

## 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>I hereby submit my objection to the planning permission located on Barnsley Road, Upper Cumberworth to Kirklees Council, for the reasons outlined below.</p> <p>I had the privilege of growing up in Upper Cumberworth, where my parents still live today, and I lived opposite the green belt land that forms part of the proposed development site. This landscape makes an important contribution to the rural character of the village and provides a clear transition between the existing settlement and the surrounding countryside and woodland. The proposed development would urbanise this area and erode the openness and environmental function that currently exists between the settlement edge and Stephen Wood.</p> <p>The site lies immediately adjacent to Stephen Wood, an area of ancient woodland forming both an ecological and historic asset within Upper Cumberworth. Residential development in such close proximity has the potential to result in harm to the woodland edge environment through increased lighting, noise and domestic activity, leading to disturbance of wildlife and gradual deterioration of habitat quality.</p> <p>The site is known to be used by deer during the birthing season and by wild geese during migration. The site and adjoining woodland also provide habitat and foraging corridors for protected species such as bats. The loss of undeveloped land and the introduction of residential activity would increase disturbance pressures on an irreplaceable natural asset.</p> <p>Since submission of the application, a Tree Preservation Order has been confirmed on a tree within the site. Development in close proximity raises concerns regarding potential impacts on the root system, soil compaction and drainage. Even where retention is proposed, construction and long-term domestic activity may adversely affect the health of the tree and the wider ecosystem it supports.</p> <p>Barnsley Road already experiences a high volume of traffic. Data presented to ward councillors from local speed cameras between November 2023 and January 2024 recorded 170,001 vehicles, with approximately 99% exceeding the 40mph speed limit</p>	

recorded 176,961 vehicles, with approximately 25% exceeding the 40mph speed limit. This indicates an existing highway safety concern, particularly for pedestrians, including children and older residents. The introduction of additional residential traffic and new site access arrangements would increase pressure on this section of road and has the potential to worsen existing safety issues.

Natural England's standing advice normally expects a minimum buffer of 15 metres between development and ancient woodland, with larger buffers often required where residential development introduces lighting, noise and recreational pressure. The proposed separation distance of approximately 10 metres raises concern that the buffer would be insufficient to adequately protect the ecological and landscape value of Stephen Wood.

For these reasons, the proposal would result in harm to the openness and rural character of the Green Belt and introduce unacceptable risk of harm to adjacent ancient woodland and associated habitats. The proximity of development to Stephen Wood, together with the potential impacts on ecology, landscape character and highway safety, means that the proposal does not represent sustainable development in this location.

I respectfully request that these matters are given significant weight in the determination of the application and that planning permission is refused.