

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council  
The Campus,  
Welwyn Garden City,  
Herts.  
AL8 6AE

Reference Number: 6/2019/1411/MAJ

4 July 2019

Dear Madam/Sir

**DESCRIPTION:** Erection of a multi-franchise car dealership (sui generis use) with offices (B1 use class), workshops (B2 use class) and car storage (B8 use class), together with car parking, cycle parking, boundary treatment, landscaping, lighting and access

**LOCATION:** Plot 5100 Mosquito Way Hatfield Business Park Hatfield AL10 9WN

Thank you for notification of the above planning application. Planning applications are referred to us where our input on issues relating to water quality or quantity may be required.

You should be aware that the proposed development site is located within an Environment Agency defined groundwater Source Protection Zone (SPZ) corresponding to Hatfield Pumping Station. This is a public water supply, comprising a number of Chalk abstraction boreholes, operated by Affinity Water Ltd.

We are writing to object to this Application because we are concerned, for the reasons set out below, that it has the potential to impact adversely the public water supply. If you are minded to approve the Application, it is essential these concerns are addressed.

1. The construction works and operation of the proposed development site should be done in accordance with the relevant British Standards and Best Management Practices, thereby significantly reducing the groundwater pollution risk. It should be noted that the construction works may exacerbate any existing pollution. If any pollution is found at the site then the appropriate monitoring and remediation methods will need to be undertaken.
2. Any works involving excavations below the chalk groundwater table (for example, piling or the implementation of a geothermal open/closed loop system) should be avoided. If these are necessary, a ground investigation should first be carried out to identify appropriate techniques and to avoid displacing any shallow contamination to a greater depth, which could impact the chalk aquifer.
3. There is risk for piling to create pathways between the upper gravel aquifer and chalk aquifer. These upper gravel aquifers may introduce further contamination such as Nitrates and Metaldehyde to the chalk aquifer which is already contaminated with bromate. Also additional water from the gravel aquifer to the chalk risks a change in the hydraulic gradient resulting in a change in the direction of the bromate plume.

4. Excavations are likely to generate turbidity in the chalk aquifer, which could travel to the public water abstraction point and cause disruption to the service. Mitigation measures should be secured by way of condition to minimise this risk. We would also want to receive at least 15 days prior notification from the developer in advance of any such works, in order to intensify our monitoring and plan potential interruption of the service. We would be willing to discuss this with the applicant to ensure that appropriate measures can be put in place.
5. Surface water should not be disposed of via direct infiltration into the ground via a soakaway. This is due the potential presence of contaminated land and the risk for contaminants to remobilise and cause groundwater pollution. This is also due to the likelihood of surface water from the car park and valet area to carry on oil and hydrocarbons.
6. If any tanks or generators are to be installed as part of the development, they will need to have secondary containment which can hold 110% of the volume the tank or generator is designed to contain. A form of leakage detection is also recommended. This would help prevent further pollution in the event of a spillage or leak.

For further information we refer you to CIRIA Publication C532 "Control of water pollution from construction - guidance for consultants and contractors".

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Laurence Chalk  
Catchment Officer  
Catchment Management

Tel Number: 07795 637091

Email address: [laurence.chalk@affinitywater.co.uk](mailto:laurence.chalk@affinitywater.co.uk)