

Cumberland Council  
Copeland  
By email

Your ref: 4/23/2164/PIP  
Our ref: DC/23/2093 v3  
Date: 02-JUL-24

Dear Planning Team

**Location: LAND TO THE REAR OF 108 VICTORIA ROAD, WHITEHAVEN**  
**Proposal: (TDC) APPLICATION FOR THREE DWELLINGS PURSUANT TO A PLANNING-IN-PRINCIPLE PERMISSION GRANTED**

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.

Should this proposal be approved, and a further application submitted for Technical Detail Consent, it is important to note that our response to a subsequent application will be based upon the information that is available at the time of response, and therefore, our position and advice may vary.

We strongly recommend that the applicant or any subsequent developer contacts United Utilities, using our pre-development enquiry service to discuss their proposals directly with our Developer Services team. They can find further advice, along with a **pre-development enquiry form**, on our website: <https://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers/>. Alternative ways to contact the team are available in the Appendix, Section 4.0 'Contacts'.

## **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.

## **DRAINAGE**

Following our review of the submitted drainage plan (ref 23-191-DWG001, Rev D), the plans are not acceptable to United Utilities. This is because we have not seen robust evidence that the drainage hierarchy has been thoroughly investigated - as per our previous responses, infiltration needs to be fully investigated.

We note the latest plan shows the cut-off drain will be reconnected via the existing connection - we request evidence (such as dye testing) that this actually connects to the combined sewer.

Should planning permission be granted we request the following condition is attached to any subsequent Decision Notice:

*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.***

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.

## **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'

**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, 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 at the earliest opportunity, using our **free 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: [www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers/](http://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers/)

## **1.0 DRAINAGE DESIGN**

### **1.1 The importance of sustainable drainage systems**

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.

### **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 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, the applicant must comply with our 'Standard Conditions for Works Adjacent to Pipelines', which can be found on our website: <https://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers/your-development/planning/building-over-or-working-near-our-assets/working-near-our-pipes/>

### **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 4.0 '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 4.0. '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.

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', which can be found on our website: <https://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers/your-development/planning/building-over-or-working-near-our-assets/working-near-our-pipes/>.

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 4.0 '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 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-20232024/> and go to Section 7.7 for compulsory metering.

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). 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. See Section 4.0 'Contacts' (below).

#### **4.0 CONTACTS**

For advice on your development contact our **DEVELOPER SERVICES** team as follows:

**Website** (including 'Live Chat'): <http://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers.aspx>

**Email:**

**WATER** (water mains, supply and metering): [DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk)  
**WASTEWATER** (public sewers and drainage): [SewerAdoptions@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:SewerAdoptions@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 <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.

#### **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](mailto:LegalServices@uuplc.co.uk)