

2022/1131/01/DET | Creation and improvement of strategic footpaths including the provision of associated infrastructure and development | Newcastle Great Park

As a small charity, NHSN does not have the resources to formally object to planning applications unless they directly involve assets under our management, such as Gosforth Nature Reserve.

While we share serious concerns about the proposed works at Havannah Pit Local Wildlife Site, particularly the inadequate consideration given to protected species and key features of the site, NHSN is not a campaigning organisation. Our primary mission is to promote understanding, knowledge and awareness of local wildlife.

We believe the decision to proceed with the proposed works has disregarded the recommendations and suggested improvements put forward by key stakeholders, including Northumberland Wildlife Trust, which objected to the proposed lighting scheme. It has also overlooked the valid concerns of residents, including many NHSN members. This is deeply disappointing, particularly at a time when global, national, and some local politics appear to be placing decreasing priority on biodiversity and environmental protection.

As we believe that as the decision has already been made, a challenge would unfortunately have slim chance of success. We do not feel that we can commit NHSN resources on pushing for a review of this decision when pressures on our time and resources continue to provide us with challenges to the wildlife across our region.

NHSN and Northumberland Wildlife Trust are currently working together through the Newcastle Nature Networks project, which aims to enhance biodiversity in local parks by upskilling staff and volunteers in wildlife recording and land management. We remain committed to improving biodiversity and encouraging local communities to engage with wildlife.

Both organisations fully support local residents in sharing their views with local councillors, who hold responsibility for planning decisions.