

Photographs and Visual Appraisal

Haile Moor Mine, Haile, Cumbria, England, UK

Haile Moor mine was one of several mines in the Cumberland district to the western edge of the Lake District. The mine has ceased its operations, and now the site has become an interesting point of local history. Some remnants of the mine still exist, including mine shafts and related structures, but much of it has been reclaimed by nature.

The area is sparsely populated with rolling hills, quiet fields, and scattered farms. The closest community being Haile a small village to the east of the mine. Further south are Sellafield nuclear facilities, and to the west is Cold Fell, a prominent hill within the National Park which stands at 293 meters (961 feet) above sea level. This road is also a popular route for locals, including employees commuting to the nearby Sellafield nuclear site. Cold Fell is part of the fells that make up the rugged and scenic landscape of the region, offering great opportunities for hiking and exploring the natural beauty of the area.

From Haile village the existing Airwave Mast is marginally visible against the sky albeit the majority of it is screened by vegetation and trees. This is illustrated by the photograph below from the Village Hall Car Park. The proposed mast will be just to the right of the existing.

Haile Village Hall Car Park



From Haile Moor Cottages and the Access point from Bleas the existing mast can be seen at it's most prominent. It is however still screened to an extent at lower levels by vegetation, trees and the old mine building. The proposed mast would similarly be visible against the sky

although the impact thereto is not significant. This particular vista is also considered not be hugely sensitive compared to others and has little by way of public use on foot.

1 Haile Cottage



Haile Moor Mine access road



The Landscape view from the Cold Fell area westwards is considered to be one of the most sensitive and special as it looks out onto the Heritage Coast. This vantage point is within the National Park and has a relatively high level of public use. The existing mast has been labelled on the photographs from here in order that it can be seen – it is barely visible and has a lower impact than other existing vertical structures. It is notably not skylined from either the road or the summit and blends into the landform so as to be of negligible visual impact – whilst the proposed mast will be 3m higher the visibility will be comparable – this is shown on the additional photo montage.

In comparison to the Sellafield site it can be seen that the visual impact is of very little significance.

Cold Fell Road south of top cattle grid



Mast from Cold Fell Summit



Existing Mast

Sellafield from Cold Fell Summit



Cold Fell Road lower cattle grid



When viewed from the west towards the National Park the view is similarly unaffected. The existing mast from here is only a miniscule feature on the horizon from the A595, and due to the topography the Cold Fell National Park area is not visible from here at ground level. The proposed mast will similarly be hard to see from this vista.

Hardgates Road Leading to Haile Village from A595



Summary

Whilst the proposal is to build a new mast at Haile Moor Mine as illustrated by the photographs it would not be overly prominent, particularly from more distant and sensitive viewpoints. As there is already a mast here of similar size/scale the additional impact of the proposal is considered to be very minor.

The rugged special landscape with its hills and valleys around the site shield it from view in many viewpoints especially to the north and south of the site. It is acknowledged that the landscape is sensitive, but the magnitude in change is very minor in the context of the wider landform. In particular, it does not intrude on the views from the Cold Fell area being hardly distinguishable, especially in the context of the dominant views of Sellafield and Beckermeth further west.