

From: [Planning](#)
To: [Planning](#)
Subject: Comments on NYM/2018/0094/FL - Case Officer Mrs H Saunders - Received from Mrs Nicky Wearmouth at 4, Low Dalby, Pickering, North Yorkshire, YO18 7JL
Date: 07 March 2018 20:24:10

I have read, with interest, the plans relating to the siting of a Nissen Hut in Low Dalby. I am a resident of Low Dalby and have supported the Forestry Commission in many of their plans however I would like to highlight my concerns in relation to this latest one.

I have a great interest in nature, history and art so I was very excited to learn that the Forestry Commission 'aims to establish Dalby Forest as a new Forest Art Works site with high quality arts'. I have seen art installations in other FC sites which I've been very impressed with. I've also studied the history of the area and have a full understanding of what Low Dalby looked like between the war-years. I have always been amazed that the FC haven't tapped into the area's fascinating history more. Having said all that, I was disappointed with the plans for the following reasons:

Site, access and location:

The site is on an existing path accessed from the Ellerburn track. This track skirts around the rear of and very close to the houses in the village and comes out at the rear of the village tennis court. The village water tank is positioned on this path. It supplies the whole village with its only water supply. The track, although a public footpath, is predominantly used by the residents and is seldom used by the public. I understand that new paths will meander through the scrubland to the side of number 10, rising gently to meet the existing footpath and the site of the hut. Public use of the Ellerburn track has increased dramatically over the years therefore I can envisage most of the users will take the new tracks created to see the hut. This is a lot of people, particularly in summer. This increases foot traffic to the side of number 10 and will encourage the public to use the current footpath. This concerns me as it greatly reduces the privacy for the occupants of numbers 5 through to 10 as not only will the public be walking past their front gardens on the Ellerburn track but also their back gardens once they've visited the sculpture. It also means there is a higher likelihood of people walking away from the site and directly past the water tank. I doubt that there'd be any tampering done to it but it does increase the opportunity.

At the moment, members of the public generally keep moving through the village. An installation in this position means that there is a reason to hang around, stay near to houses. This increases noise and is a security risk.

The installation:

I appreciate that the art installation intends to interpret and celebrate the site. I presumed that this would be in a similar way to the Lumberjills which is a fantastic tribute but I find the description of this installation slightly disturbing. The sculpture is a concrete structure made of concrete corrugated panels which the public will be able to walk into and around. In principle, this sounds great but, I'm sad to say that I honestly believe that this will not be the case.

I hate to say this, as not all members of the public act in this way, but a structure like this (a bit like a bus shelter in an inner city) will attract litter, graffiti, urination and the like. There is an extraordinary amount of bags full of dog poo left in the forest and I can only see this art installation as a magnet for poo-bag dumping – out of site, out of mind. I don't think that a concrete structure which regularly plays host to dog poo-bags, picnic left-overs and graffiti with an added air of eau de urine is the best way to 'interpret and celebrate' Dalby's history. I may sound overly dramatic, that is not my intention, but in my experience structures like this attract anti-social behaviour.

Nature:

The FC states that 'by existing in the forest environment in perpetuity, the sculpture will change with the seasons and over the years, as nature starts to grow in and around it'. I understand this sentiment as I write a blog about Dalby's wildlife and regularly use Twitter/Instagram/Facebook to highlight sightings. I hope that it would indeed play host to plants, fungi, insects, moths, possibly bats and so forth. Unfortunately, I think that people visiting the site, as previously highlighted, will do more harm than good.

Nettles are renowned for growing in disturbed ground – my guess would be that nettles would take over the site very quickly pushing out anything that may be of interest. The site needs to be maintained carefully to ensure that it is checked, cleared of litter every day and cleared of unruly plant matter.

I note that the area around the Nissen Hut is due to be felled in 2022 and that the FC plan to plant trees and small shrubs around the sculpture to allow it to blend in. The structure is big. Even surrounded by bushes and covered in plants, a Nissen Hut is an ugly building. At 5.1m wide x 11m long x 3.2m high, it would stick out like a sore thumb. It would just become an ugly eyesore rather than an enchanting art installation.

The paths (wide enough for wheelchairs) will meander through the area of scrub/trees/bushes up to the installation. This little patch is a haven for wildlife. I regularly see roe deer and a variety of warblers and other birds nesting here in spring. I haven't been able to find an environmental report amongst the planning documents. Has one been completed?

Conclusion:

I am not against art in the forest and certainly agree with bringing the history of Dalby to the public. I just disagree with this particular project. I am disappointed that, with all the acres of land to play with, the FC has chosen to site an art installation so close to the houses of Low Dalby when it is clear that it will have a significant impact on privacy and noise.

Comments made by Mrs Nicky Wearmouth of 4, Low Dalby, Pickering, North Yorkshire, YO18 7LT

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