

Emma Heron [via email]

Principal Planning Officer

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

8 February 2024

Objection to Planning Application: R/52/243A Thorns Farm, Countersett

Full planning permission for works comprising: conversion of two existing conjoined agricultural buildings for use for the purposes of gallery/studio for craft, art and cultural events by invitation; erection of two new buildings that contain a workshop, a staff accommodation unit (2 bed) and three short stay visitor accommodation units (each 2 bed); landscaping works, biodiversity enhancements, access alterations and car parking, all in association with the gallery/studio enterprise, (part-retrospective)

Dear Ms Heron

Friends of the Dales wish to **object** to this application. We appreciate that the extent of development has been reduced from the first application, but we still consider this proposal to be inappropriate for the area, given its sensitivities.

Whilst the aim of attracting those who are interested in art, crafts and the natural environment can be seen as a welcome approach that acknowledges the values of the Raydale landscape, it is necessary to constrain new development so that those values are not adversely impacted. We note that the facilities will not be open to the public, which will reduce the amount of traffic on the minor roads, but we wonder how long it will be before there is pressure to make them more widely available.

Grisedale is cited as an example of an arts related development, but it must be understood that Grisedale has the benefit of impervious rocks underfoot, coupled with networks of robust forest tracks and the cover that forestry provides. Here in Raydale the landscape is open and comprises some of the most vulnerable habitats - species rich grasslands, wetland reed beds and wet grassland with their associated wildlife - all particularly sensitive to trampling and disturbance.

In particular, we object to the construction of a new building to provide visitor accommodation. This is tantamount to the construction of new dwellings in open countryside. Accordingly it is not within policy and demonstrates **an inappropriate level of development** for the area, not consistent with the nature and character of this quiet dale.

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



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