

Ribble Valley Borough Council  
By email

**Your ref:** 3/2023/0390  
**Our ref:** DC/23/1901  
**Date:** 07-AUG-23

Dear Planning Team

**Location: Victoria Terrace Mellor Brow BB2 7PL**

**Proposal: Erection of three dwellings with associated highway works pursuant to variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on planning permission 3/2016/0092**

United Utilities notes the application is for the variation of Condition 2 (approved plans). On review of the submitted documents, there is insufficient information provided at this time, therefore we must **OBJECT** to this application.

#### **OBJECTION PENDING REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

Following our review of the proposed site layout plans, we have concerns regarding the proximity of proposed development to our rising main (sewer operating under pressure) and existing water main. To demonstrate that this layout can be achieved, and to avoid any unnecessary costs or delays to either the applicant or any future developer, we request the applicant submits a detailed site layout plan which overlays the proven location of the sewer and water main in relation to any proposed development (including walls, fencing, parking etc.) and the associated easement widths for these assets to ensure no encroachment. Without this information we are unable to provide further comment and there is a risk that as the scheme progresses, the applicant, or any subsequent developer, may discover that their plans are not implementable in their existing form or that diversion of assets is required.

We strongly recommend this matter is resolved PRIOR TO THIS APPLICATION BEING DETERMINED. Without resolution of this matter before determination, our position must be to OBJECT to the proposal.

To discuss the proposal in relation to our wastewater asset(s) we recommend the applicant contacts our Developer Services team by email at:

Rising Sewer - [WastewaterDeveloperServices@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:WastewaterDeveloperServices@uuplc.co.uk)

Water Main - [WaterMains@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:WaterMains@uuplc.co.uk)

If direct communication, between the applicant and our Developer Services team, results in an acceptable solution to address our current objection, the applicant must submit any agreed details to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for formal consideration. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the LPA have all information that is relevant to their application.

Further information relating to the existing water main crossing the site can also be found within our guidance '*Standard Conditions for Works Adjacent to Pipelines*' which can be found on our website:

<https://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers/your-development/planning/building-over-or-working-near-our-assets/working-near-our-pipes/>

The applicant must comply with this document to ensure pipelines are adequately protected both during and after the construction period.

Alternative ways to contact the team are detailed in '*Useful information for the applicant*', *Section 3. Contacts*'.

We request that a copy of this letter is made available to the applicant.

Yours faithfully

Planning, Landscape and Ecology Team

## **Useful information for the applicant:**

### **1. DRAINAGE**

We strongly encourage all developments to include sustainable drainage systems to help manage surface water and to offer new opportunities for wildlife to flourish. We request that Local Planning Authorities and applicants do all they can to avoid surface water entering the public sewer. The flows that come from this surface water are very large when compared with the foul water that comes from toilets, showers, baths, washing machines, etc. It is the surface water that uses up a lot of capacity in our sewers and results in the unnecessary pumping and treatment of surface water at our pumping stations and treatment works. If new developments can manage flows through sustainable drainage systems that discharge to an alternative to the public sewer, it will help to minimise the likelihood of sewers spilling into watercourses and the flooding of homes and businesses.

### **2. UNITED UTILITIES PROPERTY, ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Where United Utilities' assets cross the proposed red line boundary, developers must contact our Developer Services team prior to commencing any works on site, including trial holes, groundworks or demolition. Please see 'Contacts' section below.

#### **Water pipelines**

United Utilities will not allow building over or in close proximity to a water main.

#### **Wastewater pipelines**

United Utilities will not allow a new building to be erected over or in close proximity to a public sewer or any other wastewater pipeline. This will only be reviewed in exceptional circumstances.

*Nb. Proposals to extend domestic properties either above, or in close proximity to a public sewer will be reviewed on a case by case basis by either by a building control professional or following a direct application to United Utilities (see our website for further details).*

#### **Important information regarding water and wastewater pipelines and apparatus**

It is the applicant's responsibility to investigate and demonstrate the exact relationship between United Utilities' assets and the proposed development.

A number of providers offer a paid for mapping service, including United Utilities (see 'Contacts' section below). The position of the underground apparatus shown on water and wastewater asset maps is approximate only and is given in accordance with the best information currently available. Therefore, we strongly recommend the applicant, or any future developer, does not rely solely on the asset maps to inform decisions relating to the detail of their site and instead investigates the precise location of any underground pipelines and apparatus. Where additional information is requested to enable an assessment of the proximity of proposed development features to United Utilities assets, the proven location of pipelines should be confirmed by site survey; an extract of asset maps will not suffice. The applicant should seek advice from our Developer Services team on this matter. See 'Contacts' Section below. United Utilities Water will not accept liability for any loss or damage caused by the actual position of our assets and infrastructure being different from those shown on asset maps.

Developer's should investigate the existence and the precise location of water and wastewater pipelines as soon as possible as this could significantly impact the preferred site layout and/or diversion of the asset(s) may be required. Unless there is specific provision within the title of the property or an associated easement, any necessary disconnection or diversion of assets to accommodate development, will be at the applicant/developer's expense. In some circumstances, usually related to the size and nature of the assets impacted by proposals, developers may discover the cost of diversion is prohibitive in the context of their development scheme.

Any agreement to divert our underground assets will be subject to a diversion application, made directly to United Utilities. This is a separate matter to the determination of a planning application. We will not guarantee, or infer acceptance of, a proposed diversion through the planning process (where diversion is indicated on submitted plans). In the event that an application to divert or abandon underground assets is submitted to United Utilities and subsequently rejected (either before or after the determination of a planning application), applicants should be aware that they may need to amend their proposed layout to accommodate United Utilities' assets.

Where United Utilities' assets exist, the level of cover to United Utilities pipelines and apparatus must not be compromised either during or after construction and there should be no additional load bearing capacity on pipelines without prior agreement from United Utilities. This would include sustainable drainage features, earth movement and the transport and position of construction equipment and vehicles.

Any construction activities in the vicinity of United Utilities' assets, including any assets or infrastructure that may be located outside the applicant's red line boundary, must comply with national building and construction standards and where applicable, our 'Standard Conditions for Works Adjacent to Pipelines', a copy of which is available on our website. The applicant, and/or any subsequent developer should note that our 'Standard Conditions' guidance applies to any design and construction activities in close proximity to water pipelines and apparatus that are no longer in service, as well as pipelines and apparatus that are currently operational.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that United Utilities' required access is provided within any proposed layout and that our infrastructure is appropriately protected. The developer would be liable for the cost of any damage to United Utilities' assets resulting from their activity.

### **3. WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES**

If the applicant intends to receive water and/or wastewater services from United Utilities they should visit our website or contact the Developer Services team for advice at the earliest opportunity. This includes seeking confirmation of the required metering arrangements for the proposed development. See '*Contacts*' Section below.

If the proposed development site benefits from existing water and wastewater connections, the applicant should not assume that the connection(s) will be suitable for the new proposal or that any existing metering arrangements will suffice. In addition, if reinforcement of the water

network is required to meet potential demand, this could be a significant project and the design and construction period should be accounted for.

In some circumstances we may require a compulsory meter is fitted. For detailed guidance on whether the development will require a compulsory meter please visit <https://www.unitedutilities.com/my-account/your-bill/our-household-charges-20212022/> and go to section 7.7 for compulsory metering.

To promote sustainable development United Utilities offers a reduction in infrastructure charges for applicant's delivering water efficient homes and draining surface water sustainably (criteria applies). For further information, we strongly recommend the applicant visits our website when considering any water or wastewater design <https://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers/your-development/planning/building-sustainable-homes/>

Business customers can find additional information on our sustainable drainage incentive scheme at <https://www.unitedutilities.com/Business-services/retailers/incentive-schemes/>

To avoid any unnecessary costs and delays being incurred by the applicant or any subsequent developer, we strongly recommend the applicant seeks advice regarding water and wastewater services, and metering arrangements, at the earliest opportunity. Please see 'Contacts' Section below.

#### **4. CONTACTS**

##### **Website**

For detailed guidance on water and wastewater services, including application forms and the opportunity to talk to the Developer Services team using the 'Live Chat' function, please visit: <http://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers.aspx>

##### **Email**

For advice on water and wastewater services or to discuss proposals near to pipelines, email the Developer Services team as follows:

**Water mains and water supply, including metering - [DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk)**

**Public sewers and drainage - [SewerAdoptions@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:SewerAdoptions@uuplc.co.uk)**

**Telephone - 0345 072 6067**

##### **Property Searches (for asset maps):**

A number of providers offer a paid for mapping service including United Utilities. For more information, or to purchase a sewer and water plan from United Utilities, please visit <https://www.unitedutilities.com/property-searches/>

Water and sewer records can be viewed for free at our Warrington Head Office by calling 0370 751 0101. Appointments must be made in advance. Public sewer records can be viewed at local authority offices. Arrangements should be made directly with the local authority.