

SB/21.054

06 September 2023

Plannning (Former Copeland Area)
Cumberland Council
The Copeland Centre
Catherine Street
Whitehaven

Dear Christie,

Proposal: Planning Application 4/23/2082/OF1

Site: Land at North Lane, Haverigg, Millom – biodiversity information

Further to the recent email correspondence please find further information relating to the biodiversity of the application site.

As detailed on the plan, the application site is adjacent to a watercourse, which is located within the applicants land. The watercourse was kept outside of the application site so this is not impacted at all by the development, and a 5m wide agricultural access between plot 8 and the watercourse.

The application includes a preliminary ecological assessment, which comments that *“the entirety of the site comprises grassland, with the main and neighbouring field littered with of cow and sheep excrement. Areas of the perimeter fence parallel to North Lane has an occasional thin and short species-poor hedgerow, as does the boundary fence separating the main and neighbouring field. To the east of the neighbouring field is a long drainage ditch filled with slowly running dystrophic water.”*

This assessment also comments that much of the watercourse’s surface was covered by Common water starwort (*Callitriche stagnalis*), with the water in poor condition - high in organic matter content. The grassland has a low species diversity and ecological value - species recorded are all commonly occurring and undoubtedly occur elsewhere in similar habitats in the local area.

The hedges both parallel to North Lane and those separating Field 1 and 2 are species poor, containing a low diversity of woody plant species. They have limited understory and have been significantly impacted by livestock grazing. Should these need to be lost, transplanting them is unlikely to be of ecological benefit. New shrub/ scrub planting would be suitable compensation for their loss. None of the hedgerows are classified as important under the Hedgerow Regulations (1997).

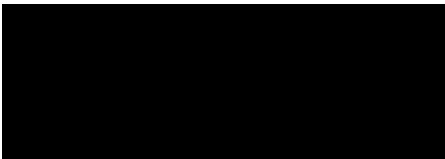
The core development area has a low value to amphibians being open and exposed. The boundary hedgerows are limited as refuges/hibernacula owing to their lack of understorey and there are no breeding ponds in proximity to the site. Structural diversity at ground level across the site is very poor. The foraging habitat at the site is very poor for bat species being open and exposed.

This assessment concluded that the planting of trees along the site boundary (especially in-between sections of hedgerow) and landscaping will promote structural diversity in both the canopy and at ground level and will encourage a wider variety of wildlife to use the site than already occurs.

Landscaping information has been provided on the submitted site plan. New garden turf will be laid to the rear of each dwelling, with a wild flower mix to the north site verges. The main new hedgerows will be a mix of cherry laurel, red-tipped phontinia hedging, yew and weigela. The specimen trees located to the boundaries within each plots will be euonymus europaeus, magnolia and Amelanchier Lamarkil. This will be an improvement on the noted poor quality hedgerows and low species diversity and ecological value grassland.

Please let me know if you have any queries on the above.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Blacker MRTPI
Chartered Town Planner
PFK PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

