

Ms Natalie McIvor
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
Herts
AL8 6AE

Reference Number: 6/2022/2300/COND

31 December 2022

Dear Ms McIvor

DESCRIPTION: Submission of details pursuant to condition numbers - 1 (Construction Management Plan), 5 (Surface Water Strategy), 6 (Surface Water Scheme), 7 (Drainage), 8 (Foundation), 9 (Design Plan), 10 (Accessible Housing Scheme), 11 (Highway Improvement), 12 (Samples), 13 (Hard Landscaping), 14 (Soft Landscaping), 15 (Hard landscaping - roof garden), 16 (external lighting), 17 (Cycle Store), 18 (Cycle Store under-croft/Open air), 19 (Balcony Screens), 20 (Energy & Sustainability Statement), 21 (PV Cells Plan), 22 (Bat & Bird Boxes), 23 (Noise Compliance), 24 (Noise Compliance), 26 - (SuDS), 27 (Access), 28 (EV Charging Points), 29 (Parking), 30 (Bin Stores), 31 (Roof Gardens), on planning permission 6/2020/3222/MAJ

LOCATION: Beadles Volkswagen Van Centre, Harpsfield Broadway, Hatfield, AL10 9TF

Thank you for notification with regards to the supplementary information relating to planning application 6/2022/2300/COND.

We have reviewed the additional comments referenced 012150 – DES-Volkswagen Hatfield that were supplied on 2nd December 2022 and provides additional details addressing conditions 8 and 22. Our response will only consider the remarks referring to condition 8.

Affinity Water continues to hold its **objection** to condition 8 and this is due to the piling depth mentioned in the supporting document.

Our concern as mentioned in our initial response (dated 1st November 2022) is that the proposed piling depth finishes at the top of the Lower Sand and Gravel aquifer which is hydraulically connected with the Chalk aquifer below (principal aquifer). These geological units have recorded elevated levels of Bromate linked to historic contamination which is currently controlled by scavenging activity undertaken by Affinity Water. The piling depth proposed will penetrate the Boulder Clay layer that separates the Upper Gravel aquifer (secondary aquifer) from the Lower Gravels and Chalk, potentially creating a pathway that would hydraulically link the two aquifers allowing the Bromate to bypass active scavenging activities and affect local third-party groundwater abstractions (from the secondary aquifer) and groundwater-dependent ecosystems.

In order to consider removal of our objection of condition 8, we would require that piling does not exceed a depth below 62mAOD (a minimum of 2m above the base of the Boulder Clay, based on the limited information available from the two onsite boreholes). We expect



that once the piling method statement has been updated, we would get the opportunity to review prior to discharging condition 8.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Cook
Assest Scientist - Hydrogeology
Environmental Planning
planning@affinitywater.co.uk
matt.cook@affinitywater.co.uk