

Design and Access Statement

Dalby Forest Traffic Management

Background

Dalby Forest lies on the southern slopes of the North York Moors National Park, and is both a popular visitor attraction and important habitat for wildlife.

A £4.3 million investment (2003-2007) has resulted in the remarkable transformation of Dalby forest into a Regional Centre of Excellence for sustainable economic activity. With an attractively refurbished courtyard, a sustainably constructed Visitor Centre, and a vast network of cycle trails, Dalby Forest is proving to be a valuable asset in the region, giving the local economy a much needed boost by drawing in tourists from far and wide.

In 2013/14 Dalby underwent further re-development with the relocation of the restaurant downstairs, the creation of a themed Play Area and Go Ape investing in Tree Tops Junior.

These schemes have had a major impact on the number of visitors to the site this last summer. Our visitors access the site mainly by car and the number of cars on site during peak periods is becoming a health & safety issue. Cars are increasingly parked in inappropriate places, blocking the access for emergency vehicles.

Already, the existing car park has been marked to allocate each car a specific space and although this has made a difference, the issue of blocking access still remains. Now we are proposing to install a traffic management system with an additional car parking area for a further 170 cars.

a) Access Principles

The access principles behind this project are to:

- Improve the overall visitor experience with improved access to and parking around the visitor centre.
- Resolve localised congestion at Pexton Moor.
- Be able to monitor, manage and plan for the high levels of peak season visitors and event traffic
- Reduce the risk in relation to revenue protection and non compliance with parking payment.
- Enhance estate and asset security.

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This planning application proposes to install a Pay on Foot parking system including 2 barriers in and 2 barriers out system at Pexton Moor, and a 1 in and 1 out barrier system at Ebberston access on the forest drive. This will lead to a small increase of metalled road at Pexton Moor access and at the Ebberston access. Pay stations will be installed at the visitor station and at the exit points. The design at each access point includes for a separate in and out lanes for pedestrians and cyclists who don't have to pay. Included in the proposals is a new car park located in the entrance to Seivedale. This will accommodate 170 additional vehicles and landscaped to fit into the local topography. This will have a new footpath to allow pedestrians to walk safely to the Visitor Centre on the south side of the forest drive. At Pexton Moor we will construct a forest road as shown on the plan, to allow larger vehicles to enter and exit the forest by passing the barriers. This will have 2 locked forest barriers on either end.

b) Design Principles

Pexton Moor - It is our intention to create a 2 lane in 2 lane out arrangement using a combination of barriers, NPR (Number Plate Recognition), and keypad/card reader entry and exit system at Pexton Moor.

- The design Dwg Number FCE/YFD/DTM/Plan5 shows 2 small and 1 large island to accommodate the apparatus. This will be powered by a underground mains supply. We have included a photo mock-up of the proposal for this location. This will require the removal of the existing ticket booth and canopy.
- The additional road surface will be surfaced with tarmac to match what is there. The lanes will be 2.7m wide and 3.5m wide in both directions to accommodate the various forms of road user we have at present.
- The roundabout and access/exit points will be fully white lined for safe use.
- There will be cycle lanes in and out to separate riders from vehicles at the barrier point. These will be surfaced with tarmac also and designed so as not to allow vehicles to access them.
- A 2 car lay-bye will be constructed approx. 50m before the exit barrier to house 2 pay machine and a purpose built canopy to protect them.
- There will be a 5m mast carrying a CCTV camera to monitor the site.

Ebberston - At Ebberston we will create a 1 lane in 1 lane out layout using a combination of barriers, NPR (Number Plate Recognition), and keypad/card reader entry and exit system.

- The design Dwg Number FCE/YFD/DTM/Plan6 shows 2 small and 1 large island to accommodate the apparatus. This will be powered by a underground mains supply.
- The additional road surface will be surfaced with tarmac to match what is there. The lanes will be 3.5m wide in both directions to accommodate the various forms of road user we have at present.
- Cycle lanes will be constructed with a tarmac surface on the access and exit sides.

- A lay bye will be constructed approx. 20m before the exit barrier to house 1 pay machine and a purpose built canopy for protection.
- A 1m satellite dish on a 5m mast, the associated cabinet will be installed on the edge of the proposed cycle lane and link to the mast underground. This will provide a link to broadband.
- There will be a 4m mast carrying a CCTV camera to monitor the site

Seivedale - At Seivedale a car park is proposed to be constructed of lime stone from local quarries. It will have:

- 2 way traffic in and out via the existing forest road access point, on to the forest drive.
- A French drain running down to the lowest point and into a designed soak away.
- A stock fence around it perimeter and an alternative field access will be constructed.
- There will be a larch clad shelter for the payment machine, on the car park entrance.
- Landscaping where there are embankments with vegetation to stabilize the slope material.
- A formal 2m wide footpath from the car park to the visitor centre to the south of the forest drive, to be constructed of limestone with associated drainage and culverts.
- A new field access will be constructed off the forest drive to include cattle pen.
- There will be a larch clad shelter for the payment machine, at the southern end of the VC car park.

A further forest access is proposed to the north of Pexton Moor access to be built as a standard forest road at 3.5m wide. It will be constructed from Limestone and have a forest barrier at each end. The purpose of this access is to allow the passage of vehicles that would be too wide to safely pass through the barriers.

The current car park has 175 spaces and 14 disabled places with all ability access to the visitor Centre and the Courtyard area. It is envisaged that the proposed car park would not include any more disabled spaces as the current provision is 4% of the car parking which will be available at Low Dalby.

Appendices

Plans:

See plans FCE/YFD/DTM/Plan5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13

