

North York Moors National Park Authority

District/Borough: Scarborough Borough Council
(South)
Parish: LCPs of Fylingdales and Hawsker-cum-
Stainsacre

Application No. NYM/2017/0572/FL

Proposal: Retention of 7 no. boardwalks

Location: Jugger Howe Moor, Fylingdales Moor

Decision Date: 20 October 2017

Consultations

Hackness & Harwood Dale Group Parish – No objections.

Fylingdales Parish – Supports the application as it helps to protect the moorland and is an educational walk.

Natural England – No objections. Based on the information submitted it is considered that the proposed development will not have significant adverse impacts on designated sites, North York Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and North York Moors Special Protection Area (SPA).

Site Notice Expiry Date – 3 October 2017

Director of Planning's Recommendation

Approve

Signature:



Date:

19/10/17

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Background

Fylingdales Moor is an area of mainly heather moorland extending in excess of 6000 acres across the central and eastern part of the National Park. The moor was a former grouse moor but is now managed exclusively for wildlife conservation and upland sheep farming. The area has several conservation designations including SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), SAC (Special Area of Conservation) and SPA (Special Protection Area) for its bird populations. The moor also home to a number of rare plant species, Jugger Howe beck provides a valuable habitat for water vole populations and the area is also an important archaeological site.

Since 2006 the Hawk and Owl Trust has been responsible for the conservation management of the moor under the Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme (HLS) and is also responsible for the delivery of Outreach and Education aspects of the HLS.

This application seeks retention of 7 no. stretches of boardwalk, varying in length from 7 metres to 50 metres, across sections of the moor's nature trail, maintained by the Hawk and Owl Trust. The aim of the trail is to encourage greater public enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the moorland eco-system, its archaeology and moorland management regimes. The trail has been developed in conjunction with the National Park Authority and Natural England. The stretches of boardwalk permit safe public access to the moor whilst preventing damage to flora and fauna.

Planning permission for the boardwalks was originally granted in 2011 for a temporary period of 5 years so that the impact on the landscape could be assessed. This application seeks permanent retention of the boardwalks.

Main Issues

The relevant NYM Local Development Framework Policies are Core Policy A (Delivering National Park Purposes and Sustainable Development), Core Policy C (Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Geodiversity), Core Policy M (Accessibility and Inclusion), Core Policy I (Community Facilities) and Development Policy 14 (Tourism and Recreation).

The main issues are considered to be whether the retention of the boardwalks is an appropriate form of development in this location and whether it would result in a detrimental impact upon the quality of this highly protected area.

Jugger Howe Moor is an extensive, largely unspoilt and open landscape devoid of manmade structures, and benefits from SSSI, SAC and SPA designations. Therefore being of international importance, it must be safeguarded under current UK and European legislation.

It is accepted that the boardwalks provide improved public access to this area of moor and prevent further erosion of the moorland. The Authority's Ecologist is supportive of the application and comments that the retention of the boardwalks does not represent any

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Date:



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material change affecting the site. Natural England have also previously given consent in order to minimise erosion, damage and disturbance to the moor.

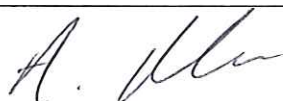
The design of the boardwalks is simple and the natural timber helps to mitigate its impact in the wider landscape. Whilst the retention of several man-made structures in this landscape does result in clutter which could be argued to detract from the landscape, the trail does promote greater understanding and appreciation of the special qualities of the National Park to visitors meeting the second purpose of the National Park. Furthermore whilst the boardwalks are a form of visual intrusion in the landscape their retention would help to conserve the habitat value of the moor in accordance with the first purpose.

In conclusion the retention of the boardwalks would continue to provide improved access and facilitate opportunities for visitors to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the special qualities of this part of the National Park without having an adverse impact on the natural environment in accordance with Core Policies A, C, M, I and Development Policy 14 of the Core Strategy and Development Policies Document (CSDPD).

Explanation of how the Authority has Worked Positively with the Applicant/Agent

The Local Planning Authority has acted positively in determining this application by assessing the scheme against the Development Plan and other material considerations and subsequently granting planning permission in accordance with the presumption in favour of sustainable development, as set out within the National Planning Policy Framework.

Signature:



Date:

