

Uttlesford District Council  
London Road,  
Saffron Walden,  
CB11 4ER

Reference Number: UTT/25/2203/SO

19 August 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

**DESCRIPTION:** Request for Scoping Opinion for - Up to 520 new homes (Use Class C3) and up to 20,000 sqm of commercial floor space with public open space, new access, active travel routes between the Birchanger Site and Stansted Mountfitchet and Sustainable Urban Drainage System

**LOCATION:** Land North Of Birchanger And South Of Stansted

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

We have reviewed the planning application documents and we can confirm that the site is not located within an Environment Agency defined groundwater Source Protection Zone (SPZ) or close to our abstractions.

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 any works involving excavations below the chalk groundwater table (for example, piling or the implementation of a geothermal open/closed loop system), 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.

We currently offer a discount to the infrastructure charge for each new development where evidence of a water efficiency design to a standard of 110litres (or less) per person per day is expected. The discount value for the charging period 2023/24 is £258. For more information visit [Water efficiency credits \(affinitywater.co.uk\)](https://affinitywater.co.uk/Water_efficiency_credits).

## 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 (<https://affinitywater.custhelp.com/>) or [aw\\_developerservices@custhelp.com](mailto:aw_developerservices@custhelp.com).

Due to its location, Affinity Water will supply drinking water to the development in the event that it is constructed. Should planning permission be granted, the applicant is also advised to contact Developer Services as soon as possible regarding supply matters due to the increased demand for water in the area resulting from this development.

To apply for a new or upgraded connection, please contact our Developer Services Team by going through their My Developments Portal (<https://affinitywater.custhelp.com/>) or [aw\\_developerservices@custhelp.com](mailto:aw_developerservices@custhelp.com). 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](mailto:maps@affinitywater.co.uk). Please note that charges may apply.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Goldsmith  
Environmental Projects Officer  
Environmental Planning  
[planning@affinitywater.co.uk](mailto:planning@affinitywater.co.uk)