

Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Town Hall
Knowsley Street
Bury
Lancashire
BL9 0SW

Our ref: SO/2023/123031/01-L01
Your ref: 69463
Date: 16 May 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

NEW BUILD SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FOR 30 NO. DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS ROAD, LANDSCAPING, AND INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS. STATION WORKS, BURY ROAD, RADCLIFFE, MANCHESTER, M26 2UA

Thank you for referring the above application to the Environment Agency. We have no objection in principle to the proposed development, but we would wish to make the following comments.

Environment Agency position

Flood Risk

The proposed development will only meet the National Planning Policy Framework's requirements in relation to flood risk if the following planning condition is included.

Condition

The development shall be carried out in accordance with the submitted flood risk assessment (ref 1557/RE/02-16/01 REVISION A) and the following mitigation measures it details:

- Finished floor levels shall be set no lower than 69.60 metres above Ordnance Datum (AOD)

These mitigation measures shall be fully implemented prior to occupation and subsequently in accordance with the scheme's timing/ phasing arrangements. The measures detailed above shall be retained and maintained thereafter throughout the lifetime of the development.

Reasons

- To reduce the risk of flooding to the proposed development and future occupants

Contaminated Land

The previous industrial land use of the proposed development site presents a risk to controlled waters. We consider that controlled waters are particularly sensitive in this location because the proposed development site is located upon secondary (A) aquifers.

The Phase 1 Desk Study has identified that because of the industrial nature of the site, there is potential for contaminants such as metals and metalloids, inorganic compounds, sulphate, semi-volatile and volatile organic compounds, fire retardants, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, petroleum hydrocarbons, PCBs to be mobilised leading to a risk to the underlying secondary A aquifer.

The information submitted to date by the applicant demonstrates that it will be possible to manage the risks posed to controlled waters by this development. Further detailed information will however be required before built development is undertaken. We believe that it would place an unreasonable burden on the developer to ask for more detailed information prior to the granting of planning permission but respect that this is a decision for the local planning authority.

Considering the above, the proposed development will be acceptable if a planning condition is included requiring the submission of a remediation strategy. This should be carried out by a competent person in line with paragraph 178 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Without these conditions we would object to the proposal in line with paragraph 170 of the National Planning Policy Framework because it cannot be guaranteed that the development will not be put at unacceptable risk from, or be adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution.

Condition

No development approved by this planning permission shall commence until a remediation strategy to deal with the risks associated with contamination of the site in respect of the development hereby permitted, has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority. This strategy will include the following components:

1. A site investigation scheme, based on the Phase 1 Desk Study, to provide information for a detailed assessment of the risk to all receptors that may be affected, including those off-site.
2. The results of the site investigation and the detailed risk assessment referred to in (1) and, based on these, an options appraisal and remediation strategy giving full details of the remediation measures required and how they are to be undertaken.
3. A verification plan providing details of the data that will be collected to demonstrate that the works set out in the remediation strategy in (2) are complete and identifying any requirements for longer-term monitoring of pollutant linkages, maintenance, and arrangements for contingency action.

Any changes to these components require the written consent of the local planning authority. The scheme shall be implemented as approved.

Reason

To ensure that the development does not contribute to, and is not put at unacceptable risk from or adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution in line with paragraph 174 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Condition

Prior to any part of the permitted development being brought into use, a verification report demonstrating the completion of works set out in the approved remediation strategy and the effectiveness of the remediation shall be submitted to, and approved in writing, by the local planning authority. The report shall include results of sampling and monitoring carried out in accordance with the approved verification plan to demonstrate that the site remediation criteria have been met.

Reason

To ensure that the site does not pose any further risk to the water environment by demonstrating that the requirements of the approved verification plan have been met and that remediation of the site is complete. This is in line with paragraph 174 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Advice to applicant

Model Procedures and good practice

Due to the former land use(s), soil and /or groundwater contamination may exist at the site and the associated risks to controlled waters should be addressed by:

We recommend that developers should:

- Follow the risk management framework provided in Guidance on Land contamination risk management (LCRM) [Land contamination risk management \(LCRM\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk), when dealing with land affected by contamination
- Refer to our [Guiding principles for land contamination](#) for the type of information that we require in order to assess risks to controlled waters from the site - the local authority can advise on risk to other receptors, such as human health
- Consider using the [National Quality Mark Scheme for Land Contamination Management](#) which involves the use of competent persons to ensure that land contamination risks are appropriately managed
- Refer to the [contaminated land](#) pages on gov.uk for more information
- Refer to [‘The Environment Agency’s approach to groundwater protection’](#)

All investigations of land potentially affected by contamination should be carried out by or under the direction of a suitably qualified competent person and in accordance with BS 10175 (2001) Code of practice for the investigation of potentially contaminated sites. Where the remediation / redevelopment of the site will involve waste management issues we offer the following advice:

Waste on-site

The CL:AIRE Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice (version 2) provides operators with a framework for determining whether or not excavated material arising from site during remediation and/or land development works is waste or has ceased to be waste. Under the Code of Practice:

- excavated materials that are recovered via a treatment operation can be reused on-site providing they are treated to a standard such that they are fit for purpose and unlikely to cause pollution
- treated materials can be transferred between sites as part of a hub and cluster project
- some naturally occurring clean material can be transferred directly between sites

Developers should ensure that all contaminated materials are adequately characterised both chemically and physically, and that the permitting status of any proposed on-site operations are clear. If in doubt, the Environment Agency should be contacted for advice at an early stage to avoid any delays.

We recommend that developers should refer to:

- the [position statement](#) on the Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice
- The [waste management](#) page on GOV.UK

Waste to be taken off-site

Contaminated soil that is (or must be) disposed of is waste. Therefore, its handling, transport, treatment, and disposal are subject to waste management legislation, which includes:

- Duty of Care Regulations 1991
- Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005
- Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016
- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011

Developers should ensure that all contaminated materials are adequately characterised both chemically and physically in line with British Standard BS EN 14899:2005

'Characterization of Waste - Sampling of Waste Materials - Framework for the Preparation and Application of a Sampling Plan' and that the permitting status of any proposed treatment or disposal activity is clear. If in doubt, the Environment Agency should be contacted for advice at an early stage to avoid any delays.

If the total quantity of hazardous waste material produced or taken off-site is 500kg or greater in any 12-month period, the developer will need to register with us as a hazardous waste producer. Refer to the [hazardous waste](#) pages on GOV.UK for more information.

Piling and Penetrative ground improvement methods:

Piling or any other foundation designs using penetrative methods can result in risks to potable supplies from, for example, pollution / turbidity, risk of mobilising contamination, drilling through different aquifers and creating preferential pathways. Thus, it should be demonstrated that any proposed piling will not result in contamination of groundwater.

Dewatering

Dewatering is the removal/abstraction of water (predominantly, but not confined to, groundwater) to locally lower water levels near the excavation. This can allow operations to take place, such as mining, quarrying, building, engineering works or other operations, whether underground or on the surface. Any dewatering activities on-site could have an impact upon local wells, water supplies and/or nearby watercourses and environmental interests. This activity was previously exempt from requiring an abstraction licence. Since 1 January 2018, most cases of new planned dewatering operations above 20 cubic metres a day will require a water abstraction licence from us prior to the commencement of dewatering activities at the site. More information is available on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-management-apply-for-a-water-abstraction-or-impoundment-licence#apply-for-a-licence-for-a-previously-exempt-abstraction>.

Regulatory position statements

If dewatering and discharging into surface water is required during development, the following Regulatory Position Statement will apply: 'Temporary dewatering from excavations to surface water.'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-dewatering-from-excavations-to-surface-water>

Seeking additional advice and support

Note to applicant

Should you wish us to review any technical documents or want further advice to address any of the environmental issues raised in this response, we may be able to do this as part of our charged for planning advice service. Further engagement will provide you with certainty of our position as to what our response to a planning application will be. It should also result in a better quality and more environmentally sensitive development. As part of our charged for service we will provide a dedicated project manager to act as a single point of contact to help resolve any problems. We currently charge £100 per person per hour, plus VAT. We will provide you with an estimated cost for any further discussions or review of documents.

Our standard terms and conditions are available to view online at www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-and-marine-licenceadvice-standard-terms-for-our-charges/planning-and-marine-licence-advice-standardterms-for-our-charges. If you would like more information on our planning advice service, including a cost estimate, please contact us at SPPlanning.RFH@environment-agency.gov.uk

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Should you have any queries regarding this response, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mrs. SYLVIA WHITTINGHAM
Planning Advisor

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