

Copeland Borough Council  
Development Control  
The Copeland Centre Catherine Street  
Whitehaven  
Cumbria  
CA28 7SJ

**Our ref:** NO/2025/116509/02-L01  
**Your ref:** 4/24/2425/0F1  
**Date:** 24 March 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

**EXTENSION OF EXISTING SMALL STAFF CARPARK INTO UNUSED ADJOINING  
GRASSED AREA AND PROVISION OF NEW OUTDOOR SAFETY PLAY FLOORING  
TO GRASSED AREAS**

**ST BRIDGETS R C SCHOOL, ST BRIDGETS LANE, EGREMONT**

Thank you for reconsulting us on the above application, received 6 March 2025.

In our previous response, referenced NO/2025/116509/01-L01 and dated 21 January 2025, we had no objections in regard to flood risk.

However, we have since identified an Environment Agency maintained Flood Defence embankment on our mapping, along the southern boundary of the proposed site and within 8 metres of the proposed development. In light of this, we therefore wish to make the following comments:-

**Environment Agency position**

**Objection**

We object to this application as it is unclear what will take place within 8 metres of an Environment Agency (EA) maintained Flood Defence embankment. It is not clear from the supporting drawing, titled '*St Bridget's Staff Car Park Extension: Existing and Proposed Site Plan*' (referenced: SBS23B-PA-001B; dated: 12/03/25), what is proposed in proximity to the embankment.

The red line boundary of the development includes the embankment, so the proposed development may adversely affect the construction and stability of the flood defence embankment, which would compromise its function. The proposal may therefore increase the risk of flooding to Egremont. As submitted, we are unable to ascertain whether we would grant a flood risk activity permit for this application.

Environment Agency  
Lutra House Walton Summit, Bamber Bridge, Preston, PR5 8BX.  
Customer services line: 03708 506 506  
[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

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### **Overcoming our objection**

The applicant should submit a cross-sectional drawing which clearly states the distance from the edge of the EA Maintained Embankment to the development at its closest point. The site layout should also be updated to show the dimensions of the proposed car park.

### **Environmental permit - advice to applicant**

Skirting Beck is designated 'Main River'. The proposals appear to be in close proximity to an EA Maintained embankment near this Main River.

The developer may require a permit under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 from the Environment Agency for any proposed works or structures, in, under, over or within 8 metres of the bank of the river or within 8 metres of the edge of the culvert, which is designated a Main River. In particular, no trees or shrubs may be planted, nor fences, buildings, pipelines (including outfalls) or any other structure erected within 8 metres of the top of the bank of the Main River, or landward toe of any flood defences, without an environmental permit. Some activities are also now excluded or exempt. For further information, the developer should refer to the GOV.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits>.

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 require a permit or exemption to be obtained for any activities which will take place:

- on or within 8 metres of a main river (16 metres if tidal)
- on or within 8 metres of a flood defence structure or culverted main river (16 metres if tidal)
- on or within 16 metres of a sea defence
- involving quarrying or excavation within 16 metres of any main river, flood defence (including a remote defence) or culvert
- in the floodplain of a main river if the activity could affect flood flow or storage and potential impacts are not controlled by a planning permission

For further guidance please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits> or contact our National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm) or by emailing [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk). The applicant should not assume that a permit will automatically be forthcoming once planning permission has been granted, and we advise them to consult with us at the earliest opportunity.

“main river” means all watercourses shown as such on the statutory main river maps held by the Agency and the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs including any structure or appliance for controlling or regulating the flow of water in or out of the channel;

Yours faithfully,

**Miss Soraya Moghaddam**  
**Planning Advisor**

Direct e-mail [clplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:clplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk)

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