

Kirklees Council Planning Department
Civic Centre 3
Market Street
Huddersfield
HD1 1WG

21st September 2026

Application Number	2026/91494
CA Reference	K1026
Proposal	Outline application for erection of residential development, including associated infrastructure works.
Location	Land off, Penistone Road, Birdsedge, Huddersfield, HD8 8XP
Allocated Site	

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for consulting with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority on the above application.

[The West Yorkshire Plan](#) delineates the following five missions that underpin the work we do to improve lives and communities across our region:

- An inclusive economy with well paid jobs,
- Great places and healthy communities,
- A strong transport system,
- Making lives greener, and
- A region where everyone can flourish.

The Combined Authority collaborates with the public, private, and charity sectors to support the delivery of strategic developments across West Yorkshire that contribute to accomplishing these missions by 2040.

Transport accounts for 37% of our region's carbon emissions, of which 97% derives from road traffic. To meet our ambitious environmental targets of net zero by 2038 and improved air quality, new development must create places that allow for and encourage modal shift to the more active and sustainable modes of transport than the private car.

These regional ambitions are reflected in Kirklees Local Plan policies:

- LP19: Strategic Transport Infrastructure
 - "Achieve a balanced and integrated transport network which makes the most efficient and effective use of road, rail, and public transport"

- LP20: Sustainable Travel
 - “New development will be located in accordance with the spatial development strategy to ensure the need to travel in reduced and that essential travel needs can be met by forms of sustainable transport other than the private car”
- LP21: Highways and Access
 - “Proposals shall demonstrate that they can accommodate sustainable modes of transport and be accessed effectively and safely by all users”

The Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT) - Transport in Urban Developments advises that development proposals should be within a straight-line distance of 300 metres to a bus stop – which equates to a maximum real walking distance of approximately 400 metres. All of this site is within this requirement, with the following stops being accessible within a 300-metre straight-line distance: Birds Edge Lane (17213) and Birds Edge Lane (17214).

There are four local bus services, two of which are specifically school services. Out of the remaining two services, the 77 from Meadowhall-Holmfirth only operates on a Monday, whilst the D3 Huddersfield-Denby Dale service runs every 2 hours Monday-Saturday from 7:05-18:56 and 07:25-18:24 respectively. Consequently, public transport provision is extremely limited, with only a two-hourly daytime service available on Saturdays and effectively no meaningful provision on Sundays.

This level of connectivity is unlikely to support regular travel by sustainable modes and is therefore likely to result in a continued reliance on private car use. As such, the development would conflict with regional and local ambitions of promoting sustainable travel options beyond the private car, outlined in LP20.

Whilst measures could potentially be introduced to improve accessibility by sustainable modes, the scale of intervention required, particularly in relation to public transport provision, would likely be disproportionate to the scale of development proposed and is unlikely to be a viable beyond any funded period.

For these reasons, it is considered that the site does not represent a sustainable location from a transport perspective and that the proposed development would be unlikely to achieve the sustainable travel objectives sought by local and national planning policy.

I trust that these comments will be useful in your appraisal of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss these comments further.

Yours sincerely,

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