



Gravesham Borough Council
Civic Centre
Windmill Street
Kent
DA12 1AU

Your ref
20250802

Our ref
DSA000047225

Date
30th September 2025

Contact
Tel 0330 303 0119

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposal: Outline planning application for up to 100No. residential dwellings (including affordable housing), with all matter reserved except for access and creation of a new access from A227/South Street.

Site: Blackthorn Farm, Wrotham Road, Meopham, Gravesend, Kent, DA13 0DW.

Thank you for your correspondence Please see our updated comments below regarding the above planning consultation application.

No capacity

Network Capacity refers to the available capacity in our underground assets that carry wastewater to Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTWs). This includes a range of pipe sizes and material types, Wastewater Pumping Stations (WPS) and supporting infrastructure.

Some capacity issues may be addressed with operational changes, others may require physical works on our assets. We may identify where several developments would benefit from a larger network reinforcement programme to serve them all where significant growth is taking place in close proximity.


Part of our evaluation looks at the risk of flooding incidents arising from the additional flow of material in terms of 'hydraulic overload'. This means we consider whether there is enough room in the pipes for the likely maximum flow from the connection itself. This assessment does not include random events such as ingress of water from broken pipes, changes in flow arising from blockages or unidentified additional flows from misconnections, these are dealt with through other processes outside of our asset growth planning team as they are operational incidents.

Network Capacity is independent of capacity at the WWTW and growth is planned in a different way though in some cases we may have parallel projects to both reinforce both the network and upgrade the treatment works but this is often not required.

For full details of our connection charging arrangement visit: Connection charging arrangements (southernwater.co.uk)

Southern Water, Southern House, Yeoman Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 3NX
southernwater.co.uk

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



Southern Water has undertaken a capacity check of the impact that the additional foul sewerage flows from the proposed development will have on the existing public sewer network. This study indicates that these additional flows may lead to a minor increased risk of impact on the sewer network.

Proposed new pumping station located within the development Site

If the applicant proposes to offer a new on-site drainage and pumping station for adoption as part of the foul/surface water public sewerage system, this would have to be designed and constructed to the specification of Southern Water Services Ltd.

<https://landsearch.southernwater.co.uk/media/4323/southern-water-design-and-construction-specification-water-codes-for-adoption.pdf>

In order to protect the amenity of prospective residents, no habitable rooms shall be located within 15 metres to the boundary of the proposed adoptable pumping station, due to the potential odour, vibration and noise generated by all types of pumping stations.

Condition

Construction of the development shall not commence until details of the proposed means of foul/surface water drainage disposal respecting the requirement for a non-habitable zone around the adoptable pumping station and suitable access arrangements, have been submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with Southern Water.

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

The 225 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.

Tree planting

We have restrictions on the proposed tree planting adjacent to Southern Water sewers, rising mains or water mains. Reference should be made to Southern Water's publication "A Guide to Tree Planting near water Mains and Sewers"

(https://www.southernwater.co.uk/media/pddob0vn/ds-tree-planting-guide-1_nwm.pdf) and the Sewerage Sector Guidance (<https://www.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.

Condition

In order to protect public apparatus, Southern Water requests that if consent is granted, the following pre commencement condition is attached to the planning permission; The developer must advise the local authority (in consultation with Southern Water) of the landscaping proposals in proximity of public apparatus in order to protect it in accordance with Southern Water's guidance, prior to the commencement of the development.

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.

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. 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