

Date: 25 August 2021
Our ref: 361084
Your ref: 3/2021/0661



FAO John Macholc
Ribble Valley Borough Council

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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear John

Planning consultation: Marl Hill Section. From land northwest of New Laithe Farm off the B6478 Slaidburn Road; and land north of Cross Lane, near Sandy Ford Brook, off the B6478 Slaidburn Road; with highway mitigation works at various locations from Pimlico Link Road, Clitheroe to Slaidburn Road, north of Waddington, via Chatburn Road, Ribble Lane and Grindleton Road; a haul route from land south of West Bradford Bridge to West Bradford Road, west of Healings Farm, West Bradford; a vehicle marshalling facility on land at the Ribblesdale Cement Works, West Bradford Road, Clitheroe and a park and ride facility at the existing Ribblesdale Cement Works car park west of West Bradford Road. Proposed works for and use of replacement section of aqueduct, including earthworks and ancillary infrastructure including: new valve house buildings with infenced compounds with permanent vehicular access provision. With the installation of tunnel shafts; open cut connection areas at either end of the replacement section within temporary construction compounds, to include site accesses, storage areas, plant and machinery, and drainage infrastructure. In addition, a temporary haul route with bridge over the River Ribble (as one of two options for vehicular access to the temporary construction compound); a series of local highway works together with a temporary satellite park and ride facility and a vehicle marshalling area.

Location: Marl Hill Section. From land northwest of New Laithe Farm off the B6478 Slaidburn Road; and land north of Cross Lane near Sandy Ford Brook off the B6478 Slaidburn Road with highway mitigation works at various locations.

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 06 July 2021

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.

Designated Landscape (Forest of Bowland AONB) – To Follow

We require more time to consider our response to landscape matters, therefore these comments will follow.

Habitats Regulations Assessment – No Objection

Relevant designated sites - Bowland Fells Special Protection Area (SPA), Calf Hill & Crag Woods SAC, North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC.

Natural England notes that the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has not been produced by

your authority, but by the applicant. As competent authority, it is your responsibility to produce the HRA and be accountable for its conclusions. We provide the advice enclosed on the assumption that your authority intends to adopt this HRA to fulfil your duty as competent authority.

The shadow appropriate assessment (TEP, June 2021, RVBC-MH-APP-010, v.4.0) concludes that the proposal will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of any of the sites in question. Having considered the assessment, Natural England advises that we concur with the assessment conclusions.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Assessment – No Objection

Relevant designated sites - Langcliff Cross Meadows SSSI, Bell Sykes Meadows SSSI, Myttons Meadows SSSI, Bowland Fells SSSI, Field Head Meadows SSSI.

The submitted SSSI assessment (TEP, June 2021, RVBC-MH-APP-009, v2) concludes that the proposal will have no adverse impacts on any SSSI. On the basis of the information provided, Natural England concurs with this view.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Miss Elizabeth Knowles
Senior Adviser
Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside & Lancashire Area Team