

From: [Planning](#)
To: [Planning](#)
Subject: Comments on NYM/2018/0094/FL - Case Officer Mrs H Saunders - Received from Miss Elke Blommaert at 6 Low Dalby, Dalby Forest, Pickering, YO18 7LT
Date: 13 March 2018 13:54:31

NYMNP

13/03/2018

Dear Sir, madam,

I would like to object to the proposed siting of the Rachel Whiteread sculpture on land to the immediate south of Low Dalby village.

The reasons for my objection are twofold.

Firstly -and for us most importantly- in a forest the size of Dalby, the currently proposed site is right next to Low Dalby village.

The newly constructed access paths will join on to an existing track which runs at the back of houses 5,6,7,8,9 and 10. This track is currently quite overgrown and rarely used -except occasionally by residents. It skirts right behind these houses' gardens and as it is situated on a slope it overlooks these as well as all the rooms at the back. It is also located right next to the residents' watertank (which is the villagers' only watersupply).

Due to the proposed location of the sculpture and the route of the newly constructed access paths, visitors will - in effect- be enticed onto this track. This will significantly increase the levels of NOISE and DISTURBANCE and the feeling of constantly BEING OVERLOOKED will be quite pervasive and persistent. This will have a severe adverse impact on the residents' feelings of PRIVACY and TRANQUILITY, both in their gardens and in the rooms at the back of their houses.

Most residents can't use their front gardens anymore since the intensive development of the Ellerburn trail.

Visitor numbers have increased to such an extent that sitting in the front garden makes you feel like a visitor attraction yourself. I am sure you can appreciate that the privacy and tranquility provided by the backgardens is therefore even more important (as is the privacy in the rooms at the back of the houses).

Secondly, the Ellerburn/Grufallo trail is already really busy, especially on weekends and schoolholidays. To increase people traffic ever more at this particular site by adding more attractions doesn't make any long-term sense.

To keep herding more and more people onto this small busy loop completely lacks imagination and seems strategically unwise as it only makes the forest less attractive, less appealing. This surely is counter-productive unless you want your visitors to leave with the unsatisfied feeling they've been stuck in a pedestrian-style traffic jam whilst here- and therefore less likely to return. People come here to get away from the hussle and bussle, not to be immersed in it. Art in itself could be a great way to develop the appeal of Dalby but the forest is more than 8000 acres in size...Why not use a project like this to "open up" Dalby rather than constantly focusing on the same small area, making it excessively busy and less appealing. Why not choose a site closer to Adderstone or nearer the new stone maze (which would also be more level and just a little bit more wheelchair-friendly than the steep slope currently proposed...). A more imaginative long-term strategy would try and tap into this vast potential rather than keep overdeveloping just one little corner of it.

I also refer to the NYMPA's own publication which emphasises the importance of tranquility and states that it is imperative to control development which is potentially harmful to the conservation of this said tranquility (consultation paper "A sense of tranquility, a strong feeling of remoteness and dark night skies, December 2017). In this paper the NYMPA acknowledges that Dalby Forest is particularly vulnerable to a reduction in tranquility (par 4.7, p.6) and that all development and planning should be assessed in relation to its impact on tranquility.

Whether the Forestry Comission likes it or not: Low Dalby village is more than just another part of Dalby Forest. It is also the home of the people who live here and who have chosen to live here because of the peace the forest offers.

So, in summary: a resounding "YES" to art in the forest and an even more resounding "YES" to sustainable development of everything the forest has to offer...but PLEASE could this be an imaginative development which is also sensitive to the needs of the people who call this place home. The NYMPA, the FC and the villagers of Low Dalby would all benefit from a more imaginative thought-through development which taps in to the whole of the forest and focuses on the preservation of peace and tranquility, those rare luxuries which

people crave and are increasingly prepared to pay a bonus for.

Kind regards,
Elke Blommaert
resident of 6 Low Dalby
(objection submitted on the 13th of March)

Comments made by Miss Elke Blommaert of 6 Low Dalby, Dalby Forest, Pickering, YO18 7LT

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