

About the application

Application number: 2026/91494	
What is the application for?:	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RECEIVED. Outline application for erection of residential
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 this planning application.

This proposal would result in the loss of an important area of Green Belt land and would permanently change the character of this part of Birdsedge. This is not simply an unused piece of land; it forms part of the open countryside and the rural setting between Birdsedge and Upper Cumberworth.

The site was previously considered by Kirklees Council during the Local Plan process (reference H2582) and was rejected. The reasons given at that time remain relevant, particularly that the eastern boundary did not form a defensible Green Belt boundary and that development would create a risk of further encroachment into the countryside. I cannot see that the circumstances have changed since that assessment, meaning the previous concerns are still significant.

The applicant's argument that this is "grey belt" land does not adequately address the local impact of this particular site. Green Belt is not only about the size of an individual site; it is also about maintaining openness, preventing incremental development and protecting the character and separation of rural settlements. Allowing development here would set a precedent for further erosion of the countryside around Birdsedge.

Birdsedge is a small rural settlement, and a development of this scale would represent a significant expansion rather than a small addition that reflects the existing character of the village. The open views across the fields between Birdsedge and Upper Cumberworth are an important part of the landscape character of the area and would be permanently altered by residential development.

I also have concerns about the applicant's assessment of sustainability and highway impacts. Although the application refers to nearby bus stops, the reality is that public transport in this area is very limited and does not provide a realistic alternative for many everyday journeys. Residents would still need to travel by car for many essential services, including secondary schools, healthcare, dentists, pharmacies, shops and other facilities.

The A629/Penistone Road is already a very busy route, and additional housing would inevitably increase traffic. The proposed development should be assessed realistically against the existing pressures on the road network, including safety concerns and the impact of additional vehicle movements.

The suggested landscaping and green infrastructure within the development do not replace the loss of Green Belt openness. A housing estate containing areas of planted open space is not equivalent to the existing open agricultural landscape.

I ask the Council to carefully consider the previous Local Plan assessment, the impact on Green Belt purposes, the effect on the character and openness of this rural area, and the cumulative pressure that further housing development would place on local roads and services.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that planning permission is refused.