

From: No Reply Web
Sent: 21 July 2025 10:07
To: Development Control
Subject: Comment from Online Planning System

Reference: 4/25/2198/0F1

Submitted on Monday, 21 July 2025 - 9:06am Submitted values are:

Application: 4/25/2198/0F1

Name: Friends of the Lake District

Address: Murley Moss Business Park, Kendal, LA9 7SS

Email:

Comments:

Many thanks for consulting Friends of the Lake District (FLD) on the above application. We are the only charity wholly dedicated to protecting the landscape and natural environment of Cumbria and the Lake District.

We are pleased to see an External Lighting Strategy has been submitted and that reference is made to the Cumbria Good Lighting Technical Advice Note within it, following our comments on the previous application (4/23/2249/0F1).

We do however have some concerns about the proposed lighting, particularly in terms of its potential impact on biodiversity, local character and tranquillity.

The site is a Nature Reserve and part of the Duddon Estuary Ramsar site and SSSI, Morecambe Bay SAC and Morecambe Bay & Duddon Estuary SPA. The Light Pollution Map (<https://www.lightpollutionmap.info/>) shows that although there are existing sources of light pollution nearby and care must be taken not to exacerbate these. Hodbarrow is currently a low emitter of light pollution and is of course particularly important for wildlife.

External lighting will be limited to the visitor centre and will be on during normal operational hours. There is however no information in the Strategy regarding the location, number or brightness of the proposed lights. The type of lights proposed has not been confirmed with the Strategy stating that they will be "either surface wall lights to the perimeter, ceiling lights under the balcony roof, or low-level columns or darksky bollards at crossings". Each will have different potential impacts and given this no diagram showing light spill has been provided.

The Strategy states that "Colour temperature will generally be 2700K - 3000K throughout the scheme. This will be finalized as the design progresses, and will be consistent across the scheme." The Cumbria Good Lighting Technical Advice Note requires that colour temperatures of 2700k or below should be used and in cases, such as this, where the development is close to habitats, 2400k should be used.

The Copeland Local Plan, Policy DS4, criterion M, requires that developments "Use appropriate levels and types of external lighting that does not create light pollution and helps maintain dark skies in line with up to date good lighting guidance;"

This is supported by paragraph 6.4.8 which notes that "Copeland's dark skies are one of its key assets, however this is being eroded through inappropriate, artificial lighting which causes light pollution and can have serious effects upon health and wellbeing, biodiversity and our climate..."

We would be grateful if further details regarding lighting could be provided, in order to demonstrate that the proposal is in accordance with the Cumbria Good Lighting Technical Advice Note and Local Plan Policy DS4. Ideally this information will be provided upfront, rather than being dealt with via a planning condition should permission be granted. We would also like the current Lighting Strategy to be amended to propose warmer, and less harmful, 2400k lighting.

Summary of response: Neutral