

North York Moors National Park Authority

Delegated decision report

Application reference number: NYM/2023/0383

Development description: installation of cast iron 'corridor' sculpture

Site address: Courtyard, Dalby Forest Visitor Centre Low Dalby

Parish: Thornton Le Dale

Case officer: Miss Emily Jackson

Applicant: Forestry England, fao: Mrs Petra Young, Outgang Road, Pickering, York, YO18 7EL

Agent: N/A

Director of Planning's Recommendation

Approval subject to the following:

Condition(s)

Condition number	Condition code	Condition text
1	TM01	The development hereby permitted shall begin not later than three years from the date of this decision.
2	PL02	The development hereby approved shall be only carried out in strict accordance with the detailed specifications and plans comprised in the application hereby approved.

Reason(s) for condition(s)

Reason number	Reason code	Reason text
1	RSN TM01	To ensure compliance with Sections 91 to 94 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended.
2	RSN PL01	For the avoidance of doubt and to ensure that the details of the development comply with the provisions of Strategic Policies A and C of the North York Moors Local Plan, which seek to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park.

Consultation responses

Parish

None Received

Natural England

None Received

Third party responses

None Received

Publicity expiry

Advertisement/site notice expiry date – 20th July 2023

Photograph showing site where sculpture is proposed to be installed; sculpture to be installed on corner of land adjacent to café/cycle hub building that can be seen to right.



Background

The 'Courtyard' is a series of converted stone and pantile buildings operated by Forestry Commission adjacent to Low Dalby Village, northeast of Pickering, that are used as an extension of the Dalby Forest Visitors centre, consisting of a cycle hub, art centre, toilets, café, and outdoor seating area for those visiting the forest approved in December 2003.

This application seeks permission for the installation of a Cast Iron Studded Column Sculpture within the Courtyard, on a corner of grassy land adjacent to the café/cycle hub building. The proposed cast-iron column sculpture would measure 2.9 metres in height and 0.21 metres in diameter (max), with a weight of approximately 400kg. The column would be fixed to a concrete pad and have a stainless-steel ring to conceal its fixings.

In support of the proposal, the application states that -

The iron column 'Corridor' carries a pattern of octagonal studs drawn from studies and observations of bicycle tyre tracks which have been formalised and rendered as an architectural form. The piece draws on and refers to its location by means of literal representation - a bicycle tyre, by historical reference - the medium of iron; and ambiguously by the form not only being a cycling reference but also in that its shape is suggestive of a de-limbed tree.

Main issues

Local Plan

The most relevant policies contained within the North York Moors Local Plan 2020 to consider with this application are Strategic Policy C (Design) and Strategic Policy J (Tourism and Recreation).

Strategic Policy C seeks to maintain and enhance the distinctive character of the national park by considering appropriate siting, orientation, layout and density of proposals in addition to appropriate scale, height and massing and form. Proposals should utilise good quality materials and be of a high-quality, sustainable design that reflects and complements the architectural character and form of the original building and/or that of the local vernacular.

Strategic Policy J states that tourism and recreation development will be supported where: it is consistent with the Authority's principles of sustainable tourism; it does not lead to unacceptable harm to the local landscape; it provides opportunities for all people to increase their awareness and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park; it is of a quality and scale that reflects the sensitivity of the local landscape; it does not compromise the enjoyment of existing tourism and recreational facilities or public rights of way; and it does not lead to unacceptable harm in terms of noise and activity to the immediate neighbourhood.

Material Considerations

The proposed sculpture would be of an appropriate design and scale which aims to provide visitors with an understanding of some of the heritage and qualities of Dalby Forest and its wider landscape setting.

The sculpture has been designed to have relevance to its location and would be viewed in context with the existing 'courtyard' development within Dalby Forest. The sculpture would be of a high-quality construction, cast in iron at Hargreaves Foundry in Halifax to draw reference to the industrial landscape of the North York Moors.

The proposed sculpture would be sited on a grassy corner adjacent to the existing café/cycle hub building, and therefore, would not cause an obstruction to the adjacent public footpath or any other access routes in/out of the courtyard.

Overall, it is not considered that the sculpture would have an adverse impact on the landscape or amenity of this part of the National Park.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, the proposal meets the aims of Strategic Policy C, and Strategic Policy J, and as such approval is recommended.

Public Sector Equality Duty imposed by section 149 of the Equality Act 2010

The proposal is not considered to unduly affect any people with protected characteristics.

Pre-commencement conditions

N/A

Explanation of how the Authority has worked positively with the applicant/agent

The Authority's Officers have appraised the scheme against the Development Plan and other material considerations and confirmed to the applicant/agent that the development is likely to improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area.