

## **Lindow Moss, Transition Wilmslow Statement on Application 15/0064M**

Firstly we would emphasise the need to lock this application very firmly to the related application for housing (15/0016M) and to ensure that the finance is secured, preferably through a Minerals Planning Bond.

We broadly support the restoration scheme but to assure delivery we consider it absolutely essential that there is a Restoration Committee appointed by CEC to oversee the restoration process and aftercare. This must be a requirement of the Section 106 Agreement and related planning conditions.

The Restoration Committee would have a technical remit with a focus on hydrology and restoration ecology, but it should also include expertise on the historical/cultural aspects. For example, Compartment 8 houses the findspot of Lindow Man; it needs to be respected and marked, with a board walk from the nearby public footpath and appropriate interpretation – that should be conditioned. Similarly, Compartment 3 is already highly biodiverse and illustrates the pattern of working at the time of Lindow Man's discovery – it should be retained intact and interpreted as it is.

There is also a need to engage with the wider community. The huge petition and the very strong comments on [Wilmslow.co.uk](http://Wilmslow.co.uk) demonstrate both the concern that local people have for Lindow Moss and the very low level of trust that what is on offer will actually be delivered. We propose that a Lindow Moss Forum be established – this would be an opportunity for the Restoration Committee to meet with the community to keep them informed of progress and to hear and respond to their concerns. This should be written into the Section 106 Agreement and related planning conditions. The applicants propose the most basic form of environmental interpretation. The Forum could help to realise the visitor and

educational potential of this very high-profile site, which, in the longer term, should transfer to some form of public or charitable ownership.

The fringing woodlands at Lindow Moss help to create that 'sense of enclosure and mystery' so much admired by Rick Turner, the archaeologist who discovered Lindow Man, and all those who visit the Moss. The proposed clearance of woodland on the sand hill (Compartment 2) and to the east of Rotherwood Road (Compartment 10) will have a severe visual impact, will damage the habitat mosaic and will alienate local people. It should not take place.

The key to successful restoration is effective water management. At present the outfall from the main drain to the Sugar Brook is set at the lowest possible level; water is being lost uncontrollably from the Moss and whole system is drying out. There is an urgent need to control this. We support the Environment Agency's recommendation for a control sluice on the main drain and, if not, planning conditions should require immediate action to insert dams and sluices in the main drains to regulate this outflow.