

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

Our ref: NO/2012/103772/01-L01

Your ref: 3/2012/0423

Date: 07 June 2012

- 7 JUN 2012

Dear Sir

**PROPOSED NEW SLURRY LAGOON
WITHGILL FARM, WITHGILL FOLD, WITHGILL, CLITHEROE**

Thank you for consulting with us on the above application which we received on the 15 May 2012.

We have considered the above application and wish to comment as follows:

A site inspection has confirmed that the lagoon has already been constructed

We object to the application as submitted because the risks to groundwater from the development are unacceptable. The applicant has not supplied adequate information to demonstrate that the risks posed to groundwater can be satisfactorily managed. We recommend that planning permission should be refused on this basis in accordance with the precautionary principle.

Reasons

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 109 states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of water pollution.

Our approach to groundwater protection is set out in 'Groundwater Protection: Principles and Practice' (consultation draft 2011 - final version due July 2012). In implementing the position statement in this guidance we will oppose development proposals that may pollute groundwater especially where the risks of pollution is high and the groundwater asset is of high value. We seek to enable development by ensuring that applicants provide adequate information to demonstrate that the risks posed by development to groundwater can be satisfactorily managed.

In this instance the applicant has failed to provide this information.

In this case we consider that the proposed development may pose an unacceptable risk of causing a detrimental impact to groundwater quality because the suitability of this site for an unlined lagoon depends on the nature of the drift deposits that are present

In accordance with our Groundwater Protection: Principles and Practice we will maintain our objection until we receive a satisfactory risk assessment that demonstrates that the risks to groundwater posed by this development can be satisfactorily managed.

Overcoming our objection

This is an objection in detail. The applicant should provide the Local Planning Authority with soil permeability test results as the suitability of this site for an unlined lagoon depends on the nature of the drift deposits that are present.

The nearby logs from the abstraction boreholes are encouraging, but we will require confirmation of the soil permeability.

Results will need to include an indication that there is at least 1metre of suitably low permeability material at the base of the lagoon.

We also require sight of the calculation showing that a minimum 4 months storage capacity has been provided overall.

If you are minded to approve the application contrary to this advice, we request that you contact us to allow further discussion and/or representations from us in line with the Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009.

Yours faithfully

Miss Jilly Dixon
Planning Liaison Officer

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