



Heritage Impact Assessment

Land off Penistone Road (A629), Birdsedge, HDX 8XR

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Heritage Impact Assessment has been prepared to accompany an outline planning application for residential development including associated infrastructure works. All matters reserved except means of access into (but not within) land off Penistone Road (A629), Birdsedge. Birdsedge is a rural village, historically based on agriculture with a growth in the woollen trade and manufacture throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. The Birdsedge Mill was constructed in the early 19th century during the industrial revolution and mechanisation of cloth manufacture. The site lies within close proximity of the listed mill and within an area of open farmland within the centre of the village, opposite the school.

Due to the close proximity of the site to the listed mill, this assessment has found that development of the site for housing will result in less than substantial harm to the setting of the designated heritage asset. This harm is lowered by the lack of prominence the mill has due to its low lying level adjacent to the road, screening by later buildings and undulating topography. There is scope to reduce impact through good design and to reflect local character through use of locally derived materials and adherence to the predominant building type. Whilst less than substantial harm has been identified, this can in part be mitigated and also balanced against the public benefits deriving from the proposal.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Heritage Impact Assessment has been prepared by CLB Heritage to accompany an outline planning application for residential development including associated infrastructure works. All matters reserved except means of access into (but not within) land off Penistone Road (A629), Birdsedge. CLB Heritage have been commissioned by Yorkshire Land Limited to advise on the significance of the affected heritage assets, alongside design and mitigation measures to minimise harm.

1.2 The objective of this assessment is to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the heritage assets affected and to explain how the works impact upon their significance and setting as well as measures to minimise harm and maximise enhancement.

1.3 The aims of this assessment are:

- to identify the assets which could be affected by the proposed development;
- to consider the significance and setting of the identified heritage assets;
- to inform the client with respect to the potential implications of the proposal;
- assist those in the planning system to assess the proposed changes;
- to demonstrate how the proposal has explored ways to maximise enhancement and minimise harm;
- to satisfy the requirements of paragraph 200 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in relation to the assessment of significance;
- to assess the effects of the proposed development on the significance of the identified heritage assets; and
- to consider the appropriateness and acceptability of the scheme in light of the current legislation and policy relevant for decision making.

1.4 This assessment identifies the heritage assets within and surrounding the application site, including both designated and non-designated assets where appropriate. The zone of interest has been established based on information

gained during the site visit and professional judgement. Assessment has been informed by appropriately proportioned research and a list of sources is provided where reference is made to external sources of information. This assessment considers the significance of above ground heritage assets and does not form an assessment of archaeological significance, although it does consider evidential potential.

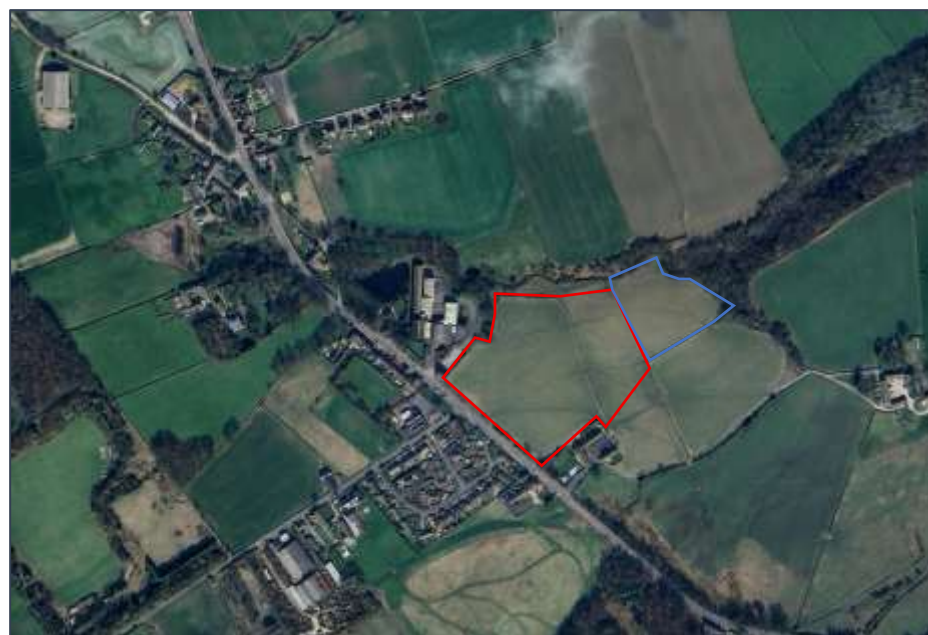


Figure 1 Site location Plan

2. BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

2.1 Birdsedge is a small village on the edge of the Pennine Hills, approximately six miles from Huddersfield and four miles from Pennistone. The area historically comprised of scattered, isolated upland farms, with woollen weaving and stone quarrying being the main sources of employment.

2.2 The growth of the textile industry in West Yorkshire began during the 17th century, with an abundance of soft water and fast flowing streams, the domestic textile industry had slowly developed as a subsidiary income to farming. The water was ideal for washing and dyeing purposes and the streams were able to power many water wheels. During the 18th century most of the cloth was produced in family homes, and therefore the manufacture became known as the 'domestic system'. There are several weaver's cottages in Birdsedge where hand weaving took place prior to and alongside the later mill. Cloth was sold to merchants called clothiers who sold the cloth at trades.

2.3 During the 18th century there were great advancements made in technology with the invention of the flying shuttle in 1733, followed by the spinning jenny in 1764 and by the end of the 18th century there were an estimated 20,000 of these machines being used in Britain.

2.4 This large-scale production and mechanisation required large mills to be constructed and the economy grew considerably. Birdsedge Mill appeared in the early 19th century and appears on the first edition Ordnance Survey plan, 1854 (**Figure 2**). The mill is sited 90m east of the old road bridge over the Dearne and 140m east of the Huddersfield to Penistone Turnpike road. A plot here was sold to Dickinson, a clothier in 1801 and the 1801 Enclosure Award names buildings here as "Wm Dickinson's Mill". According to Teasdale (2004) there were several owners and operators of Birdsedge Mill throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, which included:

- Early 19th century Hirst Brothers, with a partnership of Hirst, Thorp & Co., scribbling and fulling millers, which dissolved in 1845.
- 1862 Hirst Bros. Woollen Manufacturers
- 1890 Child and Company, Fancy Goods Manufacturers

- 1910 F H McGrath, Worsted Manufacturers.
- Z Hinchcliffe & Sons Cloth Blending.

2.5 The village therefore developed throughout the 18th and 19th centuries to follow the economic growth in the textile industry, whilst also maintaining its strong agricultural origins and character.

2.6 The first edition Ordnance Survey plan (1854) (**Figure 2**) shows a scattered settlement at Birdsedge, with the name being used to annotate the Birds Edge Mill, Birdsedge Lane, Bird Edge Plantation, Birds Edge Hill, New Birds Edge and Birds Edge Sandstone Quarry. The area stretches between Park Head in the north-west and High Flatts in the south east, following the line of the main road.



Figure 2 1854 Ordnance Survey plan

- 2.7 By the 1893 Ordnance Survey plan (**Figure 3**) a row of cottages appears at Park Head, along with the siting of the large detached Springfield House set within its own wooded grounds and back from the roadside. The Birdseye Mill has expanded to the east and is annotated as 'Sealskin & Astrachan'. The popularity of clothes made from seal skin was high between 1870 and 1890 for coats, capes, jackets and muffs. The row of cottages and school on the opposite side of the road to the mill first appear on this map.

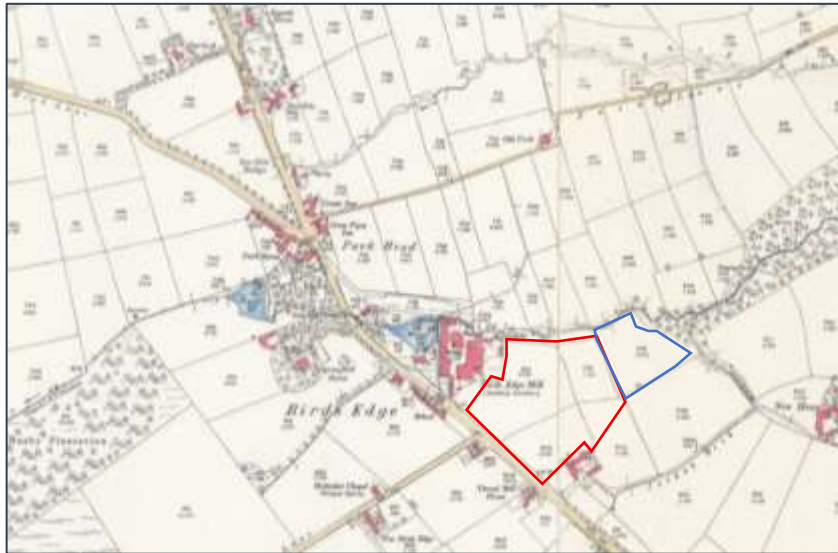


Figure 3 1893 Ordnance Survey plan



Figure 4 Birdseye School

3. CHARACTER & APPEARANCE

- 3.1 The landscape is characterised by gently rising landform with a broad and gently rounded range of hills on a northwest to southeast orientation. The land is divided into a regular patchwork of small fields, almost entirely grazing pasture, and typically enclosed by gritstone walls.
- 3.2 Park Head is set at a higher land level to Birdseye and is quite separate in terms of character, but very much related. Views from Park Head towards the mill are limited by the curve in the road, the dense tree cover and the low-lying landform within which the mill is situated (**Figure 5**). The location of the mill takes advantage of the low lying land which enabled the creation of the mill pond and follows the natural flow of the River Dearne.



Figure 5 View from Park Head towards Birdseye



Figure 6 Nos. 1 & 2 The Bridge on approach into Birdsedge



Figure 8 Cottages on south side of Penistone Road, opposite the mill



Figure 7 View of the mill from The Bridge with the mill pond in the foreground



Figure 9 The mill from Penistone Road



Figure 10 Nos. 1 & 2 Mill Cotages from Penistone Road



Figure 12 View from within the mill site south-west towards Penistone Road



Figure 11 View from the Penistone Road facing east towards Birdseye Farm



Figure 13 Buildings to the south of the mill provide a buffer to the Site

3.3 From within the lower lying village of Birdsedge there are views out to the east over the rolling farmland towards Upper Cumberworth and Denby Dale (**Figure 14**); and to the south towards High Flatts and the tree cover which provides a sense of enclosure to the horizon for Birdsedge (**Figure 15**). The proposed site sits at a lower level than the main road behind a low dry-stone wall.

3.4 There are public rights of way (**Figure 16**) to the east of the village, which afford views over the Site, which will require further exploration through landscape visual impact assessment. The rolling form of the landscape means that the Site is not visible from all the surrounding viewpoints and the lower land level helps to minimise its clear identification.



Figure 14 View from Penistone Road over the Site

3.5 The geology of the area is predominantly millstone grit with some lower coal measures and boulder clay, which influences the typical building type of

millstone grit with stone slate roofs, forming vernacular laithe houses and weavers' cottages.



Figure 15 View from Penistone Road over the site

3.6 Spinning and weaving of wool has influenced the local vernacular style, with the inclusion of multiple light windows in some of the early buildings; and has also influenced a number of farm names around the village, emphasising the strong link between farming and textile production upon early settlements in the area; Thread Mill House, The Threadmill and Spinningfield Drive being examples of this influence.

3.7 The Industrial Revolution prompted the growth of textile mills in the valleys throughout the area, and this period of transition replaced the home weaving practices of the 17th and 18th centuries. Many workers would travel to the mill from the surrounding villages, walking along the ancient cart horse route of Park Lane.

3.8 The character of Birdsedge is created through the 18th and 19th century properties which dominate and line Penistone Road. Properties are a mixture of larger detached house and smaller terraced houses, but all are constructed from local stone and all display a local vernacular style. Dry-stone boundary walls, along with historic street patterns and paths also characterise the area, along with the rural boundaries which emphasise the agricultural nature of this rural settlement.

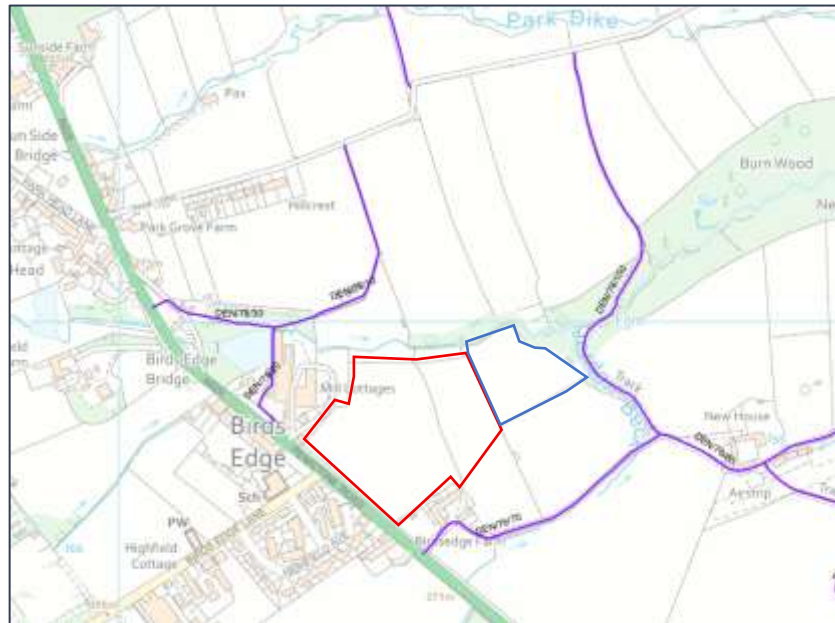


Figure 16 Kirklees Council Public rights of way map

4. HERITAGE ASSETS

4.1 Birdsedge does not have a designated Conservation Area. The closest Conservation Areas with potential to be affected by development of the Site include Upper Cumberworth and High Flatts.

4.2 There are three Listed Buildings in Birdsedge which include;

- Birdedge Mill (grade II)
- The Crown and adjoining house (grade II)
- Milestone in the garden of Salt Pie (grade II)

4.3 There are clusters of Listed Buildings at High Flatts and Listed Buildings within Upper Cumberworth. The Church of St Nicholas is visible in long distance views from Birdsedge and forms a landmark structure for much of the surrounding landscape.

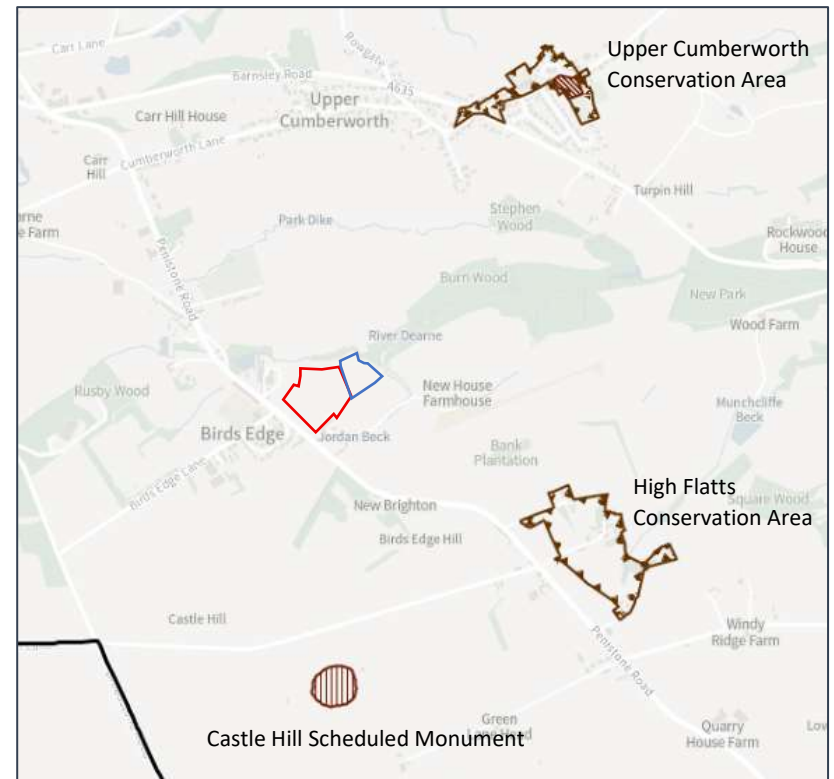


Figure 17 Kirklees Local Plan heritage designations map identifying location of Upper Cumberworth Conservation Area and High Flatts Conservation Area. Castle Hill Iron Age Fort at Denby Dale also identified.



Figure 18 Listed Buildings at Birdseye

setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral” (NPPF, 2025 Glossary).

Birdseye Mill (GII) and associated buildings

- 4.7 The mill is located within the centre of the linear village and comprises of several sections. That closest to the road is of four storey height and the long three storey ranges stretches away from the road across 28 bays (**Figure 19**). To the north-west is the mill pond and to the east are later industrial buildings which have been much altered. The mill is constructed of hammer dressed stone with a stone slate roof. Despite its size and influence on the development of the village, the mill has a surprisingly low visual impact on the locality. This is due to the lower level within which it sits compared to the adjacent Penistone Road. The local topography and tree cover also serve to minimise its visual impact from public viewpoints.
- 4.8 Also of interest are the ancillary buildings and structures which were/are historically associated with the complex, including the adjacent Mill Cottages and the Mill House.

Designation description

List Entry Number: 1184959
 Date first listed: 03-Jun-1981

- 4.9 *Mill. Early or mid C19, in 4 builds. Hammer dressed stone. Stone slate roof. The block nearest the road is of 4 storeys and 7 bays long by 4 bays wide. 9-light industrial casements. Venetian window in each gable apex. Added to the north gable is a lower 3-storey range of 28 bays, in 3 builds. Industrial casements, as before, and one bay of loading doors. Venetian window in north gable apex.*

- 4.4 Significance is the concept that underpins current conservation philosophy and the significance of heritage assets is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024) as *“The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also from its setting”*.
- 4.5 Archaeological interest derives from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity. Historic interest derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It can be illustrative or associative. Architectural and artistic interest derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place through architectural design. The setting of a heritage asset is defined in the NPPF as:
- 4.6 *“The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a*



Figure 19 Birdsedge Mill west elevation ©Denby Dale Kirkburton Archives



Figure 20 Birdsedge Mill west elevation



Figure 21 Birdsedge Mill from the south, largely obscured by later C19th additions



Figure 22 Birdsedge Mill and adjacent Mill Cottages from Penistone Road



Figure 23 Mill Cottages c.1900



Figure 24 Mill Cottages 2026



Figure 25 Willie Ellis' shop adjacent to the mill c.1900

The significance and setting of Birdsedge Mill

- 4.10 The building retains archaeological interest in the survival of its built fabric and the evidence which demonstrates the evolution of the mill over time. The mill is of historical illustrative interest as one part of a much wider economy in West Yorkshire where the production of cloth grew on a considerable scale during the 18th and 19th centuries. Historical associative interest with the various operators contributes to special interest but also demonstrates the changes in fashion for different products and the adaptability of the mill to cater for such fast moving industrial changes. The building holds architectural interest in the use of locally sourced dressed stone, the varying ridge height and the elongated form in which it evolved. There is aesthetic interest in the wider landscape as this building holds a romantic view of the past and a way of life which remains intrinsic to the sense of place and collective memory. The adjacent Mill Cottages contribute to understanding of place and together form a group value of both historical and aesthetic interest, despite their alteration during the later 20th century.

- 4.11 The setting of the mill is more limited than might first be expected and this is due to the low-lying position adjacent to Penistone Road and the surrounding tree cover and undulating rolling landscape. Later 19th century extension to the complex has sought to screen the mill from view to its south-east and limit the extent of setting. However, the agricultural landscape contributes positively to the setting of the mill and retains openness which defines the role of agriculture alongside that of weaving in small villages locally.

The Crown and adjoining house (GII)

- 4.12 This property occupies a corner position on the junction of Park Head Lane, Penistone Road and Park Lane. It is also located at the top of the hill when travelling away from Birdsedge Mill towards Park Head/Shepley. It is a three-storey house with multiple weavers' windows to the second floor, constructed of coursed hammer dressed stone in the same manner as the aforementioned mill, featuring stone slate roof, raised verges and stone kneelers. The property retains its public house sign which sits within a former window aperture and reads 'THE CROWN'. To the rear is an attached former agricultural building/barn which is now a separate dwelling. This type of property is known as a laithe house.

Designation description

List Entry Number: 1313328
Date first listed: 15-Aug-1985

- 4.13 *Laithe house early or mid C19, and larger adjoining house at 90° slightly later. Hammer dressed stone. Stone slate roof with gable copings on cut kneelers, and gable stacks. 3 storeys to adjoining house, 2 storeys to rest. The larger house has central doorway with blind window above with painted words 'THE CROWN'. Ground and 1st floors have 3-light window to left and 2-light window to right. 2nd floor has 6-light window to left, with wider outer lights, and 4-light window to right. At the rear at 90° is the laithe house with house to left with central doorway (part blocked) and altered ground floor windows. 13-light 1st floor window with 2 blocked lights and part obscured to left at junction with later house. Laithe to right with large segmental arched*

doorway, now glazed, and mistal door to right. To rear, central blocked cart entry with lintel, and central house door, blocked.

- 4.14 The property is of historical significance as a former laith house which demonstrates the close link between agricultural and weaving operations. There is architectural interest in the three storey building which commands presence in this key position and from architectural details and features vernacular construction. The setting is rather limited to the immediate environs and is separated from the Birdsedge Mill and the Site by intervening development and land form which prevents any intervisibility.



Figure 26 The Crown with weavers' windows



Figure 27 Rear house with weavers' windows and arched barn opening

Other buildings of heritage interest

4.15 Nos. 1 and 2 The Bridge are likely to have been weavers' cottages and appear on the early Ordnance Survey plan (**Figure 2**) at the same time as the mill. It is possible that they formed part of the wider mill complex as they sit at the head of the mill pond. Again, the properties are set at a lower level than the road, which makes their presence quite discreet, particularly with the extent of more recently established tree cover which prevents clear views from Penistone Road. Neither the mill, nor the Site are visible from this position on approach into the village.



Figure 28 Nos. 1 and 2 The Bridge in 2011 prior to more considerable screening to the roadside. Image from google streetview.



Figure 29 Nos. 1 and 2 The Bridge with two-storey extension on its west



Figure 30 c1910 Nos. 1 and 2 The Bridge prior to western extension

- 4.16 A long row of cottages are located on the south side Penistone Road, opposite the mill and these are of late 19th century character and appearance, first appearing on the 1893 Ordnance Survey plan (**Figure 3**). These cottages contribute positively to the setting of the mill complex.



Figure 31 Cottages south of A629



Figure 32 Cottages south of A629

- 4.17 The Mill House is situated directly north of the mill and is largely hidden by the lower landform and trees which screen it from the road. Whilst not part of the wider streetscene character, it is clearly historically associated with the mill complex and contributes positively to the setting of the designated heritage asset.



Figure 33 The Mill House north of the mill

- 4.18 There are three buildings which directly face the Site, none of which are statutorily designated, but all of which are of some heritage interest (**Figures 34, 35 and 36**). Their special interest relates to their age and local vernacular character which again displays the evolution of the farming and weaving development within this small village along with the provision of educational facilities, the school being constructed 1911.



Figure 34 Four Row opposite the Site



Figure 36 Properties at Birdsedge Farm adjacent to the Site



Figure 35 Birdsedge School opposite the Site

- 4.19 The Conservation Areas at Upper Cumberworth and High Flatts are identified on the plan at **Figure 17**. The Upper Cumberworth Conservation Area contains the school, church, a small agricultural group, now converted to residential properties, and several small rows of older terraces. The character created is that of a clustered historic village core containing buildings of local stone with stone slate roofs. There are no views from the Upper Cumberworth Conservation Area towards Birdsedge identified in the Conservation Area Appraisal. However, the view from Birdsedge towards Upper Cumberworth is noted:

“From the elevated situation of Birdsedge and High Flatts to the south, the clustered nature of the stone slated roofs and church tower are an attractive historical and geographical point of reference in the distance”.

- 4.20 It is unlikely that any development of the Site would affect the setting of the Upper Cumberworth Conservation Area given the separation distance and lack of key views between the two.

4.21 The High Flatts Conservation Area is heavily influenced by Quaker development around a small hamlet and there are no intervening views between this designation and the Site, therefore there is no perceived impact upon its setting.

5. PROPOSED WORKS & IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 The proposal seeks an outline planning application for residential development including associated infrastructure works. All matters reserved except means of access into (but not within) land off Penistone Road (A629), Birdsedge.

5.2 The Historic England Advice Note 12 'Statements of Heritage Significance' (2019) recommends a staged approach to decision making which includes an assessment of impact on significance. The NPPF stresses that impacts on heritage assets should be avoided. Therefore, this assessment considers how adverse impacts have been avoided and / or minimised through their design and mitigation measures proposed where appropriate. The Conservation Principles Consultation Draft (2017) states that *"as well as being potentially harmful, change can be neutral or beneficial in its effect on heritage assets; it is only harmful if (and to the extent that) the asset's significance is reduced"*.

5.3 It goes on to state that *"if changes to an asset respect its significance, then in most cases they are likely to serve both the public interest of its conservation and the private interests of those who use it. Owners and managers of heritage assets ought not to be discouraged from adding further layers that are judged to be of a **quality** that could add future interest, provided that the current significance is not **materially** reduced in the process"*. It is also the case that alterations to heritage assets can better reveal or enhance the significance of heritage assets and these beneficial impacts will also be set out in this section.

5.4 Historic England define harm as *"change for the worse, here primarily referring to the effect of inappropriate interventions on the heritage values of place"* (Conservation Principles, p17). Development does not necessarily mean harm. As stated above, it is only development which reduces the

significance (special interest / value) of the asset in a material way which is harmful.

5.5 The NPPF requires proposals to avoid or minimise conflict between conservation of the asset and the proposal. The Historic England Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 'Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment' advises that:

- the significance of the asset is understood;
- the impact of development on significance is understood;
- ways to avoid, minimise and mitigate impact are explored;
- harmful impacts be justified through and balanced; and
- that negative impacts on aspects of significance are offset by enhancing other aspects of significance



Figure 37 Birdsedge aerial photograph

Table 3 Impact Assessment

Heritage asset	Potential Impact of development	Assessment and options for design and mitigation
Birdsedge Mill and associated Mill Cottages	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lower level of land adjacent to the road is synonymous with all other development on this side of the road, which minimises scale and visual impact. • Lower level may also allow for views over the houses to the wider landscape. • Opportunities to create visual breaks to enable key views through. • Direct relationship with the mill is already broken through the intervening later additions to the complex and their subsequent alteration. • Unlikely to result in loss of any key views towards the mill. • Scale, materials and design to be in keeping with the local vernacular explored through this assessment.
The Crown and adjoining house	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no intervening views between the Site and the heritage asset. • Separated by intervening development and screening.
Castle Hill Iron Age Form Scheduled Monument	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no intervening views between the Site and the heritage asset. • Separated by intervening development and screening.
1 & 2 The Bridge	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no intervening views between the Site and the heritage asset. • Separated by intervening development and screening.
Mill House	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mill House is entirely screened from the Site by the mill.
Cottages south of A629	Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cottages do not directly overlook the Site as they front towards the mill.
Four Row	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lower level of land adjacent to Penistone Road is synonymous with all other development on this side of the road, which minimises scale and visual impact. • Lower level may also allow for views over the houses to the wider landscape. • Opportunities to create visual breaks to enable key views through.
Birdsedge School	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lower level of land adjacent to the road is synonymous with all other development on this side of the road, which minimises scale and visual impact. • Lower level may also allow for views over the houses to the wider landscape. • Opportunities to create visual breaks to enable key views through.

Birdsedge Farm	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lower level of land adjacent to the road is synonymous with all other development on this side of the road, which minimises scale and visual impact. • Lower level may also allow for views over the houses to the wider landscape. • Opportunities to create visual breaks to enable key views through.
Upper Cumberworth Conservation Area	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no intervening views between the Site and the heritage asset.
High Flatts Conservation Area	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no intervening views between the Site and the heritage asset.

Summary & Public Benefit

5.6 The proposal seeks outline planning permission for residential development on this Site which lies adjacent to the grade II listed Birdsedge Mill, which is the only designated heritage asset which is likely to be affected. The extent of impact cannot be fully considered until a detailed proposal has been developed, however at this stage the impact is considered to be less than substantial harm. The level of harm can be minimised through careful design.

5.7 Where less than substantial harm has been identified, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, which are set out within the Planning Statement.

6. POLICY & DECISION MAKING

6.1 **The National Planning Policy Framework (2024)** requires that *“in determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance”* (para 207). This assessment aims to provide sufficient information for the

significance of the heritage asset and the impact of development to be properly considered.

6.2 The NPPF states that *“when considering impact upon significance, great weight should be given to the asset’s conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance”* (para 212).

6.3 *“Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification”* (para 213). *“Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use”* (para 215).

6.4 **Historic England Conservation Principles draft (2017)** recognises that each generation should shape and sustain the historic environment in ways that allow people to use, enjoy and benefit from it, without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same. To understand the significance of place, Conservation Principles requires an understanding of the archaeological, historical, architectural and aesthetic interests of the heritage assets affected by such a proposal. This assessment has considered the significance of the heritage assets which lie primarily within their historical architectural and aesthetic interests.

- 6.5 **Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP35 Historic Environment** requires development proposals affecting a designated heritage asset (or an archaeological site of national importance) should preserve or enhance the significance of the asset.
- 6.6 Proposals which would remove, harm or undermine the significance of a non-designated heritage asset, or its contribution to the character of a place will be permitted only where benefits of the development outweigh the harm having regard to the scale of the harm and the significance of the heritage asset.
- 6.7 Proposals should retain those elements of the historic environment which contribute to the distinct identity of the Kirklees area and ensure they are appropriately conserved, to the extent warranted by their significance, also having regard to the wider benefits of development. Consideration should be given to the need to:
- a. ensure that proposals maintain and reinforce local distinctiveness and conserve the significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets;
 - b. ensure that proposals within Conservation Areas conserve those elements which contribute to their significance;
 - c. secure a sustainable future for heritage assets at risk and those associated with the local textile industry, historic farm buildings, places of worship and civic and institutional buildings constructed on the back of the wealth created by the textile industry as expressions of local civic pride and identity;
 - d. identify opportunities, including use of new technologies, to mitigate, and adapt to, the effects of climate change in ways that do not harm the significance of heritage assets and, where conflict is unavoidable, to balance the public benefit of climate change mitigation measures with the harm caused to the heritage assets' significance;
 - e. accommodate innovative design where this does not prejudice the significance of heritage assets; and
 - f. preserve the setting of Castle Hill where appropriate and proposals which detrimentally impact on the setting of Castle Hill will not be permitted.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 This Heritage Impact Assessment has identified the designated and non-designated heritage assets which have the potential to be affected by the proposal and considered the potential impact of such on their special interest. The historical development of the site/location has been explored and its character and appearance considered.
- 7.2 The heritage value of the surrounding heritage assets lies in its historical development throughout the 18th and 19th centuries as a centre for textile manufacturing. This evolution is displayed in the early cottage industries consisting of weavers' cottages and associated infrastructure and the provision of the much larger textile mill, further worker's cottages and a village hall and school to accommodate the growth in population. That said, Birdsedge has remained a relatively small settlement in comparison to the size of the mill and it is clear that the workforce was drawn from surrounding settlements during the height of its operation.
- 7.3 The village has retained its agricultural character with swathes of rolling hills interspersed with cops of trees which form the high quality character of the landscape. Historic farmsteads are discernible alongside the cottages and public buildings which add variation and character. Predominant building materials are millstone grit and stone slate, with most properties being of two storey height; the taller buildings being reserved for industry.
- 7.4 In accordance with local policy it will be essential for the developed design work to take account of the locally distinct building type, local materials and the predominant scale, form and pattern of existing development. The Site design work should consider the existing landscape character and setting, whilst seeking to maximise the retention of views over the countryside, incorporating well-informed landscaping and seeking to enhance the setting of the surrounding heritage assets where possible.
- 7.5 This assessment identifies less than substantial harm to the setting of the grade II listed Birdsedge Mill and its associated buildings. This harm can be

minimised through high quality design which pays special regard to the area's distinctive qualities. The design and mitigation measures outlined in this assessment have sought to limit the impact of works to ensure that the design quality will address the heritage interests of the area and that adverse effects are minimised and enhancement maximised. Where less than substantial harm has been identified, this should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, which are set out within the Planning Statement.

- 7.6 It is considered that this proposal complies with both national and local policy on this basis.

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