

NYM / 2013 / 0825 / FL 1



## Dalby Forest Visitors Centre



## Design and Access Statement

November 2013

## Introduction

This Design and Access Statement has been prepared by AEW Architects on behalf of the Forestry Commission to support a Full planning application required for new window and door openings, steps, posts, handrails and balustrade at the Dalby Forest Visitor Centre.

These works form part of the overall refresh works currently being undertaken at the Visitor Centre.

Other external works which are to be brought forward in the future to connect the at the Dalby Forest Visitor Centre with a new centre approved in 2010 to the south of the site does not form part of this application.

## Location

Dalby Forest offers over 8,000 acres of woodlands to explore and enjoy, including play areas for children (at Sneverdale and Adderstone), barbeques for the family and plenty of waymarked trails, cycling and walking, for all abilities. The Visitor Centre is positioned close to Low Dalby village, 1.5 miles from the Thornton Dale entrance into Dalby Forest.

Dalby Forest is situated on the southern slopes of the North York Moors National Park. The southern part of the forest is divided by a number of valleys creating a 'Rigg and Dale' landscape whilst to the north the forest sits on the upland plateau.

## Dalby Forest Visitor Centre

The Dalby Forest Visitor Centre is an eco-friendly visitor centre and is one of the Forestry Commission's first visitor centres with sustainability as its main focus. Prior to the refresh works facilities within the centre include an information desk, Forestry Commission shop, hands-on interactive exhibition area, meeting room, external and internal toilets and Treetops Restaurant with terrace. These facilities are being reorganised as part of the refresh works.

The Visitor Centre sells maps and booklets about the various walks and cycle trails within the forest and is also the new home of the Dalby Astronomical Centre where events are held throughout the year.

The Visitor Centre is wheelchair friendly.

## The Proposal

The Dalby Forest Visitor Centre is currently undergoing a refresh to improve the visitor facilities and will be opening Easter 2014. The first floor restaurant is currently accessed by the public via the main foyer staircase and lift onto an upper balcony. There is a bridge link across to the covered terrace. To the rear is the restaurant with its own bridge to the covered terrace.

Being located at the first floor means that the restaurant does not currently occupy a visible position. It also suffers from a lack of wayfinding from the ground floor and is tucked away behind the circulation core obstructing views from the ground floor. It is therefore proposed as part of the refresh works to relocate the restaurant to improve its visibility, accessibility and in doing so increase the number of customers.

As part of this refresh the Treetops Restaurant will be relocated from the first floor to the ground floor into a space which is currently occupied by the community room. Conference facilities will replace the vacated space at first floor.

At ground floor the shop will be repositioned at the front of the visitor centre where there is currently exhibition space that is surplus to requirements following the withdrawal of funding for school trips.

It is anticipated that the use of the restaurant will increase when it is relocated to ground floor, therefore additional cafe space is to be provided into the space vacated by the shop.

To allow the ground floor restaurant to take advantages of the beautiful surrounding it is anticipated that customers will *spill out* on to the external picnic area. This has necessitated the requirement for new openings and access within the centre, which are the subject of the Full application. In summary, the proposal seeks approval for:

- East elevation: delivery door with external steps and balustrade
- West elevation: double leaf door with steps and posts either side, new window opening
- North elevation: two sets of double leaf doors with steps, posts and handrail

In order to accord with policy DP3 - Design all new materials used for windows, doors, handrails and posts will match the existing. They will be a painted solid wood; a material which helps harmonise the development with its surroundings.

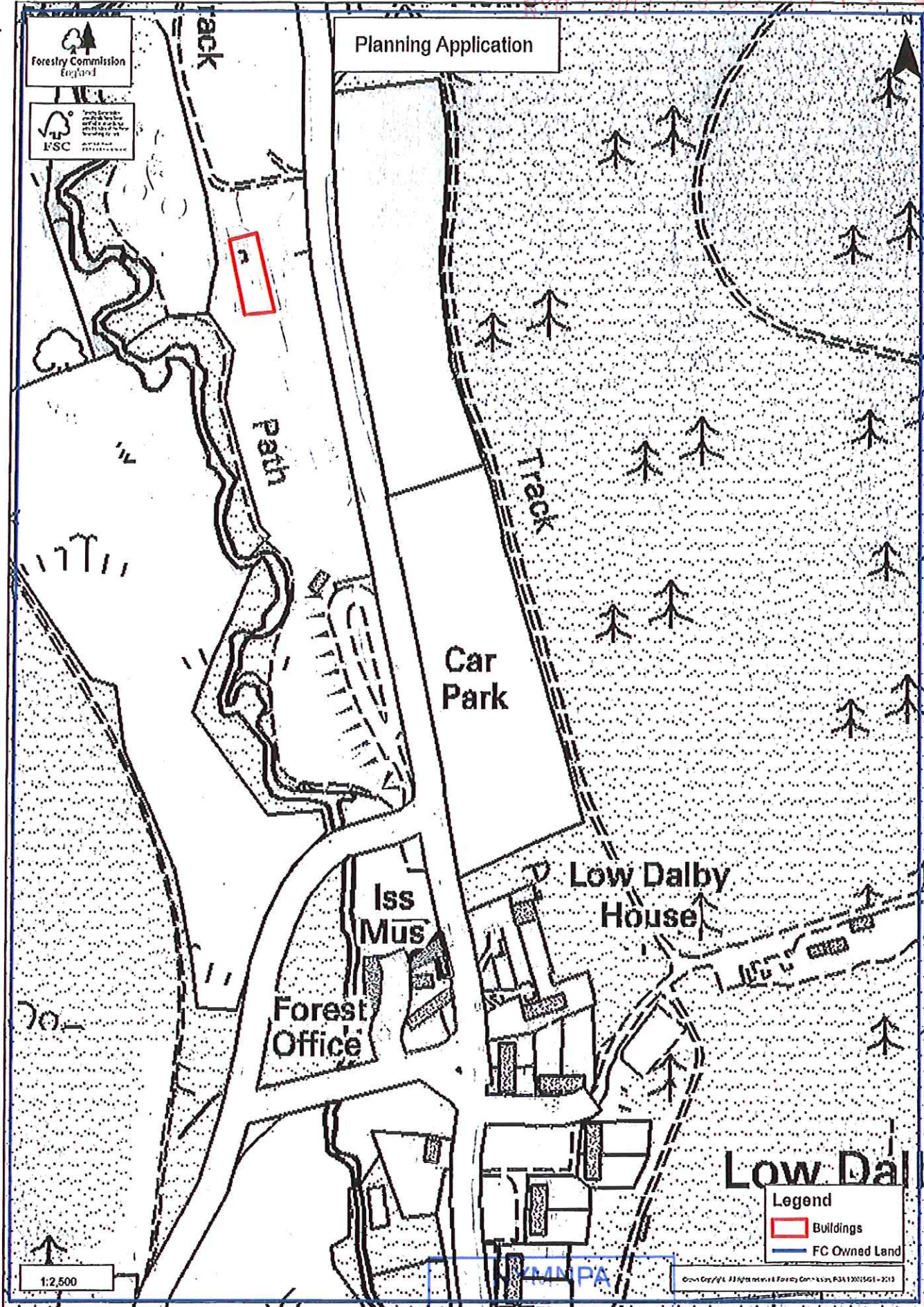
The South elevation, which is the main building frontage, is unaltered.



## Accessibility Statement

- Doors
  - The swing doors will have decals at 1000mm and 1500mm above ground level.
  - Each door has a leaf of at least 1000mm in width.
  - Each door has a flush threshold.
- Steps
  - No flight of steps rise more than 1200mm.
  - The rise of each step is as close as possible to, but not less than, 150mm, and each rise within is uniform.
  - Each tread depth is 280mm and each tread is uniform and slip resistant.
  - Where possible there will be a level unobstructed landing of minimum 1800mm x 1800mm, clear of any door swing.
- Handrail and balustrades
  - Posts, handrails and balustrades are provided where necessary.
  - The steps from the double doors to the west elevation have handrails at both side.
  - The steps from the pair of double doors to the north elevation have posts either side and a central handrail.





Planning Application

Forestry Commission  
England

FSC

Track

path

Car Park

Track

Iss Mus

Forest Office

Low Dalby House

Low Dal

Legend

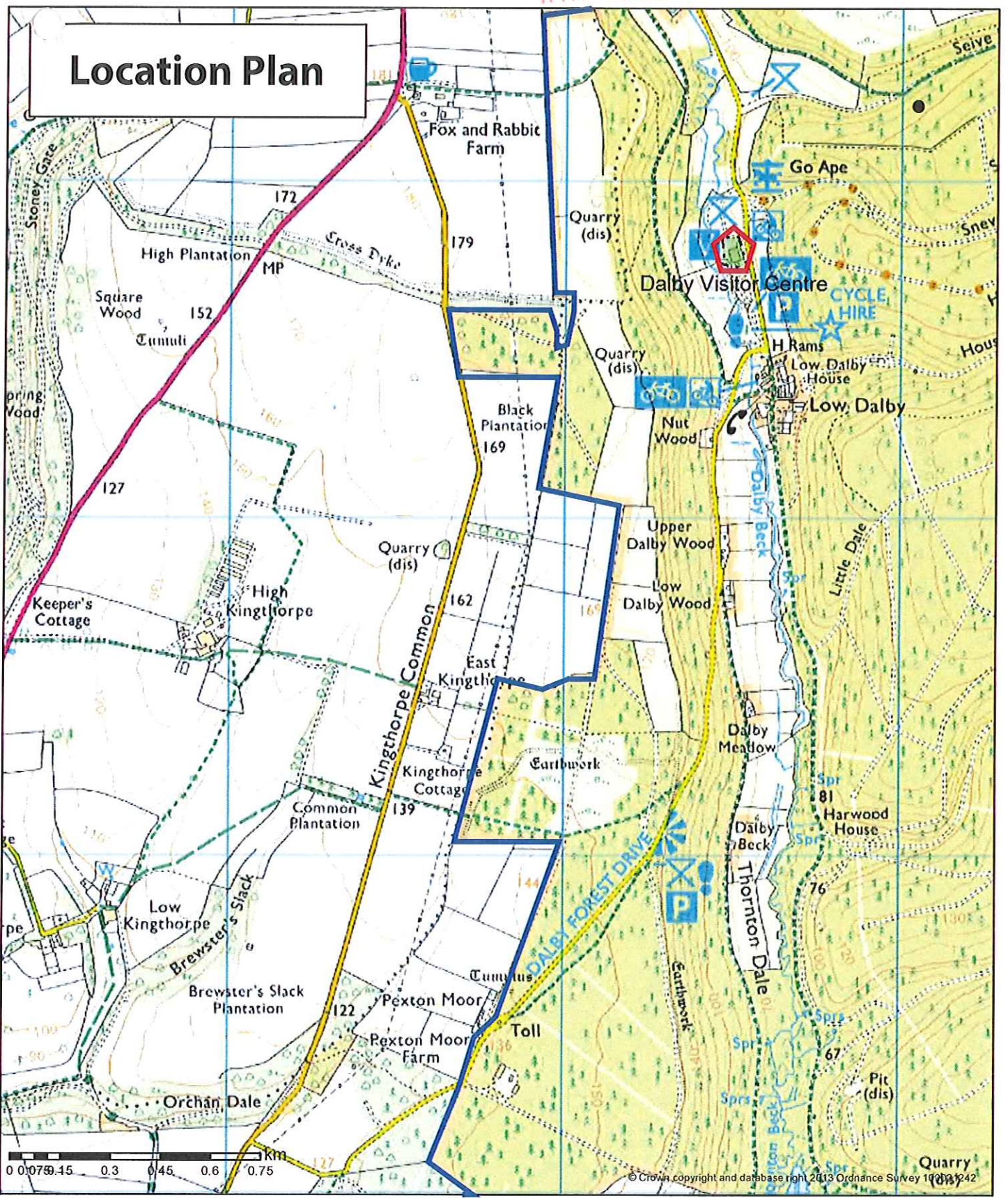
- Buildings
- FC Owned Land

1:2,500

28 NOV 2013

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# Location Plan



**Title:** Dalby Visitor Centre  
**Date:** 27 November 2013  
**Author:** Lindsey Houston  
**Scale @ A4:** 1:15,000



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**28 NOV 2013**