

Rochdale Borough Council
By email

Your ref 25/01018/FUL
Our ref DC/25/2753v2
Date 26-JUN-26

Dear Planning Team

Location: Land At Waterfold Lane, Heap Bridge, Bury, BL9 7JY

Proposal: Residential development of a 100% affordable housing scheme comprising of one three storey block of one, three storey block of 24 apartments and a row of 6 terraced dwellinghouses

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.

Any queries that might result from the information contained within this letter should be addressed as follows:

- **From the Local Planning Authority.** Please email Planning.Liaison@uuplc.co.uk
- **From the Applicant.** Specific email contacts related to each category of work are located beneath each section header. Alternative ways to contacts the team(s) are available in the Appendix, Section 6.0 'Contacts'.

OBJECTION

Following our review of the revised drawings, and given the proximity of the proposed development, including the highway improvement works and construction of a new retaining wall to the existing embankment, to United Utilities' assets and apparatus, our position is that we must **object** to the proposed scheme. This response supersedes our previous consultation response.

To overcome this objection, the applicant must contact our Developer Services team to investigate a satisfactory resolution. Evidence of any proposed agreement or resolution of this matter, agreed between the applicant and our Developer Services team, should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority before our objection can be removed. Further information about this objection, including contact details for our Developer Services team, can be found in the

sections titled '*UNITED UTILITIES' PROPERTY, ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE*' and '*CONTACTS*' below.

All other comments made within this letter should be taken into consideration but do not override our current objection.

UNITED UTILITIES' PROPERTY, ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Property / Land Registry Matters:

Email: PropertyGeneralEnquiries@uuplc.co.uk

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 has restrictive covenants that must be adhered to. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain a copy of the easement document, available from United Utilities Legal Services or Land Registry. The applicant must comply with the provisions stated within the document.

Wastewater Pipelines

Email: SewerAdoptions@uuplc.co.uk

A large public sewer crosses the site, and we will not permit building over it. We require an access strip for maintenance or replacement, 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 the pipeline as this is likely to influence the required stand-off distance from any structure.

Water Mains

Email: DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk

Two strategic large diameter trunk mains (48 inch and 60 inch) cross the site alongside a 4-inch watermain. They must not be built over, or our access to the pipelines compromised in any way. We require an access strip as detailed in our 'Standard Conditions for Works Adjacent to Pipelines'. The applicant must comply with this document to ensure pipelines are adequately protected both during and after the construction period. Given the size and nature of the pipeline concerned, we strongly recommend that if they have not already done so, the applicant contacts our Water Developer Services team at the earliest opportunity for advice on determining the precise location of the pipeline and additional protection measures they must consider both during and after construction.

OBJECTION PENDING REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Following our review of the proposed site layouts (drawing numbers R 0832 PL 19 dated April 2026 and R-0832-11 dated April 2026) and the proposed Shuttle Working Arrangement (drawing number J000540/SK101 Rev C dated 04.06.2025) and Retaining Wall General Arrangement and sections (drawing number GK4503-C-001 Rev B dated 19.08.25), United Utilities has concerns

regarding the proximity of proposed development to our strategic large diameter trunk mains. These must not be built over, nor should access to the pipelines be compromised in any way.

The proposals include new highway improvement works along the access road, including road widening, the installation of fencing and bollards along the footway, and the construction of a new retaining wall on the existing embankment. In the absence of an accurate plan clearly demonstrating the relationship between the proposed development, the strategic large-diameter trunk mains, and other water and wastewater mains crossing the site, United Utilities must object to the proposed development.

We strongly recommend that if they have not already done so, the applicant contacts **DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk** at the earliest opportunity. This will allow them to obtain advice on establishing the precise location of the pipelines. For example, if trial holes are proposed to confirm the location and depth of United Utilities' assets (rather than using GPR), United Utilities will need to be present on site. The applicant can also seek guidance on the additional protection measures required during and post-construction, as well as discuss the potential impact of the proposed works on these assets.

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 Council for formal consideration. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the Council have all information that is relevant to their application. 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 all our assets in relation to any proposed development (including walls, fencing, parking etc.). Evidence must be provided to show the location of the pipelines has been confirmed by site specific survey; a copy of asset maps will not suffice and conformation that discussions have taken place with the developer services water team.

Should the Council be minded to grant permission for this application, without resolution of our objection, which is not our preferred approach, United Utilities request that the following condition is attached to any approval to ensure appropriate protection of these strategic assets along with other water and wastewater infrastructure crossing the site:

CONDITION – ASSET PROTECTION

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

The details shall include a survey that identifies the exact location of the assets, the potential impacts on the assets from construction activities (including any construction compounds), the potential impacts post completion of the development and identify mitigation measures, including a timetable for implementation, to protect and prevent any damage to the assets during construction and post completion of the development.

The details shall include pre-construction condition surveys. 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 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. Upon completion of the works, a post completion condition survey shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing.

Reason: In the interest of public health and safety and to ensure protection of essential public services.

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 3.0 '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. Additional information is available on our website: [Working near our pipes - United Utilities](#)

The applicant should also review United Utilities' '***Standard Conditions for Works Adjacent to Pipelines***' document which can be found on our website:

[standard-conditions-for-works-adjacent-to-pipelines-issued-july-2015.pdf](#).

They, or any subsequent developer working on the proposed site must adhere to the details contained within this document.

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 6.0 'Contacts'.

DRAINAGE

Email: SewerAdoptions@uuplc.co.uk

Directed by the principles set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance and the new National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (2025) we require developers and Local Planning Authorities, to do all that they can to avoid surface water entering the public sewer, unless absolutely necessary. This applies to all proposed development. See Appendix 1.1 'Surface Water Hierarchy'.

All options for the sustainable management of surface water must be thoroughly investigated before we will accept any surface water connections from new development to the public sewer. Where a new surface water connection to the public sewer is proposed, we will require robust evidence to demonstrate the drainage hierarchy has been fully investigated and there are no more sustainable options available for the management of surface water.

Following our review of the submitted Drainage Strategy, we can confirm the proposals are acceptable in principle to United Utilities and therefore should planning permission be granted we request the following condition is attached to any subsequent Decision Notice:

CONDITION: Foul and Surface Water Drainage

The drainage for the development hereby approved, shall be carried out in accordance with principles set out in the submitted Foul & Surface Water Drainage Design Drawing GK4468-C-001, Rev C- Dated 22.04.26 which was prepared by GWK.

For the avoidance of doubt surface water must drain at the restricted rate of 5l/s.

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 ensure a satisfactory form of development and to prevent an undue increase in surface water run-off and to reduce the risk of flooding.

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 a main river).

Management and maintenance of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Without effective management and maintenance SuDS can fail or become ineffective which may have a detrimental impact on the surrounding area, including the performance of the public sewer network (where the two systems interact). Therefore, where SuDS is included in a proposed development, we recommend the Local Authority include a condition relating to SuDS management and maintenance in any subsequent Decision Notice. An example condition is included with the Appendix, Section 2.2. (Nb. This recommendation may not be appropriate for Reserved Matters applications).

When considering their drainage proposal, it is the applicant's responsibility to investigate the existence of any infrastructure that might impact their detailed design. This includes water, wastewater, operational and/or abandoned pipelines. United Utilities will not routinely review proximity or positioning of drainage proposals in relation to existing pipelines when assessing the suitability of a specific drainage design. Where infrastructure exists, the drainage design must comply with the relevant United Utilities guidelines and/or Building Regulations. Further information is available on our website: [Working near our pipes - United Utilities](#). Failure to

consider existing infrastructure when designing a drainage proposal may result in the applicant having to redesign proposals at a later date.

WATER EFFICIENCY IN NEW DEVELOPMENT

All new homes are required to meet the mandatory national standard of 125 litres of water used per person per day (l/p/d) as set out in Building Regulations Approved Document G. If your adopted development plan includes a policy that implements the tighter water efficiency standard of 110 l/p/d for new-build dwellings in Part 3 of Building Regulations, you should ensure that this is a condition of any planning permission you may grant. You should also consider whether there is any adopted development plan policy relating to water efficiency in the construction of non-residential development. As this is a matter for the local planning authority / building control body, United Utilities would not be involved in the discharge of conditions relating to water efficiency.

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

Yours faithfully
United Utilities' Planning Team

APPENDIX:
Supporting information for the decision maker, applicant, developers 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 or visits our website for more detailed advice on any aspects of United Utilities' assets and services that might impact their proposal. Full contact details can be found in Section 6.0 'Contacts' (below).

1.0 DRAINAGE DESIGN

Surface water (rainwater) flows are very large when compared with foul water flows that come from toilets, showers, washing machines, etc. It is usually surface water flows that increase the risk of sewer flooding, potentially impacting homes and businesses, and can result in unwanted spills from storm overflows into watercourses.

We have embarked on an ambitious investment programme to improve the performance of our wastewater network, particularly relating to the management of surface water. Our focus is to reduce the risk of sewer flooding and the prevention, frequency and intensity of spills from storm overflows, ultimately moving to a position where they are no longer necessary. As we work hard to improve the existing wastewater network, it is important that we do not compromise the results by accepting any unnecessary new surface water connections and that we take all opportunities for the removal of existing flows.

1.1 Surface water hierarchy

The design and delivery of surface water drainage systems must be in accordance with the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems or any replacement of national standards. Full details, including the hierarchy of surface water runoff destinations can be found here: [National standards for sustainable drainage systems \(SuDS\) - GOV.UK](#)

The standards indicate that surface water drainage systems shall be designed, constructed, maintained and operated following a natural approach to managing water. This should mimic natural drainage, manage surface runoff at or close to the surface and as close to its source as practicable. Therefore, drainage proposals for new development must be designed to maximise the retention of surface water on-site and minimise the volume and rate of surface water discharge off-site.

United Utilities will only accept new surface water connections to the public sewer in circumstances where the applicant has provided robust evidence that the drainage hierarchy has been fully investigated and more sustainable options for the management of surface water have been proven to be unfeasible. Surface water connections, particularly to the combined sewer, should only be considered as the last resort.

Where surface water connections already exist, the applicant must provide clear evidence of these connections along with calculations on rates of discharge, to demonstrate a reduction in

discharge rates. Without this evidence, applicants will be required to discharge at a greenfield rate of run-off.

1.2 Adoption and construction of drainage systems

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 PLANNING CONDITIONS; OUR APPROACH TO DRAINAGE CONDITIONS

When appropriate, United Utilities will request planning conditions relating to site drainage. This is important to ensure the delivery of quality drainage design for both new and existing customers. There is also a particular focus on the sustainable management of surface water thorough investigation of the drainage hierarchy which is critical in the management of flood risk and to reduce the frequency and intensity of spills from storm overflows, which is a shared priority for both United Utilities and the customers and communities that we serve.

2.1 Drainage design

In scenarios where **all** relevant information regarding drainage design is available; the design is acceptable and all opportunities for the sustainable management of surface water have been fully investigated, we will usually request a compliance condition to enable the delivery of the proposed design. If **any** relevant information is missing, or where there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the drainage hierarchy has been fully investigated, we will request a pre-commencement condition to ensure that all aspects of drainage design are fully considered before any work begins on site.

2.2 Management and maintenance of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

The Local Authority should consider a SuDS management and maintenance condition for any scheme where SuDS is included within the proposal. An example condition is below that may be suitable in many circumstances.

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:

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

It is important to note that United Utilities cannot provide comment on an asset that is owned by a third-party management and maintenance company and therefore, would not be involved in any application to discharge a condition relating to SuDS management and maintenance.

3.0 UNITED UTILITIES' PROPERTY, ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

3.1 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, including drainage, the applicant must comply with our 'Standard Conditions for Works Adjacent to Pipelines', which can be found on our website: [Working near our pipes - United Utilities](#)

3.2 Wastewater pipelines

United Utilities will not allow any new buildings or structures 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).

3.3 Water and wastewater pipelines and apparatus

A number of providers offer a paid for mapping service, including United Utilities. Alternatively, the plans can be viewed for free. See Section 6.0 'Contacts' for further details.

The position of underground apparatus shown on water and wastewater asset maps is approximate only and is given in accordance with the best information currently available. The

actual positions may be different from those shown on the plans and private pipes, sewers or drains may not be recorded. 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 6.0. 'Contacts' (below). United Utilities Water PLC 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: [Working near our pipes - United Utilities](#).

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 pipelines and apparatus that are no longer in service, as well as pipelines and apparatus that are currently in operation. This advice is also relevant to any uncharted pipelines (pipelines that do not appear on our asset maps) that might be discovered on site either before or during construction. In this

instance, the developer should contact our Developer Services team as soon as possible. See Section 6.0 'Contacts'.

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.

4.0 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 6.0 '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 household charges 2025/2026 | United Utilities](#) (Section 8.7).

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 6.0 'Contacts'.

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). Further information can be found on our website: [Sustainability - United Utilities](#)

Business customers can find additional information on our sustainable drainage incentive scheme at [Incentive schemes | United Utilities](#)

5.0 GROUNDWATER PROTECTION ZONES

Groundwater Protection Zones (GPZs), also known as Source Protection Zones (SPZs), identify the groundwater catchment areas of sources of potable water and show where they may be at particular risk from polluting activities on or below the land surface.

The Environment Agency has a series of published position statements documenting their approach to managing and protecting groundwater; [The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection](#). This document includes position statements, including restrictions or extra controls, that are applicable to certain activities within a Source Protection Zone 1 (SPZ1)

of a groundwater source, which are designed to protect groundwater intended for human consumption. It is important that the applicant reviews the Environment Agency's advice, or any subsequent guidance, in its entirety.

Nb. In order to protect groundwater quality surrounding United Utilities boreholes, we may request the principles outlined within the Environment Agency's document are applied to Source Protection Zone 2 (SPZ2), as well as SPZ1.

The applicant can seek further advice from our Groundwater Engineering Team. See 'Contacts' Section below.

6.0 CONTACTS

Contact our **DEVELOPER SERVICES** team as follows:

Website (including 'Live Chat'): [Building & Developing - United Utilities](#)

Telephone (Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm): **0345 072 6067**

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

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION ZONES:

Where the proposed site is located in a Groundwater Source Protection Zone, the applicant should contact our Engineering team for advice, by email at Groundwater@uuplc.co.uk

PROPERTY SEARCHES (FOR ASSET MAPS):

The public water and sewer records can be viewed via our online viewing facility for free. Viewings are by appointment only. To book an appointment, the applicant should email propertysearches@uuplc.co.uk or call **0370 751 0101**

Alternatively, a number of providers offer a paid for mapping service, including United Utilities. To purchase a sewer and water plan from United Utilities, visit [Property Searches | United Utilities](#)

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