



Design Statement

Solar Panels (linked to A Room That Sings)

New location at Cross Cliff

Author: Petra Young



Solar Array A Room That Sings

Design Statement

Solar Panels - A Room That Sings



Background

In March 2023, we obtained planning permission for the Singing Room art installation (NYM/2021/0822/FL). This installation is now called A Room That Sings. This permission included the installation of a ground mounted solar array. Following some further research and consultation, we have found out that the solar array cannot be installed on the site that we have planning permission for, due to a mains gas pipeline running underneath.

In this application for planning permission we are requesting permission for an alternative location for the solar array only.

Location

The Solar Array is proposed to be located at the northern side of Dalby Forest near the bridleway between the Hole of Horcum and Harkness according to the map below.

It is proposed to still be located approximately at the site of the blue dot on the image. Instead of it being at the end of the track along the PROW, it is now proposed to be located amongst the trees just off the forest track that leads south from the PROW (Appendix 1 Solar Array Block Plan), on the actively promoted Woodcock Way Trail.

At this location, shrubs will be cleared for the minimally required area, that allows the maximum amount of sunlight to hit the panels all year round. The site for the solar array is 4.5m by 12m and will be set back into the crop a minimum distance of 3 meters from the road edge to maintain the habitat along the verge. Access across the verge by machinery installing the array will be limited (Appendix 5 Ecology Report).

The proposal complies with the Forest Management Plan for Dalby Forest.

Solar Array A Room That Sings



Design

The electrical power for the sound equipment in A Room That Sings will be provided by a modest solar photovoltaic array. This will be installed nearby, south facing alongside forest track on the Woodcock Way Trail.

The Solar Array will be installed in a 4.5m by 12m area of hard standing on a frame 3.3m high as shown in Appendix 3 - Solar Pane Drawing.

As well as powering the artwork it will also highlight a new way of thinking about energy and engage people in Forestry England's drive to become carbon free by 2033.

The solar panels will be installed on a metal structure that can withstand the weather conditions of the site and the pressure of visitors.

Solar Array A Room That Sings

Links to planning guidance

The sculpture links to the two purposes for National Park Authorities:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park
- To promote opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park

The solar array that accompanies A Room That Sings builds resilience to climate change through adaptation to and mitigation of its effects;

It enhances natural capital of the area and by opening up a site to more light will also enhance the biodiversity of that area.

Environment - Policy F (on p 52)

The Solar Array supports the cultural experience of the forest landscape and follows through on sustainability principles. A Room That Sings interprets the sounds of the forest and requires electricity to do that. To minimise the impact of the installation and not connect to the electricity grid, the Solar Array will provide the electricity in close proximity of the location where it will be consumed.

Policy H (on p 56)

By opening up a dense area of scrub vegetation, more sunlight will enter the site and provide new habitats for wildlife to thrive. The area of verge vegetation will be enhanced. The area of the panels will be kept to a minimum.

Policy ENV 1 Trees, Woodlands, (60)

This proposal will open up an area of very young dense scrub. By clearing an area, the surrounding trees will get the space to strengthen, it will allow sunlight to reach the forest floor and create further habitats.

Policy ENV8 Renewable Energy (69)

The scale of the installation is directly linked to the size of the already approved development of A Room That Sings.

Policy ENV3 remote areas(63)

The development falls outside the Remote Area and outside the Tranquillity zone.

Policy ENV10 Archaeological Heritage

The new location of the Solar Array means it will now be located outside the HER as indicated on Appendix 5. However, for the entire development a consultant has been appointed to oversee the works in relation to the heritage records.

5 Understanding and Enjoyment

Policy UE1 Location of Tourism and Recreation Development (P86)

The development offers an expansion of the existing tourism offer in Dalby Forest and the Solar Array is an integral part of the installation.



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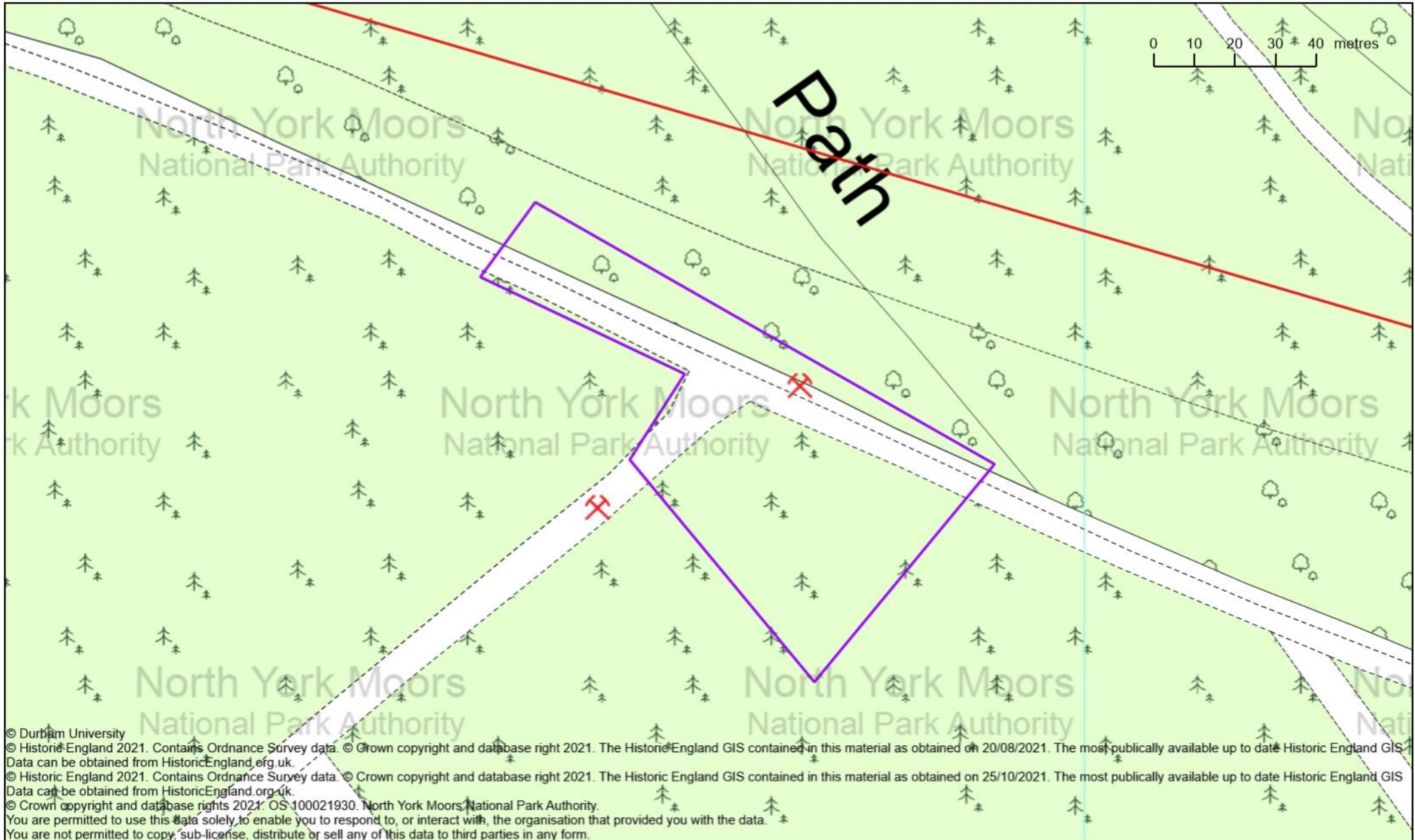
Location Plan of NYM/2021/0822/FL - Crosscliff barrows

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NYMNPA

12/07/2023

Scale: 1:1250



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A Room that Sings, Solar array ecological statement

Date –01/06/23

Prepared by Cath Bashforth, Yorkshire Forest District Ecologist

Background

Crosscliffe is an area within Dalby Forest, which is part of a network of Forestry England (FE) land in the east of the North York Moors National Park.

'A room that sings' (application NYM/2021/0822/FL) was granted planning permission in 2022. A solar array is planned to be installed to the north of this site to supply power to the 'A room that sings'.

Natural Heritage

Habitat

The proposed site of the solar array is alongside an existing forest road. The road verge was highlighted as species rich in a 2010 survey by Margaret Atherden and Nan Sykes.

Behind this verge is a mixed stand of Birch (2005) and Sitka Spruce (1990) with limited diversity in the ground flora.

There are no reptile records in this area.



No protected species or habitats, veteran trees or trees of significant interest or with potential bat roost features have been identified in the area of proposed works.

Mitigation

The site for the solar array is 4.5m by 12m and will be set back into the crop a minimum from the road edge to maintain the habitat along the verge. Access across the verge by machinery installing the array will be limited to one crossing point to minimise disturbance.

Some trees will need to be cleared before installation to enable the verge to be maintained open and unobstructed. This will be done in the period outside of bird nesting season (August – Feb).