



I strongly object to this proposal on many grounds.

An increase of over 30% in the housing stock of Upper Cumberworth constitutes disproportionate and unsustainable growth, contrary to the Kirklees Local Plan. The NPPF requires local authorities to plan housing developments proportionate to the size of existing communities.

The site lies within the green belt - the developer has failed to demonstrate the "very special circumstances" required to justify the permanent loss of openness and encroachment in to the countryside.

Ancient woodlands are extremely sensitive to changes in air chemistry. This woodland is not only facing the prospect of pollution from housing, but also from quarrying (the recently passed application for quarrying at Bromley Farm, only a few hundred metres away).

This cumulative effect and critical load may well be the tipping point for this ancient woodland.

For a high density development such as this, a 15 metre buffer is totally insufficient, a larger 30 - 50 metre buffer is necessary to mitigate effects such as noise, domestic encroachment and light spill.

The local water table would be drastically altered, leading to deprivation of natural groundwater infiltration for the woodland during dry periods. There is also the risk of contamination runoff (oils and heavy metals etc) from the new roads during wet weather.

Upper Cumberworth is classed as a small village and under the Kirklees Local Plan, development must be proportionate to the available services - this application fails this test.

Cumberworth C E first School is almost at capacity and simply cannot absorb this population shock. Children would be forced to travel to other areas, increasing the school run on already dangerous roads.

Residents already face extreme difficulty securing appointments at local medical surgeries. Adding 300+ residents would push these overstretched services in to a state of failure, contradicting Kirklees Policy regarding healthy and inclusive communities.

With no major shops in the village and infrequent bus services, every single household in this development would be 100% car dependant. The two mile trip to either Denby Dale or Skelmanthorpe for basic goods, coupled with the difficulty of parking in these neighbouring villages, makes this a textbook example of unsustainable isolated development and also putting further strain on these surrounding villages.

Pedestrian vulnerability is also of high concern. This proposed development represents an over-intensification of a road network already burdened by the household waste recycling centre and the imminent quarrying at Bromley Farm. 'Stop start' traffic would only increase, especially with the proposed pedestrian crossing - pushing the nitrogen critical load to the limit and having devastating effects on the woodland.

To introduce 123 dwellings in to this location, directly abutting an irreplaceable ancient woodland, is ecologically irresponsible, a threat to highway safety and totally unsustainable.