



I am writing to object to this application as a long-standing resident who cares deeply about the character of this area and the countryside around Upper Cumberworth.

My main concern is the impact on the Green Belt. This land has been kept open for good reason, to stop development spreading into the countryside and to preserve its rural nature. The proposal would introduce built form into what is currently open land, and that would clearly harm the openness that the Green Belt is meant to protect. Once something like this is allowed, it is very difficult to prevent further development, and the character of the area can quickly be lost.

I am also very concerned about how this development would look. The area is currently peaceful and largely unspoilt, which is something many of us value greatly. The proposed buildings and associated activity would feel out of place in this rural setting. In particular, the public footpath known locally as The Dearne Way is well used by walkers and offers lovely open views across the countryside. From this path, I believe the development would be visible and would spoil what is currently a natural and attractive landscape.

Another serious concern is the effect on nearby ancient woodland, namely Stephens Wood. This woodland has been there for generations and is an important part of our local environment. Ancient woodland is irreplaceable, and even if the development does not take place directly within it, the setting is just as important. Increased activity, noise, lighting, and general disturbance could all have a harmful effect. It would also take away from the sense of peace and seclusion that makes the woodland special.

I am also worried about the gradual urbanisation that comes with developments like this. It is not just the buildings, but everything that comes with them—cars, lighting, fencing, and general domestic activity. All of this slowly chips away at the rural character of the area and changes it in a way that cannot easily be undone.

In my view, this proposal goes against the principles of protecting the Green Belt, preserving the countryside, and safeguarding important natural features like ancient woodland. I have not seen any justification that would outweigh the harm that would be caused.

I respectfully ask that the Council refuses this application.