

The Planning Inspectorate

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

Please note that comments about this case need to be made within the timetable. This can be found in the notification letter sent by the local planning authority or the start date letter. Comments submitted after the deadline may be considered invalid and returned to sender.

Appeal Reference: APP/P2935/W/20/3244389

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference APP/P2935/W/20/3244389

Appeal By DEVONPORT ESTATES

Site Address
Land at Cold Law
Kirkwhelpington
Northumberland
NE65 7DX
Grid Ref Easting: 392965
Grid Ref Northing: 585151

SENDER DETAILS

Name MR MARTIN BEWICK

Address
3 Townfoot
Skelton
PENRITH
CA11 9TA

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

In what capacity do you wish to make representations on this case?

- Appellant
- Agent
- Interested Party / Person
- Land Owner
- Rule 6 (6)

What kind of representation are you making?

- Final Comments
- Proof of Evidence
- Statement
- Statement of Common Ground
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

As an active climber and walker in Northumberland I write to register my objection to the proposed Elizabeth Monument to be sited at Cold Law. My relationship with the Wannies goes back to some of my earliest experiences as a young climber, for whom the Wannies felt like a wild and foreboding place. The sense of remoteness as you look North from the top of Great Wanney crag was, and still is, an integral part of the Wannies climbing experience.

This structure will deprive every aspiring young climber of that experience forever.

In its place would be a mass of steel and concrete which, given the location, can only ever hope to attract low visitor numbers. To even consider permanently altering such an iconic landscape I'd expect the benefits to be overwhelmingly in favour, however this is far from proven in this case. The expected tourism benefit has been exaggerated but the contradiction here is that if the monument does indeed attract significant numbers, this in itself could cause problems with parking, traffic and litter. This is a bad scheme if successful and a bad scheme if not.

Similar structures such as the Angel of the North (a mere 20m high) work because they are sited close to population centres and are proportionate to the surrounding landscape. This monument is so far removed from the Wannies landscape it's hard to imagine how anyone could think this is a good idea. All I can see here is the unsubstantiated claims of a landowner for whom this seems to be a personal project driven by vanity rather than the needs and wishes of the local population and existing visitors.

Surely a more fitting monument to Her Majesty would be the restoration of our natural landscape and biodiversity not this industrial monstrosity which will be a blight on the Northumberland landscape for generations.

Kind Regards
Martin Bewick