

NYMNPA Planning Application NYM/2019/0444/FL - Amended

Forge Valley Woods NNR, Seavegate, East Ayton

Consultee: West Ayton Parish Council

Date of response: 14/10/2019

Additional information for the Planning Committee on the amended application

1. WAPC recognise and welcome the removal of the proposed new car park opposite Wallis Quarry to protect the ancient woodland site in the valley floor.
2. WAPC also welcome the improved parking areas at Wallis Quarry and Seavegate Gill.

However, many of WAPC's original objections have not been acknowledged or addressed, namely:

3. There are no mitigation measures to reduce the substantial soil erosion caused by access on the western riverbank alongside the boardwalk (20% affected) which has resulted in siltation in the river and undercutting of the boardwalk in several places. This is not natural erosion.
4. There is no provision for the protection of the veteran chestnut tree or restoration of the eroded area at the south end of Seavegate.
5. There appear to be no plans within the application to restore and make safe the linking roadside footpaths along Seavegate putting users at risk next to a 60 mph speed limit highway.
6. There is no litter bin provision at Seavegate Gill, the bins near to the bridge are unlikely to be emptied as they are too far from the road to be seen and there is no agreement on who will be responsible for emptying the bins. The issue of littering in the meadows at the south end of the boardwalk which puts livestock at risk has also not been addressed.

New concerns arising from the amended application:

7. Although the new plan states that no trees will be removed from the bridge site and the crane to lift the bridge will sit on the new footpaths, it is either going to be a very small crane or there will be damage to the trees getting it into place.
8. The amended site plan B for the new bridge area has a note which says "replace woodland herb/understorey species". This is not appropriate as it will destroy the Ancient Woodland indicator ground flora species which are more important than the existing trees. Only cutting back the shrub layer should be approved.

Summary of comments

WAPC believe that providing a second footbridge will result in increased riverbank damage which goes against the SSSI and Water Framework Directive legislation and the National Park's Core Policy C which states "*the quality and diversity of the natural environment will be conserved and enhanced. Protected sites and species will be afforded the highest level of protection with priority also given to local aims and targets for the natural environment*". **However, if this planning application is approved, it should be on condition that a constructive plan of riverbank repair and ongoing maintenance is agreed and adopted.** There is no evidence of previous maintenance apart from boardwalk repairs.

Agricultural landowners are legally required to protect watercourses from soil erosion (The Reduction & Prevention of Agricultural Diffuse Pollution (England) Regulations 2018). Farmers upstream are doing their best to prevent soil erosion into the River Derwent. Why is there no protection in the Forge Valley SSSI and NNR within the National Park?

WAPC would encourage the Park Authority and Scarborough Borough Council to take the opportunity, when work is underway in the valley, to repair the riverbanks at the same time so that the sensitive areas adjacent to the boardwalk are protected when the path is reopened, and ongoing maintenance will then be more manageable. Various soft engineering techniques such as pinned tree trunks, pre-planted coir rolls and coir netting have been used successfully on the River Hull Headwaters SSSI. If mitigation measures are not put in place, the degradation of this special place will continue to the detriment of the environment, the protected habitats, plant species, wildlife, water quality and visitor enjoyment.