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Squire House Farm

Clitheroe Road

Knowle Green

PR3 2YS

16-01-2019

Dear RVBC Planning Officer

During July & August I prepared an application to Natural England Mid Tier Countryside Stewardship Scheme for my farm land at Squire House Knowle Green. This application has been designed to meet one of the schemes key goals of improving local river and stream water quality by reducing contamination by soil and cattle/sheep waste. Our land is in a high priority area for the scheme and very wet, so any tractor movements soon create lots of mud and ruts nearly all year.

The application includes upgrading and installing farm tracks with hardcore to enable us to bring bales off the land without contaminating our stream and fields with mud and slurry. The track spec is set by Natural England (it is called an RP4 capital item: Livestock and machinery hardcore track). My application requires the relevant consent from my local planning department, which I would be grateful if you could support.

As part of the scheme submission I prepared an Agri Prior notification form by the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> August. I then came into your offices on 3<sup>rd</sup> September to check whether the form I had completed would be the correct approach and met one of the planning officers. She told me I would not need consent for this or culvert works and she would come back to me the same day or the day after, to confirm. To cut a long story short, it then took until 14<sup>th</sup> Dec (after much chasing) to get a response to say that my initial approach with the Prior Notification Agri Form was the correct approach. Clearly this isn't great as Natural England are now awaiting this information, as the scheme is meant to start on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.

Given the unfortunate delay, and as Natural England are pushing for the information, I would be really grateful if you could consider my prior notice application quickly.

I have attached a copy of the DEFRA Magic mapping which shows we are in the High Priority Water Quality area and the track upgrades and the rest of my application is supported by my local Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer – Michael Graham

I have attached the location plan and the site plan as drawn by my architects, Harrison Pitt.

Enclosed:

- Fee cheque £96,
- DEFRA Mapping
- Form from Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer – Michael Graham confirming his support.
- Original & 3 copies of form
- 4 x Location Plan
- 4 x Site Plan.

If you wish to visit site, please do not hesitate to contact me on my mobile.

Many thanks for your help in anticipation.

Best regards

