

Transition Wilmslow response to Lindow Moss Planning Issues.

4 April 2013:

From the point of view of Transition Wilmslow and the residents of Wilmslow there would appear to be no justification for any continuation of peat excavation on Lindow Moss for the following reasons.

Lindow Moss is one of a small number of raised peat bogs that developed just after the last ice age.

It has some unique features, in that it has well preserved field systems around it from the medieval peat extraction in addition to the ecological features of the moss itself. It is also one of the green lungs of Wilmslow and has been highlighted as one of the 'hidden gems' of Wilmslow in our on-going Landscape Character Assessment.

The moss itself has been badly degraded by peat excavation and by dropping water levels which have not been properly monitored. This may have also contributed to subsidence of properties on the edge of the moss. However, there is still the potential for complete restoration of the moss as a flourishing and active peat moss. This would just require some simple measures to restore the water levels. This would convert the whole moss into a massive carbon sink and provide a wonderful educational and recreational resource for Wilmslow and the region.

None of this will be possible by maintaining the current status quo as current management of this wonderful resource has been completely inadequate.

It is hard to imagine any justification for continuing with the current licence. This represents the worst possible investment for local taxpayers. It is a poor business doing harm to the environment. It is blocking the development of a wonderful community resource which, with a bit of care and community effort, could be a beacon for ensuring our future resilience as a community.