

The Planning Inspectorate
3 rd Floor,
Temple Quay House,
2 The Square,
Temple Quay
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Reference Number: S62A/2024/0057

21 August 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

DESCRIPTION: Erection of 91no. dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping. Provision of playing field and associated clubhouse.

LOCATION: Former Friends School Field, Mount Pleasant Lane, Saffron Walden, CB11 3EA

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.

Water quality

You should be aware that the proposed development site is located within an Environment Agency defined groundwater Source Protection Zone (SPZ) corresponding to our Pumping Station (Debden Road). This is a public water supply, comprising a number of abstraction boreholes, 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.

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.

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

Water efficiency

Being within a water stressed area, we expect that the development includes water efficient fixtures and fittings. Measures such as rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling help the environment by reducing pressure for abstractions. They also minimise potable water use by reducing the amount of potable water used for washing, cleaning and watering gardens. This in turn reduces the carbon emissions associated with treating this water to a standard suitable for drinking and will help in our efforts to get emissions down in the borough.

Infrastructure connections and diversions

There are potentially water mains running through or near to part of proposed development site. If the development goes ahead as proposed, the applicant/developer will need to get in contact with our Developer Services Team to discuss asset protection or diversionary measures. This can be done through the My Developments Portal ([redacted]) or [redacted]

To apply for a new or upgraded connection, please contact our Developer Services Team by going through their My Developments Portal ([redacted]) or [redacted]. The Team also handle C3 and C4 requests to cost potential water mains diversions. If a water mains plan is required, this can also be obtained by emailing maps@affinitywater.co.uk. Please note that charges may apply.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Ivan Bogoliubov
Environmental Projects Assistant
Environmental Planning
[redacted]