

YORKSHIRE OFFICE

Mrs H Saunders
North York Moors National Park Authority
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley, York
North Yorkshire
YO62 5BP

Our ref: P00542010



Dear Mrs Saunders

Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications Direction 2015 & T&CP (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

**SOUTH MOOR FARM, LANGDALE END, SCARBOROUGH
Application No NYM/2016/0817/FL**

We have received amended proposals for the above scheme. The application is a Revised Scheme for change of use to form 1 no. grass runways, and the construction of a small pilot restroom building. The previous applications were for 2 no. grass runways and a larger restroom building. We have considered the application and offer the following advice.

Summary

The application is a Revised Scheme for the creation of a grass airfield of 1 no. runways with a small new pilot restroom building. Historic England (writing as English Heritage, and then as Historic England) previously provided advice on this application on 6th January 2015 and again on 3rd December 2015. Our initial recommendation was that the application should be withdrawn or refused because it did not include any detail of the heritage assets, their significance or the impact of the proposal on that significance. The subsequent application then included a Heritage Statement (Linda Smith, Feb 2015) but excluded a storage building, proposed in the original application, and these changes were welcomed in our subsequent response. The previous application included provision to bury an electrical cable under the second runway, and this appeared likely to have archaeological impact. Historic England therefore recommended that the application could be determined with a condition for an appropriate level of archaeological mitigation.

The current application is for 1 no. runway, and a very small pilot rest facility, there is no requirement for an electrical cable, (as stated in Section 6.7 of the Planning Statement).



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Historic England Advice

South Moor Farm site is located in an area of intense archaeological activity characterised by a complex variety of archaeological and earthwork forms.

Approximately 135 metres to the north-west of the farm complex is the scheduled Bronze Age 'Three Howes Round Barrow cemetery' (National Heritage List for England no.1019936). This consists of the clearly visible earthwork remains of 3 no. burial monuments, dating to c2700-700BC. Less than 500 metres to the south of the farm complex is the extensive Scheduled Monument of 'Embanked pit alignments, linear earthworks, round barrows and cairns' (NHLE 1019601). This monument consists of a collection of standing earthwork and buried remains spanning the Neolithic to Iron Age periods.

Whilst these two named Scheduled Monuments are the largest (by area) in the vicinity of the application site, the South Moor Farm complex is surrounded by numerous other Scheduled sites, being discrete cairns (standing earthworks created by the clearance of fields and used as markers or burial sites) and barrows (burial monuments), all of which date to the Bronze Age (c. 2,500-4,000 years ago). The archaeological evaluation of Fylingdales Moor following the fire in 2003 demonstrated that in this landscape, extensive associated archaeological remains exist between the designated sites, all of which contribute to the significance of the monuments as well as being important in their own right.

The sum value of the numerous designated sites and the potential of the spaces between the sites indicates that the application site is part of an extensive prehistoric cultural landscape, characterised by high visibility and good preservation levels. The relationship between the various sites and the archaeological potential of the spaces is part of the 'setting' of the designated sites and therefore a considerable part of their significance.

Our previous advice noted that, the proposed grassed runways and small pilot restroom building were not considered to significantly impact on the setting (and therefore the significance) of the scheduled sites. The reduction of the proposed runways to 1, and the further reduction in size of the rest facility reduces any impact further. However, the suggested number of flight 'movements' (up to 20 per day, Section 7. of the Planning Statement) could have a negative impact on the public experience and enjoyment of, and thus the setting and significance of the designated heritage assets. This is identified in the Heritage Statement and as a consequence it is proposed that the number of flights is to be limited, to a maximum number per day.



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In our previous advice we recommended that archaeological mitigation would be required for below ground works, the current application appears to avoid significant below ground intervention, and therefore Historic England is of the position that the archaeological monitoring is unlikely to be necessary.

Para 132 of the NPPF states that the more important the asset the greater the weight that should be given to the asset's conservation, whilst para 135 draws attention to the significance of non-designated heritage assets and the affect of direct or indirect impacts on those assets. The context of the application site is that it is surrounded by heritage assets of the highest importance, and has the potential for extensive non-designated archaeological remains to be encountered.

The current application will have a minimal physical impact on any below ground archaeology. However, the potential of the landscape suggests that the requirement for archaeological monitoring should be a consideration for any future works. The proposed use of the site as an airfield may impact on the setting of the nationally important scheduled sites, but this has been addressed in the Heritage Statement, and it is considered this can be mitigated through limits on the maximum number of flights from the runway.

It is the position of Historic England that the application may have minor impact on historic assets, but that this impact can be mitigated.

Recommendation

Historic England does not object to this application on heritage grounds and recommends that the application can be determined in line with national and local policy and guidance.

It is not necessary to consult us again on this application. Please send us a copy of the decision notice in due course. This will help us to monitor actions related to changes to historic places.



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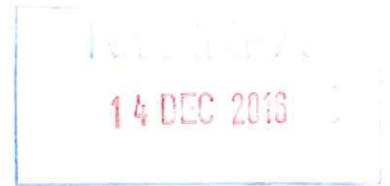




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Yours sincerely



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Ancient Monuments Inspector

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