

DC Admin

Sent: 17 February 2026 12:15
To: DC Admin
Subject: Objection to planning proposal - Upper Cumberworth 2025/60/93572/E

To whom it may concern

I wish to submit an objection to the proposed development in Upper Cumberworth (Upper Cumberworth 2025/60/93572/E).

For much of my childhood I grew up next to these ancient woodlands and feel strongly for their protection. I am concerned about the potential damage to biodiversity in the Upper Dearner Ancient Woodland. The woodland is home to multiple species of conservation concern, including the wood ant (*Formica lugubris*) listed as near threatened on the IUCN red list, as well as the grey partridge, yellowhammer, linnet and lesser spotted woodpecker, all of conservation concern in the UK with declining global populations. The disruption caused by construction at this site includes noise pollution (particularly harmful to songbirds), harmful leachate into the river dearne and long term soil erosion, which would be exacerbated by increasing rainfall and surface runoff. This is likely to also cause potential harm to the site of archeological interest in Stephen Wood.

Such development seems to run directly counter to Kirklees council's environmental strategy (<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/environment-strategy/index.aspx>). Whilst I recognise the increasing demand for affordable housing in the area, the selection of greenbelt land adjacent to such an important area of environmental, ecological and archaeological interest seems reckless.