



Head of Planning & Regeneration Services
Gravesham Borough Council
Civic Centre
Windmill Street
Gravesend
Kent
DA12 1AU

Your ref
20220839

Our ref
DSA000015963

Date
29/09/2022

Contact
Tel 0330 303 0119

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposal: Conversion of existing house to 10no. flats including side and rear extension and loft conversion. Conversion of rear annex building to 2no. dwelling houses including proposed new dormers. Construction of new apartment building to form 11no. new apartments. Construction of 8no. semidetached and 1no. detached houses and associated development.

Site: 20220839: - Cobham Lodge, Valley Drive, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 5UE.

Thank you for your letter dated 12/09/2022.

Please see the attached extract from Southern Water records showing the approximate position of our existing public foul sewer in the development site. The exact position of the public assets must be determined on site by the applicant in consultation with Southern Water before the layout of the proposed development is finalised.

Please note:

- The public foul sewer requires a clearance of 3 metres on either side of the public foul 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 foul sewer without consent from Southern Water.
- No soakaways, swales, ponds, watercourses or any other surface water retaining or conveying features should be located within 5 metres of a public foul sewer.
- All existing infrastructure should be protected during the course of construction works.

Please refer to: southernwater.co.uk/media/3011/stand-off-distances.pdf

Furthermore, it is possible that a sewer now deemed to be public could be crossing the development site. Therefore, should any sewer be found during construction works, an investigation of the sewer will be required to ascertain its ownership before any further works commence on site.

We have restrictions on the proposed tree planting adjacent to Southern Water sewers, rising mains or water mains and any such proposed assets in the vicinity of existing planting. Reference should be made to Southern Water's publication "A Guide to Tree Planting near water Mains and Sewers" (southernwater.co.uk/media/3027/ds-tree-planting-guide.pdf) and the Sewerage Sector Guidance (water.org.uk/sewerage-sector-guidance-approved-documents) with regards to any landscaping proposals and our restrictions and maintenance of tree planting adjacent to sewers, rising mains and water mains.

Southern Water requires a formal application for a connection to the public sewer to be made by the applicant or developer.

To make an application visit Southern Water's Get Connected service: developerservices.southernwater.co.uk and please read our New Connections Charging Arrangements documents which are available on our website via the following link: southernwater.co.uk/developing-building/connection-charging-arrangements

In situations where surface water is being considered for discharge to our network, we require the below hierarchy for surface water to be followed which is reflected in part H3 of the Building Regulations. Whilst reuse does not strictly form part of this hierarchy, Southern Water would encourage the consideration of reuse for new developments.

- Reuse
- Infiltration
- Watercourse
- Storm sewer
- Combined Sewer

Guidance on Building Regulations is here:

gov.uk/government/publications/drainage-and-waste-disposal-approved-document-h

The planning application form makes reference to drainage using Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS).

Under certain circumstances SuDS will be adopted by Southern Water should this be requested by the developer. Where SuDS form part of a continuous sewer system, and are not an isolated end of pipe SuDS component, adoption will be considered if such systems comply with the latest Sewers for Adoption (Appendix C) and CIRIA guidance available here:

water.org.uk/sewerage-sector-guidance-approved-documents

[ciria.org/Memberships/The SuDS Manual C753 Chapters.aspx](https://ciria.org/Memberships/The_SuDS_Manual_C753_Chapters.aspx)

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.

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.

We request that should this planning application receive planning approval, the following informative is attached to the consent: Construction of the development shall not commence until details of the proposed means of foul sewerage and surface water disposal have been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority in consultation with Southern Water.

This initial assessment does not prejudice any future assessment or commit to any adoption agreements under Section 104 of the Water Industry Act 1991. Please note that non-compliance with Sewers for Adoption standards will preclude future adoption of the foul and surface water sewerage network on site. The design of drainage should ensure that no groundwater or land drainage is to enter public sewers.

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.

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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
Business Channels

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

Gravesham Borough Council