

DC Admin

From:
Sent: 22 February 2026 00:49
To: DC Admin
Cc:
Subject: Upper Cumberworth 2025/60/93572/E

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My name is Gemma Shearing,
and I am objecting to the outlined planning application at Upper Cumberworth 2025/60/93572/E
I would like you to include my name but not my address.

I strongly object to any building on any Green belt land in Upper Cumberworth. The proposed location is prime arable land which is very limited within Huddersfield and the wider Kirklees area. There are plenty of other locations within Huddersfield that are suitable, many of which are underutilized urban land or brownfield sites.

The outline plans for the development directly border the ancient woodland, which is home to a variety of beautiful creatures including deer, insects, bats and many types of birds. There should be a minimum of a 50 meter buffer zone from the border of the ancient woodland to ANY building of new dwellings to protect all natural irreplaceable habitats that are afforded the highest level of protection in the national policy.

In Kirklees council's biodiversity policy, it states that it aims to protect, enhance and restore natural habitats through strict planning regulations, including mandatory biodiversity net gain for New developments. This proposed development would go against that.

It is well known that Upper Cumberworth's ancient woodland is home to the Hairy Wood Ant (*Formica lugubris*) which only lives in 14% of woodlands within the UK. All kinds of wonderful species of wild flowers, deer, other protected mammals, birds, bats and a variety of insects live here throughout the year and many rely on the proposed site and surrounding fields including the proposed development site to survive. You can often see foxes, owls, and other creatures hunt for mice and other food sources in the proposed development field at night.

Owls, Buzzards, other birds and bats can be seen daily flying over the area daily, flying in and out the surrounding fields including the proposed development site and the ancient woodland.

Upper Cumberworth currently has around 390 homes in a small rural village location. The local infrastructure is ill-equipped to cope as it is, it would be detrimental to have such major population increase of well over a third of the village.

The site has had regular drainage and sewerage issues for many years now. It recently had issues where pipes and drains were unable to cope and leaked raw sewage in to the ancient

woodlands. Myself and other local residents/visitors were not able to walk on certain paths due to the raw sewerage issues.

The proposed development site has three beautiful well established and protected trees. Worryingly they were not included on the plans. The removal of those trees may lead to further water / drainage issues as each one of those trees will drink anywhere between 30-40 thousand gallons of water each year. Also the removal of trees may also lead to underground issues due to tree route-induced shrinkage and could cause issues such as structural damage to properties and also issues to underground utilities.

There are limited local amenities in the rural village. There are no doctors, dentists etc. This would lead to even more shortage in the surrounding areas that have been struggling for many years.

The village is very over trafficked already due to it being a major link road to the M1, Sheffield, Huddersfield and Holmfirth. It is visibly dangerous on a daily basis for pedestrians and school children. Cars are traveling at speed and are not respectful of the speed limits.

The majority of Carr Hill Road has no footpaths making this a dangerous road for pedestrians. A lot of the other roads in Upper Cumberworth have very narrow pavements. This is very dangerous due to the amount of through traffic of cars, buses, quarry and commercial vehicles.

There have been a number car crashes at the crossroads of Barnsley Road, Carr Hill Road and Cumberworth Lane. Due to this some of the houses have had their walls knocked down, there has also been significant damage to telegraph poles, street signs and speed signs. There have also been a couple of incidents where posts and bollards have been damaged at the village pub.

The development proposal shows an increase of 123 homes. This would significantly increase the number of cars driving through the small rural village. An extra 2 cars per household on average would lead to an extra 246 cars on the rural roads, but this could be a lot higher if house holds had older children of driving age.

Recently there have been problems with burst water pipes and sewerage issues on Barnsley Road and other locations in the village. This is something that has been happening for many years. It is visible to see that existing water and sewerage pipes are already failing to cope with the current population of the village. If a further 123 houses were to use the already outdated, existing water and drainage systems it could be highly detrimental. The old infrastructure was not designed to cope with such a high population when it was built and this could cause serious issues. There is evidence that there are existing drainage and sewer capacity issues which may be exacerbated by any further developments.

Bus services in the village are not frequent enough to support a significantly higher population.

A large housing development would damage the designated and non-designated heritage of the village and it's local assets, This would also include archaeological remains and would in turn damage Upper Cumberworth's conservation area.

Such a development would dramatically change the character of the village and it's neighbouring areas. It would also significantly change the amazing rural landscape which is enjoyed by both local and people visiting from the surrounding areas who love and enjoy of our walking paths, woodlands and greenbelt countryside.

I have always felt very safe as a woman walking alone in the village and ancient woodland both day and night. I do worry that such a significantly large development would change that.

The entrance for the proposed development is on a very busy part of Barnsley Road, it is highly dangerous due to very large quarry vehicles, high numbers of people using the refuse site, a lot of through traffic day and night, as well as local farm vehicles using Barnsley Road throughout the day.

Please take my objections in to account and do what is right for the village of Upper Cumberworth and reject the application in full and any further plans submitted on this land.

Regards
Gemma Shearing