

20-7-26

Jillian Rann
Planning Case Officer
Kirklees Council Planning and Development Services
Civic Centre
3 Market Street Huddersfield
HD1 2EU

Sent by email to Jillian Rann at DC.Admin@Kirklees.gov.uk

Dear Jillian Rann

I am a resident of Birdsedge and wish to strongly object to the proposed planning application 2026/91494 Land off Penistone Road Birdsedge HD8 8XP.

Please see the following points/objections.

Green Belt/Agricultural land

The proposed development is on farmed agricultural green belt land that is not allocated for development in the local plan, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) categorises farmed green belt land under their land hierarchy categories as tier 4 and states that green belt land of this nature can only be considered for development if land hierarchy options 1 to 3 have been exhausted.

There are no very exceptional circumstances that have been presented that justify this greenbelt development, meeting housing needs alone does not justify very circumstances alone and the developer has provided no evidence of any very special circumstances in which to build on this greenbelt land.

Given that Kirklees councils own brownfield land register currently has 201 brownfield sites of at least 0.14 hectares per site, with it also being widely reported that Kirklees has got the most potential grey belt land of any local authority in the UK, this demonstrates that Kirklees council has the ability to meet housing needs without greenbelt development, Kirklees councils local plan update, dated November 2024 page 2 states taking a brownfield first approach before releasing low quality grey belt land, as the proposed development is neither brown belt nor grey belt land but farmed

greenbelt land, categorised as land hierarchy tier 4, any development on this land would be a contravention of the NPPF sequential land release hierarchy.

Road/Safety concerns

A629 Penistone Road

The proposed development would be situated off A629 Penistone Road and opposite Birdsedge Lane/Birdsedge first school, Penistone road is a very busy notorious accident blackspot, and known speeding hotspot despite the speed limit being 30mph, residents have raised the issue of speeding, racing and dangerous overtaking multiple times over the years, the road is difficult to cross for able bodied adults and very unsafe and difficult to cross for people with disabilities, elderly and children, residents often struggle to safely cross this road to the volume and excessive speeding that takes place, this has resulted in an elderly resident being seriously injured when trying to cross the road due to a speeding car causing her to stumble back to avoid being hit, falling and braking her hip, this resulted in the resident being laid in the middle of the road severely injured until an ambulance arrived, putting such a large development on the opposite side of the road to the school would put children and adults safety at risk.

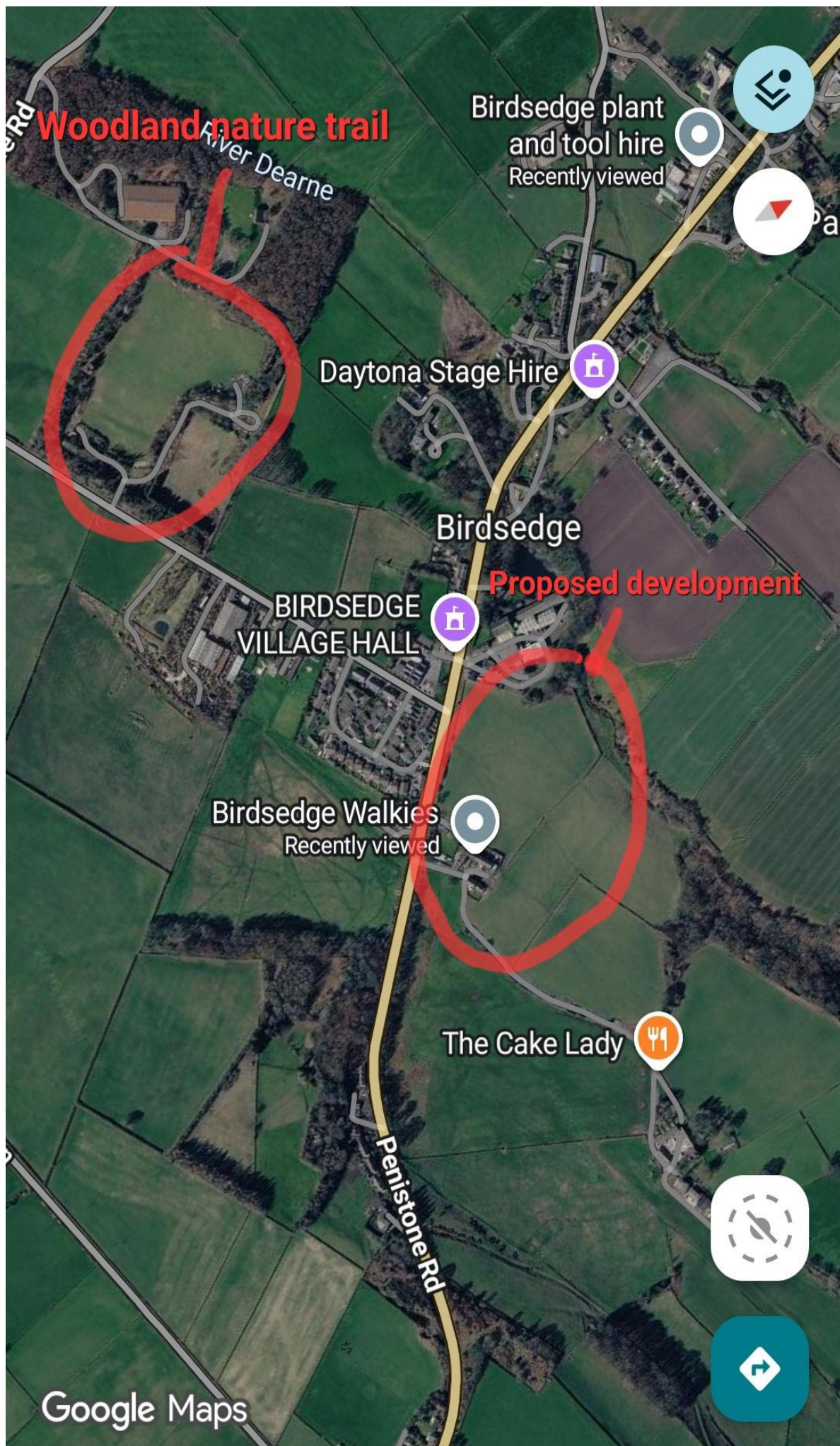
The developer has mentioned installing an island in the middle of the road to assist crossing but due to the nature of A629 Penistone road forming part of the principal highways network across West Yorkshir, it is used to transport a wide array of vehicle types including abnormal loads, it is highly unlikely that the councils highway authority would approve this, should this be the case the developer has not provided any other means to improve the safety of residents/ children trying to cross the road/access the school.

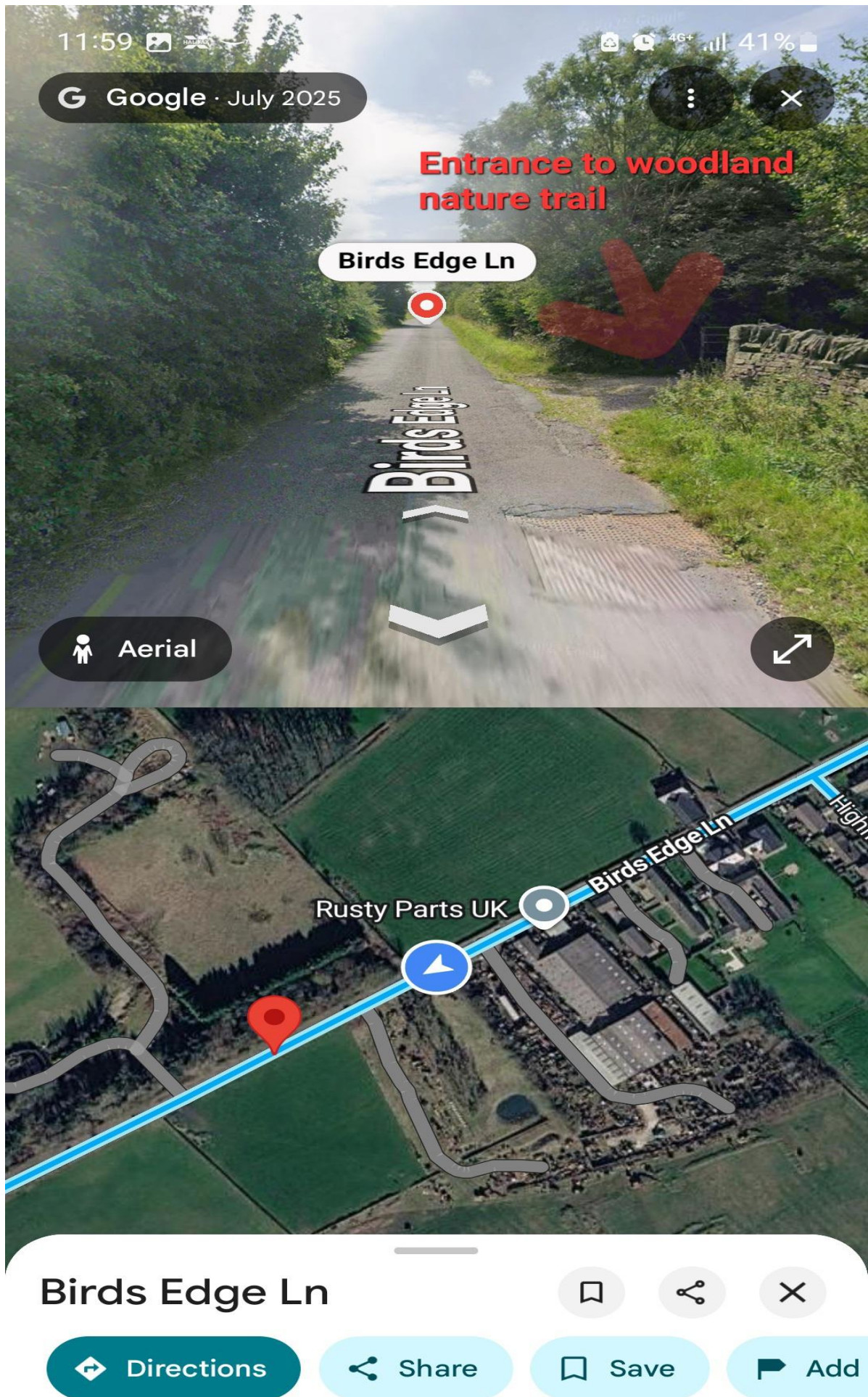
Birdsedge Lane

The proposed development would be opposite Birdsedge Lane, Birdsedge first school, park/playing field and the woodland nature trail is situated on Birdsedge lane, Birdsedge lane would be the most direct route for commuting to Manchester amongst other villages and towns, the road is a standard size where the school is located but is effectively down to one lane as multiple residents have disability parking bays outside the bungalows/school so traffic cannot freely flow in both directions. Halfway up Birdsedge lane the road turns to a 60 mph single track lane, has no pedestrian footpath, no street lighting and no pull ins to allow for vehicles in opposite directions to safely pass each other.

This section of road is used by pedestrians including children, walkers, dog walkers, prams, wheelchairs etc who all have to walk on the 60mph single track road that has no pavement/footpath or street lighting to access the woodland nature trail which is used and enjoyed by all the Residents of Birdsedge, such a large development opposite this road will drastically increase the number of vehicles using it, not only from residents of the new houses but visitors, deliveries/couriers associated with the new houses, this will create a safety issues of having a mix of pedestrians including children and pushchairs etc on a 60 mph single track road that has no footpath, no street lighting and

no pull ins for vehicles to pass each other mixed with a large amount of vehicles travelling at the national speed limit putting the residents of Birdsedge in far greater danger from vehicles, the increase of the use of this single track road will also mean more vehicles will need to pass each other in opposite directions which is currently not possible to do so in a safe manner, Birdsedge is a small settlement, the area and roads are not designed or intended for such a large development (See photos attached)





Biodiversity

The proposed location of the site located in very close proximity to the Upper Dearne ancient woodland and is in between Jorden Beck and the River Dearn this area is of very high biodiversity importance the ancient woodland is home to a variety of animals/birds and insects including woodpeckers, Tawny Owls, Long eared Owls, badgers, Foxes, Bats, Amphibians and is the home of one of the only verified colonies of Northern Wood Ant in the whole of the Kirklees district which is an internationally red databook species in the UK, these Ants are recognized in the Kirklees Council Biodiversity Action Plan and should be factored in to any development assessment.

Birds of prey use the fields surrounding the ancient woodland to hunt for food, removing the fields will have a negative impact on their ability to source food.

The River Dearne is the home of multiple species of fish, Amphibians, insects and is connected to the Birdesdge Mill Pond, the pond is also home to multiple species of fish, ducks, ducklings and Herons which use the pond to catch fish, the proximity of this development to such an array of biodiversity is of great concern

The Developers Infiltrating testing report dated 29th March 2026 states that that infiltration may not be possible across the whole of the site resulting in the development wishing to discharge surface water into the River Dearne, this combined with the natural slope of the land towards the River Dearne would increase the risk of harm to the biodiversity in the River Dearn, as the land was shown to have poor infiltrating rates, during periods of heavy rain the natural slope of the land towards the River Dearn will likely result in surface water run off from the proposed sites paved areas, and gardens running directly into the River Dearn, this run off will likely contain oils from cars, detergents from car washing, drive cleaning, pesticides from garden use, microplastics from car tyres etc and general dirt/silt this will have a negative impact on the biodiversity of the River Dearn.

Lighting and noise associated with domestic housing will detrimental to the habitats of wildlife living in this location and in the ancient woodland such as bats, foxes, badgers, birds etc there will be a huge increase in footfall within the ancient woodland which will be detrimental to the wildlife living there, such as increased noise, litter, domestic cats/dogs hunting and disturbing the wildlife.

Sewage Capacity

I reference Yorkshire Water letter Ref B/00005 dated 3rd February 2026 which states that the sewer network does not have sufficient available capacity to support the size of the development proposed (See attached text highlighted in yellow)

It would be irresponsible to approve such a development without sufficient sewage capacity

15 St Pauls Street
Leeds
LS1 2JG

Yorkshire Water Services
Land and Property
Western House
Western Way
Halifax Road
Bradford
BD6 2SZ

Tel: 0345 120 8482

Fax:

Your Ref:
Our Ref: B/00005

Email:
technical.sewerage@yorkshirewater.co.uk

For telephone enquiries ring:
George Mullaney on 0345 120 8482

3rd February 2026

**Land off A629, Penistone Road, Denby Dale, Birds Edge HD8 8XP – Pre-Planning
Sewerage Enquiry X206567**

Thank you for your recent enquiry and remittance. Our official VAT receipt has been sent to you under separate cover. Please find enclosed a complimentary extract from the Statutory Sewer Map which indicates the recorded position of the public sewers. Please note that as of October 2011 and the private to public sewer transfer, there are many uncharted Yorkshire Water assets currently not shown on our records.

The following comments reflect our view, with regard to the public sewer network only, based on a 'desk top' study of the site and are valid for a maximum period of twelve months:

Existing Infrastructure

The local Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) is Clayton West. It is understood that this WWTW may only have limited spare capacity, if any, available. We have contacted the respective treatment team for more information regarding the impact of proposed development and will contact you when an assessment has been made.

Foul Water

Registered Office Yorkshire Water Services Limited Western House Halifax Road Bradford BD6 2SZ
Registered in England and Wales No.2366682 yorkshirewater.com



Development of the site should take place with separate systems for foul and surface water drainage. The separate systems should extend to the points of discharge to be agreed.

At present the sewer network does not have sufficient available capacity to support the size of development proposed. It is understood that the site is not allocated within the adopted Kirklees Local Plan and as such the site has not been considered within the current Yorkshire Water Asset Management Plan (AMP) period. Should the site come forward as part of a planning application Yorkshire Water (YWS) would likely not support the proposal.

Should the site benefit from the grant of permission, the closest practicable point of discharge for foul effluent would be the 225mm diameter combined public sewer in Penistone Road to the south of the site.

Harm to openness and Character

The proposed site is surrounded by a public right of way and has several Grade 2 listed buildings within a close proximity to the site, the public right of way is there to be used and enjoyed by the public, should the site be approved this will harm the character of the area, openness of the countryside and spoil the enjoyment of the open countryside views from the public right of way, this will also obscure the views of the open countryside for the current residents of Birdsedge including the view of the grade 2 listed Emley Moor Mast and the grade 2 listed Birdsedge Mill.

The proposed development plans have noted render as a possible finish to the houses and the use of acoustic fencing, this is not in keeping with the area, there are no rendered houses in Birdsedge and no fencing visible, the houses in Birdsedge are constructed of natural stone and visible boundaries are constructed from low height natural stone walls/ dry stone walls. The only exception would be the Bungalows built after the war which are constructed of brick but due to their location and single story nature these are not visible when travelling through Birdsedge. The use of render and tall acoustic fencing is not sympathetic or in keeping with the area.

Unsustainable location/Inadequate Infrastructure

The proposed development of 70 houses represents over a 40% increase of housing in Birdsedge, this is unsustainable, the public transport in Birdsedge is very poor, there is no railway station and there are 2 buses, the number D3 bus which runs just over every 2 hours Monday to Friday between 06:46 and 18:34, 09:06 to 18:06 Saturdays, no service on Sundays and takes around 40 minutes to get to Huddersfield city centre, the number 77 bus operates only once on a Monday at 13:45, it's clear that this development will have to heavily rely on cars for transport and commuting to work. (See bus timetable attached)

Birdsedge has a lack of amenities for such a large housing development, there is no Doctors surgery, not a single shop, no post office, no railway station, no pubs, cafes or restaurants etc and no direct bus to the nearest large supermarket located in Penistone.

Birdsedge suffers from frequent power cuts, I have not seen any evidence from the developer confirming that the local power infrastructure has capacity to support such a large development (See recent letter from Northern Power dated 23rd June 2026)

There is no GP Surgery in Birdsedge, the nearest surgeries have already experienced a significant increase in patient numbers due to large amounts of new housing already being approved in the HD8 area, this is already causing strain on local services resulting in very long wait times to get a doctors appointment, such a large development will only make this worse to the detriment of the local area.

The NPPF Mandates that local authorities and developers consider sustainable transport patterns when identifying land for release, Kirklees council is also required to balance housing needs with carbon reduction, approving such a large development in this area would not meet the sustainability guidelines.

You are at

Birdsedge Village Hall, Birds Edge

For buses travelling towards

Huddersfield, Shepley

The information on this display is valid from 23/02/2026

Stop Number

45017213



Places you can go from this stop

Destination	Your Services
Aspley	D3
Fenay Bridge	D3
Holmfirth	77
Huddersfield Bus Station	D3
Lane Head	D3
Moldgreen	D3
New Mill	77
Ravensknowle Park	D3
Shepley	D3
Waterloo	D3

77 Holmfirth Bus Station

Monday to Friday

1345 A

Saturday

No service

Sunday

No service

A: Only runs on Mon

southpenninecommunitytransport

D3 Huddersfield

Monday to Friday

0646 1526
0846 1733
1106 1834
1306

Saturday

0906 1706
1106 1806
1306
1506

Sunday

No service

Team Pennine

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FOR SAFE TRAVEL

Tell us how safe you feel
when travelling by bus

Share your journey experiences with us on our feedback tool:



on the MCard
Mobile App



by scanning
the QR code



by visiting
wymetro.com

TOGETHER WE CAN
MAKE EVERYONE'S BUS
JOURNEY A PLEASURE





Direct dial: 105

Freepost: RUGZ-LKCK-JLGJ

Email: ExtraCare@northernpowergrid.com

Web: northernpowergrid.com

Date: 23 June 2026

Owner/Occupier

PENISTONE ROAD
BIRDSEDGE
HUDDERSFIELD
HD8 8XP



Dear Customer,

We're getting in touch because we can see that your electricity supply has been disrupted several times recently.

We strive to provide you with a 10 out of 10 service and we understand how important a reliable electricity supply is. We want to acknowledge the impact this may have had on you. As a result, we have added you to our Extra Care service.

What does this mean for you

The Extra Care Service has been designed to support customers like yourself who have experienced repeated interruptions to their electricity supply. We will closely monitor network performance in your area and provide you with an enhanced level of communication to keep you informed about issues affecting your supply, including investigations, repairs, and any planned improvements.

What to do if you experience another unplanned power cut

If you experience another power cut, please report it via our website at northernpowergrid.com or by calling 105.

What happens next

We will continue to monitor your supply and keep your situation under review. If no further power cuts occur within 90 days of your most recent unplanned interruption, you will be removed from the Extra Care service. We'll notify you when this happens.

Join our free Priority Services Membership for additional support and advice if you ever experience a power cut. You can sign up for yourself or on behalf of someone else. Questions? Call our friendly team on 0800 169 2996.

There is no need to contact us at this time unless you have any queries. We will be in touch with updates where appropriate.



Strain on the Birdsedge First School

Birdsedge first school is a very small school, the most recent public admission numbers (PAN) for 2026 show the school accepted a total of 13 pupils out of a maximum capacity of 15, leaving only 2 spaces available, a housing development of 70 family homes would clearly overwhelm the schools ability to serve the local area resulting in children being unable to get a place and being forced out of the area to other schools. (Please see the most recent PAN figures attached)

Table 2 Own Admission Authority Schools

School	PAN	0	1	1a	2	2a	3	4	4b	5	6	7	8	9	LA Allocated	Total	Oversubscribed ? Yes/No	Distance of the last on time place allocated (metres)
All Hallows' CofE (VA) Primary School	30				5		6	7			7					25	No	1781.24
Batley Grammar School	27				19			8								27	Yes	4789.61
Batley Parish CE Primary Academy	30							16			7	4				27	No	3896.99
Beaumont Primary Academy	90				39		42	8							1	90	No	3794.36
Berry Brow Infant and Nursery Academy	60	1			6		10	2		5						24	No	2926.38
Birdsedge First School	15				2		2			9						13	No	6817.82
Birstall Primary Academy	30				14			4		11					1	30	No	5192.45
Boothroyd Primary Academy	90		1		23		28	21		9					3	85	No	2975.62
Brambles Primary Academy	60				17		28	3								48	No	3104.64
Carlinghow Academy	50				14		7	6		4					1	32	No	3819.83
Christ Church CE Academy	30				16		2	5			4	1			2	30	No	988.09
Co-op Academy Smithies Moor	30		1		7		7			1					2	18	No	858.74
Crow Lane Primary and Foundation Stage School	30	1			2		4	9		9						25	No	7420.94

Increase of noise and pollution

The proposed development would increase noise and air pollution as a result of increased vehicle traffic on Penistone road which is already a very busy/noisy main road, this will be detrimental to the well being of residents on Penistone road who already have to deal with disturbance from the road noise and disruption when trying to sleep, any increase in traffic will result in an increase in noise and air quality.

No evidence/proof of very special circumstances in which to remove the sites greenbelt status

The developer has provided no proof or evidence that the site meets very special circumstances nor has the developer met any of the green belt “Golden Rules” and urge Kirklees council to reject this inappropriate greenbelt development.