



National Highways Planning Response (NHPR 25-01) Formal Recommendation to an Application for Planning Permission

From: Graeme Watt (Head of Planning & Development)
Operations Directorate
Yorkshire & Northeast Region
National Highways

Email: Planningyne@nationalhighways.co.uk

To: Barnsley MBC FAO Matthew Marsden
Email: developmentmanagement@barnsley.gov.uk

CC: transportplanning@dft.gov.uk
spatialplanning@nationalhighways.co.uk

Council's Reference: 2026/0420

Location: Land west of Sheffield Road, Birdwell, Barnsley

Proposal: Erection of 10no. 2 and 3 storey detached dwellings

National Highways Ref: NH/26/17253

Referring to the consultation on a planning application dated 24 July 2026 referenced above, in the vicinity of the M1 that forms part of the Strategic Road Network, notice is hereby given that National Highways' formal recommendation is that we:

- ~~a) offer no objection (see reasons at Annex A);~~
- ~~b) recommend that conditions should be attached to any planning permission that may be granted (see Annex A – National Highways recommended Planning Conditions & reasons);~~
- c) recommend that planning permission not be granted for a specified period (see reasons at Annex A);
- ~~d) recommend that the application be refused (see reasons at Annex A)~~

Highways Act 1980 Section 175B is not relevant to this application.¹

This represents National Highways' formal recommendation and is copied to the Department for Transport as per the terms of our Licence.

Should the Local Planning Authority propose not to determine the application in accordance with this recommendation they are required to consult the Secretary of State for Transport, as set out in the [Town and Country Planning \(Development Affecting Trunk Roads\) Direction 2018](#), via transportplanning@dft.gov.uk and may not determine the application until the consultation process is complete.

The Local Planning Authority must also copy any consultation under the 2018 Direction to BMTadminsUPPORT@nationalhighways.co.uk

This response and all comments outlined herein are made in respect of planning matters only in National Highways' position as a statutory planning consultee, and does not confer any proprietary rights nor amount to the giving or refusal of consent, assent, approval, or awareness of or by National Highways in or of any other aspects or matters (including, but not limited to, the use of property belonging to National Highways). If anyone wishes for National Highways to consider any aspects which do not relate to planning submissions, they should call our contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Signature:	Date: 13 August 2026
Name: Paula Bedford	Position: Planning & Development
National Highways Calder View House Wakefield WF2 7UA	

¹ Where relevant, further information will be provided within Annex A.

Annex A **National Highways' assessment of the proposed development**

National Highways has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such we work to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

Recommended Temporary Period of Non-Determination

The application for 10 housing units is identified within the Barnsley Local Plan as Housing Allocation Site HS67 which is located close to M1 J36.

It is acknowledged that as a standalone site it will not have a severe or safety impact on the SRN. However, it will contribute towards the cumulative impact of traffic movements through M1 J36 which the Council may wish to consider as part of their local plan obligations.

National Highways main consideration is with the surface water drainage strategy and its potential to impact on our assets, in particular the motorway embankment.

It is noted from the submitted planning application that surface water is proposed to be drained to soakaway on land outside of the red line boundary. Clarity on this is required, in particular on whether this has the potential to affect the delivery of the proposed drainage solution.

Notwithstanding this, whilst the private soakaway calculations appear to evidence that the soakaway can accommodate the proposed volumes both National Highways and Barnsley highway drainage team are concerned with the proposed location of the soakaway relative to the motorway embankment. It is particularly important that any risks associated with this are fully explored and can be appropriately mitigated.

Based on the above, I recommend that the application is not determined until clarity on the red line boundary is resolved, in particular whether this should be expanded to include the soakaway which this development relies upon. And allow for discussions to take place regarding the location of the soakaway and any potential impact this may have on National Highways assets has been fully explored.

I will revisit this recommendation no later than 28 October 2026

Standing advice to the local planning authority

The Climate Change Committee's [2022 Report to Parliament](#) notes that for the UK to achieve net zero carbon status by 2050, action is needed to support a modal shift away from car travel. The NPPF supports this position, with paragraphs 77 and 110 prescribing that significant development should offer a genuine choice of transport modes, while paragraphs 109 and 115 advise that appropriate opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport should be taken up as part of a vision-led approach.

Moreover, the carbon reduction hierarchy (avoid-switch-improve) as set out in clause 4.3 of PAS2080:2023 promotes approaches and measures to minimise resource consumption and thereby reduce carbon emissions.

These considerations should be weighed alongside any relevant Local Plan policies to ensure that planning decisions are in line with the necessary transition to net zero carbon.