

Date: 01 September 2014
Our ref: 129669
Your ref: 3/2014/0728



Daniela Ripa
Ribbles Valley Borough Council
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BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Ms Ripa,

Screening consultation: Residential development
Location: Higgins Brook, land east of Chipping Lane, Longridge

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 19 August 2014.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Schedule 3(2) of the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Regulations) 2011 requires consideration of the selection criteria for Schedule 2 EIA development and identification of 'environmental sensitivity'. Natural England has identified that the proposed location of the development would be within, adjacent to or in close proximity to the following site:

- Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Having considered the information provided, Natural England is concerned that the proposed development could have significant indirect impacts upon the aforementioned designated site and that further assessment should be required. Should the Council decide that an EIA is not required, Natural England requests that a detailed assessment of the potential impacts of this proposal upon this designated site is submitted with any subsequent planning application. We would be happy to discuss the scope of the assessment with the applicant through our Discretionary Advice Service.

Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected species, so is unable to advise whether this proposal is likely to affect such populations to an extent sufficient to require an EIA. It remains the case, however, that the developer must provide information supporting this application sufficient for your authority to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected and, if they are, whether sufficient mitigation, avoidance or compensation measures will be put in place.

Natural England does not hold locally specific information on potential environmental planning constraints such as Local Sites, local landscape character or Local and National Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats. We recommend that you seek further information from the appropriate bodies (which may include the local records centre, the local wildlife trust, local geoconservation group or other recording society). Information on these potential assets should be included, where appropriate in a detailed landscape assessment of the potential impacts of this proposal, in the



event that your authority decides a full Environmental Impact Assessment is not necessary.

Should the proposal be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment then, in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Natural England should be consulted again.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Kathryn Kelsall on 0300 060 4342. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Miss Kathryn Kelsall
Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashire Area Team