

Date: 01 December 2025
Our ref: 533820
Your ref: 3/2025/0875



Ribble Valley Borough Council

BY EMAIL ONLY

Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning consultation: Proposed construction of a steel frame agricultural building as an extension of an existing building (part retrospective).

Location: Low Barn Grunsagill Road Tosside BD23 4SJ

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 17 November 2025 which was received by Natural England on 17 November 2025

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.

SUMMARY OF NATURAL ENGLAND'S ADVICE

Natural England advises that the potential for air quality impacts arising from this development needs to be assessed. Natural England refers your authority to Standing Advice [‘Air pollution and development: advice for local authorities. How to assess sector-specific planning applications that could affect air quality on a protected site’](#).

Based on the plans submitted, no other environmental impacts have been identified that will have significant impacts on statutory protected sites.

Natural England's generic advice on other natural environment issues is set out at Annex A.

Statutory Protected Sites Advice

Natural England advises that the potential for air quality impacts arising from this development needs to be assessed. Natural England refers your authority to Standing Advice *‘Air pollution and development: advice for local authorities. How to assess sector-specific planning applications that could affect air quality on a protected site’*. This standing advice is Natural England's formal statutory advice and is a material consideration. It provides decision makers with the information needed to fulfil their statutory duties when making decisions on planning applications with potential air pollution impacts.

An overall conclusion regarding impacts on statutory protected sites¹ must take into account the standing advice for air pollution. This will be for your authority to determine.

Based on the plans submitted, no other environmental impacts have been identified that will have a significant impact on statutory protected sites.

Landscape Advice - Forest Of Bowland (AONB)

The proposed development is for a site within or close to a nationally designated landscape namely (Forest Of Bowland) National Landscape (referred to in legislation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)).

Natural England has concluded that impacts on the nationally designated landscape and the delivery of its statutory purpose to conserve and enhance the area's natural beauty can be determined locally by the local planning authority, with advice from its landscape or planning officers, and from the relevant National Landscape Partnership or Conservation Board.

Natural England is not confirming that there would not be a significant adverse effect on landscape or visual resources or on the statutory purpose of the area, only that there are no landscape issues which, based on the information received, necessitate Natural England's involvement.

We advise that the planning authority uses national and local policies, together with local landscape expertise and information to determine the proposal. The policy and statutory framework to guide your decision and the role of local advice are explained below. Your decision should be guided by paragraph 189 and 190 of the National Planning Policy Framework, which requires great weight to be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty within National Landscapes, National Parks, and the Broads and states that the scale and extent of development within all these areas should be limited. Paragraph 190 requires exceptional circumstances to be demonstrated to justify major development within a designated landscape and sets out criteria which should be applied in considering this proposal.

Alongside national policy you should also apply landscape policies set out in your development plan, or appropriate saved policies.

We also advise that you consult the relevant National Landscape Partnership or Conservation Board. Their knowledge of the site and its wider landscape setting, together with the aims and objectives of the area's statutory management plan, will be a valuable contribution to the planning decision. Where available, a local Landscape Character Assessment can also be a helpful guide to the landscape's sensitivity to this type of development and its capacity to accommodate the proposed development.

The statutory purpose of the National Landscape is to conserve and enhance the area's natural beauty. You should assess the application carefully as to whether the proposed development would have a significant impact on or harm that statutory purpose.

Furthermore, [Section 245](#) (Protected Landscapes) of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 places a duty on relevant authorities (which includes local authorities) in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in a National Park, the Broads or National Landscape (referred to in legislation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) in England, to seek to further the statutory purposes of the area. The duty applies to local planning authorities and other decision makers in preparing development plans, making planning decisions on development and infrastructure proposals, as well as to other public bodies and statutory undertakers in undertaking

¹ Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and Wetlands designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention (or Ramsar sites).

their functions. This duty also applies to proposals outside the designated area but impacting on its natural beauty.

The relevant National Landscape body (Conservation Board or Partnership) may be able to offer advice in relation to the duty, including on how the proposed development aligns with and contributes to delivering the aims and objectives of the area's statutory management plan.

Further general advice on the consideration of protected species and other natural environment issues is provided at Annex A.

Yours faithfully

Loz Burrige
Consultations Team