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FROM AONB - JAC
TO Chief Planner
OUR REF
DATE 19 December 2016
ORIGINATOR Nidderdale AONB Manager

PLANNING CONSULTATION

APPLICATION TYPE: 010 Other Minor
APPLICATION NO 16/05349/FUL
PROPOSAL Extension and alterations to car park.
LOCATION Swinton
GRID REF:
APPLICANT: The Woodland Trust

My observations on the above application are as follows:-

The AONB's Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) expressed reservations about adverse landscape impact during negotiations about the application for the existing car park in 2006 but did not object because construction of the car park was strongly linked to HLF's grant for the restoration project. The steep increase in the number of people visiting Hackfall is a tribute to the success of restoration work and to the tireless efforts of the Hackfall Trust and volunteers, but it is clear that the existing car park is sometimes too small. However, it is less clear how decision to propose additional spaces has been arrived at. The Trust has not provided evidence showing the number of days when the car park has been unable to accommodate demand, or whether an additional 5 spaces will solve the problem. Nor is there any evidence that alternative locations for car parking have been investigated.

Despite placing a very high value on the fruitful relationship between the JAC and the two Trusts, Members are uneasy about the adverse landscape impact of extending the car park, and even more so about pressure to go further in future if the current proposal proves to be inadequate. The car parking challenge may already have been considered in an access plan or strategy but it is not included in the documents submitted in support of the application. Incremental extensions to the car park at Hackfall in the absence of such a plan will be difficult to support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Bayen".

Signed