

Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Council Officers, Church Walk  
Clitheroe  
BB7 2RA

**Your ref:** 3/2021/0664  
**Our ref:** DC/21/2843  
**Date:** 27-JUL-21

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Location: Curtis House Chipping Road Longridge PR3 2NB.**  
**Proposal: Erection of workshop/storage unit.**

With reference to the above planning application, United Utilities wishes to draw attention to the following as a means to facilitate sustainable development within the region.

According to our records, the proposed development will be directly on top of our existing water main. This is not acceptable to United Utilities and therefore we must **OBJECT** to the proposal at this time.

The applicant should contact **Sara Livesey** by email at [DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk) to discuss this matter further at their earliest convenience. Should the Council deem it appropriate to grant planning permission irrespective of the above comments, the following condition must be attached to any Decision Notice granted:

***Condition 1***

***No construction shall commence (including any earthworks) until details of the means of ensuring the water main that is laid within the site boundary is protected from damage as a result of the development have been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing.***

***The details shall include a survey that identifies the exact location of the water main, the potential impacts on the water main from construction activities (including the construction compound), the impacts post completion of the development on the water main infrastructure that crosses the site and identify mitigation measures, including a timetable for implementation, to protect and prevent any damage to the water main both during construction and post completion of the development. The details shall include a pre and post construction condition survey.***

***Any mitigation measures shall be implemented in full prior to commencement of development in accordance with the approved details and timetable and shall be retained thereafter for the lifetime of the development. In the event that the survey of the water main identifies the buildings/plots within the easement, the developer shall submit evidence to the Local Planning Authority that a diversion has been agreed with the relevant statutory undertaker and that the approved works have been undertaken prior to the commencement of development.***

***Reason: In the interest of public health and to ensure protection of the public water supply.***

## **Drainage**

In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), the site should be drained on a separate system with foul water draining to the public sewer and surface water draining in the most sustainable way.

The NPPG clearly outlines the hierarchy to be investigated by the developer when considering a surface water drainage strategy. We would ask the developer to consider the following drainage options in the following order of priority:

1. into the ground (infiltration);
2. to a surface water body;
3. to a surface water sewer, highway drain, or another drainage system;
4. to a combined sewer.

We recommend the applicant implements the scheme in accordance with the surface water drainage hierarchy outlined above.

If the applicant intends to offer wastewater assets forward for adoption by United Utilities, the proposed detailed design will be subject to a technical appraisal by an Adoptions Engineer as we need to be sure that the proposal meets the requirements of Sewers for adoption and United Utilities' Asset Standards. The proposed design should give consideration to long term operability and give United Utilities a cost effective proposal for the life of the assets. Therefore, should this application be approved and the applicant wishes to progress a Section 104 agreement, we strongly recommend that no construction commences until the detailed drainage design, submitted as part of the Section 104 agreement, has been assessed and accepted in writing by United Utilities. Any works carried out prior to the technical assessment being approved is done entirely at the developers own risk and could be subject to change.

Details of both our S106 sewer connections and S104 sewer adoptions processes (including application forms) can be found on our website <http://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers.aspx>

Please note we are not responsible for advising on rates of discharge to the local watercourse system. This is a matter for you to discuss with the Lead Local Flood Authority and / or the Environment Agency if the watercourse is classified as main river.

## Water supply

If the applicant intends to obtain a water supply from United Utilities for the proposed development, we strongly recommend they engage with us at the earliest opportunity. If reinforcement of the water network is required to meet the demand, this could be a significant project which should be accounted for in the project timeline for design and construction.

To discuss a potential water supply or any of the water comments detailed above, the applicant can contact the team at [DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk).

Please note, all internal pipework must comply with current Water Supply (water fittings) Regulations 1999.

## United Utilities' property, assets and infrastructure

**According to our records there is an easement crossing the proposed development site which is in addition to our statutory rights for inspection, maintenance and repair.** The easement dated 09/07/1975 UU Ref: R695 has restrictive covenants that must be adhered to. It is the responsibility of the developer to obtain a copy of the document, available from United Utilities Legal Services or Land Registry and to comply with the provisions stated within the document. Under no circumstances should anything be stored, planted or erected on the easement width. Nor should anything occur that may affect the integrity of the pipe or United Utilities legal right to 24 hour access.

We recommend the applicant contacts our Property Services team to discuss how the proposals may interact with the easement. They should contact [PropertyGeneralEnquiries@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:PropertyGeneralEnquiries@uuplc.co.uk).

**A water main crosses the site and the proposed building is planned directly over it.** As we need unrestricted access for operating and maintaining this water main and as such require an access strip as detailed in our 'Standard Conditions for Works Adjacent to Pipelines', a copy of which is enclosed, then a diversion would be necessary.

Unless there is specific provision within the title of the property or an associated easement, any necessary disconnection or diversion required as a result of any development will be at the applicant's expense. If considering a water mains diversion, the applicant should contact United Utilities at their earliest opportunity as they may find that the cost of mains diversion is prohibitive in the context of their development scheme.

The Water Industry Act 1991 affords United Utilities specific rights in relation to the maintenance, repair, access and protection of our water infrastructure;

- Sections 158 & 159, outlines the right to inspect, maintain, adjust, repair or alter our mains. This includes carrying out any works incidental to any of those purposes. Service pipes are not our property and we have no record of them.
- Under Section 174 of the Act it is an offence to intentionally or negligently interfere with any resource main or water main that causes damage to or has an effect on its use or operation.

It is in accordance with this statutory provision that we provide standard conditions to assist developers when working in close proximity to our water mains. Both during and post construction, there should be no additional load bearing capacity on the main without prior agreement from United Utilities. This would include earth movement and the transport and position of construction equipment and vehicles.

Where United Utilities' assets exist, the level of cover to the water mains and public sewers must not be compromised either during or after construction.

For advice regarding protection of United Utilities' assets, the applicant should contact the teams as follows:

Water assets – [DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk)

Wastewater assets – [WastewaterDeveloperServices@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:WastewaterDeveloperServices@uuplc.co.uk)

**It is the applicant's responsibility to investigate the possibility of any United Utilities' assets potentially impacted by their proposals and to demonstrate the exact relationship between any United Utilities' assets and the proposed development.**

A number of providers offer a paid for mapping service including United Utilities. To find out how to purchase a sewer and water plan from United Utilities, please visit the Property Searches website; <https://www.unitedutilities.com/property-searches/>. You can also view the plans for free. To make an appointment to view our sewer records at your local authority please contact them direct, alternatively if you wish to view the water and the sewer records at our Lingley Mere offices based in Warrington please ring [0370 751 0101](tel:03707510101) to book an appointment.

Due to the public sewer transfer in 2011, not all sewers are currently shown on the statutory sewer records and we do not always show private pipes on our plans. If a sewer is discovered during construction; please contact a Building Control Body to discuss the matter further.

For any further information regarding Developer Services and Planning, please visit our website at <http://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers.aspx>

Yours faithfully

David Talbot  
Planning Analyst  
Planning, Landscape and Ecology