

Date: 23 January 2026
Our ref: 4/25/2198/0F1
Your ref: 536822



Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

development.control3@cumberland.gov.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Christie,

Planning consultation: 4/25/2198/0F1
Location: HODBARROW NATURE RESERVE, MILLOM

Thank you for your consultation on the above, which was received by Natural England on 17 December 2025

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

SUMMARY OF NATURAL ENGLAND'S ADVICE

Natural England have assessed the mitigation put forward in the Appropriate Assessment and agree with the conclusions for the following sites: Duddon Estuary Ramsar, Morecambe Bay & Duddon Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Morecambe Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Natural England welcomes the production of the Amphibian Mitigation and Management Plan and agrees with the RSPB around weekly checks for the Gulleys Ladders. Natural England recommend that the competent authority secures the mitigation proposed in this plan.

Natural England welcome the enhancements and the raising of the bund as part of the mitigation for the designated bird species for the protected sites above, this should be secured and delivered in line with the Construction Environmental Management Plan. Natural England note that mitigation has also been put forward to minimise the impacts from recreational disturbance due to the increased number of visitors, especially the ongoing wardening provision discussions with the RSPB. Natural England recommend that the competent authority ensure that the RSPB are satisfied with the ongoing management of the Hodbarrow Reserve as part of this application.

Byway Open to All Traffic, Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)

The Competent Authority needs to have confidence that the TRO can be delivered and secured for it to be classified as mitigation in the Habitats Regulations Assessment. If at this stage it is not certain that it will be delivered or for how long, then it cannot be relied upon in the Appropriate Assessment as part of the mitigation package.

Natural England do agree that a TRO along the BOAT would be a suitable mitigation measure to minimise the disturbance to the Tern hide; NE agree that until a TRO is in place, works that could result in more traffic using the BOAT should be limited.

Conclusion

Natural England find the aims of this project worthy and note that some of the proposed mitigation needs ongoing interaction and collaboration with the RSPB to be delivered, secured and monitored on site. Natural England note the comments from RSPB and agree with their conclusions. Given the information provided in this application, Natural England is satisfied with the conclusions in the Habitat Regulations Assessment.

Please note that if your authority is minded to grant planning permission contrary to the advice in this letter, you are required under Section 281 (6) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to notify Natural England of the permission, the terms on which it is proposed to grant it and how, if at all, your authority has taken account of Natural England's advice. You must also allow a further period of 21 days before the operation can commence.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter, please contact me on Niamh.Keddy@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Niamh Keddy
Sustainable Development Senior Officer