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The Planning Inspectorate
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BS1 6PN

23 December 2019

Dear Sirs

Appeal against refusal of planning permission for Construction of a publicly accessible landmark, commissioned to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II and the Commonwealth (Ref: 19/00247/FUL)

I am writing to support the proposed landmark at Cold Law near Ridsdale in Northumberland.

It is recognized in both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Tynedale Local Development Framework Core Strategy that planning policies and decisions have the opportunity to enhance the landscape and environment. If consented, this scheme would interpret the geological and historical interest of the locations specifically as well as its setting. Completion of the scheme would include biodiversity improvements and the public would gain the opportunity to enjoy a major piece of public art, both whilst passing at a distance and through new public access to the land.

Public art has enormous cultural, social and well-being benefits. The proposed landmark in this setting would enable and encourage the public to experience, enjoy and understand the natural landscape through education, interpretation and observation. The design of the Elizabeth Landmark achieves not only an exceptional piece of sculpture but also it responds to its precise location, including the local history, landscape, geology and topography. This has been achieved through careful study of the social and industrial heritage of the area, with the use of materials and form of the sculpture referencing the iron works that were started and owned by Lord Armstrong and the engineering progress of Sir Charles Parsons, a former owner of the property. The scale and shape of the sculpture, along with the access paths and viewing platform specifically draw upon the scale and shape of the local landscape and its geology and topography, whilst at the same time paying tribute to the Queen's role in the Commonwealth. The height of the sculpture is designed to precisely match the height above sea level of both Hepple Heugh to the south and the Queen Victoria Cairn to the north. The sun dial design also references the numerous tri-radial cairns located in the vicinity and believed to be Bronze Age astronomical markers associated with the winter solstice.

The reason given for refusing the application for planning permission was:

"The proposal results in development in the open countryside which fails to recognise the intrinsic character and nature of the countryside in this location and is therefore contrary to paragraph 170 of the NPPF and Policy NE1 of the Tynedale Local Development Framework Core Strategy".

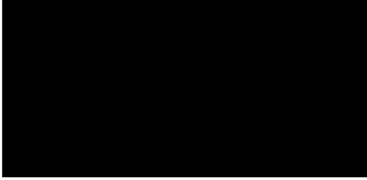
However, in contrast to the wording of the refusal, the design of the sculpture specifically does recognize the intrinsic character and nature of the countryside in this location and its design reflects precisely the location for which it is proposed.

The ways in which both the Tynedale District Local Development Framework Core Strategy and the

NPPF suggest that it is possible for developments to both protect and enhance the natural environment and landscape are through parameters, none of which are in conflict with the proposed Elizabeth Landmark, when the details of the scheme (including biodiversity improvements and landscape management) are examined as a holistic suite of measures.

I trust that you will see fit to allow this important project to proceed.

Yours faithfully



Michael Orde