

Andrew Tait [via email]

Planning Team

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

1 August 2023

**Objection to Planning Application: C/46/290  
Middlesmoor Pasture (Site Ref: 23190), South of Kettlewell**

**Full planning permission for the proposed development of a new telecommunications base station which comprises of a 20m high SWANN lattice tower complete with 3no new antenna, 1no 600mm dishes, 200 no 300mm dishes, proposed power-safe generator; additional ancillary equipment cabinets; within a new compound area**

Dear Mr Tait

**Friends of the Dales objects to this application for the following reasons:**

This particular base station with its 20m high lattice tower would be situated high up on the slopes west of Kettlewell, and will be widely visible from all the open-access areas around, as well as the roads and public paths. The images in the application's "Landscape and Visual" document show clearly how prominent it will be, especially in longer distance views. The consultants very much downplay the impacts of this equipment on the surrounding area. This application, if approved, would introduce a built form in a sweeping, open rural landscape, otherwise devoid of man-made structures. There is also a cumulative impact, as the mast on the slope above Buckden has now been approved.

Friends of the Dales is very much aware of how important good telecommunication is in rural areas but this is most likely not the only way of achieving it. We recall the debate at Hawes, which was satisfactorily resolved by fixing a small mast to the church tower, totally inobtrusive. There is also the question why there cannot be any mast-sharing or use of existing structures, to minimise impacts within the National Park.

Furthermore, we share the concerns of the Authority's Wildlife Team and trust that these will be taken seriously. They are described in very moderate terms which, perhaps, do not quite express the seriousness of the application's impact.

As the team points out, the equipment will be constructed "within an area of priority habitat G08 upland calcareous grassland" and it must be a matter of concern that no ecological assessment has been provided detailing the likely damage to the site. Even more concerning is the fact that this is within the Upper Wharfedale SSSI.

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As the team points out “This is not an appropriate response”. We do agree that “this is not an appropriate response” but disagree that “there will be very little impact upon the designated area”.

As we mention at the beginning of this letter, because of the very nature of this landscape the impact will be significant. It also concerns us that the application does not include any enhancement proposals and therefore does not comply with Policy W2.

In view of all these concerns we object to the application.

Yours sincerely

Chair, Policy and Planning Committee  
On behalf of Friends of the Dales

*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.*