



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

Your ref
20211478

Our ref
DSA000007007

Date
15/02/2022

Contact
Tel 0330 303 0119

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposal: Demolition of all buildings and the erection of 16 static homes restricted to those aged 55 and above, with associated management office.

Site: 20211478: - Little Acres, Longfield Avenue, Gravesend, Longfield Kent.

Thank you for your letter dated 29/12/2021.

The proposed development is directly on the unconfined Lewes Nodular Chalk (no superficial deposits present) in Source Protection Zone 2 (SPZ2), and approximately 700m west of Northfleet water supply works (WSW).

Due to the close proximity to Northfleet WSW, this is a medium risk planning application, with the proposed construction activities and communal septic tank. Therefore, hydrogeological risks need to be considered, presented in the form of a hydrogeological risk assessment, which should also set out as required enhanced groundwater protection measures. This has not been presented to date, and so we would object this planning application in its current form.

The attached plan shows that the proposed development will lie over an existing public foul sewer, which will not be acceptable to Southern Water. The exact position of the public apparatus must be determined on site by the applicant before the layout of the proposed development is finalised.

It might be possible to divert the sewer, so long as this would result in no unacceptable loss of hydraulic capacity, and the work was carried out at the developer's expense to the satisfaction of Southern Water under the relevant statutory provisions.

- The 150 mm foul sewers require a clearance of 3 metres on either side of the gravity sewers to protect it from construction works and to allow for future access for maintenance.

- No development or tree planting should be carried out within 3 metres of the external edge of the public gravity sewers without consent from Southern Water.

- No new soakaways should be located within 5 metres of a public sewers.
- All existing infrastructure should be protected during the course of construction works.

Alternatively, the applicant may wish to amend the site layout, or combine a diversion with amendment of the site layout. If the applicant would prefer to advance these options, items above also apply.

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.

In order to protect drainage apparatus, Southern Water requests that if consent is granted, a condition is attached to the planning permission; for example, the developer must advise the local authority (in consultation with Southern Water) of the measures which will be undertaken to divert the public sewers, prior to the commencement of the development.

Southern Water would not support the proposals for septic tank or private treatment plant in the presence of public foul sewerage network in the close vicinity of the development site. The foul sewerage shall be disposed in accordance with Part H1 of Building Regulations hierarchy.

It may be possible for the foul flows from the proposed development to be connected to a nearby public sewer, and the applicant shall investigate this option. Southern Water requires a formal application for a connection to the public foul 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

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.



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,

Growth Planning Team
Business Channels

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

Gravesham Borough Council