

Emma Heron [via email]

Planning Team

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

2 January 2024

Objection to Planning Application: R/48/169 Mobile Mast on Land at Black Hill Moss, Cotterdale

Full planning permission for the installation of a new telecommunications base station comprising; a 20m lightweight lattice mast with 3no. radio antennas, 3no. 600mm dishes, radio equipment housing, a solar array and ancillary development within a new compound area (SRN32)

Dear Ms Heron

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

We support the aim of providing the appropriate levels of coverage for mobile connectivity across the national park however on review of this application we are of the view that it is not suitable against the key considerations of landscape impact, access and tranquillity. Therefore, we object to this proposal on the basis of visual intrusion and change in landscape character. We ask if a less obtrusive site can be found, or if another technical solution can be used, given that this is a national park.

A number of critical questions do not appear to be answered at all or only partially in the application including (i) any assessment of the local community views on connectivity needs and whether any such proposal impacts outweigh the need, (ii) a more thorough and useful explanation of the alternatives notably D1 which might go some way to addressing the negative impacts of the proposed site and (iii) whether the technological advances that will negate the need for masts have been properly considered.

As the Government's roll out of the scheme to ensure almost 100% coverage has already reached most areas and so only the most remote are left this means that the locations proposed, like this one, are hardest to access and in particularly sensitive areas that tend to be largely free from modern, artificial structures. It also often means that the public benefits are limited to those passing through the area.

The proposed mast is halfway up the western hillside in a very exposed position which will be very visible from the whole of Cotterdale. The height proposed may also mean that it will be visible from the Pennine Way as it climbs up Shunner Fell.

Continued./...



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Whilst the aspects mentioned remain considerable about the sensitivity of the area, Cotterdale, there should at least more detailed assessment as to whether the mast could be positioned slightly lower down the slope, close to the tree plantation which would remove the need for much additional road infrastructure. This might be the D1 alternative mentioned above which is stated as being favourable except against one issue (PNS target search area) which is not explained.

Note – We are grateful to colleagues in Friends of the Lake District who have researched the wider issue of mobile masts in upland national parks. We have drawn on this research in preparing our comment above.

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.