

Robert Hope
Lancashire County Council
Development Management Group
Environment Directorate
PO Box 100
Preston
Lancashire
PR1 0LD

Our ref: NO/2021/113331/02-L01
Your ref: LCC/2021/0007
Date: 26 September 2022

Dear Robert

PRIOR EXTRACTION OF SAND / GRAVEL AND SUBSEQUENT RESTORATION WITH INERT ENGINEERING FILL TO FACILITATE A PLATFORM FOR EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT, OR AGRICULTURE, WITH PERIPHERAL LANDSCAPING

LAND NORTH OF A674 MILLENNIUM WAY, NORTHEAST OF M61, JUNCTION 8

Thank you for reconsulting us on the above application. Further information has been submitted to address the issues that we previously identified.

Environment Agency position

We have reviewed details submitted and we maintain our objection on the basis of insufficient/incorrect information. We have the following detailed comments:

The current proposal is for the extraction of some 116,000 tonnes of sand and gravel to facilitate industrial development. The amount of material is significantly reduced compared with the original 300,000 tonnes.

The Hydrogeological Impact Assessment report by Hafren Water, dated August 2022 (ref. 3373/AOP), includes a discussion with regard to concerns raised in our previous response regarding shallow groundwater levels within the excavation area and potential impact on peat deposits directly north of the proposed excavation area. The report states that the entire excavation will be maintained at least 1 metre above the groundwater level, however we note that some information is missing or incorrect and therefore it is not currently possible to verify and confirm the findings.

The report also states that four boreholes were installed within the excavation boundaries between 6.5 metres and 7 metres deep. The borehole logs are provided with the latest submission, however the logs do not include the datum data (metres above Ordnance Datum).

Environment Agency
Lutra House Walton Summit, Bamber Bridge, Preston, PR5 8BX.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

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The hydrographs included within the report, as drawing number 3373/AOP/07, show groundwater levels between approximately 1.25 and 3.75 metres below ground level, and some 90.5 and 95.5 metres above Ordnance Datum. However, these do not correspond with each other, or the groundwater contours included in the drawing number 3373/AOP/06.

Water level data that was supposed to be attached within the Appendix 3373/AOP/A1 is missing. Without actual water level data and boreholes datum it is not possible to verify statements in the report.

We would therefore request that the applicant submits the missing data and information to enable us to properly consider the further assessment of the proposal.

When we are formally consulted by the planning authority on the details submitted to fully address the above points, we will be able to review our position on the application.

Environment Agency planning advice – note to applicant

Should you wish us to review any technical documents or want further advice to address the issues raised, we may do this as part of our charged for planning advice service.

Further engagement will provide you with the opportunity to discuss and gain our views on potential options to overcome our objection with us, before formally submitting further information as part of your planning application.

As part of our charged for service we will provide a dedicated project manager to act as a single point of contact to help resolve any problems. We currently charge £100 per hour, plus VAT. We will provide you with an estimated cost for any further discussions or review of documents. The terms and conditions of our charged for service are available [here](#).

We will be unable to offer this service where we consider that a request is unreasonable, goes beyond what we can advise on through our planning remit or where other operational activities and issues prevent us from doing so.

If you would like more information on our planning advice service, including a cost estimate, please contact us at the email address below.

Yours sincerely

Mr Alex Hazel
Planning Advisor – Sustainable Places Team

E-mail: CLPlanning@environment-agency.gov.uk