



Gravesham Borough Council
Civic Centre
Windmill Street
Kent
DA12 1AU

Your ref
20250318

Our ref
DSA000044616

Date
10th of June 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.

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

Existing Southern Water Assets

Please see the attached extract from Southern Water records showing the approximate position of our existing sewer and water main assets crossing/in the vicinity of 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.

To get in contact to confirm the exact position of the asset please visit.

https://www.southernwater.co.uk/media/ph4fk3pe/ds-location-of-rising-mains_pb.pdf


For information on required stand-off distances from public sewers please refer to:

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

Existing Gravity Sewer

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

Connection To Public Sewer

Once the location of the sewer is established, Southern Water will require 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: <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>

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.

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.

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