

Date: 25 April 2024
Our ref: 471535
Your ref: 3/2024/0177



Ben Taylor
Ribbles Valley Borough Council

Consultations
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Ben Taylor

Planning consultation: 3/2024/0177 - Proposed construction of an earth banked slurry lagoon and associated landscaping
Location: Higher Greenhead Farm Gisburn Road Sawley BB7 4LQ

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 02 April 2024.

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.

Insufficient Information Provided

There is insufficient information to enable Natural England to provide a substantive response to this consultation as required under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.

Please provide the information listed below and re-consult Natural England.

Please note that you are required to provide a further 21 day consultation period, once this information is received by Natural England for us to respond.

European/International Site

No assessment has been provided of the potential impacts that the proposal will have on North Pennine Dales Meadows Special Area of Conservation (SAC). There is currently insufficient information for you to undertake a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of the proposed development.

Natural England is not able to assess this case as there is insufficient information provided in relation to air quality impacts. Manure stores, slurry lagoons and livestock sheds are a major source of emissions of ammonia which is directly toxic to vegetation and especially to lower plants (mosses, liverworts and lichens). Ammonia is also a major contributor to the deposition of nitrogen, which reduces habitat biodiversity by promoting the growth of a relatively small number of the more vigorous plant species which then out-compete the other species present.

We advise that the SCAIL assessment is re-run as results of the SCAIL assessment only discusses Clitheroe Knoll Reefs Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) on PDF page 4 of 4. Please note, Natural England applies a 10km screening distance for European designated sites which are vulnerable to air quality changes.

Our Site of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zones (SSSI IRZs) are a GIS dataset designed to be used during the planning application validation process to help local planning authorities decide when to consult Natural England on developments likely to affect a SSSI. The dataset and user guidance can be accessed from the data.gov.uk website.

Magic Maps is another useful tool which utilises SSSI IRZs and guidance on its use is provided [here](#). SSSIs underpin European designated sites and consequently SSSI IRZs can be utilised to inform the HRA.

In addition, we have not been sent both the Input and Output SCAIL files (including the CSV file) which we require for the list of designated sites screened during the SCAIL assessment. More information can be found in **Annex A**.

Nationally Designated Sites

No assessment has been provided of the potential impacts the proposal will have on Langcliff Cross Meadow Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Bell Sykes Meadows SSSI and New Ing Meadow SSSI.

We advise that the SCAIL assessment is re-run to assess potential impacts of the proposal on these designated sites.

Any designated sites whereby the Process Contribution alone or in combination is greater than 1% needs further detailed assessment and/or mitigation.

Please note that we are not seeking further information on other aspects of the natural environment, although we may make comments on other issues in our final response.

On receipt of the information requested, we will aim to provide a full response within 21 days of receipt. Please be aware that if the information requested is not supplied, Natural England may need to consider objecting to the proposal on the basis of potential harm to the above designated sites.

Other Advice

Natural England signpost the following resources:

- [Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site)
- [NEA001 guidance](#) contains a flow chart and step by step instructions which outline the broader information needed to inform the Appropriate Assessment stage of a HRA
- [Ammonia Management Part 2: Undertaking a SCAIL Assessment - YouTube](#)
- Useful Information for Consultants In Assessing Ammonia Impacts From Agricultural Sources document. However, please disregard the outdated reference to a 4% Critical Level/ Critical Load
- APIS [training video](#)
- [Critical Loads and Critical Levels - a guide to the data provided in APIS](#)

Should the developer wish to explore options for avoiding or mitigating effects on the natural environment with Natural England, we recommend that they use our [Discretionary Advice Service](#).

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter, or any additional information or consultation requests, please contact consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Zoe Haysted, Sustainable Development Lead Adviser
Wetlands, Water and Woodlands (Cheshire to Lancashire)

Annex A – Saving SCAIL Assessment Data

The link to the SCAIL website can be found here: <http://www.scail.ceh.ac.uk/cgi-bin/agriculture/input.pl>

You will need all of the details of the proposals to hand in order to complete the SCAIL template.

Completing the template:

Complete '**Project Details**', '**Location Details**', '**Installation Details**'.

Most boxes are self-explanatory, but where further assistance is required, click on the  button.

'Installation Location' – provide the co-ordinates of the installation's location (12 figure grid reference using x,y coordinates or select landranger format to enter map reference, or the tool allows you to select a point from Google Maps, a map or aerial photograph). Click 'ok' to return to SCAIL tool.

'Source Details' - Complete all fields not greyed out depending upon the source type selected, including the grid reference if different to the main installation location already identified above. To complete '**Source Type**', select relevant description from 'housing, litter/manure storage, land-spreading, grazing, outdoor yard' from dropdown list and enter further information as required, e.g. for slurry storage add the tonnage if fresh manure is being added, (an entry of '0' is required if slurry is being stored), number of storage days per year, surface area in m², type of container and how it will be covered. Click on the red 'Get Emissions Values' button to populate the template.

It is possible to enter additional sources, e.g., if there are more than one housing units in different locations on the farm. Select 'add source' from drop down menu and enter the details for the source as described above and click on the red 'Get Emissions Values' button after each addition to populate the template.

'Designated site details' - select a search area of 10km and proceed to identify sensitive sites in proximity (click on red '**Run Receptor Search**' button).

Saving the Input file:

To save the Input file click on the red 'Save Inputs' button at the bottom left of the screen and select 'save as' with an appropriate name and location and include with your application (.inp file extension). The input file can also be saved from the front screen by selecting 'Save Input Data' using the same process. Do not press 'Calculate' here or the information will not be saved.

Calculate the emissions:

Once you have saved your input files, you can calculate the emissions for the final assessment at the bottom of the page (click on red 'Calculate' button). This will calculate the emissions emitted from the proposal and received at each of the designated sites. If you need to return to the original page, click on the green 'Back Button' at bottom right of screen.

Saving the Outputs:

Once the pre-populated results are visible, scroll down and click on the red 'Save Results' button and select 'save as' with an appropriate name and location (.csv file extension). This file should also be included with the application.

Reducing emissions:

Total Depositions/Concentrations and Exceedances ?					
Concentrations/Depositions and Critical Loads/Levels	NH ₃ (µg/m ³)	N Dep. (kg N/ha/yr)	Acid Dep. (kEq H ⁺ /ha/yr)	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Odour (Ou/m ³)
Process Contribution (PC) at receptor edge	0.33203	2.60	0.180	-	-
Background concentration at receptor edge ?	1.14	21.42	1.71 (N:1.53 S:0.18)	-	-
Predicted Environmental Concentration/Deposition (PEC) ?	1.47	24.02	1.89	-	-
Environmental Assessment Level or Critical Load / Level ?	Lower: 1 Upper: 3 ?	3.0 Broad-leaved, mixed and yew woodland	maxN: 1.32 maxS: 1.04 minN: 0.14 Broad-leaved, mixed and yew woodland	-	-
ALTERNATIVE CRITICAL LOAD INFO					
USE OWN THRESHOLDS?					
% of relevant standard PC ?	Lower: 33% Upper: 11%	87%	14%	-	-
% of relevant standard PEC ?	Lower: 147% Upper: 49%	801%	143%	-	-
EXCEEDANCE ?	Lower: 0.47 Upper: No exceedance	21.05	0.57	-	-
Project Notes					
test					

Further ideas on mitigation can be found in the Code of Good Agricultural Practice for Reducing Ammonia Emissions - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-good-agricultural-practice-for-reducing-ammonia-emissions/code-of-good-agricultural-practice-cogap-for-reducing-ammonia-emissions>

PLEASE NOTE:

Should the applicant wish to replace an old slurry lagoon or housing with a new system, or change livestock type or numbers, a SCAIL report should be run and submitted for both the existing and the proposed scenario. This can be done by saving the current file, then pressing the SCAIL back button (not the web browser back button), changing the details, recalculating and saving the new file.