

Mr Will Hopcroft  
Ribbles Valley Borough Council  
Development Control  
Council Offices Church Walk  
Clitheroe  
Lancashire  
BB7 2RA

**Our ref:** NO/2023/115507/01-L01  
**Your ref:** 3/2023/0632  
**Date:** 25 August 2023

Dear Mr Hopcroft

**PROPOSED EARTH BANKED SLURRY LAGOON 50M X 50M.  
LAND OFF PRESTON ROAD, LONGRIDGE, PR3 3BL**

Thank you for consulting us on the above proposal which we received 22 August 2023.

**Environment Agency position**

The proposed development will be acceptable if the following measure(s) are implemented and secured by way of a planning condition on any planning permission.

**Condition** Prior to the commencement of development, full details of any mitigation measures necessary to make the location of the lagoon suitable for the storage of slurry based on existing ground conditions shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority. The scheme shall be implemented as approved.

**Reason** To ensure that the proposed development does not pose an unacceptable risk of pollution to surface or groundwater.

**Advice to applicant**

The proposed development must fully comply with the terms of the Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) (England) (SSAFO) Regulations 2010.

The applicant should also ensure the proposed development supports compliance with:

- The Reduction and Prevention of Agricultural Diffuse Pollution (England) Regulations 2018 known as Farming Rules for Water (FRfW),
- The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (EPR)
- The Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015 (NVZ)

Environmental good practice advice is available in The Code of Good Agricultural Practice (COGAP) for the protection of water, soil and air (produced by DEFRA).

Any agricultural development that will result in an increase in cattle numbers or water usage may adversely impact the storage of waste waters, slurry and other polluting matter.

The applicant is advised to consider both the proposed development and existing on-farm slurry and manure storage to ensure compliance with the regulations (SSAFO, FRfW, EPR, NVZ).

As a condition of SSAFO, you must notify the Environment Agency of a new, reconstructed or enlarged slurry store, silage clamp or fuel stores at least 14 days before starting any construction work. The notification must include the type of structure, the proposed design and construction. Please note the Environment Agency must be informed of your proposals in addition to any application for planning permission. Upon completion of the work, the applicant must contact the Environment Agency Agriculture Team to arrange for the new slurry facility to be inspected before it is brought into use.

As the proposal is for an earth-banked slurry lagoon, it will require an impermeable clay base to a minimum depth of one metre. To ensure compliance with SSAFO, the applicant will need to provide us with details of percolation tests to demonstrate that the ground conditions at the base of the lagoon are appropriate. Where permeability tests show that the soil or underlying ground is not suitable, it will be necessary to use a synthetic material or import impermeable soils to act as a liner for the lagoon. The earth banked walls will also need sampling as sufficient clay soils (not less than 20% and no more than 30% clay content) are required to make the banks stable. The lagoon should be sited sufficiently far away from any watercourses and land drains.

If the applicant intends to apply for a grant under the Farming Investment Fund – Slurry Infrastructure grant the proposed development must also fully comply with the grant scheme rules, found at - [Slurry Infrastructure grant: guidance for applicants - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/slurry-infrastructure-grant-guidance-for-applicants) In this case the SSAFO notification to the Environment Agency will be satisfied by the submission of the grant application form.

Further guidance:

[Storing silage, slurry and agricultural fuel oil - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/storing-silage-slurry-and-agricultural-fuel-oil)

[Protecting our water, soil and air - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protecting-our-water-soil-and-air)

Site selection, design and construction:

[https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/CIRIA/Item\\_Detail.aspx?iProductCode=C759F&Category=F REEPUBS](https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/CIRIA/Item_Detail.aspx?iProductCode=C759F&Category=F REEPUBS)

Yours sincerely

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**Planning Advisor**

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