

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

Our ref: NO/2013/104881/01-L01
Your ref: 3/2013/0036
Date: 11 March 2013

12 MAR 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS 16 (CRAYFISH), 20 (SITE CLEARANCE) AND 21 (HIMALAYAN BALSAM) OF PLANNING PERMISSION 3/2010/0719 LAND OFF HENTHORN ROAD, CLITHEROE

Thank you for referring the above application which was received on 18 February 2013.

We have reviewed the following documents in relation to the application:-

- Habitat Creation and Management Plan dated October 2012
- Protected Species Report by FPCR dated 10 October 2012

We have no objection to the discharge of conditions 16, 20 and 21 but wish to make the following comments:-

Habitat Creation and Management Plan

We support the proposed habitat creation and management plan. However, all fencing adjacent to a watercourse as referred to in paragraph 2.12 should be set as far away back from the bank top as possible. In relation to enhancing the watercourse for water voles, we would suggest setting it back at least 5 to 6 metres from the bank top.

In light of the recent outbreak of ash dieback disease, we strongly advise against the planting of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and that this species is removed from the planting schedule listed under sections 5.19 and 5.24 of the plan.

We have also reviewed the Invasive Species Treatment and Control Method Statement in relation to Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam at Appendix 1. We support this Method Statement and recommend it is implemented in full.

Protected Species Survey

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 survey timing for white-clawed crayfish is considered sub-optimal as the survey was carried out in October, but the optimal time to conduct white-clawed crayfish surveys is July to September inclusive. The applicant accepts the presence of white-clawed crayfish in the catchment and habitat enhancement opportunities for this species have been identified and should be implemented.

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

Yours faithfully

Philip Carter
Planning Officer - Sustainable Places

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cc How Planning