

27 MAR 2012	
FOR THE ATTENTION OF	

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

Our ref: NO/2012/103452/01-L01
Your ref: 3/2011/0824
Date: 26 March 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

**PROPOSED EARTH WALLED, COVERED SLURRY STORE TO BE BUILT ON A
FORMER COMPOSTING SITE
HAWKSHAW FARM, LONGSIGHT ROAD, CLAYTON-LE-DALE**

Thank you for referring the above application which was received on 22 March 2012.

We have no objection in principle to the proposed development but wish to make the following comments:-

The proposed development must fully comply with the terms of The Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) (SSAFO) (England) Regulations 2010 and The Code of Good Agricultural Practice (COGAP) for the protection of water, soil and air (produced by DEFRA).

The basic requirement for this type of construction is that there is a lining of at least 1 metre of suitably low permeability deposits beneath the storage area and ideally the water table should be below the level of the proposed base. We have produced a summary sheet outlining the necessary soil characteristics for this type of storage structure based on CIRIA Report 126 (available online at [http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Business/Soil testing for earth bank lagoons.pdf](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Business/Soil%20testing%20for%20earth%20bank%20lagoons.pdf))

The applicant has not carried out the number of permeability tests that are suggested as being ideal in our summary sheet but the single permeability test that has been carried out is of sufficient low permeability to be considered acceptable. In addition, we also have the driller's log for the water supply borehole at Hawkshaw Farm and this shows 14 metres of clay. The depth of the borehole suggests that the water table is also fairly deep. Given the fairly close proximity of the borehole to the development area it does provide a reasonable indication that fairly thick superficial deposits will be present and the water table should not be an issue. However, further impermeability tests may be required if the ground conditions vary substantially.

Environment Agency
PO Box 519, South Preston, Lancashire, PR5 8GD.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.environment-agency.gov.uk
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The application is not accompanied by the calculations verifying the capacity required for the lagoon. The site produces a large volume of dirty surface water which will need to be taken into account in constructing a lagoon that is adequately sized. Given this, while the SSAFO regulations identify a minimum storage capacity of 4 months, we would urge the applicant to consider a capacity of 6 months or more in this instance. Calculations demonstrating the capacity of the lagoon should be submitted to us.

The Environment Agency must be informed of a new, reconstructed or enlarged slurry store, silage clamp or fuel stores at least 14 days before the structure is brought into use. Further guidance is available on our website and the applicant will need to complete WQE3: New or improved agricultural structures form which can be obtained from the Environment Agency.

The window for this year's Catchment Sensitive Farming grant applications closes at the end of April. If the applicant has not yet submitted a grant application for the proposed floating cover, they should do so. We would definitely want to see this lagoon covered and it is better if the cover is fitted whilst the lagoon is empty rather than fitted retrospectively.

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

Yours faithfully

Philip Carter
Planning Liaison Officer

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cc Mr E Dowson