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01 SEP 2011

FOR THE
ATTENTION OF

Ribble Valley Borough Council
Development Control
Council Offices Church Walk
Clitheroe
Lancashire
BB7 2RA

Our ref: CE/2011/104929/01-L02
Your ref: 3/2011/0580
Date: 31 August 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A MICRO HYDRO STATION INCLUDING A
BUILDING TO HOUSE TURBINE TRANSFORMER AND CONTROL EQUIPMENT
ALSO AN ASSOCIATED FISH LADDER
LAND AT HOLE HOUSE FARM, BRIDGE END, BILLINGTON**

Thank you for referring the above application which was received on 27 July 2011.

We OBJECT to the proposed development as submitted on the following grounds:-

Flood Risk

The application site lies within Flood Zone 3 defined by Planning Policy Statement 25 as having a high probability of flooding. Paragraph E9 of PPS25 requires applicants for planning permission to submit a FRA when development is proposed in such locations.

In the absence of a FRA, the flood risks resulting from the proposed development are unknown. The absence of a FRA is therefore sufficient reason in itself for a refusal of planning permission. This reflects the precautionary approach to development in flood risk areas set out in paragraphs 10 and E9 of PPS25.

We will review our objection upon the submission of a FRA that satisfactorily demonstrates the proposed development will not increase flood risk elsewhere.

If your Council is minded to approve this application despite our objection, we would draw your attention to paragraph 26 of PPS25 and allow us to make further representations.

Biodiversity

Although the application is accompanied by an Ecology Report by Bowland Ecology

Environment Agency
PO Box 519, South Preston, Lancashire, PR5 8GD.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.environment-agency.gov.uk
Cont/d..

(dated September 2010), insufficient information has been submitted with the application to enable us to consider the following issues:

Flow Data

Flow data for the river should be provided and this should include details of the proportion of water to be taken for the fish pass and the turbine. This is necessary to ensure that the scheme is designed appropriately, ensuring sufficient flow remains in the river while still enabling sufficient flow through the fish pass to allow successful fish movement.

Fish Pass

The fish pass as proposed in the application is not appropriate for the scheme and will need to be amended. For the location of the scheme and the fish species present, the gradient of the fish pass should be set at 8% and the design should include two resting pools. The kink in the fish pass also needs to be corrected and the exact position of the fish pass in relation to the outfall of the turbine channel needs to be confirmed.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the applicant/agent.

Yours faithfully

Philip Carter
Planning Liaison Officer

Direct dial 01772 714219

Direct fax 01772 697032

Direct e-mail philip.carter@environment-agency.gov.uk

cc Mr Graham Sowter