

### About the application

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| Application number: 2026/91969   |                                                                                  |
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| What is the application for?:    | Erection of 6 dwellings, with associated access, landscaping, infrastructure and |
| Address of the site or building: | land off, Fenay Lane, Almondbury, Huddersfield, HD5 8UJ                          |
| Postcode:                        |                                                                                  |

### User comments

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| Type of comment: An objection                                         |     |
| Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously? | Yes |
|                                                                       |     |

I object to the proposed plans to build 6 houses on the land off Fenay Lane. The site is designated D8-14 Green Belt Land under the Kirklees UDP. The December 2024 NPPF permits release of "grey belt" land making only a limited contribution to Green Belt purposes. This site makes a substantive contribution to each relevant purpose: checking the sprawl of Huddersfield at its southern edge; preventing the merging of Almondbury and Fenay Bridge; safeguarding countryside from encroachment; and preserving the setting of Castle Hill. Land recorded as open field on every survey sheet for 170 years, retained in Green Belt across successive development plans, cannot credibly be characterised as making a limited contribution. It constitutes ribbon development.

Almondbury is not a suburb of Huddersfield. It is a settlement of considerable antiquity which long preceded it.

That history is not merely of antiquarian interest. It is embodied in the fabric of the place. The Almondbury ward contains 118 listed buildings and retains its historic street pattern, its Conservation Area, and its distinct physical separation from the neighbouring settlement of Fenay Bridge.

That separation is maintained by the open land between them, of which the application site forms part. Fenay Lane descends from the village to Penistone Road through open country. It is that descent, and the openness of the land flanking it, which allows Almondbury to be a distinct place rather than a continuation of the built-up area running out along the A629.

Fenay Lane is subject to a 30 MPH speed limit. Speeding along it is a long standing and continuing problem repeatedly raised by residents. Many children walk to and from school on a narrow footpath, now parked on by several cars. The entrance to the proposed development will involve a section of the pavement being removed at a particularly dangerous point, near the difficult junction with Birks Lane where sightlines in both directions are restricted. The probability of more cars accessing Fenay Lane at peak times will cause increased congestion both at the junction with Westgate /Northgate and with Penistone Road. This is likely to result in drivers using the narrow, steep and ancient Fleminghouse Lane as a 'rat run'. This is also a difficult junction for motorists because there is a poor sight line in both directions. This road is totally unsuitable for even a moderate volume of traffic.

There is a documented history of surface water flooding at the bottom of Fenay Lane near the junction with Penistone Road associated with Fenay Beck and recorded by the Environment Agency. This problem is linked to the water course system. The water course originates in greenfield land north of Fleminghouse Lane where grassland provides natural attenuation. The stream surfaces in the field and there are concerns that excavation of the greenfield land will disturb this natural water course and could increase the risk for further flooding.

I see this proposal as 'the thin end of the wedge'