

From: [Hilary Saunders](#)
To: [Planning](#)
Subject: Fwd: Further comments on NYM/2018/0094/FL Low Dalby
Date: 17 April 2018 21:40:02
Attachments: [Further comments on Nissen Hut application \(1\).pdf](#)

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: Pat Fitzgerald
Date: 17/04/2018 17:12 (GMT+00:00)
To: Hilary Saunders <h.saunders@northyorkmoors.org.uk>
Subject: Further comments on NYM/2018/0094/FL Low Dalby

Dear Miss Saunders

Further to your recent letter advising of the amendments to this application we now submit our supplementary comments for your consideration.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Kind regards

Pat and Louise Fitzgerald

NYMNPA

18/04/2018

Dear Mrs Saunders

17 April 2018

Nissen Hut Sculpture

Thank you for your letter of 4 April 2018 advising of the revised plans received and inviting our further comment.

These comments are supplementary to our existing submission made 19 March 2018.

We have studied the revised plan and read the applicant's covering letter and we are pleased that the access paths to the sculpture have now been moved further away from the homes and the rear track is to be blocked. However the main damage arising from the cumulative effect of excessive visitor numbers on the Ellerburn Trail has not yet been fully addressed and therefore the application remains contrary to Core Policies of the National Park LDF.

This is due to the fact that the Forestry Commission still plan to promote this trail nationally as one of their generic Donaldson/Sheffler Activity Trails (currently The Highway Rat) which are very popular with families such that this path is already up to and over capacity at times and to construct the new Nissen Hut attraction on the same path will regularly result in unacceptable overcrowding and serious impact.

We took part in a survey on Thursday 5 April 2018 and counted over 1350 visitors on this same trail between 11am and 4pm and although this was in the school holidays we were still shocked at just how quickly the path became unpleasantly overcrowded with visitors merging from both directions.

Moreover this is not nearly as busy as the path will become at summer weekends and Bank Holidays when visitor numbers greatly increase and of course, this is before the addition of the planned Nissen Hut sculpture.

However the Forestry Commission seem to be in denial over just how crowded this path already gets and thus fail to recognise the cumulative effect and damage that the siting of the Nissen Hut Sculpture will have upon this important part of the National Park.

Furthermore their visitor counting methods fail to allow for the fact that this is a circular walk, so every visitor has to pass through the village of Low Dalby twice. Thus doubling the impact on residents and doubling the unpleasant congestion for visitors themselves.

In mitigation the Forestry Commission say in their covering letter:

"We expect to have additional visitors to come specifically to see the sculpture, however many will be existing users of the Ellerburn trail. We are also in the process of relocating the wooden Gruffalo sculptures to an alternative permanent location in the forest which will act to move visitors to alternative locations around the wider forest."

However they are still promoting their Highway Rat Activity Trail on this path as can be seen on the Forestry Commission website at <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-9hunde> . Therefore removal of the two redundant Gruffalo statues will probably make little difference to existing numbers and will certainly not address the cumulative effect of the planned Nissen Hut Sculpture. So to suggest so is disingenuous.

It is also misleading to suggest that “many visitors will be existing users”. The existing users on this trail are mainly families with young children and the Nissen Hut sculpture will be of little interest to children other than providing another challenging set of ramped paths to freewheel down on their bikes.

The Nissen Hut sculpture is to be created by one of the country’s leading Turner Prize winning artists, it will be promoted nationally and will attract many thousands more visitors to this path who will all be seeking a very different cultural experience to that of the Highway Rat Activity Trail. The cumulative impact of such large numbers of visitor merging together on this path will be intolerable and hugely damaging to the National Park.

The Forestry Commission have apparently no management strategy for dealing with such visitor numbers and no defined upper levels of acceptable numbers. The Nissen Hut sculpture is clearly a business opportunity and they appear to be simply taking advantage of this readymade path in order that their infrastructure costs can be kept down. However they fail to recognise the fact that the Nissen Hut sculpture and their Highway Rat Activity Trail are two incompatible attractions to be squeezed onto the same path with no plans to deal with the impact.

We therefore urge the National Park Authority to refuse this application. Or before consent is considered the applicant should be required to commit to specific actions to manage visitor numbers on this path to acceptable levels.

For example matters could easily be improved, at little cost, by relocating their generic Donaldson/Sheffler Activity Trails to another more suitable part of the Dalby Forest.

Such action would overcome much of the existing visitor/resident conflict and address many of the current objections. Moreover it would leave the artist with an exclusive location on a quieter path to present the Nissen Hut Sculpture as the “shy sculpture hidden in the quiet depths of the forest” that she originally intended.

The over intensification of use of this footpath has already destroyed this once tranquil part of the National Park and the cumulative effect of this Planning Application will be intolerable and damaging.

Therefore despite the amended plan, the application remains in breach of clauses 1 and 2 of Core Policy A of the National Park’s Development Framework which states that;

- 1. Priority will be given to providing a scale of development and level of activity that will not have an unacceptable impact on the wider landscape or the quiet enjoyment, peace and tranquility of the Park, nor detract from the quality of life of local residents or the experience of visitors.*
- 2. Providing for development in locations and of a scale which will support the character and function of individual settlements.*

Accordingly, unless further mitigation works are agreed, the application should be REFUSED due to its cumulative effect upon visitor numbers being highly concentrated in this small area of the National Park and thus having an unacceptable impact and damaging the amenity of the Park and the residents of Low Dalby.

Pat and Louise Fitzgerald
Harrogate