



RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Dear Matthew

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2017: REGULATION 6 SCREENING OPINION

I refer to the above request received by the Local Planning Authority on 7th December 2020 for a screening opinion pursuant to Part 2 Section 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The application was accompanied by an EIA Screening Opinion Request Document and plans of the site.

This application constitutes the formal screening opinion of the local planning authority in respect of the above development based on the information provided. In accordance with the Regulations and having regards to the National Planning Practice Guidance Annex: Indicative Screening Thresholds (Paragraph 057 Reference ID: 4-057-20140306) the Local Planning Authority has adopted the screening opinion that the proposal within the Ribble Valley Borough boundary is not EIA development, the reasoning for which is set out below.

Characteristics of Development

The site comprises an area between Broughton Water Treatment Works and White Bull Water Treatment Works (WTW). The proposed work involves the construction of a 9.5km water main and associated temporary works between Broughton Water Treatment Works (WTW) which is located to the north of Preston and White Bull WTW which is located to the north east of Grimsargh.

The expected temporary working area of this proposal is approximately 31.5 hectares (315,000m²) and thus exceeds the threshold for development associated with long distance aqueducts as set under 10 1 (i) of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

Subject to the scheme not requiring an EIA, the proposed pipeline is classed as permitted development under Schedule 2 Part 13 Class A (a) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (GPDO) (SI 2015 596) (as amended).

This part of the GPDO enables development not above ground in relation to the supply of water. In addition, Part 2 Class B allows for the creation of a means of access in connection with permitted development to a highway which is not a trunk road or classified road, whilst Part 4 Class A allows for the provision of buildings, moveable structures, works, plant or machinery required temporarily in connection with operations

being carried out on land or on land adjoining that land which will include the temporary working area for the installation of the pipeline as well as the construction compound. There are three temporary accesses proposed which will require planning applications.

A short section approx. 200m in length is located within Ribble Valley District which encompasses the area between where the borough boundary lies along the access track and to the North of Sudells Farm and White Bull Water Treatment Works (WTW) adjacent to Preston Road on the edge of Longridge. The working area is located to the North of Sudells Farm and Oak Tree Farm and to the West side of the Water treatment works. The majority of the development lies within the administrative boundary of Preston City Council. Of the plans submitted with the screening request number 11 is the only one which lies within Ribble Valley District.

The plans indicate that the works in this area will be trenchless, where as other parts of the proposal will be done via open cut methods.

Landscape and Visual Impact

The site is not within the AONB and is located close to existing development along Preston Road, namely the two farms and the WTW. The length of the pipeline runs through several landscape character areas but these are some distance from the section within the Ribble Valley District.

The land is fairly flat and the works in this area will be carried out using trenchless methods. The site will be accessed via one of two existing access points off Preston Road and the working compound will be temporary as well as being located directly adjacent to the WTW. It is considered that the proposed development would have a minimal impact on the landscape during construction phase and no permanent impact. In relation to this consideration under the EIA Regulations, the Council does not consider that the effects of the proposed development upon the local landscape would be "significant".

Ecology

The site is not within any statutory designation area and there are none within 2km of the site. An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the proposed works has been undertaken by Bowland Ecology Oct – Nov 2020. An earlier eDNA survey of potential amphibian breeding habitat was undertaken May-June 2020. A summary of ecology constraints identified, potential impact and proposed mitigation is provided in the supporting reports: Alston / Spade Mill Pipeline, Longridge: Ecological Constraints and Target Notes and BOW20_345 Longridge eDNA, Alston / Spade Mill Pipeline.

In view of the above, the Council agrees with the applicant that if unmitigated then the effects of the proposed development upon ecology could be 'significant'. Notwithstanding this, any works undertaken on site that would impact upon protected species is covered by statutory legislation and the survey includes detailed mitigation measures. Therefore, in respect of ecological impact the information submitted is acceptable.

Trees and Hedgerows

The supporting documents indicate that some lower quality trees will be removed and short sections of hedgerow. The trees will be protected to BS837 during construction. It is considered that with mitigation planting as stated, the proposed development would not lead to significant environmental effects with regard to impact on trees in the long

term and that mitigation in the form of new tree and hedgerow planting will result in no net loss of canopy cover by the time new planting is mature.

Public Rights of Way

Several Rights of way are in the development area and the access to the site will be via a lane which is a public footpath. The applicant states that they will work with Lancashire County Council Public Rights of Way Team to ensure that the appropriate permissions are in place for any temporary closures / diversions as required. The duration and extent of any closures will be minimised as far as possible and temporary diversions provided around the works where it is feasible.

There are no permanent diversions or closures of the rights of way proposed and the applicant has advised that they will be reinstated back to their existing line and condition following completion of the works. On this basis it is considered that the works will be covered by public rights of way legislation and the Environmental Impacts will not be significant.

Cultural Heritage/Archaeology

The Council accepts that in relation to this consideration under the EIA Regulations, the proposal will not have 'significant' effects upon heritage assets due to the distance from the development site.

On the basis of current investigations, it is unlikely that the proposal would have any significant effect upon undiscovered archaeological remains however the applicant will continue to work with LCC archaeology section as the scheme progresses.

Noise, Vibration, Mud and Lighting

There would be potential for noise and vibration impacts during the construction period however in this location only two properties are likely to be directly affected. Mitigation measures for noise, vibration, mud, and lighting, detailing best practice measures, will be reflected in method statements and a Construction Environmental Control Plan for construction activities to ensure effective implementation.

Contaminated land

A desk-based assessment has not identified any previous land uses along the pipeline which would be likely to cause contamination. Geo-environmental testing will be carried out and any contamination will be managed following relevant waste legislation. Therefore, there are no significant concerns with regard to contaminated land.

Production of Waste

The works will require excavation the construction of the pipeline and associated chambers. This will create approximately 35,000m³ of excavated waste across the scheme as a whole. A site waste management plan will also be in place. It is not considered that the waste produced in the development site of relevance to this request will have a significant environmental impact.

Traffic and Transport

Traffic numbers throughout the scheme will vary on a day by day basis depending on the works being undertaken and the location of the works. It is not considered that the

level of traffic generated by the development site under consideration will have significant environmental impacts and no temporary haul road is required.

Run Off and Silt Control

Measures will be put in place to control these issues so it is not considered that the effects would be significant

Flood Risk

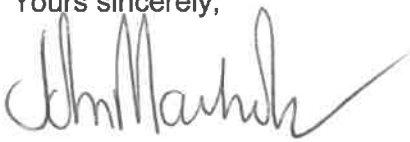
The development site is not within Flood zone 2 or 3 and the proposal would not have any significant impact in respect of this consideration.

Conclusion

Having evaluated the potential significance of the likely environmental effects, the local planning authority is of the opinion that the proposed development within their administrative boundary is not likely to have significant effects on the environment and as such, is not EIA development within the meaning of the Regulations. However please note that RVBC will defer to Preston City Council's judgement on the matter given that the majority of the development falls within their boundary.

You are advised that the local planning authority's opinion on the likelihood of significant environmental effects is reached only for the purpose of adopting this screening opinion under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2017.

Yours sincerely,



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Head of Planning

By email

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