

Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Town Hall
Knowsley Street
Bury
Lancashire
BL9 0SW

Our ref: SO/2022/121922/05-L01
Your ref: 67946
Date: 05 July 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

REPLACEMENT OF MILLTOWN STREET FOOTBRIDGE WITH NEW FOOT/CYCLE BRIDGE. LAND ON THE SOUTH- EAST SIDE OF, MILLTOWN STREET, RADCLIFFE.

Thank you for referring further details to the Environment Agency in support of our previous objections to the above application.

Environment Agency position

We have reviewed the submitted updated drawings, together with the summary of the bridge and the gauging station. This is satisfactory and meets with our approval. We can now, therefore, remove our objection, and we would wish to make the following comments.

Biodiversity

The proposed development will only be acceptable if a planning condition is included requiring the approval of and adherence to a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) demonstrating how sensitive receptor, River Irwell will be protected during the riparian works.

Condition

No development shall take place until a detailed construction environmental management plan (CEMP) for the construction of new bridge crossing and removal of existing remnants of old bridge structure has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. Thereafter the development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme and any subsequent amendments shall be agreed in writing with the local planning authority.

Environment Agency
Richard Fairclough House Knutsford Road, Warrington, WA4 1HT.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

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We note that the new bridge proposal is to be an open span structure with abutments set within existing riverbanks, and with welcome removal of remnants of old bridge structure removed from river channel. Based on scheme's proposals will entail construction works directly adjoining and within the River Irwell's channel, a CEMP will need to include details demonstrating how the River Irwell and wider wildlife corridor will be protected, positively reinstated, and potentially enhanced during development based on the following:

1. Timing of the works that preferably avoid more ecologically sensitive fish spawning season (October – Mid March) for any in-channel working.
2. Construction design and methods for new crossing of waterbody and removal of remnants of old bridge structure and associated in-channel pier structure.
3. Riverbank reinstatement including soft landscaping scheme predominantly based on native species, once any existing resident invasive non-native species have been appropriately managed.
4. Pollution protection measures adopted as part of new bridge construction and removal of redundant bridge structure.

Reason(s)

To ensure key ecological receptor; River Medlock; and WFD waterbody (Irwell (Roch to Croal) (GB112069060840)); is protected and/or enhanced, as part of bridge replacement proposals.

A permit from the Environment Agency will be required for new crossing of Main River Irwell. The following information should be referred to before submitting permit application.

[Flood risk activity risk assessment for your environmental permits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activity-risk-assessment-for-your-environmental-permits)

[Pollution prevention for businesses - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pollution-prevention-for-businesses)

A method statement to be agreed to put appropriate control measures in place regarding the invasive species Japanese knotweed, Giant hogweed, and Himalayan Balsam present.

Condition

No development shall take place until a detailed method statement for removing or the long-term management / control of Japanese knotweed, Giant hogweed & Himalayan Balsam identified on the site (PAA, Oct 2021) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The method statement shall include proposed measures that will be used to prevent the spread of Japanese knotweed, Giant hogweed & Himalayan Balsam during any operations e.g., strimming, bank regrading or soil movement. It shall also contain measures to ensure that any soils brought to the site are free of the seeds / root / stem of any invasive plant covered under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended. Development shall proceed in accordance with the approved method statement.

Reasons

This condition is necessary to prevent the spread of Japanese knotweed, Giant hogweed & Himalayan Balsam which are invasive non-native species. Without it, avoidable damage could be caused to the nature conservation value of the site contrary to national planning policy as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 170, where planning decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment & 174, plans should promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity

Advice to applicant

This development will require a permit under from the Environment Agency. We recommend that the applicant contact us to discuss the issues likely to be raised through permitting process.

Contaminated Land

The proposed development site appears to have been the subject of past industrial activity which poses a risk of pollution to controlled waters.

We have not undertaken a detailed review of the risk posed to controlled waters from land contamination and would therefore advise that you refer to our published [Guiding Principles for Land Contamination](#) which outlines the approach we would wish to see adopted to managing risks to the water environment from this site.

We also recommend that you consult with your Environmental Health / Environmental Protection Department for further advice on generic aspects of land contamination management. Where planning controls are considered necessary, we would recommend that you seek to integrate any requirements for human health protection with those for protection of the water environment. This approach is supported by Paragraph 109 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Please send me a copy of the decision notice and forward a copy of this letter to the applicant.

Yours faithfully

Mrs. SYLVIA WHITTINGHAM
Planning Advisor

Direct dial 0203 0251059

Direct e-mail sylvia.whittingham@environment-agency.gov.uk