

Copeland Borough council
By email

Your ref: 4/22/2343/OF1
Our ref: DC/22/2914v2
Date: 04-MAY-23

Dear Planning Team

Location: Bailey Ground Hotel, Drigg Road, Seascale.

Proposal: Proposed erection of four glamping pods with associated landscaping including change in land levels.

Further to our response dated 27th September 2022, United Utilities have reviewed the revised layout plan and wish to make the following comments regarding the proposal detailed above.

OBJECTION

Due to the proximity of proposed development to United Utilities assets and apparatus, our current position is that we must **OBJECT** to this scheme. 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, 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

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.

According to our records United Utilities' have a legal easements and a registered right of way within the proposed development site. No development should occur that impacts and/or is detrimental to this legal Right of Way.

Further to our review of the Site Block Layout plan reference 349 01003 Rev 09, we have concerns about the proximity of the proposed development to our right of way. The right of way does not appear to have been drawn correctly. One of the proposed pods and the proposed parking spaces appear to encroach the registered right of way. Therefore, our position must be to **OBJECT** to the proposal.

We request the applicant submits a detailed site layout plan which accurately identifies United Utilities' legal right of way in relation to any proposed development features. Without this information we are unable to provide further comment and 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 due to this private property matter. It is the applicant's responsibility to investigate this matter and we strongly recommend this matter is resolved PRIOR TO DETERMINATION.

Should the council be minded to grant permission for this scheme, the applicant should be aware that our current position is that we will not permit any development to occur within the right of way. This is likely to impact the ability of the applicant, or any subsequent developer, to implement the proposed site layout.

We recommend that the applicant contacts our property services team at the earliest opportunity by email at propertygeneralenquiries@uuplc.co.uk to discuss the location of the registered right of way.

Water pipelines

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

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).*

A rising main (a public sewer operating at high pressure) crosses this site and it must not be built over. We require an access strip for maintenance or replacement and this access must not be compromised in any way.

Following our review of the proposed site layout, it appears that our required access to the rising mains is provided. This is based on the information contained within the Site Block Layout plan reference 349 01003 Rev 09. The acceptability of any proposal is dependent upon the applicant knowing the exact location (line and depth) of the asset in question, confirmed through their

site specific investigations. The precise location of United Utilities assets is critical as this could be material to the detail of the final site design; including any proposed crossings of the asset with either above or below ground features (including utility services).

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.

DRAINAGE

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.

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).

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.

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.

The applicant should not presume that the principles outlined within a drainage strategy will meet the detailed 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 works carried out prior to the technical assessment being approved is done entirely at the developers own risk and could be subject to change.

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