

70222 – MONDI MILL, BRIDGE STREET, RAMSBOTTOM

Thank you for the updated otter, water vole and white-clawed crayfish survey.

Otter

Evidence of otter utilising the riverbank adjacent to the development site was recorded, though no evidence of a holt was recorded. Measures are proposed to ensure otter do not stray on to the site during construction. I agree that a reasonable avoidance approach is appropriate as otter have large territories and likely only pass through the site on occasion. Updated surveys may however be required if development is delayed. I therefore recommend a condition along the following lines is applied to any permission.

Prior to any earthworks or vegetation clearance an otter mitigation and avoidance strategy will be provided to and agreed in writing by the LPA. Should the commencement of works be delayed beyond April 2025 an updated survey of the site for otter will also be provided.

Water Vole and White-Clawed Crayfish

No evidence of either of these species was found. This was as I predicted, having noted that I did not believe further surveys were necessary, given the known presence of signal crayfish and lack of any water vole records for the locality, this species regarded as likely extinct in the district. The consultant has recommended updated surveys if development is delayed but I would regard it as extremely unlikely that colonisation will occur by either species. I would however recommend updated assessments of the risk of colonisation if works were delayed more than 3 years from the survey ie April 2027.

Ecologist

Gm Ecology Unit