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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

10 July 2026

Our Reference: **STG-RBL-RIB-178**

Dear Nicola,

Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme of Works in Ribble Valley Borough Council under Planning Permission 3/2021/0661 (Marl Hill Section) – Application for the Partial Discharge of Condition 5 (Archaeology) for works at the temporary River Ribble crossing and associated haul road 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: 3/2021/0661) for the Marl Hill Section of HARP was granted on 19 January 2024, subject to a series of planning conditions and s106 obligations.

The focus of this application is on the proposed temporary River Ribble Crossing and associated compounds and haul roads, to support the construction of the Marl Hill Section of HARP.

The proposed temporary River Ribble Crossing and associated compounds and haul roads will also be utilised for the Bowland Section of HARP under planning permission 3/2021/0660 and a separate, duplicate of this application will be submitted under Condition 5 of that permission in due course.

Scope of this Application

This application is to partially discharge Condition 5 of the above permission, in respect of the proposed programme of archaeological work and Written Scheme of Investigation at the site of the temporary River Ribble crossing and associated haul road and compounds.

This application seeks to discharge Condition 5 for all phases of work at the above site. The proposed archaeological investigation works themselves form 'Phase 0' of the Phasing Plan, which has recently been submitted to the Council for determination under Condition 2 of the above permission.

This application is technically a partial discharge due to the fact that the planning permission and conditions apply to multiple sites within Ribble Valley. Further applications will be submitted in due course to discharge Condition 5 for the other sites.

Condition 5 states:

"Condition 5 – Archaeology

No development shall take place within each Phase until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work for that Phase. This must be carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which shall first have been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This work should be carried out by an appropriately qualified and experienced professional archaeological contractor to the standards and guidance set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (www.archaeologists.net). The development shall be carried out in accordance with these agreed details.

Reason: To ensure and safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological/historical importance associated with the site.



Note: Lists of suitable contractors are available on the following websites: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) <http://www.archaeologists.net/> British Archaeological Jobs and Resources (BAJR) <http://www.bajr.org/>

The following 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-STB-HARRX-DS-CO-T-00046)	For Approval
Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigations Ribble Crossing Compound, Bridge and Haul Road (80061155-STB-HARRX-NA-RP-I-00001)	For Approval

The accompanying Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) sets out the proposed sequence of archaeological works at the site.

The WSI is structured as a flexible, iterative, sequence of archaeological processes that enable full compliance with the planning condition requirements.

At a meeting on 6 March 2026 between STRABAG and the Historic Environment Team Planning Officer for Lancashire, it was agreed that a preliminary phase of trial trenching will precede the earthworks programme at the site.

This is to further refine the strategy for archaeological mitigation at the site, by informing decisions to target strip, map and sample investigation in order to optimise programme opportunities and prioritise resources.

Detailed archaeological excavation, if required, will target discrete areas defined during strip, map and sample in consultation with the Historic Environment Team Planning Officer for Lancashire.

Archaeological recording during construction ('watching brief') will provide an alternative arrangement for:

- areas of low archaeological risk subject to logistical/environmental constraints
- locations where specific archaeological objectives can be safely and efficiently achieved by means of integration with earthwork operations
- removal of stored topsoil at stockpile areas to ensure disturbance of in situ topsoil/subsoil is avoided.

The outcome of each process will be shared with the Historic Environment Team Planning



Officer for Lancashire and the Local Planning Authority.

Full details are provided in the accompanying Written Scheme of Investigation, which has been prepared in consultation with, and agreed by, the Historic Environment Team Planning Officer for Lancashire.

Summary

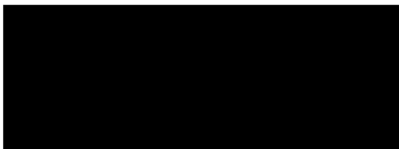
This application is to partially discharge Condition 5 of the above permission, in respect of the proposed programme of archaeological work and Written Scheme of Investigation at the site of the temporary River Ribble crossing and associated haul road and compounds.

This application seeks to discharge all phases of work at the above site. These archaeological 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.