

APPROVAL OF PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Application Number: **DM/25/03481/FPA**

Applicant

Agent

Czero Developments Limited
Mr Simon Linfood
Bradford Court
123-131 Bradford Street
Birmingham
West Midlands
B12 0NS

PART 1 – PARTICULARS OF THE APPLICATION

Proposed: Reinstatement of a pathway through the historic churchyard.

At: St James Church
The Village
Castle Eden
Hartlepool
TS27 4SL

Date of Application: 2 January 2026

PART 2 – PARTICULARS OF DECISION

The **Durham County Council** hereby give notice in pursuance of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 that planning permission has been **GRANTED** for the carrying out of the development referred to in Part 1 hereof in accordance with the application and plans submitted subject to the following conditions and reasons:

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: Required to be imposed pursuant to Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2. The development hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans listed in Part 3 - Approved Plans.

Reason: To define the consent and ensure that a satisfactory form of development is obtained in accordance with Policy(ies) 6, 40, 41 and 44 of the County Durham Plan and Parts 12,15 and 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

- The proposal shall be carried out in accordance with the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement - St James Church, Castle Eden Issued 3rd December 2025.

Reason: To ensure the development is carried out in accordance with the appropriate best practice guidance to enable the long term retention of trees and hedges on site, in the interests of protecting the character and appearance of the area and to comply with Policies 29 and 40 of the County Durham Plan and Parts 12 and 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

- The Biodiversity Gain Plan shall be prepared in accordance with the Biodiversity BNG Report dated 15/12/2025 and prepared by Czero Developments Limited

Reason: To ensure the Biodiversity Gain Plan submitted for approval accords with the biodiversity information submitted with the planning application and that the development delivers a biodiversity net gain in accordance with Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Policy 41 of the County Durham Plan and Part 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

PART 3 – APPROVED PLANS

Plan	Drawing No.	Date Received
Location Plan		15/12/25
Existing and Proposed Layout		15/12/25
Proposed Graveyard Gate		15/12/25
Proposed Pathway Specifications		15/12/25

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

IMPORTANT - The following provisions will affect your development:

The effect of paragraph 13 of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 is that planning permission granted for the development of land in England is deemed to have been granted subject to the condition “(the biodiversity gain condition”) that development may not begin unless:

- a Biodiversity Gain Plan has been submitted to the planning authority, and
- the planning authority has approved the plan.

The planning authority, for the purposes of determining whether to approve a Biodiversity Gain Plan if one is required in respect of this permission would be Durham County Council.

There are statutory exemptions and transitional arrangements which mean that the biodiversity gain condition does not always apply. These are listed below.

Based on the information available this permission is considered to be one which will require the approval of a biodiversity gain plan before development is begun because none of the statutory exemptions or transitional arrangements listed below are considered to apply.

Statutory exemptions and transitional arrangements in respect of the biodiversity gain condition.

- The application for planning permission was made before 12 February 2024.
- The planning permission relates to development to which section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (planning permission for development already carried out) applies.

3. The planning permission was granted on an application made under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and
 - (i) the original planning permission to which the section 73 planning permission relates* was granted before 12 February 2024; or
 - (ii) the application for the original planning permission* to which the section 73 planning permission relates was made before 12 February 2024.
4. The permission which has been granted is for development which is exempt being:
 - 4.1 Development which is not 'major development' (within the meaning of article 2(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015) where:
 - i) the application for planning permission was made before 2 April 2024;
 - ii) planning permission is granted which has effect before 2 April 2024; or
 - iii) planning permission is granted on an application made under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 where the original permission to which the section 73 permission relates* was exempt by virtue of (i) or (ii).
 - 4.2 Development below the de minimis threshold, meaning development which:
 - i) does not impact an onsite priority habitat (a habitat specified in a list published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006); and
 - ii) impacts less than 25 square metres of onsite habitat that has biodiversity value greater than zero and less than 5 metres in length of onsite linear habitat (as defined in the statutory metric).
 - 4.3 Development which is subject of a householder application within the meaning of article 2(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. A "householder application" means an application for planning permission for development for an existing dwellinghouse, or development within the curtilage of such a dwellinghouse for any purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwellinghouse which is not an application for change of use or an application to change the number of dwellings in a building.
 - 4.4 Development of a biodiversity gain site, meaning development which is undertaken solely or mainly for the purpose of fulfilling, in whole or in part, the Biodiversity Gain Planning condition which applies in relation to another development, (no account is to be taken of any facility for the public to access or to use the site for educational or recreational purposes, if that access or use is permitted without the payment of a fee).
 - 4.5 Self and Custom Build Development, meaning development which:
 - i) consists of no more than 9 dwellings;
 - ii) is carried out on a site which has an area no larger than 0.5 hectares; and
 - iii) consists exclusively of dwellings which are self-build or custom housebuilding (as defined in section 1(A1) of the Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015).
 - 4.6 Development forming part of, or ancillary to, the high speed railway transport network (High Speed 2) comprising connections between all or any of the places or parts of the transport network specified in section 1(2) of the High Speed Rail (Preparation) Act 2013.

** "original planning permission means the permission to which the section 73 planning permission relates" means a planning permission which is the first in a sequence of two or more planning permissions, where the second and any subsequent planning permissions are section 73 planning permissions.*

Irreplaceable habitat

If the onsite habitat includes irreplaceable habitat (within the meaning of the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024) there are additional requirements for the content and approval of Biodiversity Gain Plans.

The Biodiversity Gain Plan must include, in addition to information about steps taken or to be taken to minimise any adverse effect of the development on the habitat, information on arrangements for compensation for any impact the development has on the biodiversity of the irreplaceable habitat.

The planning authority can only approve a Biodiversity Gain Plan if satisfied that the adverse effect of the development on the biodiversity of the irreplaceable habitat is minimised and appropriate arrangements have been made for the purpose of compensating for any impact which do not include the use of biodiversity credits.

The effect of section 73D of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

If planning permission is granted on an application made under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (application to develop land without compliance with conditions previously attached) and a Biodiversity Gain Plan was approved in relation to the previous planning permission ("the earlier Biodiversity Gain Plan") there are circumstances when the earlier Biodiversity Gain Plan is regarded as approved for the purpose of discharging the biodiversity gain condition subject to which the section 73 planning permission is granted.

Those circumstances are that the conditions subject to which the section 73 permission is granted:

- i) do not affect the post-development value of the onsite habitat as specified in the earlier Biodiversity Gain Plan, and
- ii) in the case of planning permission for a development where all or any part of the onsite habitat is irreplaceable habitat the conditions do not change the effect of the development on the biodiversity of that onsite habitat (including any arrangements made to compensate for any such effect) as specified in the earlier Biodiversity Gain Plan.

STATEMENT OF PROACTIVE ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with Article 35(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, the Local Planning Authority has, without prejudice to a fair and objective assessment of the proposals, issues raised and representations received, sought to work with the applicant in a positive and proactive manner with the objective of delivering high quality sustainable development to improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area in accordance with the NPPF.

SIGNATURE

Signed:

Date: 23 February 2026



Tony Hanson
Corporate Director - Regeneration, Economy and Growth

INFORMATIVES

Development Low Risk Area - Standing Advice

The proposed development lies within a coal mining area which may contain unrecorded coal mining related hazards. If any coal mining feature is encountered during development, this should be reported immediately to the Mining Remediation Authority on 0345 762 6846 or if a hazard is encountered on site call the emergency line 0800 288 4242.

Further information is also available on the Mining Remediation Authority website at: Mining Remediation Authority - GOV.UK

Standing Advice valid from 1st January 2025 until 31st December 2026

Given the size of the sign post proposed, it does not require advertisement consent and therefore, cannot be controlled by this application. It is advised however that given the heritage sensitivity, character and quality of the area that the church sign post is amended to a traditional/heritage style as the current design is simple yet very modern.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

THIS PERMISSION IS NOT VALID UNLESS THE CONDITIONS LISTED ARE COMPLIED WITH