Dear Ailsa,

On assessing this application, I do have some concerns about potential risk to Glaisdale Beck which abuts the eastern edge of this site. The beck not only supports spawning Atlantic Salmon and Sea Trout itself, but also adjoins the River Esk just downstream of the site which Esk is of extremely high value to aquatic life, including both the above mentioned species in addition to being one of the few remaining sites where Freshwater Pearl Mussels can be found. Whilst the proposed land use is potentially far less harmful to aquatic life than the current land use as a filling station, I would wish to see more information regarding how existing contaminants are to be safely removed from the site. I note that EHO have already asked for a desk study to be carried out to investigate existing contamination. Ecological risk factors should also be considered when assessing the findings of this survey.

Whilst not in a flood risk zone, surface water arising from the site could wash straight down into beck - it is stated in the application that surface water will be directed to the existing watercourse. The proposals appear to include as slight increase in hard surfacing (including the building roof and hard landscaped areas which include parking spots) and it would be appropriate for some consideration to be given to how surface water will be directed and handled in order to minimise any risk of large volumes washing down into the beck, particularly from parking areas where risk of contamination with oils, fuel and other contaminants is much greater.

As an existing building is also to be demolished, if the application is ultimately approved, a bat informative should be included with the application.

Many thanks,

Elspeth

Elspeth Ingleby Land of Iron Natural Heritage Officer North York Moors National Park Authority The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, York YO62 5BP Telephone: 01439 772700 [Logo banner black ring ouzel]