

Bury Council
By email

Your ref: 69163
Our ref: DC/23/1385
Date: 31-MAY-23

Dear Planning Team

Location : Rainsough Cottage, 5 Rainsough Brow, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 8SU
Proposal : Demolition of existing dwelling/outbuildings and erection of 4 no. detached dwellings

United Utilities wish to make the following comments regarding the proposal detailed above.

UNITED UTILITIES WATER MAIN AND SEWER - REQUIREMENT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

It is important for the applicant and the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to understand we recommend clarification on the following points below **prior to determination** to ensure there are no issues further into the development process.

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 development proposed. Therefore, our recommendation to the LPA is that the application is **not progressed further until the EXACT location of the water main asset and sewer asset is confirmed with us** and so that the implications for the proposed site layout can be fully understood and redesigned if necessary prior to determination.

As the submission has identified, development is proposed close to, or potentially over, a United Utilities **Water Main and Sewer** and the applicant must provide clarity on the **EXACT** location of the asset to ensure it will not be directly built over. The submission has not yet traced the **EXACT** location assets within the red line boundary according to our records. It's important to understand that **we will not permit development over or in close proximity to the assets** in question so agreements on the exact location must be agreed to ensure the scheme can be delivered.

Until such time as the applicant has resolved all concerns regarding the proximity of proposed development to **both** our assets, our position is that we **OBJECT** to the proposal.

Given the size and nature of the assets highlighted above, we strongly recommend that the applicant contacts our Developer Services team for advice on determining the precise location of each asset and additional protection measures they must consider both during and after construction. See Contacts section below. Agreements will need to be reached and demonstrated before any objection can be removed.

Should the Council deem this application suitable for approval without the resolving the objection, which we do not recommend, we request the following condition is included in the subsequent Decision Notice to afford appropriate protective measures for the water main:

CONDITION 1 – Protection of United Utilities Water Main

Prior to the commencement of development (including any earthworks), the following shall be submitted to the local planning authority and approved in writing:

- (i) Evidence that diversion works for the water main(s) have been agreed with the relevant statutory undertaker and that the approved works have been undertaken.*
- (ii) Details of the means of ensuring the water main(s) is protected from damage as a result of the development. These details shall include the potential impacts on the water main(s) from construction activities and the impacts post completion of the development, including landscaping, on the water main(s) infrastructure, and identify mitigation measures, to protect and prevent any damage to the water main(s) both during construction and post completion of the development.*

Any mitigation measures identified by (ii) shall be implemented in full prior to commencement of development in accordance with the approved details and shall be retained thereafter for the lifetime of the development.

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

Should the Council deem this application suitable for approval without the resolving the objection, which we do not recommend, we request the following condition is included in the subsequent Decision Notice to afford appropriate protective measures for the sewer:

CONDITION 2 – Protection of United Utilities Sewer

Prior to the commencement of development (including demolition, site clearance and any earthworks), details of the means of ensuring the wastewater infrastructure within the site boundary is protected from damage shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing.

The details shall include a survey of the exact location of the sewer/s and outline the potential impacts on these assets from construction activities. The details must include measures to protect and prevent any detrimental impact to the wastewater infrastructure and its operation both

during construction and post completion of the development to prevent exposing the sewer to undue loading, vibration or risk.

Any mitigation measures shall be implemented in full prior to the commencement of development in accordance with the approved details and retained thereafter for the lifetime of the development.

In the event that a diversion/diversions of the infrastructure or a build over agreement is required, the developer shall submit evidence to the Local Planning Authority that a diversion or build over has been agreed with the relevant statutory undertaker and that the approved works have been undertaken prior to the commencement of development or, in the event of a build over, that agreement has been reached with the relevant statutory undertaker prior to commencement of development.

Reason: In the interest of public health and to ensure protection of the public sewer system.

DRAINAGE

Noting this is a Full application, we request that the applicant provides a detailed foul and surface water drainage plan, and that United Utilities has the opportunity to review and comment on this plan **PRIOR TO DETERMINATION** of this application.

Should planning permission be granted without the provision of this information we request the following condition is attached to any subsequent Decision Notice:

We request the following drainage condition is attached to any subsequent approval:

CONDITION 3 – Foul and Surface Water Drainage

Prior to the commencement of development, details of a sustainable surface water drainage scheme and a foul water drainage scheme shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The drainage schemes must include:

- (i) An investigation of the hierarchy of drainage options in the National Planning Practice Guidance (or any subsequent amendment thereof). This investigation shall include evidence of an assessment of ground conditions and the potential for infiltration of surface water in accordance with BRE365;*
- (ii) A restricted rate of discharge of surface water agreed with the local planning authority (if it is agreed that infiltration is discounted by the investigations);*
- (iii) Levels of the proposed drainage systems including proposed ground and finished floor levels in AOD;*
- (iv) Incorporate mitigation measures to manage the risk of sewer surcharge where applicable; and*
- (v) Foul and surface water shall drain on separate systems.*

The approved schemes shall also be in accordance with the Non-Statutory Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (March 2015) or any subsequent replacement national standards.

Prior to occupation of the proposed development, the drainage schemes shall be completed in accordance with the approved details and retained thereafter for the lifetime of the development.

Reason: To promote sustainable development, secure proper drainage and to manage the risk of flooding and pollution.

The applicant can discuss any of the above with Developer Engineer, **Mohammed Aljafarawi**, by email at wastewaterdeveloperservices@uuplc.co.uk.

Please note, United Utilities is not responsible for advising on rates of discharge to the local watercourse system. This is a matter for discussion with the Lead Local Flood Authority and / or the Environment Agency (if the watercourse is classified as main river).

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.

Acceptance of a drainage strategy 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 assessed and accepted in writing by United Utilities. 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.

Management and Maintenance of Sustainable Drainage Systems

Without effective management and maintenance, sustainable drainage systems can fail or become ineffective. We believe we have a duty to advise the Local Planning Authority of this potential risk to ensure the longevity of the surface water drainage system and the service it provides to people. We also wish to minimise the risk of a sustainable drainage system having a detrimental impact on the public sewer network should the two systems interact. We therefore recommend the Local Planning Authority include a condition in any subsequent Decision Notice regarding a management and maintenance regime for any sustainable drainage system that is included as part of the proposed development. The following may be a useful example. *Prior to occupation of the development a sustainable drainage management and maintenance plan for the lifetime of the development shall be submitted to the local planning authority and agreed in writing. The sustainable drainage management and maintenance plan shall include as a minimum:*

- a. Arrangements for adoption by an appropriate public body or statutory undertaker, or, management and maintenance by a resident's management company; and*

- b. Arrangements for inspection and ongoing maintenance of all elements of the sustainable drainage system to secure the operation of the surface water drainage scheme throughout its lifetime.*

The development shall subsequently be completed, maintained and managed in accordance with the approved plan.

Reason: To ensure that management arrangements are in place for the sustainable drainage system in order to manage the risk of flooding and pollution during the lifetime of the development.

Please note United Utilities cannot provide comment on the management and maintenance of an asset that is owned by a third party management and maintenance company and we would not be involved in the discharge of the management and maintenance condition in these circumstances.

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.

United Utilities Legal Easements

According to our records there are easements associated to some significant water mains crossing the proposed access road. This is in addition to our statutory rights for inspection, maintenance and repair. The easement, **P 244** contain 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.

The applicant should contact our Property Services team to discuss how the easements referenced below affect the proposals and that any variations required can be considered at the earliest opportunity. It's advised the applicant contacts PropertyGeneralEnquiries@uuplc.co.uk

Water pipelines

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

A large diameter trunk main ****crosses /** is located in the vicinity of****** the site. It must not be built over, or our access to the pipeline 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:

<https://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers/yourdevelopment/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.

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).

As above, a number of public sewers cross the site and we will not allow building over them. We require an access strip for maintenance or replacement of each sewer and this access must not be compromised in any way. The minimum distances that might be acceptable to United Utilities are detailed within Part H of the Building Regulations however, we recommend the applicant determines the precise location, size, depth and condition of each pipeline as this is likely to influence the required stand-off distance from any structure.

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.

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.

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

Public sewers and drainage - WastewaterDeveloperServices@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.

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

Yours faithfully

The Planning, Landscape and Ecology Team