

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

Reference Number: 6/2018/2768/OUTLINE

12 December 2018

Dear Madam/Sir

DESCRIPTION: Outline application for a large-scale mixed use development including 1,100 new homes and supporting infrastructure including a primary school, local centre and open space with all matters reserved

LOCATION: Hatfield Business Park Hatfield AL10 9SL

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 near an Environment Agency defined groundwater Source Protection Zone (GPZ) corresponding to Hatfield Pumping Station operated by Affinity Water Ltd..

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.

Where piling foundation works are implemented, the suitability of the piling technique should consider the findings of the ground investigation. If shallow contamination is found, then the piling technique should avoid displacing this to a greater depth and potentially impacting the chalk aquifer.

The piling works, if extended into the saturated zone of the Chalk aquifer are likely to generate turbidity; turbidity in the Chalk from the site work can migrate to a public water abstraction point and potentially cause disruption of the service. We recommend that a groundwater risk assessment be undertaken and appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place to minimise this risk. We also request notification with at least 15 days in advance prior to any piling work commencing, in order to intensify the monitoring and plan for potential interruption of the service.

If other drilling activities not linked to piling but extending into the saturated zone of the Chalk aquifer are taking place, we should be notified. These activities might be related to open or closed loop geothermal heating and cooling systems. This can cause turbidity during the drilling operation as well as potential contamination from re circulation of fluids or abstraction and injection of groundwater. Please refer to EA guidance.



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.

We are concerned at the potential for the below boulder clay to be excavated, which could create more pathways to the Chalk/lower gravel aquifer, but the proposed drainage and sewerage network should mitigate the risk.

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

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