



I strongly object to the proposed development of 123 houses on land south of Barnsley Road, Upper Cumberworth, on the grounds of drainage, sewer infrastructure, flood risk and the unsuitability of the site for development.

As a resident living directly next to the field, I already experience regular low water pressure issues. At peak times, water pressure in the area is noticeably poor, which strongly suggests that the existing infrastructure is already under strain. Adding a development of this scale to a small rural village will inevitably place further pressure on an already struggling system.

Yorkshire Water has formally objected to this application due to insufficient sewer network capacity and concerns relating to flood risk, pollution and public health. This alone should raise serious concerns. The proposal is not allocated within the Local Plan, meaning the infrastructure required to support a development of this size has not been planned or funded.

There are also major concerns regarding surface water drainage and the proposed outfall through ancient woodland into Park Dike. This risks damaging a highly sensitive environment that has existed for centuries. The woodland and surrounding springs rely on a delicate hydrological balance which, in my opinion, has not been properly assessed within the application.

The proposed drainage strategy also appears heavily engineered and urban in nature, relying on tanks, pipes and pumping infrastructure within a rural landscape that naturally absorbs and manages water through agricultural land. This field is not scrubland or “low-grade” land as suggested — it is actively farmed agricultural land and, even today, agricultural activity and ploughing continue on the site. The land has functioned as part of the rural landscape and drainage environment of Upper Cumberworth for generations.

I do not believe the applicant has demonstrated that the existing infrastructure can safely or sustainably support a development of this scale without unacceptable impacts on residents, the environment, ancient woodland and local drainage systems.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that planning permission is refused.