

Ribble Valley Borough Council
By email

Your ref 3/2024/0544
Our ref DC/24/1788
Date 06-AUG-24

Dear Planning Team

Location: The Old Garage Site Newton Road Dunsop Bridge BB7 3BB

Proposal: Proposed provision of GRP Substation to house ENWL infrastructure, plant room building, alterations to site layout including repositioned bin store, cycle store and boundary treatment alterations

United Utilities provides the following comments to support the Local Planning Authority in their determination of the planning application detailed above, and to direct the applicant to further sources of support and guidance on matters that might impact their proposal.

The letter and Appendix should be read in their entirety to support the determination, the design, and should the scheme be approved, the subsequent delivery of the proposal. We recommend that our comments to the previous application at the site, reference 3/2022/0082, are read alongside this response by the applicant and the LPA.

UNITED UTILITIES ASSETS AND RECOMMENDED CONDITION

As the applicant and LPA are aware, there are United Utilities Assets within the red line boundary which are covered by separate legal easement and United Utilities land ownership (title number LAN227970 and UU Easement Ref: 060/00407/E). The property interests are in addition to the statutory rights for inspection, maintenance and repair. The easement may contain restrictive covenants that must be adhered to in addition to our statutory rights and it is the responsibility of the developer to obtain a copy of the document, available from United Utilities Legal Services or Land Registry and 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.

Water mains cross the site and a water pumping station is located in the vicinity of the site. They must not be built over, or our access to the pipeline or pumping station compromised in any way. We require an access strip as detailed in our 'Standard Conditions for Works Adjacent to

Pipelines', which can be found on our website [standard-conditions-for-works-adjacent-to-pipelines-issued-july-2015.pdf \(unitedutilities.com\)](https://www.unitedutilities.com/standard-conditions-for-works-adjacent-to-pipelines-issued-july-2015.pdf)

If the LPA requires any additional comment on the acceptability of the proposed layout from United Utilities, we will require a detailed site layout plan, which overlays the **PROVEN** location of the water asset(s) in relation to any proposed development (including walls, fencing, parking etc.). In this scenario, we will require evidence to show that the location of the pipeline(s) has been confirmed by site specific survey, a copy of asset maps will not suffice.

Referring to the above, we still need to clearly see what protection measures the applicant proposes at a more detailed design stage for the assets crossing the site and the relationship with the proposal as it is delivered. We therefore request the following condition is included in the subsequent Decision Notice to afford appropriate protective measures for our water infrastructure in the site:

CONDITION– Protection of United Utilities Assets

No construction shall commence (including any earthworks) until details of the means of ensuring the water main infrastructure 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 infrastructure, the potential impacts on the water mains from construction activities (including the construction compound), the impacts post completion of the development on the infrastructure that crosses the site and identify mitigation measures, including a timetable for implementation, to protect and prevent any damage to the infrastructure both during construction and post completion of the development.

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 any water main infrastructure identifies the development within a 3m standoff either side of the main (6m in total), 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 water main infrastructure

Further information is provided below, under 'United Utilities' Property, Assets and Infrastructure'. We ask that the applicant contacts our Property Services team to discuss how the proposals may interact with our access and the associated easement via PropertyGeneralEnquiries@uuplc.co.uk.

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.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) advise that surface water from new developments should be investigated and delivered 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.

The applicant should consider their drainage plans in accordance with the drainage hierarchy outlined above.

In the event that the applicant, or any subsequent developer, approaches United Utilities regarding a connection for surface water to the public sewer, it is likely that we will request evidence that the drainage hierarchy has been fully investigated and why more sustainable options are not achievable. This will be managed through either our 'S106 Sewer Connections' or 'S104 Adoptions' processes.

UNITED UTILITIES' PROPERTY, ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

As noted above, United Utilities land (title number LAN227970) is within the application site. The plans do not appear to affect this land though it is the responsibility of the developer to ensure that no development occurs within the United Utilities land and access thereto is not prohibited.

It is the applicant's responsibility to investigate the existence of any pipelines that might cross or impact their proposed site and also to demonstrate the exact relationship between United Utilities' assets and the proposed development. The applicant should not rely solely on the detail contained within asset maps when considering a proposed layout.

It is important that the supporting information contained in the Appendix, Section 2.0 'United Utilities' Property, Assets and Infrastructure', is read in conjunction with this letter. This provides information that might impact a proposed layout and additional guidance that an applicant or developer must consider when United Utilities assets are located in, or in the locality of, the proposed site.

Where United Utilities' assets exist, it is essential that the applicant, or any subsequent developer, contacts our Developer Services team prior to commencing any works on site, including trial holes, groundworks or demolition. See Appendix. Section 4.0 'Contacts'

As noted above, water mains cross the site and a water pumping station is located in the vicinity of the site. They must not be built over, or our access to the pipeline or pumping station compromised in any way. We require an access strip as detailed in our 'Standard Conditions for Works Adjacent to Pipelines', which can be found on our website [standard-conditions-for-works-adjacent-to-pipelines-issued-july-2015.pdf \(unitedutilities.com\)](https://www.unitedutilities.com/standard-conditions-for-works-adjacent-to-pipelines-issued-july-2015.pdf)

We recommend the applicant contacts our Water Developer Services team to ensure existing water assets, along with our required access widths, can be accommodated in the proposed layout. If the applicant fails to investigate and resolve any concerns prior to a positive determination, 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 request that a copy of this letter and the Appendix is made available to the applicant.

Yours faithfully

The Planning, Landscape and Ecology Team

APPENDIX:

Supporting information for the decision maker, applicant, developer and any other interested party

Whilst we provide the following information to support the design and delivery of the proposed scheme, we strongly recommend that the applicant, or any subsequent developer, contacts our Developer Services team at the earliest opportunity, using our **free pre-development enquiry service**, to ensure they have fully considered all aspects of development and to avoid any potential issues or unexpected costs at a later date.

Full details of the services offered to developers, guidance and application forms are available on our website: www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers/

1.0 DRAINAGE DESIGN

If the applicant intends to offer wastewater assets forward for adoption by United Utilities, their proposed detailed design will be subject to a technical appraisal by our Developer Services team and must meet the requirements outlined in 'Sewerage Sector Guidance Appendix C – Design and Construction Guidance v2-2' dated 29 June 2022 or any subsequent iteration. This is important as drainage design can be a key determining factor of site levels and layout.

If the proposal incorporates a SuDS component(s) which interacts with a sewer network that may be offered for adoption by United Utilities we recommend the applicant seeks further advice regarding the SuDS design; detailed information is available on our website.

Our acceptance of any drainage strategy submitted by an applicant to the Local Planning Authority for approval does not infer that a detailed drainage design will meet the requirements for a successful adoption application. We strongly recommend that no construction commences until the detailed drainage design has been submitted directly to United Utilities, assessed and accepted in writing. Any work carried out prior to the technical assessment being approved is done entirely at the developer's own risk and could be subject to change.

2.0 UNITED UTILITIES PROPERTY, ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

2.1 Water pipelines

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

For any works in the vicinity of water pipelines, the applicant must comply with our '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/>.

2.2 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).

2.3 Water and wastewater pipelines and apparatus

A number of providers offer a paid for mapping service, including United Utilities (see 'Section 4. Contacts' (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 'Section 4. Contacts' (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.

Developers 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', 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, 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 in operation.

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.

3.0 WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES, METERING AND CHARGES

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 '*Section 4. Contacts*' (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 a water meter must be installed to premises. Detailed guidance on whether the development will require a compulsory meter is available on our website within our published Charges Schemes; [Our charges 2024/25 | United Utilities](#) (Section 8.7) or [Our charges 2023/24 | United Utilities](#) (Section 7.7).

To promote sustainable development United Utilities offers a reduction in infrastructure charges to 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. See '*Section 4. Contacts*' (below).

4.0 CONTACTS

For advice on your development contact our **DEVELOPER SERVICES** team as follows:

Website (including 'Live Chat'): <http://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers.aspx>

Email:

WATER (water mains, supply and metering):

DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk

WASTEWATER (public sewers and drainage):

SewerAdoptions@uuplc.co.uk

SLUDGE PIPELINES:

DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk

Telephone (Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm): **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.

UNITED UTILITIES LEGAL SERVICES (FOR EASEMENT DOCUMENTS):

Copies of relevant deeds may be purchased from United Utilities Legal Services. This information is also available from Land Registry.

To purchase a copy of easement documents from United Utilities, please email:

LegalServices@uuplc.co.uk