



Gravesham Borough Council
Civic Centre
Windmill Street
Kent
DA12 1AU

Your ref
20250318

Our ref
DSA000044616

Date
16th September 2025

Contact
Tel 0330 303 0119

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposal: Erection of a new residential building comprising of 5x 1 bed flats, 4x 2 bed flats and 1x 3 bed flats contained within a terraced style block.

Site: Garage Site Adjacent To 33, Empress Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2QR.

Thank you for your correspondence, please see our comments below regarding the above application.

Existing Gravity Sewer - tree, buildings, assets within stand-off distance

The 150 mm diameter gravity sewer requires a clearance of 3 metres on either side of the gravity sewer to protect it from construction works and to allow for future maintenance access. No development or tree planting should be carried out within 3 metres of the external edge of the public gravity sewer without consent from Southern Water. All existing infrastructure should be protected during the course of construction works. Please refer to

<https://www.southernwater.co.uk/media/st5orjvm/stand-off-distances.pdf>

Condition

In order to protect public sewers, Southern Water requests that if consent is granted, the following condition is attached to the planning permission; The developer must agree with Southern Water, prior to commencement of the development, the measures to be taken to protect the public sewers.

Sewer abandon / Diversion by Developer

Please find attached an extract of Southern Water records showing the approximate position of a public sewer/water main crossing the site. It appears that the applicant is proposing to abandon/divert a Southern Water asset (Water Main or Sewer). Any public diversion proposals shall be approved by Southern Water under Section 185 of the Water Industry Act. An application should be made using Southern Water's Get Connected Service at

Southern Water, Southern House, Yeoman Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 3NX
[southernwater.co.uk](https://www.southernwater.co.uk)

Southern Water Services Ltd, Registered Office: Southern House, Yeoman Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 3NX Registered in England No. 2366670



<https://developerservices.southernwater.co.uk>

Connection to water distribution main

Our investigations indicate that Southern Water can facilitate water supply to service the proposed development. Southern Water requires a formal application for a connection to the water supply to be made by the applicant or developer.

To make an application visit Southern Water's Get Connected service:

<https://developerservices.southernwater.co.uk> and please read our New Connections Charging Arrangements documents which are available to read on our website via the following link www.southernwater.co.uk/developing-building/connection-charging-arrangements

Proposed SUDS features

If it is the intention of the developer for Southern Water to adopt the proposed SuDS, the system shall be designed and constructed in line with the Design and Construction Guidance www.water.org.uk/sewerage-sector-guidance-approved-documents/

No Soakaways should be connected to the public surface water sewer.

The supporting documents make reference to drainage using Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). Where SuDS form part of a continuous sewer system, and are not an isolated end of pipe SuDS component, adoption of SuDS will be considered if requested by the developer if they comply with: Design and Construction Guidance (Appendix C), CIRIA guidance and Southern Water SuDS Guidance available here:

<https://www.water.org.uk/sewerage-sector-guidance-approved-documents/>

<https://www.ciria.org/ItemDetail?iProductCode=C753F&Category=FREEPUBS>

<https://www.southernwater.co.uk/media/l4ndl3db/suds-final-080824.pdf>

Where SuDS rely upon facilities which are not adoptable by sewerage undertakers the applicant will need to ensure that arrangements exist for the long-term maintenance of the SuDS facilities. It is critical that the effectiveness of these systems is maintained in perpetuity.

Good management will avoid flooding from the proposed surface water system, which may result in the inundation of the foul sewerage system.

Thus, where a SuDS scheme is to be implemented, the drainage details submitted to the Local Planning Authority should:

- Specify the responsibilities of each party for the implementation of the SuDS scheme.
- Specify a timetable for implementation.
- Provide a management and maintenance plan for the lifetime of the development.

This should include the arrangements for adoption by any public authority or statutory undertaker and any other arrangements to secure the operation of the scheme throughout its lifetime.

This initial assessment does not prejudice any future assessment or commit to any adoption agreements under Section 104 of the Water Industry Act 1991.

Proposed soakaways

The Council's Building Control officers or technical staff should be asked to comment on the adequacy of soakaways to dispose of surface water from the proposed development. No new soakaways should be located within 5 metres of a public or adoptable gravity sewer, rising main or water main.

Proposed works involve demolition

In order to protect and safeguard the existing water supply apparatus, Southern Water requests formal notification of any proposed demolition works prior to such works being undertaken.

S106 Connection application

Any new connections to the public sewerage system will require a Section 106 connection application to be submitted and approved by Southern Water Services.

To make an application visit Southern Water's Get Connected service:

<https://developerservices.southernwater.co.uk> and please read our New Connections Charging Arrangements documents which are available on our website via the following link:

<https://www.southernwater.co.uk/developing-building/connection-charging-arrangements>

Please note that, where there are separate systems available, Southern Water will not allow surface water to connect into the public foul sewer. If this is not possible, please provide evidence that all other options have been explored.

For further advice, please contact Southern Water, Southern House, Yeoman Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 3NX (Tel: 0330 303 0119)

Website: southernwater.co.uk or by email at: SouthernWaterPlanning@southernwater.co.uk

Yours faithfully,

Future Growth Planning Team

southernwater.co.uk/developing-building/planning-your-development