



I grew up in this area and have a long standing personal connection to this landscape. Both my parents still live here and the view across the fields remains an important and valued part of village life in Upper Cumberworth. I now enjoy experiencing this same landscape with my own children and it continues to play a meaningful role in our lives.

The land, in my lifetime has always been agricultural land, it is not brownfield nor previously developed land, but part of the rural setting that defines the character of the village and its connection with the surrounding countryside. It provides an essential pathway for wildlife who call the ancient woodland their home. This woodland and its habitats are irreplaceable, any development within such close proximity increases the risks and long term harm to the well established ecosystems which cannot be recreated anywhere else.

The village already tackles increasing pressure on infrastructure, including narrow rural roads, utilities and local services such as GPs & schools. Barnsley road is a notoriously busy road, connecting Upper Cumberworth with surrounding villages and is already operating under significant strain.

The road is supported by extremely narrow pavements, which I know first hand to be precarious. As a child, I regularly stood on these pavements whilst waiting for a school bus, with limited space between us & passing traffic. An additional 123 dwellings is highly likely increase the number of public transport users which I've no doubt will increase the risks faced by those relying on these services.

These concerns have also carried on into adulthood with the buses stopping along Barnsley Road, visibility at the Cumberworth Lane junction is reduced (almost non-existent) making it difficult for drivers to safely assess oncoming traffic.

The introduction of further housing on land that has historically served an agricultural purpose would only increase these already existing problems in addition to permanently altering the character of the village.

Having known this landscape for my 30 year existence, as a child and now as a parent, I solely believe this green belt agricultural land should remain protected indefinitely. I urge the planning authority to reject the proposal.