



I am writing to formally object to the proposed development in Upper Cumberworth. As a local resident and a user of the local amenities and public rights of way I was horrified to hear of this proposal. The land is Greenbelt land and it's not in the local plan for housing. I wish to highlight several significant concerns regarding the adverse impact this

proposal will have on the area.

#### 1. Impact on Landscape Character and Green Belt

This is an area defined by its distinct rural character the proposal will increase the village size by over a third and therefore poses a real threat and a significant encroachment into the open countryside resulting in a loss of the visual landscape. The local woodlands are defined as ancient and should be protected as such. They are a home to a range of species of wildlife and flora. The impact of development would destroy the woodland edges and also result in more trampling destroying floor species. The increased pollution, noise and light would really impact on the delicate ecosystem. The long range views would totally be lost, impacting on the openness of the surrounding countryside.

#### 2. Pressure on Infrastructure and Overcapacity

The existing local infrastructure, roads, schools and public services are already operating at or near peak capacity. The road issues were highlighted in Kirklees highways report to the planning committee relating to Bromley Farm Quarry, with the Sovereign cross roads operating at capacity at peak times. As a Barnsley road resident I know only too well the challenges relating to traffic volume and speed, a matter regularly raised with councillors. The result is that traffic seeking to avoid the congestion divert up Carr Hill Road or Cumberworth Lane, both roads not designed for heavy traffic volumes. Cumberworth lane is already not passable during school times, and HGVs using this road through the conservation area is not acceptable. The developer has grossly underestimated both traffic movements and distances, the latter being significant because more people will drive to local amenities.

Adding a large-scale development without a concurrent, robust plan for infrastructure delivery will inevitably lead to increased traffic volume on narrow village roads that were not designed for this volume. The drainage system is already creaking and cannot meet existing requirements, burst pipes, water pressure are recurrent issues and Yorkshire water regularly attend village incidents. The drainage plans for waste water and surface water put forward are inadequate - we will see flooding and more pollution surges into the woodland.

Further pressure on local health services and schools which already face pressure.

#### 3. Loss of Amenity for Residents and Visitors

The fresh air and quiet enjoyment of the landscape are not merely aesthetic; they are essential to the well-being and residential amenity of the area. The "urbanization" of this site will just see upper Cumberworth merging with Denby Dale and losing the unique identity.

#### 4. Archeological remains.

The area has heritage assets, with the remains of a water mill recently discovered in the woodlands, this has close links to the field in question and should be preserved.

Please refuse this application