

18 June 2021

Your ref:



Mail Hub
Worcester County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

Dear Ms Catherine Fileman-Wright,

EPR/RB3557SW

Installation of three fish barriers at the entrances to Hoveton Great Broad by piling wooden supports and attaching the mesh barriers

I refer to the EA's letter dated 4th June¹, requesting an extension to the determination deadline from 10th June to 15th September 2021.

We are incredibly disappointed by this 13-week delay in determination of this important application, which appears to be due to the significant number of responses received from the public during the consultation that closed on 6th April and the addition of a 'minded to' consultation in July. This is not satisfactory given the predictable situation, and the clear feedback we have given you, a partner in this project, on the implications.

Our letter of 11th December 2020 made clear the very tight timescales that the project was having to work to and suggested a determination date of "end-May 2021." This letter was followed up on 8th January 2021 where we reiterated the serious risk of project closure that further delays would present. This is the reality we are now facing: the risk of the project having to close down incomplete is now very high, bringing associated financial and reputational risks to us both. We have lost all our operational contingency time in our timescales meaning that if there are further delays for any reason (e.g. licence determination, in the discharge of any conditions, the issuing of a fish equipment permit by yourselves, adverse weather affecting contractors work), then the project will be forced to close without meeting its objectives. This will mean that the funder may seek to reclaim monies earmarked for the elements of the project which have not met their objectives, some of which have already incurred costs e.g. designing the barriers. I hope you will agree, that as a project partner the Environment Agency will make a suitable contribution to these costs, which could be substantial.

If we have no option but to accept this new date we will work through our options on the basis that there will be no further delay beyond 15th September 2021. Can you confirm this is a cast iron date please and consider doing your very best to achieve it earlier?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Director



EA Letter

08.01.2021 Final ...



Letter to EA FRAP

2_11.12.20 f...

¹ Ben Freeman (EA) to [Redacted] and [Redacted] (NE).