

About the application

Application number: 2026/60/91494/E	
What is the application for?:	Outline application for erection of residential development, including associate
Address of the site or building:	Land off, Penistone Road, Birdsedge, Huddersfield, HD8 8XP
Postcode:	

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes
I write in strong opposition to this application for 70 dwellings on greenbelt land at Birdsedge and urge the committee to refuse it. Village character and scale Birdsedge is a small rural community and this proposal is entirely disproportionate to its size. Seventy homes would not complement the village - they would overwhelm it, fundamentally and permanently changing its nature. The quiet, rural atmosphere that residents chose to live in would be gone, replaced by the density and noise of a housing estate which will look nothing like the local area and completely out of character, the materials used are completely different to the local area and do nothing to compliment its traditional beauty. This is not a recoverable change. If permission was in fact granted, they would no doubt also add more additional homes than originally requesting planning for, this has been done before by this company when requesting planning permission, so the actual true scale from what they are proposing to the planning officials would in fact be a case of 'pulling the wool over their eyes'. They WILL do this if given the opportunity. A community valued by residents and visitors alike Birdsedge and its surrounding countryside is genuinely treasured - not just by those who live here, but by the many walkers, cyclists and visitors who come specifically for its peace, openness and unspoilt character. This is exactly the kind of place that is becoming increasingly rare, and that rarity is precisely what makes it worth protecting. Once that atmosphere is lost to large-scale development, it cannot be restored. We have a responsibility to safeguard it, and this committee has the power to do so. Greenbelt policy is there for a reason This is designated greenbelt land. The bar for developing on it is deliberately high and the applicant has not come close to clearing it. There are no exceptional circumstances presented that justify releasing this land. No special circumstances even come close to being proven. There are various alternate locations closer to towns and cities that could be used for this proposal. Approving planning permission on Greenbelt land would then require further disruption to the village and wildlife to accommodate	

would then require further disruption to the villagers and wildlife, to accommodate more infrastructure for power lines, sewerage and water mains. These are already in place in less rural areas and a lot easier to connect to.

A lot of wildlife such as bats, owls, crested newts will be disturbed, uprooted and young offspring abandoned by their parents due to this disturbance. There are also protected trees in this area that will also be destroyed.

It is against the law to move nesting birds and wildlife. How can this site not do this very thing?

The name Birdledge justifies the concern for the wildlife. Please do not let them destroy the openness and beauty that the local people and wildlife call home.

Mental health and wellbeing

Access to quiet, natural green spaces has well-documented benefits for mental and physical health. For many residents, the ability to step outside into open countryside is not a luxury - it is genuinely important to their daily wellbeing. Replacing that with a housing estate removes something that cannot be quantified on a planning form but matters enormously to the people who rely on it. The countryside views which people have grown up with all their lives could potentially disappear for a developer who has not exhausted every brownfield site possibility and decided to basically come and destroy the countryside. The living conditions, privacy and well being will diminish by having a site such as this in an area which will not cope with it.

The roads cannot cope

The lanes around Birdledge are simply not built for this level of traffic. These are tight rural roads with limited visibility and no meaningful pavement in places. It will significantly compromise road safety for pedestrians and vehicles already here. The additional vehicle movements and congestion generated by 70 households would make daily life genuinely hazardous for anyone on foot, on a bike, or pulling out of a side street. The potential for say 2 cars per household on this site, would increase the volume of traffic by a minimum of 140 vehicles daily WITHOUT vehicles coming from outside the area such as visitors, delivery vehicles such as food, furniture, household items, builder and other trades, waste removal, and companies such as Amazon, DPD, Royal Mail etc. This is going to cause accidents, let alone the carbon footprint left behind. The entry and exit points will compromise road safety along what is already a road which suffers from speeding.

Property values and community investment

Many residents have made significant financial and personal commitments to living in this area specifically because of its rural setting. Approving a development of this scale fundamentally alters what they invested in, without their consent and against their clearly expressed wishes. That cannot simply be dismissed. All insurance premiums would rise in what is already a cost of living crisis. This is unfair to the residents.

Schools and GPs are already under pressure

Local services are stretched as it is. There is no accompanying commitment to expand school places, GP capacity, or any other provision. Existing residents would bear the consequences of that shortfall. More harm to the environment is going to occur to accommodate this infrastructure as it simply cannot cope with what is being planned. There is already an apparent waiting list for GP's and 'first schools'.

This development will have a significant impact on emergency and public services. These will be stretched incredibly thin again and are not in place to cope with the demand it will place on them.

There is only a small bus every hour, this means an increase in traffic for cars, taxis and everything associated with it.

There is no train station anywhere close. Transport links are not viable and there are no vi