
From:

Sent: 28 July 2026 21:28

To: Jillian Rann <Jillian.Rann@kirklees.gov.uk>

Subject: Hydrological & Cellar Flood Risk Evidence – Application 2026/91494 (Land off Penistone Road, Birdsedge)

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Good evening Jillian,

I hope you are well.

I am writing as a local resident directly affected by **Planning Application 2026/91494 (Land off Penistone Road, Birdsedge)** to submit critical ground-level evidence regarding groundwater emergence, localised cellar flooding, and site surface runoff risks that have not been adequately addressed in the applicant's Flood Risk Assessment & Drainage Strategy (Andrew Moseley Associates, July 2026).

Key Technical Concerns & Hydrological Evidence:

1. **Pre-Existing Cellar Flooding & Groundwater Emergence:** Existing residential properties along and adjacent to Penistone Road (A629) feature sub-grade basements and cellars. During heavy or prolonged rainfall events, local groundwater levels rise rapidly through the shallow, highly fractured **Grenoside Sandstone bedrock**. The **Calder Catchment SFRA Volume II Groundwater Maps** classify this site and its immediate surroundings as having a **Medium to High propensity for groundwater emergence**.
2. **Infiltration Failure & Risk of Hydro-Geological Re-Emergence:** The applicant's own **Infiltration Testing Report (Eastwood Consulting Engineers, March 2026)** demonstrates that soakaways failed across test pits SA02 and SA03 due to shallow bedrock refusal between 1.05m and 1.45m bgl. Furthermore, the LLFA's formal email advice (27 Feb 2026) explicitly confirms that **soakage/infiltration is unacceptable on gradients steeper than 1 in 10 due to the high risk of water re-emerging downslope** into lower properties and structural foundations.
3. **Exacerbation from Impeding Overland Flow Paths:** The application site acts as a natural agricultural absorption buffer on a slope falling from **270m AOD down to 256m AOD**. Constructing ~1.23 ha of hardstanding, access roads, and deep building foundations will intercept natural subterranean seepage channels, re-directing perched groundwater and surface runoff directly towards existing residential boundaries, basements, and cellars.
4. **Sewer System Incapacity:** Yorkshire Water's Pre-Development Enquiry (Ref: X206567) explicitly confirms that the local combined public sewer network **does not have available capacity** to accept flows, and the local Wastewater Treatment Works (Clayton West) has limited/no spare capacity. Forcing foul pumping and surface discharge towards the steep valley slope of the River Dearne introduces severe surcharge risks during extreme storm events.

Requested Actions from the Local Planning Authority & LLFA:

- **Site Inspection & Hydro-Geological Audit:** We request that the LLFA inspect the local cellar levels and require the applicant to undertake a full, seasonal **hydro-geological groundwater monitoring study** (including groundwater level monitoring wells across winter/spring) prior to determining this outline application.
- **Comprehensive Overland Flow & Basements Impact Assessment:** The applicant must demonstrate that deep foundation dig works and sub-surface drainage attenuation structures will not displace groundwater into surrounding residential cellars.

I request that this email and technical objection be formally logged on the planning portal for Application **2026/91494** and drawn to the attention of the Case Officer and Flood Risk Management team.

Thank you,