

CI581/EAJ/DOR/jt/20230149

18th August 2023

Your Ref: 23/02170/FUL
EA Ref: SV/2023/111725/01-L01
Our Ref: CI581/EAJ/DOR/jt/20230149

Mark Perry
Shropshire Council – Northern Office
[Sent via email]



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Dear Mark

Re: Land Between the A495 Business Park Roundabout and Canal Way, Ellesmere.

I'm writing to you regarding the Environment Agency's letter dated the 17th July 2023 which contains several comments/concerns relating to this Planning Application. This response will address the proposed Dredging and Culverting points raised in the Ecological Betterment Segment.

For ease of reference, we have copied the comment/concern below prior to our response.

*“**Dredging:** We note the comment on drawing CI581-SGI-ZZ-00-DR-C-0515 P1 titled Tetchill Cleaning which suggests dredging of an open section of channel of the Tetchill Brook. No evidence has been provided to indicate the need for this. Dredging would be hugely detrimental to biodiversity, fishery and geomorphological interest and could lead to a downgrade of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) for this section of river.”*

This note is an error and we do not intend to dredge the Tetchill Brook. This note has been removed from CI581-SGI-ZZ-00-DR-C-0515 P2 and a copy of this plan has been included as part of this response. We trust that this updated drawing removes any concern/objection.

*“**Culverts:** We encourage the applicant to explore opportunities for open span bridges to enable the road crossings of the brook as opposed to relying on culverts. This would reduce the impact on geomorphology and species which rely on the gravel and bedrock already established within the areas proposed for work. If culverts must be used, they should include otter passes/ mammal ledges that allow the safe travel of otters/water voles through the culvert in times of high flow. The culvert should also be designed and constructed to allow the free passage of fish. We note and welcome the intention to bury potential new culverts 600mm below the bed level.”*

While the internal dimensions (minimum) of these culverts have been confirmed during BWB Consulting Hydraulic Assessment. The detailed design of the box culvert and their associated hasn't commenced. We have therefore prepared a typical culvert arrangement drawing (CI581-SGI-ZZ-00-DR-C-0517 P1) showing the invert of the culvert placed 600mm below the existing bed level, highlighted mammal ledges on both sides of the culvert, and omitted culvert screening to allow the free passage of fish.





We hope these design principles allow for the Environment Agency to remove their objection. However, should concerns remain, we welcome a condition requiring the detailed culvert design to be submitted to the Environment Agency/LLFA for approval prior to this element of works being undertaken.

Yours sincerely,
SHEPHERD GILMOUR INFRASTRUCTURE LTD

Dean O'Reilly
Civils Director