



"To protect and enhance the characteristic beauty of the North Yorkshire Moors for present and future generations"

North Yorkshire Moors Association Reg. Charity 517639
4 Station Road Castleton Whitby North Yorkshire YO21 2EG



31 MAR 2016

The Planning Inspectorate
3/05, Temple Quay House,
2 The Square,
Temple Quay,
Bristol,
BS1 6PN

Planning Appeal Reference APP/W9500/W/16/3144478

Case Officer Fran Littler

March 31st 2016

Dear Fran Littler,

Regarding the South Moor Farm Appeal against the decision made by the North York Moors National Park Planning Committee to refuse permission for the proposed development for a change of land use to form two grass runways and construction of pilot/restroom building revised scheme to NYM/2014/0819/FL.

The appeal procedure we understand is to be based on an exchange of written statements and a site visit by an inspector.

Having regard to the following concerns we respectfully ask if you will consider changing the appeal procedure to an Appeal Hearing.

- 1) The special qualities of the National Park may not be clearly represented by documentation alone. In particular we draw attention to the quality of tranquillity. We are concerned that the inspectors' decisions at the previous appeals for this proposal failed to take account of the importance of tranquillity as a planning consideration in the context of the special

qualities of a National Park. If they referred to tranquillity at all, it was only in terms of noise and not in terms of the wider impacts such as a reduced perception of remoteness.

- 2) The case has generated significant local opposition. Local people should be given an opportunity to give their views at a hearing.
- 3) Because of the location within the National Park there is a national dimension and consideration of the impact on visitors to the area cannot easily be represented by documentation.
- 4) National Parks are granted the highest level of protection in the planning system. The proposed use of this land as an airfield is completely incompatible with National Park purposes. Given the clear conflict with national policy, it is important that all relevant issues are fully considered at a hearing.
- 5) All public bodies, including PINS, have a statutory duty to have regard to National Park purposes in making decisions which affect land within them. Where there is a conflict, greater weight should be attached to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park. Holding a hearing would demonstrate that PINS is undertaking this duty effectively.

Yours sincerely

Tom Chadwick
Chairman North Yorkshire Moors Association

Ruth Bradshaw
Policy and Research Manager
Campaign for National Parks

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