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

Our ref: NO/2012/103210/01-L01
Your ref: 3/2012/0006
Date: 03 February 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

**PROPOSED FOOTPATH/CYCLE LINK CONNECTING EXISTING PRIVATE ROAD
TO PROPOSED FOOTPATH/CYCLE NETWORK PERTAINING TO PLANNING
APPLICATION 3/2010/0719P AND APPEAL APP/T2350/A/11/2161186
HENTHORN ROAD CLITHEROE LANCASHIRE**

Thank you for referring the above application which was received on 16 January 2012.

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

The proposed development as submitted includes the culverting of an un-named watercourse which would have a damaging impact on nature conservation. We are unable to adequately assess the impact of this proposal as the length of culvert has not been stipulated and therefore we cannot comment on the necessary mitigation.

Environment Agency policy includes a general opposition to culverting other than for access where mitigation is proposed. We are opposed to the culverting of watercourses, because it involves the destruction of river and bank side habitat and the interruption of a wildlife corridor, acting as a barrier to the movement of wildlife. Planning Policy Statement 9 (Key Principles and paragraph 12) establishes the value of such corridors and requires the planning system to avoid damage to biodiversity.

The applicant has also not yet demonstrated that consideration has been given to alternative structures, such as an open span bridge or wooden boards, and that there is no reasonable practicable alternative.

We will maintain our objection until the applicant has supplied information to demonstrate that the risks posed by the development can be satisfactorily addressed.

Agency Informatives

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

December is sub-optimum time for crayfish surveys and recommend that future surveys are conducted July-September.

The proposed new culvert crossing requires the prior written Consent of the Environment Agency, as detailed by Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

It would be preferable if the new culvert was at least 1050mm diameter so that it could be accessed, with the invert level set 150mm below existing stream bed level.

Any works to the watercourses within or adjacent to the site which involve infilling, diversion, culverting or which may otherwise restrict flow, require the prior written Consent of the Environment Agency under Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991. Culverting other than for access purposes is unlikely to receive Consent, without full mitigation for loss of flood storage and habitats.

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

Yours faithfully

Gemma Jackson
Planning Liaison Officer

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Direct e-mail gemma.jackson@environment-agency.gov.uk

cc Gladman Care Homes Ltd