

About the application

Application number: 2025/93572	
What is the application for?:	Outline application with all matters reserved, bar vehicle access into the site,
Address of the site or building:	Land South of, Barnsley Road, Upper Cumberworth, Huddersfield, HD8 8NN
Postcode:	

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<p>As a resident in Lower Cumberworth, I wish to register my strong and unequivocal objection to the proposed development adjacent to the ancient woodland in Upper Cumberworth. This proposal is fundamentally incompatible with both national planning policy and the Kirklees Local Plan and would cause significant, irreversible harm to the natural environment, local infrastructure and the character of the village.</p> <p>Irreplaceable Ancient Woodland – Protected in National and Local Policy The woodland bordering the site is ancient woodland, categorised as an irreplaceable habitat and protected under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Natural England’s standing advice confirms ancient woodland must be safeguarded due to its ecological, historical and landscape value. Kirklees Council’s own “Planning for Ancient Woodland –Manual” explicitly states that ancient woodland is irreplaceable and that developments must provide adequate buffers, avoid edge effects, and prevent degradation of habitat quality. The proposed development threatens this habitat through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noise and light pollution• Increased footfall and disturbance along with informal access points.• Potential contamination from surface water and drainage• Introduction of invasive plant species <p>As well as been ancient woodland, the site is of historical archaeological significance with a medieval watermill.</p> <p>Conflict with Kirklees Local Plan Policies on Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Trees The Kirklees Local Plan identifies several policies relevant here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LP30 – Biodiversity & Geodiversity: requires protection of local habitats and wildlife networks.• LP31 – Strategic Green Infrastructure Network: emphasises protecting green corridors, which the woodland and river system form part of• LP33 – Trees: protects woodland and tree cover from damaging development. <p>The woodland supports woodpeckers, tawny owls, bats, newts, deer and many other priority species. Any development in such proximity will degrade this habitat and violate these Local Plan requirements.</p>	

these Local Plan requirements.

Drainage, River Pollution & Water Pressure Failures

Cumberworth already suffers from low water pressure and adding new homes will further strain an already overstretched and old system.

The proposal, risks drainage channels into the woodland river, which would have a devastating affect:

- Polluting sensitive riparian habitats
- Increased surface water runoff
- Pollution risks from domestic wastewater
- Increasing downstream flood risk, to the adjacent villages that already suffer in periods of high rain fall.
- Damaging the ecology of an already fragile ancient woodland ecosystem

This directly conflicts with the Local Plan's environmental protection objectives.

Village Roads Not Fit for Increased Traffic

Upper Cumberworth's road network is narrow, rural and unsuitable for additional vehicle loads. The Local Plan's transport strategy emphasises safe, sustainable movement (Local Plan Section 10), but this development would:

- Increase congestion
- Heighten collision risk
- Reduce pedestrian safety
- Cause damage to rural road infrastructure

The roads simply cannot support the traffic generated by a new housing estate without significant and environmentally harmful modifications.

Overdevelopment and Incompatibility with Local Plan Settlement Strategy

The Kirklees Local Plan sets out a spatial strategy (Local Plan Section 1 and 5) focusing development in sustainable, well serviced areas. Upper Cumberworth is a small rural village with:

- Limited infrastructure capacity – lack of available places at school, Doctors are already at capacity.
- No supporting services to accommodate sudden population growth
- Existing problems with water, drainage and traffic

A development of this nature is out of scale and contrary to the Local Plan's objective of maintaining the character and distinctiveness of local settlements. There are many brownfield sites that would be more suitable for new housing.

This proposal represents an unacceptable threat to an irreplaceable ancient woodland, breaches key Kirklees Local Plan policies (LP30, LP31, LP33, Strategy & Natural Environment sections), conflicts with national guidance on ancient woodland protection and places untenable strain on local infrastructure. We do not need another 123 new homes in the area, the demand is not there. Rightmove suggests that within a 5 mile radius of Upper Cumberworth there are 900 homes for sale, 300 being under £250k. There are many brownfield sites in the area that should be built on before our irreplaceable green fields!