

Wendy Thompsom [via email]

Planning Team

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

17 October 2022

**Objection Planning Application C/62/650A
High Mearbeck Farm Barn, Long Preston**

Full planning permission for change of use of land to form domestic curtilage in association with the barn conversion approved by reference C/62/650 and erection of double garage with ancillary storage space

Dear Ms Thompson

Friends of the Dales **objects** to this application.

When the original planning application for the conversion of this barn was submitted Friends of the Dales did not comment. It was a field barn situated next to the track up to Mearbeck, in clear view of the A65, but within policy. We judged it to be a fairly neat and restrained conversion but are now concerned that the original plan is considered inadequate as the new application requests the doubling of the curtilage and adding a double garage. It is claimed that this is necessary for a dwelling in a rural location.

The planning permission is conditional, and one of the conditions is to **remove permitted development rights** in order to retain control over subsequent development. We may need to remind ourselves that this is a conservation policy, the aim being to re-purpose traditional buildings in such a way that retains their historic interest and their contribution to the historic landscape; it is not about creating dwellings in open countryside.

The new area of curtilage shown on the plan can, in due course, present additional problems. One of the converted barns on the road between Otterburn and Airton, though originally within policy and sensitively converted not that long ago, has now acquired four additional structures: a horse barn, two holiday huts and a large above-ground swimming pool, all randomly dotted around the field. Other barn conversions within the YDNP have seen similarly large extensions.

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All of these have become unfortunate examples of how the original conservation aims are superseded. Friends of the Dales are **objecting to this application** as it must not become acceptable to override the original plans in this way and extend curtilages/add on buildings, etc., thus negating the original aims of the policy.

Yours sincerely

Signed by Wilf Fenten, Chair, Policy and Planning Committee

Friends of the Dales is a working name of the Yorkshire Dales Society which was founded in 1981 and is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Friends of the Dales is free of political and financial affiliations. We work to ensure that the Government, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, and other relevant agencies deliver their obligations to care for the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales, an internationally important area. We do this by considering major planning applications and policy development affecting the Yorkshire Dales and adjacent areas. We offer a year round programme of walks and talks so that everyone can enjoy and learn more about this beautiful area and why it needs protection. We have a membership of around 1,300 individuals, families, businesses and organisations.