

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 wish to formally object to planning application 2025/93572 relating to the land south of Barnsley Road, Upper Cumberworth, Huddersfield, HD8 8NN. My objection is based primarily on the significant adverse impact this proposal would have on the landscape character, ecology, and openness of this Green Belt site.</p> <p>This field currently forms an important part of the rural landscape surrounding Upper Cumberworth and contributes strongly to the openness and visual amenity of the Green Belt. Development on this site would urbanise an undeveloped green field and erode the countryside setting that separates settlements within this area. Even though the application is in outline form with matters reserved, the principle of development itself would fundamentally alter the character of the site and surrounding landscape.</p> <p>The field is highly visible from Barnsley Road and from nearby public viewpoints. It forms part of the attractive rolling agricultural landscape that characterises this section of Kirklees countryside. Replacing open pasture with housing, roads, lighting, hardstanding, and associated infrastructure would introduce an intrusive suburban form into a currently undeveloped rural setting. This would result in substantial harm to landscape character and visual amenity, contrary to the purposes of Green Belt policy, which seeks to safeguard the countryside from encroachment.</p> <p>The proposal would also lead to the fragmentation and degradation of local habitats. Although the field may appear agriculturally improved, green field sites such as this still provide important ecological value. The site likely supports foraging and commuting routes for birds, bats, hedgehogs, and other wildlife species. Existing hedgerows, grassland margins, and boundary vegetation contribute to biodiversity connectivity across the wider rural landscape. Development would inevitably result in habitat disturbance, increased noise and lighting, and pressure from domestic activity, all of which negatively affect local wildlife.</p> <p>Particular concern should be given to the cumulative ecological impacts arising from continued development of green field land around villages such as Upper Cumberworth. Incremental losses of undeveloped countryside gradually weaken</p>	

Cumberworth. Incremental losses of undeveloped countryside gradually weaken habitat networks and reduce biodiversity resilience. National and local planning policies place significant emphasis on protecting and enhancing biodiversity, yet this proposal risks causing long-term ecological harm that cannot easily be mitigated through landscaping conditions alone.

The introduction of vehicle access into the site is itself harmful to the rural character of the area. New access arrangements, visibility splays, signage, and associated engineering works would suburbanise the frontage along Barnsley Road and diminish the current agricultural appearance of the field boundary.

Furthermore, approving development on this Green Belt site would set a damaging precedent for further encroachment into surrounding countryside. The Green Belt designation exists to prevent precisely this type of incremental erosion of open rural land. Once openness is lost, it cannot realistically be restored.

In conclusion, this proposal conflicts with the fundamental aims of Green Belt protection and would cause unacceptable harm to landscape character, visual amenity, biodiversity, and ecological connectivity. The adverse impacts significantly outweigh any potential benefits of the scheme.