

Ribble Valley Borough Council
Development Control
Church Walk
Clitheroe
BB7 2RA

Our Reference: PA-0004155/01
Customer reference: 3/2026/0316
Date: 28 May 2026

Proposed extension of existing footpath through the northern edge of the nature reserve.

Primrose Nature Reserve Clitheroe BB7 1BU

Dear Planning Officer,

Thank you for consulting us on the above application, on 11 May 2026.

We have reviewed the submitted information that is relevant to our remit and set out our position and comments below.

Environment Agency position

We have no objection in principle to the application as submitted but we wish to make the following comments:-

Fisheries, Biodiversity and Geomorphology

We agree with recommendations of the ecology assessment prepared by Verity Webster (dated April 2026). In relation to paragraph 9.1.1, we would also advise against pouring concrete within 10m of Mearley Brook.

We would also direct the applicant to [Treating and using water containing concrete at construction sites: RPS 287 - GOV.UK](#) regarding the storage of any water containing concrete near watercourses.

Flood Risk

We have reviewed the submitted Flood Risk Assessment prepared by PSA Design (Ref: D4891-R-01; Dated: April 2026) and we consider that it is appropriate to the nature and scale of the development. We are therefore satisfied that the proposed

development would be safe and that it would not be at an unacceptable risk of flooding or exacerbate flood risk elsewhere.

The applicant, as owners of the site, will be aware of the potential flood risk and frequency. The applicant should be satisfied that the impact of any flooding will not adversely affect their proposals.

Environmental permit – Flood risk activities - advice to applicant

Mearley Brook is a designated statutory main river.

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 require a permit or exemption to be obtained for any of the following activities:

- erecting any temporary or permanent structure in, over or under a main river, such as a culvert, outfall, weir, dam, pipe crossing, erosion protection, scaffolding or bridge
- altering, repairing or maintaining any temporary or permanent structure in, over or under a main river, where the work could affect the flow of water in the river or affect any drainage work
- building or altering any permanent or temporary structure designed to contain or divert flood waters from a main river
- dredging, raising or removing any material from a main river, including when you are intending to improve flow in the river or use the materials removed
- diverting or impounding the flow of water or changing the level of water in a main river
- quarrying or excavation within 16 metres of any main river, flood defence (including a remote defence) or culvert
- any activity within 8 metres of the bank of a main river, or 16 metres if it is a tidal main river
- any activity within 8 metres of any flood defence structure or culvert on a main river, or 16 metres on a tidal river
- any activity within 16 metres of a sea defence structure
- activities carried out on the floodplain of a main river, more than 8 metres from the river bank, culvert or flood defence structure (or 16 metres if it is a tidal main river), if you do not have planning permission (you do not need permission to build agricultural hay stacks, straw stacks or manure clamps in these places)

For further guidance please visit [Flood risk activities: environmental permits - GOV.UK](#) or contact our National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506

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(Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm) or by emailing enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

The applicant should not assume that a permit will automatically be forthcoming once planning permission has been granted, and we advise them to consult with us at the earliest opportunity.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – advise to LPA

If the Environment Agency does not comment on BNG calculations or proposals, this should not be taken to mean that our position is that the biodiversity net gain metric calculation is satisfactory. The LPA should make the necessary assessment.

If you have any questions regarding our response, please contact clplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Dana Binns – Sustainable Places Planning Advisor
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