

Address: New Brighton, 3, Penistone Road, Huddersfield, Hd8 8xp

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?	No
I wish to object to this application. While I recognise the need for new housing, I do not believe the applicant, based on their own submissions has demonstrated that this development is appropriate for this site. The site is currently open Green Belt countryside; grazing fields. The applicant argues that the land should be considered “Grey Belt”, which remains a matter of planning judgement rather than established fact. The application describes the site as an edge-of-settlement location forming part of the transition between the village and wider countryside. Development of up to 70 dwellings would permanently urbanise this land, reducing its openness and altering the character of the area. This proposal should also be considered in the context of significant housing development already happening in nearby communities, including Shepley, Farnley Tyas, Penistone and the contested site at Upper Cumberworth. The applicant’s own landscape assessment acknowledges but understates adverse landscape effects and notable visual impacts. Extending development into currently undeveloped countryside would change the rural character that defines Birdsedge. The application describes the site as sustainable, yet the evidence shows the main bus service operates only every two hours, ending at early evening. Shepley railway station is approximately 3km away. Neither Shepley nor Denby Dale stations offer sufficient parking to support significant growth in commuters. Future residents are likely to depend heavily on private vehicles for employment, shopping, healthcare and education. Access to local healthcare is already challenging for existing residents, many of whom must travel to neighbouring surgeries for appointments. Traffic and highway safety are major concerns. The site sits opposite Birdsedge First School, where congestion already occurs at drop-off and collection times. An additional 70 dwellings will inevitably increase vehicles. Existing pedestrian facilities, pavements and crossing points are inadequate, making it potentially dangerous for children and	

residents crossing the A629. Recent collisions on the A629, including road closures in July 2026 and a fatal incident in 2024, highlight the importance of carefully assessing the cumulative impact of further traffic. Construction impacts, including dust and pollution affecting the adjacent school, should also be considered.

The Heritage Impact Assessment acknowledges that the proposal would cause “less than substantial harm” to the setting of the Grade II listed Birdsedge Mill. Harm to heritage assets remains harm, and I do not believe the applicant has demonstrated that the benefits clearly outweigh this impact, particularly when the assessment itself accepts that the full effect cannot be known until detailed proposals are produced.

Ecological concerns also remain unresolved. The baseline survey was undertaken in January, outside growing season, with recommendation of further seasonal surveys. Ancient woodland, priority woodland habitat and the River Dearne are all close to the site. Potential impacts on birds, bats, badgers, hedgehogs, reptiles and other wildlife have been identified, yet much of the mitigation is deferred to future plans. We regularly observe a wide variety of wildlife on and around the site. Once developed, the loss of this Green Belt land is effectively permanent.

Finally, this is an outline application, and important details (final number of homes, layout, appearance, landscaping and roads) remain unknown, without this information, how can impact be assessed? For these reasons, I respectfully request that Kirklees Council refuse planning permission.