

Reply 29 November 2017

Dear Mr Goodwin,

Thank you for your email about the River Stour Mussel Fishery Order.

Firstly, the application for the Order is still live, and the applicants still wish to pursue their project.

You will hopefully be aware that a very significant part of the process is for the applicants to resolve all the substantial objections before the Order can be presented to the Minister of State, George Eustice for consideration. I am currently waiting for this to be made clear to me by the applicants, and the Order as it stands at the moment is not in a condition to be presented to the Minister.

With this in mind, if you feel that your specific concerns have not been fully answered satisfactorily by the applicant, then please can you let me know exactly what these are, and I will ensure that the applicants respond to them.

I am sorry to hear that you have found the process confusing, but I would like to reassure you that part of the reason that the process is so protracted, is so that we can be absolutely certain that the application is appropriate, and is in the best interests of the whole community.

The purpose of these Orders, which can be granted under the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967, is to support the development of long-term, sustainable shellfisheries, and some of our existing shellfish Orders can trace their heritage back hundreds of years. In this respect, we strive to ensure that any new application aspires to the same standards as these long standing and sustainable fisheries.

Kind regards,

Mike Gubbins

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