

10th December 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

DESCRIPTION: Erection of up to 41 dwellings with associated infrastructure and open space (all matters reserved except means of access).

LOCATION: Land At Mill Lane London Road St Ippolyts Hitchin SG4 7NN

Thank you for your notification of this planning application. These are referred to our team where our input on issues relating to groundwater impact may be required. For water supply, infrastructure protection and mains diversions please get in contact with our Developer Services Team via the "My Developments Portal" <https://affinitywater.custhelp.com/> or aw_developerservices@custhelp.com at the earliest opportunity to avoid delays.

You should be aware that the proposed development site is located within an Environment Agency defined groundwater Source Protection Zone (SPZ) which corresponds to our abstraction boreholes WELL for public water supply.

Provided that the below conditions are implemented and it has been demonstrated that public water supply will not be impacted, we would have no objections to the development.

Contamination through **Ground Works:**

If any works involving excavations are necessary, then the following condition needs to be implemented:

Condition 1

Prior to the commencement of the development, no works involving excavations (e.g. for foundations (e.g. piling), drainage (e.g. infiltration), geothermal system etc.) shall be carried until the following has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with Affinity Water:

- An **Intrusive Ground Investigation** to identify the current state of the site and appropriate techniques to avoid displacing any shallow contamination to a greater depth.
- A **Remediation Strategy/Report** if found to be needed following the results of the intrusive investigation detailing how contamination (if found) will be

dealt with. The remediation strategy shall be implemented as approved with a robust pre and post monitoring plan to determine its effectiveness.

- A **Risk Assessment** identifying both the aquifer and the abstraction point(s) as potential receptor(s) of contamination.
- A **Foundations Works Method Statement and Risk Assessment** detailing the **depth** and **type** of excavations (e.g. piling) to be undertaken including **mitigation measures** (e.g., appropriate piling design, off site monitoring boreholes etc.) to prevent or minimise any potential migration of pollutants to public water supply. Any excavations must be undertaken in accordance with the terms of the approved method statement.

Reason: To avoid displacing any shallow contamination to a greater depth and to prevent and/or minimise any potential migration of pollutants to a public water supply abstraction.

Contamination **during construction:**

Construction works may exacerbate any known or previously unidentified contamination. If any pollution is found at the site, then works should cease immediately and appropriate monitoring and remediation will need to be undertaken to avoid any impact on water quality in the chalk aquifer.

Condition 2

If, during development, contamination not previously identified is found to be present at the site, then no further development shall be carried out until the following has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with Affinity Water:

- A **Remediation Strategy/Report** detailing how contamination will be dealt with. The remediation strategy shall be implemented as approved with a robust pre and post monitoring plan to determine its effectiveness.

Reason: To ensure that the development does not contribute to unacceptable concentrations of pollution posing a risk to public water supply from previously unidentified contamination sources at the development site and to prevent deterioration of groundwater and/or surface water.

Contamination through **Surface Water Drainage:**

Surface water drainage should use appropriate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems that prevent the mobilisation of any contaminants where a direct pathway to the aquifer is present. This should use appropriate techniques that prevent **direct pathways** into the aquifer and that ensure sufficient **capacity** is provided for all surface water to be dealt with on site, preventing consequential flooding elsewhere.

Condition 3

Prior to the commencement of development, no works shall be carried out until the following has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with Affinity Water:

- A **Surface Water Drainage Scheme** demonstrating appropriate use of sustainable urban drainage systems that prevent the mobilisation of any contaminants ensuring protection of surface and groundwater.

Reason: Surface water drainage can mobilise contaminants into the aquifer through infiltration in areas impacted by ground contamination. Surface water also has the potential to become contaminated and can enter the aquifer through open pathways, either created for drainage or moved towards existing open pathways where existing drainage has reached capacity. All have the potential to impact public water supply.

Issues arising from any of the above can cause critical abstractions to switch off resulting in the immediate need for water to be sourced from another location, which incurs significant costs and risks of loss of supply during periods of high demand.

Informative

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

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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

David Gallacher
Catchment Scientist
Catchment Management
planning@affinitywater.co.uk
David.gallacher@affinitywater.co.uk