

Michelle Clowes [via email]

Planning, YDNPA

18 July 2019

Objection to planning applications: R/06/151A Scarr House Force, Muker

Full planning permission for conversion of existing barn into two-bedroom holiday let, installation of package treatment plant, works to access track & creation of associated curtilage/parking area

Dear Ms Clowes

Friends of the Dales wishes to lodge a strong objection to the conversion of this barn to a dwelling.

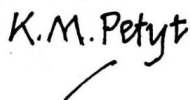
The barn at Scarr House Force is a typical isolated field barn, a simple building serving the agricultural needs of a few fields, and as such is a classic feature of the internationally renowned barns and walls landscape of Swaledale. The barn appears to be more than 50m from a road, and thus does not meet the requirements of policy L2 Conversion of traditional buildings. Moreover it is located on a rise in land, making it clearly visible from the road from Muker to Hawes via the Buttertubs, and from other roads and paths in the area, thus very prominent in the landscape.

We do not believe that the change of policy towards the conversion of barns was ever meant to apply to isolated field barns. The Local Plan acknowledges the changes, often deleterious, that arise from such a change of use; indeed, it states 'Intensive uses will not be appropriate in buildings that are isolated in the landscape. These locations will be incapable of absorbing the visual impacts associated with the development...'

It is to be stressed that the policies relating to the conversion of traditional barns to dwellings are primarily for heritage purposes, thus the new use must contribute to the conservation of the historic interest of the building, and of the cultural landscape, as well as not adversely affecting the special qualities of the National Park, notably its exceptional landscape quality.

For these reasons, we urge the Planning Committee to refuse permission for the conversion of this barn.

Yours sincerely



K.M. Petyt

Dr Malcolm Petyt, Chair of Policy Committee



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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.