

Application Summary

Application Number: 20/00698/FUL

Address: Land At Cold Law Kirkwhelpington Northumberland

Proposal: Construction of a publicly accessible landmark, commissioned to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II and the Commonwealth.

Case Officer: Mr Gordon Halliday (email: planningcomments@northumberland.gov.uk)

Customer Details

Name: Arran Greenop

Address: Flat 3, 38 Spring, Abingdon, Oxfordshire

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

I have grown up in Northumberland and frequently visited the Wanneys to climb and walk. I have always been drawn to the area due to its wild, rugged landscape, it being one of Northumberland's quieter backwaters. I would like to express my opposition to the building of the proposed sculpture for a number of reasons. First and foremost, I believe the proposed structure would be a permanent blight on the landscape, seemingly not even remotely sympathetic to the surrounding area: the proposed structure is three times the height of the Angel of the North and will dominate the skyline. Secondly, I believe it's an entirely inappropriate place to build any monument, with the continuous encroachment of humanity on the world's natural places I strongly believe where we can, we should be attempting to protect nature, rather than build more permanent man-made structures in these places. Thirdly, this is being touted as a potential tourist attraction, when in fact this is likely to have the exact opposite effect with most people visiting the area for its natural beauty particularly walkers, climbers and nature enthusiasts. Finally, if it were to become popular I think the increased traffic to the area could lead to the further degradation of roads, disrupt farming, increase litter and cause erosion. I accept that other anthropogenic features exist within the area such as wind-turbines and forestry, however these serve a purpose and are not simply decorative. Additionally, I do not believe the fact that there are other man-made features in the area is a solid argument to allow a free-for-all on building in wild places such as the Wanneys and would set a worrying precedent. I am one of many people in 'Keep the Wanneys Wild Group' (1804 members to date) who oppose this structure that is likely going to be detrimental to a large number of people and benefit a few.

Kind regards,
Arran Greenop