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For the Attention of:

Nicola Hopkins
Director of Economic Development and Planning
Ribble Valley Borough Council
Department of Development
Council Offices
Church Walk
Clitheroe BB7 2RA

22 June 2026

Our Reference: **STG-RBL-HOD-008**

Dear Nicola,

Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme of Works in Ribble Valley Borough Council under Planning Permission 3/2021/0660 (Bowland Section) – Application for the Partial Discharge of Condition 17 (Vegetation Clearance) for works at the temporary River Hodder crossing and associated haul roads and compounds.

The Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP) is a regionally significant infrastructure programme which benefits from policy support and planning permission, and for which there is an established urgent need. United Utilities have appointed Cascade Infrastructure Ltd to fund, design, construct and maintain the HARP programme of works, and Cascade have in turn appointed STRABAG to carry out the design and construction.

HARP is a proposal to replace six existing underground tunnel sections of the 110km Haweswater Aqueduct. The aqueduct takes raw water from the Haweswater Reservoir along a 16km section to a water treatment works (WTW) near Kendal for treatment. From this WTW the aqueduct conveys treated water southward to a WTW in the borough of Bury. Along its length there are a number of water mains that branch off the aqueduct supplying treated water to customers in Cumbria, Lancashire and Greater Manchester.



A series of HARP works are proposed in the Ribble Valley Borough Council authority area, including works for a replacement section of aqueduct and associated temporary and permanent works and infrastructure.

Full planning permission (Council Ref: 3/2021/0660) for the Bowland Section of HARP was granted on 19 January 2024, subject to a series of planning conditions and s106 obligations.

Scope of this Application

Construction works at the site of the temporary River Hodder crossing and associated compounds and haul roads are proposed to commence in November 2026. In order to ensure the timely delivery of the works in November 2026, it is necessary to remove some vegetation from the site, prior to November 2026. It is this vegetation removal to which this application relates.

Planning permission 3/2021/0660 provides development consent for the works, and the removal of vegetation formed part of the assessment that informed the decision.

This application is to partially discharge Condition 17 of the above permission, in respect of the proposed vegetation clearance at the site of the temporary River Hodder crossing and associated haul road and compounds. The vegetation clearance works form 'Phase 0' of the Phasing Plan, which has recently been submitted to the Council for determination.

Condition 17 states:

"Condition 17 – Vegetation Clearance

"Prior to the commencement of each Phase of the development hereby approved a phasing timetable for the tree, shrub and hedgerow removal shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Thereafter full details of the extent of tree, shrub and hedgerow removal relating to each phase of the development shall be submitted to and approved in writing prior to any tree/ hedgerow works in that phase being undertaken. The details shall include the number of trees to be felled/ length of hedgerow to be removed along with a timetable for replacement planting to mitigate for the tree/ hedgerow loss.

Planting should be undertaken using native species grown from seed sourced from an appropriate seed zone and, in terms of quantities required, should be in accordance with requirements set out in 8) Embedded Mitigation and Good Practice, Volume 2 Chapter 6: Landscape and Arboriculture.

All opportunities for advance planting should be explored and consideration should be given to temporarily planting rapid growing species such as Eucalyptus along the site boundaries where they would be most visible from and closest to public rights of way. All these plants would have to be removed upon completion of construction



and reinstatement works.

Opportunities to translocate existing hedgerows and replant within the application site should be exploited where possible.

The replacement planting/ new planting shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved details which shall be as soon as reasonably practicable. Any trees or plants which within a period of 25 years from the completion of the development die, are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of similar size and species. REASON: To mitigate the landscape and visual harm of the development"

The parts of the condition that **this application seeks to discharge** are:

- This partial discharge relates solely to the temporary River Hodder crossing and associated haul road and compounds. For this site it includes:
 - The provision of a phasing timetable for the tree, shrub and hedgerow removal.
 - Full details of the extent of tree, shrub and hedgerow removal relating to each phase, including the number of trees to be felled and the length of hedgerow to be removed along with a timetable for replacement planting to mitigate for the tree and hedgerow loss.
 - An explanation of the opportunities that have been taken for advanced planting and translocation.

The part of the condition that is proposed **to be discharged in the future** is:

- Details related to the other sites within the above planning permission
- Full details of the replacement / new planting at the temporary River Hodder crossing and associated haul road and compounds

At this early stage of project delivery, the full details of replacement and new planting are yet to be developed. This will require engagement with landowners to ensure the location and type of planting is compatible with the use of their land. This information will be submitted as a final partial discharge of Condition 17 prior to the completion of the development, in tandem with the site restoration details to be submitted under Condition 19. Separate discharge of condition applications will be made in relation to the Construction Environmental Management Plan and ecological mitigation.

This approach should provide the Council with assurance that the project cannot be completed until an acceptable planting scheme is submitted and approved, as part of the overall site restoration proposals.

The following drawings and documents are submitted alongside this application, which,



together with this covering letter comprise the application submitted for approval.

Table 1 - Drawings and documents accompanying this application

Drawing/Document Title (Number)	For Approval/For Information
Covering Letter (80061155-SBG-XX-XX-RP-Z-00049)	For Approval
Hodder Crossing – BS 5837: 2012 Arboricultural Report, Impact Assessment and Method Statement (80061155-STB-HARHX-NA-RP-I-00001)	For Information

Proposed Vegetation Clearance Details and Timetable

Full details of the proposed vegetation clearance is provided in the attached Arboricultural Report.

It is proposed to undertake the required vegetation clearance in Q3 2026, in advance of main construction activities commencing in Q4 2026.

The proposed vegetation removal and retention is described in Appendix 1 of the Arboricultural Report, and shown in the photographs at Appendix 2 and figures at Appendix 3.

All tree removal works will be carried out by a suitably qualified and insured arboricultural contractor and in accordance with the recommendations of BS 3998:2010 Tree work – Recommendations.

A 'No Dig' construction methodology, in accordance with BS5837:2012, shall be employed for the construction of the welfare compound and the haul road bridge where these works are located within Root Protection Areas (RPA) of retained trees. Works will be carried out in accordance with Embedded Mitigation and Good Practice, as detailed in Volume 2, Chapter: Landscape and Arboriculture, of the Environmental Statement that was submitted with the planning application.

Opportunities for Advanced Planting and Translocation

Opportunities for advanced planting and translocation will be considered on a location-specific basis as the detailed design and construction programme is developed. This process will take account of site constraints, species suitability, seasonal considerations, and the practicality of successful establishment. Where it is demonstrated that advanced planting or translocation would be advantageous (either to enhance early landscape integration, retain existing ecological value, or provide visual screening) such measures will be explored and implemented where feasible, subject to the availability of suitable land and the agreement of relevant landowners. This approach ensures that decisions are proportionate, evidence-led, and responsive to the particular characteristics of each area of the site.



Approach to Replacement Planting

Developed detail for vegetation replacement and landscape works are not available at this stage. Planting will be undertaken using native species grown from seed and sources from an appropriate seed zone. Tree planting and establishment will be carried out in accordance with BS 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations.

Full details of the replacement planting will be submitted as a final partial discharge of Condition 17 prior to the completion of the development, in tandem with the site restoration details to be submitted under Condition 19.

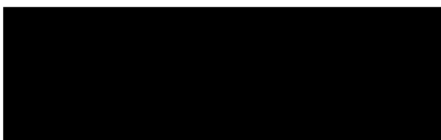
Summary

This application is to partially discharge Condition 17 of the above permission, in respect of the proposed vegetation clearance, at the site of the temporary River Hodder crossing and associated haul road and compounds. These vegetation clearance works form 'Phase 0' of the Phasing Plan, which has recently been submitted to the Council for determination.

It has been developed and submitted in accordance with planning permission reference 3/2021/0661, and we would be very grateful for a timely determination within the statutory decision-making timeframes, in order to assist in maintaining the programme for delivery of HARP.

I trust this is helpful. If you have any queries relating to this application, please don't hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours Sincerely,



Tim Snell

Town Planning Lead, Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme, STRABAG UK Limited

Cc.