

About the application

Application number: 2026/91494	
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 wish to object to the proposed development of Green Belt Land referred to above. Compliance with the Adopted Local Plan Whilst the adopted Kirklees Local Plan is still undergoing review the council is duty bound to adhere to guiding principles and its existing commitments. • Commitment to the re-use of existing buildings and the use of brownfield land to meet development needs support the regeneration of areas. Across Kirklees there are a number of brownfield sites where buildings have been demolished or are now unused (as noted in the Local Plan) which represent a valuable source of development land, especially for housing without the need to encroach upon land designated as Green Belt. • Commitment to preserve and retain the local character and distinctiveness of Kirklees and its places. • To maintain the overall role and function of the green belt and prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another. The proposed development disregards the local character of Birds Edge by undermining the existing rural village, encroaching upon the green landscape, and contributing to 'urban sprawl.' • Maintaining natural, built, and historic environments including the protection and enhancement of heritage assets. The proposed site forms part of the Dearne Valley Corridor, which once lost cannot be replaced. Development would compromise the rural setting of the village and the character and appearance of the local area which emphasises the agricultural origins of the locality and surroundings. Green Belt The proposed site is designated Green Belt land, and the proposal does not fall within any of the appropriate exceptions or special circumstances for development. Development of Green Belt requires 'very special circumstances' to obtain approval, where the benefits of the development can be clearly shown to outweigh the need to	

where the benefits of the development can be clearly shown to outweigh the need to safeguard the status of site. In this case, the impact would be an irreversible loss of an open space and a piece of valuable agricultural land that provides a buffer between the villages of Birds Edge, Upper Cumberworth and Denby Dale.

The proposal does not meet the Government commitment of a brownfield-first approach. The site would not even meet the threshold for identification as 'grey belt land' under the National Planning Policy Framework 2024, which priorities lower quality land within Green Belt areas for development within a strict framework of 'golden rules'.

The proposed site is an essential component of the landscape, character and heritage of the village providing a physical and visual amenity as well as significant wildlife value. Kirklees acknowledges its duty (in the Adopted Local Plan) to protect and improve green infrastructure to support health and well-being and to support habitats. Development of this space would go directly against that duty.

Wildlife

Any development should balance economic, social, and environmental priorities, and make efficient and effective use of land ... with minimal effect on the environment (Adopted Local Plan). This development would have a direct and detrimental impact upon the local environment by irreversibly removing key arable land as well as both natural and semi-natural habitats for the local flora and fauna.

Under the Kirklees Local Plan - all development proposals are required to result in no significant loss or harm to biodiversity. The proposed development site borders the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network including fields and field boundaries providing a range of natural and semi-natural habitats.

And sits adjacent to ancient woodlands which are noted as being of important nature conservation interest and of nature conservation value (Kirklees Landscape Charter Assessment 2015).

With no prospect of avoidance, the development would have a significant impact upon biodiversity within the area, removing and adversely affecting local habitats.

Local Facilities and Services

Recent and ongoing housing developments in the local area (including Shepley, Denby Dale, Skelmanthorpe and Lepton) are increasing the housing density of the wider region and placing additional pressure on local services and infra-structure without extra provision to meet the growing need.

This additional development if approved would further exacerbate the issue already at hand.

Highways

The A629, including the junction at The Sovereign public house is already a busy commuter/business route and known to be a high risk accident area with significant heavy goods and quarry traffic. This proposal introduces the potential for a substantial increase in road traffic directly entering the A629 Penistone Road increasing the risk of accident to both pedestrians and vehicles alike.

This development will create additional traffic congestion within Birds Edge and surrounding villages affecting the environmental quality by air, noise, odour, and other

forms of pollution that will impact on quality of life, the well-being of people and the environment.

Landscape

Under the Adopted Local Plan, Kirklees have committed to protect and enhance the characteristics of the built, natural, and historic environment by avoiding allocating land to development which would significantly harm these assets. The magnitude of change to the views and landscape would be major, with any residential development in full view, screening longer range views of the woodland and countryside beyond the site. If this development proceeds, then 13.17 hectares of green belt land which characterise this area will be irreversibly lost.

Conclusion

This application is in short, speculative, and intended to undermine the 'plan-led' approach that preserves local communities and the character and distinctiveness of Kirklees as set out to be protected in the Adopted Local Plan.

If planning officers are persuaded to recommend approval of this application, I request referral to Planning Committee to allow appropriate discussion and public scrutiny prior to a decision being made.