

6th January 2006

Chief Planning Officer
Ryedale District Council
Ryedale House
Malton
YO17 0HH

Chairman: Mr W Worsley
AONB Officer: Paul Jackson
My Reference: 3.1
Your Reference: 05/01427/TELN56

Dear Sir,

Erection of 8 poles and overhead wires

I am responding as AONB Officer on behalf of the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee to your consultation regarding the above proposal.

This application involves the erection of a line of new wooden poles and overhead telephone cables along The Terrace in Oswaldkirk.

I have the following comments to make:

- We have received a number of complaints from both the Parish Meeting and individual residents in Oswaldkirk on this issue, due to the duplication of poles and overhead wires that this proposal entails. A double line of poles and lines has now been created along The Terrace, which has damaged the residential environment and impacted on the Conservation Area.
- Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) places a statutory duty on all relevant bodies to "have regard to the purposes of AONB designation when carrying out operations in an AONB". I appreciate that the row of poles on the northern side of the road does not belong to BT, but I am not convinced that this current proposal takes sufficient account of the impact on the AONB landscape.
- It is probable that the row of electricity poles along the northern side of the road will be removed in the next 4 years, as part of the NEDL initiative to underground electricity cables in AONBs and National Parks. The existing BT cable on those poles will therefore need to be re-located and it would seem eminently logical to install an underground duct for this proposed new link, so that in due course the existing cables can also be put underground.

In conclusion, my Committee would prefer that this application was REFUSED and that the new cable was placed underground.

Yours sincerely

PAUL JACKSON
AONB Officer
Howardian Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee