

4th August 2021

HARP application 3/2021/0661/HighwayWorksPlan9

Dear Sir / Madam,

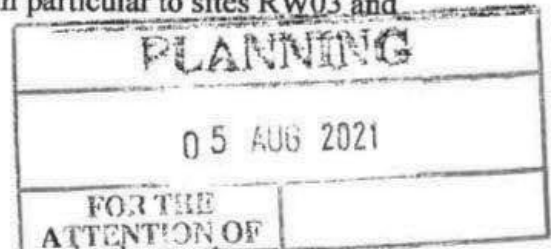
I am writing on behalf of [REDACTED] to object to the proposal to widen the road and bridge at Grindleton. I refer in particular to sites RW03 and RW04.

I would make the following points.

KEY STATEMENT EN 4

“The council will seek wherever possible to conserve and enhance the area’s biodiversity... and to avoid the fragmentation and isolation of natural habitats and help develop green corridors.

Negative impacts on biodiversity through development proposals should be avoided.”



- The site is used by a number of protected species.
 - (i) It is a roosting place for barn owls – these can often be seen at dusk as they leave the roost to hunt.
 - (ii) Swallows and House Martins nest under the bridge every summer. Their nesting sites are protected by law.
 - (iii) Black headed gulls, grey wagtails and kingfishers are frequently seen at the site, as it provides shelter and good feeding territory. All three of these species are considered to be at risk.
 - (iv) Less frequently the following protected species visit the site: greylag goose, curlew, dunnock, spotted flycatcher and reed bunting.
 - (v) A variety of species of bat roost under the bridge.
 - (vi) Otters pass through most nights as they hunt.

- The works adjacent to the river will inevitably lead to a considerable amount of pollution through silt. This is unlikely to directly result in fish kills. However, it has catastrophic consequences for the invertebrates at the bottom of the food chain; therefore there will a significant negative impact on fish and bird life.

- Parking heavy machinery adjacent to the river is likely to result in diesel / petrol leaking into the water system – the consequences of this could be catastrophic for wildlife. It is vital to ensure that such leakages cannot affect the water course.





FLOODING / EROSION

A cursory inspection of the site will reveal that significant repairs have already been carried out both upstream and downstream of Grindleton Bridge. The effects of the proposed works would be to increase flood risk and cause further damage to the river bank in times of high water due to the increased turbulence.

LOSS OF AMENITY

- Many of our members are elderly. Some are therefore restricted to fishing within a couple of hundred metres of the bridge and rely on being able to park in close proximity to the bridge in order to enjoy their recreation. There would appear to be nowhere for the general public to park under the new proposals.
- As mentioned earlier, pollution from silt is inevitable and such pollution often renders the river unfishable.

In conclusion, I understand that the traffic must cross the river somehow. However, I note that there are plans to erect a new bridge over the river between West Bradford and Waddington. I would suggest that it makes much more sense to reduce the impact on the river and its attendant ecosystem by sending *all* the traffic this way, so that only one site is affected, so I urge you to reject the application to route the heavy traffic over Grindleton Bridge.

Yours faithfully

