

Cumberland Council
By email

Your ref 4/24/2371/0F1
Our ref DC/24/2726 v4
Date 20-JAN-25

Dear Planning Team

Location: LAND TO THE REAR OF CHURCH ROAD/MAIN STREET, DISTINGTON
Proposal: CHANGE OF USE FROM A PRIVATE FIELD TO A COMMUNITY GARDEN

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.

UNITED UTILITIES' PROPERTY, ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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'

Public sewers

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.

Following review of the submitted Drainage plan, DCG_06A Rev A 21.01.2025, United Utilities would request information specific to the proposed planters at the site entrance. The applicant has not provided detail on the proximity of the proposed planting boxes at the site entrance to manhole/chamber access points or whether these planters are liftable/movable.

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.

When considering their drainage proposal, the applicant should investigate the existence of any pipelines and/or apparatus that might impact their detailed design (see Section '*UNITED UTILITIES' PROPERTY, ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE*').

United Utilities will not carry out an assessment on the acceptability of submitted drainage proposals in relation to our water pipelines when responding to a planning application. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that any detailed drainage plans comply with our 'Standard Conditions for Works Adjacent to Pipelines' which can be found on our website:

[Working near our pipes - United Utilities](#). Failure to consider existing pipelines when designing a drainage proposal may result in the applicant having to redesign proposals at a later date.

WATER EFFICIENCY IN NEW DEVELOPMENT

Local planning authorities have the option to set additional technical requirements in respect of water use for the construction of new build dwellings, exceeding the minimum standards required by Building Regulations. All new homes are required to meet the mandatory national standard of 125 litres of water used per person per day as set out in Building Regulations Approved Document G. Where there is a clear local need, a local planning authority's development plan policies can require new-build dwellings to meet the tighter Building Regulations optional requirement of 110 litres of water used per person per day. If your adopted development plan includes a policy that implements the tighter water efficiency standard 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 a 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

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 **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: [Building & Developing - United Utilities](#)

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, 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](#)

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: [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 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).

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](#)

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'): [Building & Developing - United Utilities](#)

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 [Property Searches | United Utilities](#).

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