

About the application

Application number: 2026/91494	
What is the application for?:	ADDITIONAL AND REVISED INFORMATION RECEIVED. Outline application for erection of
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 planning application 2026/60/91494/E for the proposed outline residential development on land off Penistone Road, Birdsedge.

Although this is an outline application with all matters reserved except access, the principle of development on this site raises significant planning concerns.

Birdsedge is a small rural village with an approximate population of only 300 people. At the time of writing, there have already been over 171 objections submitted to this application, with further objections continuing to be lodged. While planning decisions should not be determined by the number of objections alone, such an unprecedented level of opposition from a community of this size is a material indication that local residents have serious concerns regarding the suitability of this development and its compatibility with the character, capacity and sustainability of the village. The volume of objections demonstrates that the proposal is perceived as fundamentally at odds with the existing settlement.

The proposed development would represent a disproportionate expansion of a small rural settlement. Development should be appropriate in both scale and location.

Introducing a significant residential scheme into a village of this size risks altering its rural character and identity, resulting in an urbanising effect that would be difficult to mitigate. The existing built form of Birdsedge is modest and dispersed, and this proposal would not appear to respect the established pattern of development.

The local highway network is another significant concern. Penistone Road already experiences periods of congestion and is used by a mixture of local traffic, agricultural vehicles and through traffic. Additional vehicle movements generated by a substantial housing development would inevitably place further pressure on the highway network. As only the means of access is being considered at this stage, it is essential that the local planning authority is satisfied not only that a safe access can be achieved but also that the wider highway impacts are acceptable.

The application also raises questions regarding the capacity of local infrastructure and services. Birdsedge has limited facilities, and residents already rely heavily on neighbouring settlements for education, healthcare, shopping and other essential services. A development of this scale has the potential to increase pressure on existing infrastructure without clear evidence that sufficient capacity exists or that appropriate mitigation can be secured.

Furthermore, the site contributes to the rural setting of the village. Development on this land would erode the transition between the built settlement and the surrounding countryside, resulting in the loss of open character and potentially setting an undesirable precedent for further encroachment into the countryside.

The National Planning Policy Framework seeks to ensure that development is sustainable, responds to local character and creates places that are sympathetic to their surroundings. In my view, this proposal fails to achieve these objectives. The scale of the development is not proportionate to the size of Birdsedge, the impacts on the rural character and local infrastructure have not been satisfactorily addressed, and the proposal does not represent sustainable growth for this location.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that Kirklees Council refuses planning permission for application 2026/60/91494/E.