



Mid Sussex District Council  
Oaklands  
Oaklands Road  
Haywards Heath  
West Sussex  
RH16 1SS

Your ref  
DM/25/0708

Our ref  
DSA000043126

Date  
16<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Contact  
Tel 0330 303 0119

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Proposal:** Redevelopment of the site to provide 5 dwelling houses with associated amenity space and parking.

**Site:** Firs Farm, Copthorne Common, Copthorne, Crawley.

Thank you for your correspondence. Please see our comments below regarding the above planning consultation application.

### **Tree planting**

We have restrictions on the proposed tree planting adjacent to Southern Water sewers, rising mains or water mains. Reference should be made to Southern Water's publication "A Guide to Tree Planting near water Mains and Sewers"

([https://www.southernwater.co.uk/media/pddob0vn/ds-tree-planting-guide-1\\_nwm.pdf](https://www.southernwater.co.uk/media/pddob0vn/ds-tree-planting-guide-1_nwm.pdf))

and the Sewerage Sector Guidance (<https://www.water.org.uk/sewerage-sector-guidance-approved-documents/>) with regards to any landscaping proposals and our restrictions and maintenance of tree planting adjacent to sewers, rising mains and water mains.

### **Condition:**

In order to protect public apparatus, Southern Water requests that if consent is granted, the following pre commencement condition is attached to the planning permission; The developer must advise the local authority (in consultation with Southern Water) of the landscaping proposals in proximity of public apparatus in order to protect it in accordance with Southern Water's guidance, prior to the commencement of the development.

### **Proposed soakaways**

The Council's Building Control officers or technical staff should be asked to comment on the adequacy of soakaways to dispose of surface water from the proposed development. No new soakaways should be located within 5 metres of a public or adoptable gravity sewer, rising main or water main.

No Soakaways should be connected to the public surface water sewer.

### **Proposed SUDS features**

If it is the intention of the developer for Southern Water to adopt the proposed SuDS, the system shall be designed and constructed in line with the Design and Construction Guidance [www.water.org.uk/sewerage-sector-guidance-approved-documents/](http://www.water.org.uk/sewerage-sector-guidance-approved-documents/)

The supporting documents make reference to drainage using Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). Where SuDS form part of a continuous sewer system, and are not an isolated end of pipe SuDS component, adoption of SuDS will be considered if requested by the developer if they comply with: Design and Construction Guidance (Appendix C), CIRIA guidance and Southern Water SuDS Guidance available here:

<https://www.water.org.uk/sewerage-sector-guidance-approved-documents/>

<https://www.ciria.org/ItemDetail?iProductCode=C753F&Category=FREEPUBS>

<https://www.southernwater.co.uk/media/l4ndl3db/suds-final-080824.pdf>

Where SuDS rely upon facilities which are not adoptable by sewerage undertakers the applicant will need to ensure that arrangements exist for the long-term maintenance of the SuDS facilities. It is critical that the effectiveness of these systems is maintained in perpetuity. Good management will avoid flooding from the proposed surface water system, which may result in the inundation of the foul sewerage system.

Thus, where a SuDS scheme is to be implemented, the drainage details submitted to the Local Planning Authority should:


- Specify the responsibilities of each party for the implementation of the SuDS scheme.
- Specify a timetable for implementation.
- Provide a management and maintenance plan for the lifetime of the development.

This should include the arrangements for adoption by any public authority or statutory undertaker and any other arrangements to secure the operation of the scheme throughout its lifetime.

This initial assessment does not prejudice any future assessment or commit to any adoption agreements under Section 104 of the Water Industry Act 1991.

### **Septic tank proposed**

The Environment Agency should be consulted directly by the applicant regarding the use of a septic tank drainage which disposes of effluent to sub-soil irrigation.



For further advice, please contact Southern Water, Southern House, Yeoman Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 3NX (Tel: 0330 303 0119).

Website: [southernwater.co.uk](https://southernwater.co.uk) or by email at: [SouthernWaterPlanning@southernwater.co.uk](mailto:SouthernWaterPlanning@southernwater.co.uk)

Yours faithfully,  
Future Growth Planning Team  
[southernwater.co.uk/developing-building/planning-your-development](https://southernwater.co.uk/developing-building/planning-your-development)