

7-8 Oddington Grange, Weston-on-the-Green, Oxfordshire, OX25 3QW
ceresrural.co.uk

5th October 2026

To whom it may concern,

Re: Land South of Six Acre Lane, Hungerford – PP-15261916

Please find enclosed a Prior Approval (Excavation/Deposit waste for Agriculture) Application.

The proposal has been developed in response to the previous prior notification submission and seeks to provide additional information regarding the nature, extent and environmental effects of the proposed works.

The project comprises a series of modest floodplain restoration measures designed to restore natural hydrological processes within the River Shalbourne corridor. The engineering works include the removal of a redundant concrete sill associated with historic water meadow infrastructure, selective lowering of short sections of riverbank and floodplain embankments, installation of large woody material within the channel, excavation of shallow floodplain scrapes averaging approximately 250mm in depth, and the creation of a small bank breach and gravel plug within an existing drainage ditch to reconnect historic flow pathways. The works are confined to discrete locations identified on the submitted plans and do not involve the construction of buildings, hard engineering structures or significant alterations to the wider landform.

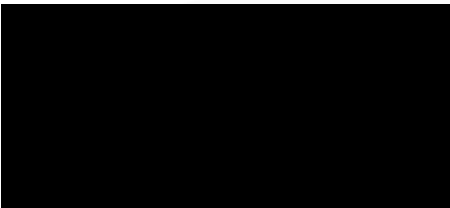
All excavated material arising from the works will be retained within the holding. Spoil generated through scrape creation and minor bank reprofiling will be spread thinly over agreed areas outside the functional floodplain, generally to a maximum thickness of approximately 100mm. No spoil will be removed from the site, deposited within the watercourse, formed into engineered bunds, or placed in a manner that would adversely affect floodplain storage capacity or alter the character of the landscape.

The design has also been developed to avoid unacceptable impacts on mature riparian trees. Excavation works are concentrated within open floodplain areas and existing modified river margins. Existing mature trees will be retained, with any works in proximity to trees undertaken using appropriate construction methods to avoid significant disturbance to root protection areas. Limited and selective tree management may be undertaken only where necessary to improve channel function, increase light penetration and support habitat restoration objectives.

Regarding hydrology and ecology, the proposals do not seek to divert flows outside of the existing floodplain or catchment, nor increase flood risk elsewhere. Instead, the scheme reinstates natural floodplain connectivity by allowing water to spill onto adjacent floodplain areas earlier and more frequently during higher flow conditions, restoring historic processes that have been constrained by previous channel modifications. The submitted Flood Risk Statement concludes that the proposals will increase flood storage capacity, improve natural flood management and are expected to deliver an overall reduction in downstream flood risk. The creation of wet grassland, shallow scrapes and more natural river processes will enhance habitat diversity and ecological resilience within the River Shalbourne corridor. The project therefore represents an ecological enhancement rather than a source of adverse impact within the wider hydrological catchment.

The siting and scale of the intervention have been carefully designed to integrate with the existing landscape character. The scheme restores historic floodplain features, follows existing topography and utilises natural materials rather than introducing prominent built development. Earthworks are shallow and localised, retaining the overall landform and agricultural character of the site. The proposals will preserve the landscape qualities of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape whilst delivering tangible benefits for biodiversity, water management and agricultural resilience. Furthermore, the scheme directly aligns with the priorities of the Berkshire and Marlborough Downs National Character Area by restoring chalk river processes, enhancing floodplain habitats and strengthening the ecological function of the wider landscape.

In summary, the application now provides clear information regarding the full extent of the engineering works, spoil management strategy, protection of mature riparian trees, hydrological and ecological implications, and the integration of the works within the landscape. The proposed development represents a carefully designed environmental restoration project that delivers agricultural, flood management, biodiversity and landscape benefits without giving rise to unacceptable effects.



Ellen Fake

Farming Consultant

