

Christie Burns

Senior Planning Officer
Cumberland Council



By email to: [REDACTED]
14/08/2026

Application Number: 4/26/2096/DOC, DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS 5 & 7 OF
PLANNING APPROVAL 4/25/2198/0F1

Location: Land at Hodbarrow Nature Reserve, Millom

Applicant: Cumberland Council

Dear Ms Burns

Thank you for consulting RSPB on 04/08/26 in respect of the above application. Please accept this letter as my response regarding the above application for a visitor centre and associated facilities at Hodbarrow on behalf of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

We wish to make **comments** in response to the newly submitted documents.

- 1. Condition 5 – the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)**
- 2. Condition 7 – the Amphibian Mitigation and Management Plan (AMMP)**

The RSPB

The RSPB is passionate about nature and dedicated to saving it. Since we started on our mission in 1889, the threats to nature have continued to grow but we've grown to meet them too.

We're now the largest nature conservation charity in the country, consistently delivering successful conservation, forging powerful new partnerships with other organisations and inspiring others to stand up and give nature the home it deserves.

Along with other environmental groups, we have fought for many years to ensure habitats that support rare and vulnerable wildlife are protected from the worst impacts of human development.

We are also the owner and manager of part of the application site, the RSPB's Hodbarrow Nature Reserve, having purchased 105ha of the site of the former Hodbarrow Iron Mine in 1986, 18 years after the mine closed.

RSPB NW England

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Storrs Lane
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The RSPB is part of BirdLife International, a network of passionate organisations, working together to save nature across the world.

Detailed comments

1.0 Condition 5 – the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)

We are broadly happy with the document as revised July 2026, but have the following comments -

We understand that draft HoTs were in preparation and therefore have not been signed off as yet, but that communication with the Applicant has stalled, with no date set for resumption, therefore as yet we do not have confidence in what the Applicant is proposing.

2.0 Condition 7 – the Amphibian Mitigation and Management Plan (AMMP)

3.2 Installation of Dog Proof Fencing - the specification is still to be confirmed with our site team, to give us complete confidence is what is proposed.

3.3 Turf Stripping - the methodology looks reasonable, however the Applicant is yet to agree the methodology and locations with our site team, to give us complete confidence is what is proposed.

Summary

Whilst the majority of our previous concerns have been assuaged as a result of the recent submissions by Applicant; our ongoing comments relate to agreement and HoT's which I understand from our site team, were not agreed at the site meeting or have not been advanced, the Applicant clearly has a differing view which we **do not** support,

Yours sincerely



Jeremy Sutton, Senior Conservation Officer, North West England

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Patron: His Majesty The King **President:** Dr Amir Khan **Director, RSPB England:** Michael Copleston.

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