

Mark Williams [via email]

Planning Team

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

30 January 2023

Objection to Planning Application: R/68/52 Cow Pasture Plantation, Castle Bolton

Full planning permission for siting of 6 no. cabins within an existing tree plantation for holiday letting

Dear Mr Williams

Friends of the Dales **objects** to this application for several reasons.

Whilst the small woodland close to the castle may not be considered important by some, it is a deciduous woodland of the sort that makes an important contribution to the relatively treeless Dales landscape. The area proposed for development lies within the Conservation Area of Castle Bolton which already suffers much impact from the many thousands of visitors coming to the castle and the village. Any development within such a Conservation Area is supposed to make a positive contribution to it, and a positive enhancement of biodiversity.

These proposals do neither. The cabins will be situated very close to the castle, a grade I listed building, and clearly visible for much of the year when the trees are without leaves. The useful tree report identifies most trees as sycamore, ash, hornbeam with some oak and wych elm. A report on ecology states that there will be damage without mitigation.

It will not be possible to insert six cabins into a small woodland like this without negative impact. At least three of the cabins would appear to lie well within the “root protection area” of several trees that have been identified as high quality. Furthermore, woodlands - especially small ones like this - need management to ensure their long-term survival. This proposal would result in building works, construction and subsequent increased footfall in the wood and around the trees, none of which is conducive to the woodland’s long-term health.

Any natural regeneration would effectively be prevented because of the intensified use by people, dogs, etc. If the development were to be approved despite the many strong misgivings, conditions must be attached so that the applicant will have to give much more serious consideration to biodiversity enhancement as well as protection.

For the reasons listed above we object to this application.

Continued./...



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Yours sincerely

Signed by Wilf Fenten, Chair, Policy and Planning Committee

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