

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
To Kirklees Council,	
<p>I am writing as a young resident of Cumberworth who is deeply concerned about the proposed development of up to 123 new houses on the greenbelt fields between Park Lane and Barnsley Road, and the ongoing construction on two sites where houses are currently not even selling. I strongly OBJECT to these plans for the following reasons:</p>	
<p>1. Damage to Mental Health & Well-Being As a teenager, my mental health and that of my friends is directly connected to open green spaces where we walk, cycle, meet friends, and enjoy nature. Scientific studies show that access to natural environments significantly improves mental well-being, reduces stress, anxiety and depression, especially in young people. Removing irreplaceable countryside for housing will strip away safe spaces that help us clear our minds, exercise, and maintain good mental health. Once this land is concreted over, those mental health benefits will be lost forever.</p>	
<p>2. Noise, Air & Light Pollution The construction itself will mean months or years of continuous noise, heavy machinery and disruption. Once built, hundreds of additional cars, streetlights and traffic will increase: Air pollution – Vehicle emissions worsen asthma and lung health, especially in children and young people. Noise pollution – Constant traffic and construction noise affects sleep, concentration and mood. Light pollution – New streetlighting and homes with artificial lighting destroy dark skies and interrupt natural rhythms. This development will turn a naturally quiet village into a more urbanised, polluted place.</p>	
<p>3. Environmental & Wildlife Destruction The greenbelt land threatened here is a vital habitat for wildlife, including bats and other species that rely on this open countryside. These lands are part of the ecological network that supports biodiversity. Once trees, bushes and hedgerows are removed, they cannot be restored, especially if the land</p>	

grasses and meadows are removed, they cannot be restored — especially if the land is permanently built over. Across England, only about 2.5% of land has ancient woodland — land that's been continually wooded for hundreds of years — and what remains must be cherished and protected.

Destroying woodlands and fields here will reduce habitats, harm wildlife populations and disrupt ecosystems that took centuries to evolve.

4. Unsustainable Strain on Local Infrastructure

Cumberworth is a small village — it is not equipped to support a large influx of new residents. Transport & roads – Barnsley Road and local junctions are already busy and sometimes dangerous. Adding hundreds of extra cars will make traffic worse and add risk, especially for pedestrians. Schools – Local primary and secondary schools are already near capacity — new homes will add dozens of pupils without guaranteed investment in more classrooms. Doctors & healthcare – GP practices in the area struggle to take new sign-ups. More residents will lengthen waiting times and reduce the quality of care. Other services – Dentists, public transport and youth services are limited. This development will further stretch already tight resources.

This is not sustainable growth — homes shouldn't be built where infrastructure can't cope.

5. Threat to the Identity & Future of a Small Village

Cumberworth is a unique, historic and closely-knit community. The greenbelt helps define its character and landscape. Building large estates will transform it into urban sprawl, blurring the separation between villages and weakening local identity.

Increasing the population by a third (as reported for parts of this plan) without parallel investment changes the village's social fabric, culture and community cohesion.

6. Houses Already Not Selling

Two building sites in the immediate area have ongoing construction but houses are not selling. This suggests that the demand in this village is not strong enough to justify building so many new homes — especially at the expense of valuable greenbelt land. This underscores that meeting housing targets shouldn't come at any cost, especially when sustainable alternatives (like brownfield land) exist elsewhere in the borough and region.

7. National Policy & Facts

The National Planning Policy Framework states that building on greenbelt land should only occur in exceptional circumstances and normally should be resisted because it is "inappropriate" and harmful. At a national level, only a tiny fraction of greenbelt land (about 0.3%) is used for housing because of its environmental and social value.

Conclusion

For all these reasons — damage to mental health, increased pollution, destruction of wildlife habitats, unsustainable pressures on infrastructure, harm to village identity, and existing unsold homes — I strongly oppose the proposed development. There are better alternatives to building here, such as using brownfield sites and previously developed land.

This greenbelt land is not just another field — it is a vital asset for the health, well-being, environment and future of our community. Once it's gone, there is no getting it back.

Please reject this planning application.