

Ms Lyndsey Hayes  
Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Development Control  
Council Offices Church Walk  
Clitheroe  
Lancashire  
BB7 2RA

**Our ref:** NO/2024/115949/01-L01  
**Your ref:** 3/2023/0988  
**Date:** 22 March 2024

Dear Ms Hayes

**PROPOSED DRILLING OF TWO BORE HOLES AND UNDERGROUND PIPEWORK  
WITHIN THE FRONT CURTILAGE AND INSTALLATION OF INTERNAL PIPEWORK  
TO A NEW HEAT PUMP UNIT LOCATED IN THE KITCHEN.  
BRABIN HALL, 27 WINDY STREET, CHIPPING, LANCASHIRE, PR3 2GD**

Thank you for consulting us on the above application which we received 07 March 2024.

**Environment Agency position**

It is unclear from the detail submitted with the application whether the proposed ground source heating scheme is to be an open or closed loop system. In the absence of this detail with the planning submission, the applicant is advised that we have no further comment to make if the system is a closed loop installation. However, if an open loop system is proposed, we have the following advice for the applicant.

**Open Loop Ground Source Heat Pumps - Advice to applicants**

The Environment Agency regulates open-loop ground source heating and cooling schemes. The proposed development will need:

- a groundwater investigation consent (section 32/3 of the Water Resources Act 1991) to drill and test pump.
- a full abstraction licence (Water Resources Act 1991), if the volume of groundwater abstracted is greater than 20 cubic metres per day; and
- an exemption, if you meet the criteria for a low-risk activity, or environmental permit (under the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 20106 to discharge.

The applicant is advised to contact the Environment Agency on 03708 506 506 for pre-permit application discussions. Further guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-ground-source-heating-and-cooling-scheme-form-and-guidance-notes>.

The Environment Agency Good Practice Guide relating to the installation and operation of open and closed loop ground source heating and cooling systems can be found on the Ground Source Heat Pump Association website at:

Environment Agency  
Lutra House Walton Summit, Bamber Bridge, Preston, PR5 8BX.  
Customer services line: 03708 506 506  
[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

Cont/d..

[http://www.gshp.org.uk/pdf/EA\\_GSHC\\_Good\\_Practice\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.gshp.org.uk/pdf/EA_GSHC_Good_Practice_Guide.pdf).

Yours sincerely

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**Planning Advisor**

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