultations considered necessary.

Allocation and Policy

The site is allocated in the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network within the Kirklees Local Plan (adopted 2019). The site is also located within a bat alert layer, area with swift nesting records, and within proximity of PRow HOL/50/70.

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

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 12 – Promoting Sustainability.
Policy 13 – Protecting Wildlife and Securing Biodiversity Net Gain.

The application site lies within Landscape Character Area 4 (River Holme Settled Valley Floor) of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan, the key characteristics of which are listed 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.

A consultation draft of the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) was published on 16 December 2025. As a consultation, the document is at an early stage and subject to change. Accordingly, for the purposes of this application, no weight is given to the current consultation document.

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

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 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

Assessment

The following matters are considered in the assessment below –

1. Principle of development
1. Impact upon the character and appearance of the area
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

Policy LP1 of the KLP states that when considering development proposals, the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the NPPF.

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.

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

In terms of extending and making alterations to a property, Policy LP24 of the KLP is relevant, in conjunction with the House Extensions and Alterations SPD and Chapter 12 of the NPPF, regarding design. 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.

Paragraph 5.29 of the Council's House Extensions and Alterations SPD states the following regarding outbuildings:

“Outbuildings, such as garden offices, detached garages and granny annexes, can have as much of an impact on the appearance of the building as any other extension. Wherever possible these should reflect the style, shape and architectural features of the existing house and not be detrimental to the space around the building.”

Section 5.30 of the House Extensions and Alterations SPD goes on to say that outbuildings should normally:

- be subservient in footprint and scale to the original building and its garden taking into account other extensions and existing outbuildings;
- be set back behind the building line of the original building so that they do not impact on the street scene; and
- preserve a reasonable private amenity space appropriate to the potential number of occupants of the house, and follow a general principle that no more than 50% of garden space should be lost.

The proposal is partly for the change of use of land to domestic garden. The land is currently garden space to the side of the property which has been used as a residential garden for many years without an official change in the

land use. The proposed use would be in keeping with the surrounding area and current use of the land within the boundary walls of the property.

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

Considering the above policy, the principle of the development is considered to be acceptable.

2 – Impact on character and appearance of the area

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’*.

Key Design Principles 1, 2, and 9 of the Council’s adopted House Extensions & Alterations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) seek to ensure development is subservient to the host property and in keeping with the character of the locality.

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.

The recommendations of Paragraphs 5.29 and 5.30 of the Councils House Extensions and Alterations SPD are outlined in the ‘Principle’ section of this report and are considered relevant.

The proposed garage is subservient in footprint and scale to the original property and garden, moreover, the use of matching and sympathetic materials including concrete, grey roof materials, and black garage doors, are considered acceptable in the context of the site and considering how hidden the site is as it cannot be viewed from the nearby street scene due to natural screening.

Although the outbuilding is not set behind the host property, due to the natural screening and its low visibility, it is considered that the siting of the garage would not significantly impact the street scene in this event and is therefore acceptable.

Moreover, extending the domestic curtilage of the dwelling would have no visual impact on the site as the land would be continued to be used as garden space for the application property.

Therefore, the proposed development is not considered to comply with Policies LP1, LP2, and LP24 of the Kirklees Local Plan, Principles 1, 2, and 9 of the House Extensions and Alterations SPD, and Policies within Chapters 12 and 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

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.

Key Design Principles 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the Council’s adopted House Extensions & Alterations SPD seek to ensure development does not have a detrimental impact upon privacy of neighbouring occupiers, cause unacceptable levels of overshadowing or be unacceptably oppressive / overbearing.

The recommendations of Paragraphs 5.29 and 5.30 of the Councils House Extensions and Alterations SPD are outlined in the ‘Principle’ section of this report and are considered relevant.

The development as a whole, including the introduction of a garage and extending of garden space, would ensure at least 50% of the total land around the property is retained and an adequate amount of garden space is also retained.

Furthermore, due to the limited scale of the garage and its adequate distance from the neighbouring dwelling Arkendale, it is considered that there will be no significant impact upon overshadowing, overbearing, light, or outlook, and a development of this nature will not significantly increase footfall or give rise to increased impacts upon privacy and overlooking onto neighbouring occupiers.

It is therefore considered that in terms of residential amenity, the proposed would comply with Policy LP24 of the Kirklees Local Plan, Key Principles 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the House Extensions and Alterations SPD, and Policies within Paragraph 135 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

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.

It should be noted that although nothing specific is detailed on the submitted plans, the site will retain adequate space for waste storage.

The number of bedrooms in the dwelling will not increase as a result of the proposal, and the proposed double garage will facilitate two parking spaces to ensure the off-street parking requirement for the dwelling is still met.

The development is set back adequately from the highway, and will remove vehicles from the road, and as a result will have no significant impact upon highway safety.

It is therefore considered that in terms of access and highway safety / parking the proposed would comply with Policies LP21 and LP22 of the Kirklees Local Plan, Principle 15 of the Council's Street Design Guide and Chapter 9 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

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 bat roosting area and area with swift nesting records, the proposals are relatively modest, and in this case would not impact upon the existing roof space which has the potential for providing a roost for bats or swifts. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that the proposals would have a significant impact on the bat or swift population. An informative would be included making the applicant aware that if bats or 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

No representations have been received.

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: 2026/91385

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: Due to its location, a bat roost may be present on site. Bats are a European protected species under regulation 42 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. It is an offence for anyone intentionally to kill, injure or handle a bat, disturb a roosting bat, or sell or offer a bat for sale without a licence. It is also an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter, whether they are present or not. If bats are discovered on site development shall cease and the applicant is advised to contact Natural England for advice.

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	-	-	01/06/2026
Existing Block Plan	-	-	01/06/2026
Proposed Site Plan	-	-	01/06/2026
Proposed Block Plan	5	-	01/06/2026
Existing Elevations	1	-	01/06/2026
Proposed Elevations	2	-	01/06/2026
Proposed Elevations	3	-	01/06/2026
Proposed Floor Plans	4	-	01/06/2026
Application Form	-	-	01/06/2026
Climate Change Statement	-	-	01/06/2026

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:

06/07/2026

