

Horsham District Council
Development Control
Park House North Street
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 1RL

Our ref: HA/2026/127522/01-L01
Your ref: DC/26/0266
Date: 09 March 2026

Dear Case Officer,

DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE TO PROVIDE 150 DWELLINGS, INCLUDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING, LAND FOR THE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST, WORKS TO PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY AND ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING, OPEN SPACE AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

THAKEHAM MUSHROOMS, STORRINGTON ROAD, THAKEHAM, PULBOROUGH, WEST SUSSEX, RH20 3DY.

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the above application.

We have reviewed the information as submitted and set out our position below.

Environment Agency position

We have **no objection** to the proposed development as submitted, provided that the following conditions be attached to any planning permission granted, and that the details in relation to this condition be submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

Groundwater protection

The previous use of the proposed development site as an agricultural site with oil storage presents a medium risk of contamination that may mobilise during site works and construction to pollute controlled waters. Controlled waters are particularly sensitive in this location because the proposed development site is within Source Protection Zone 2 and is located upon secondary aquifer A overlying a principal aquifer.

The submitted 'Geo-environmental and Geotechnical Investigation' document (ref: 305276-R01 (00)) is considered to demonstrate that it will be possible to manage the risks posed to controlled waters by this development. Further detailed information is however required before built development is undertaken. We believe that it would place an unreasonable burden on the developer to ask for more detailed information prior to the granting of planning permission but respect that this is a decision for the

LPA. However, these details should be secured prior to commencement of the development.

It is noted there are existing boreholes on site which may present a preferential pathway for potential contamination. Taking into account the sensitivity of water resources in the locality it is considered that appropriate steps should be taken to mitigate or avoid infiltration of surface water and manage risks associated with other penetrative elements.

In light of the above, the proposed development will be acceptable, if planning conditions are included requiring the submission of a detailed land contamination management strategy. This should be carried out by a competent person in line with paragraph 196 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Without the following conditions we would object to the proposed development in line with paragraph 187 of the NPPF because it cannot be guaranteed that the development will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate or will not be put at unacceptable risk from, or be adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution.

Condition 1

Contamination

No development approved by this planning permission shall commence until a remediation strategy to deal with the risks associated with contamination of the site in respect of the development hereby permitted, has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. This strategy will include the following components:

1. Up to date Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA) and conceptual model following the results of an exploratory investigation
2. A detailed site investigation scheme, based on the results from (1) to provide information for a detailed risk assessment to all receptors that may be affected, including those off-site.
3. A tiered risk assessment using the results of the site investigation referred to in (2).
4. An options appraisal including sustainability and treatability studies of the remediation measures required and how they are to be undertaken.
5. A remediation strategy and verification plan providing details of the data that will be collected in order to demonstrate that the works set out in the remediation strategy are complete and identifying any requirements for longer-term monitoring of pollutant linkages, mitigation, maintenance and arrangements for contingency action.

Any changes to these components require the written consent of the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall be implemented as approved.

Reasons

To ensure that the development does not contribute to, and is not put at unacceptable risk from or adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution in line with paragraph 187 of the NPPF.

To ensure the development will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate in line with paragraph 187 of the NPPF.

Condition 2

Verification report

Prior to any part of the permitted development being occupied, a verification report demonstrating the completion of works set out in the approved remediation strategy and the effectiveness of the remediation shall be submitted to, and approved in writing, by the LPA.

The report shall include results of sampling and monitoring carried out in accordance with the approved verification plan to demonstrate that the site remediation criteria have been met.

Reasons

To ensure that the site does not pose any further risk to the land and water environment by demonstrating that the requirements of the approved verification plan have been met and that remediation of the site is complete. This is in line with paragraph 187 of the NPPF.

Condition 3

Monitoring

The development hereby permitted may not commence until such time as a detailed scheme for groundwater monitoring in respect of contamination has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the LPA.

The scheme shall, where necessary, be supported by:

- detailed sampling and analytical schedules
- programme for future maintenance and decommissioning
- schedule for submission of interim and final monitoring reports
- contingency action plan including the list of potential mitigation measures that will be implemented, should unexpectedly changes in groundwater quality be noted as a result of decommissioning or redevelopment works.

The scheme shall be fully implemented and subsequently maintained, in accordance with the timing/phasing arrangements embodied within the scheme, or any details as may subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the LPA.

Reasons

To ensure that the site does not pose any further risk to the water environment by managing any ongoing contamination issues and completing all necessary long-term remediation measures. This is in line with paragraph 187 of the NPPF.

Condition 4

Previously Unidentified Contamination

If, during development, contamination not previously identified is found to be present at the site then no further development (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the LPA) shall be carried out until further investigation and a remediation strategy detailing how this contamination will be dealt with has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the LPA. The remediation strategy shall be implemented as approved.

Reasons

To ensure that the development does not contribute to, and is not put at unacceptable risk from or adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution from previously unidentified contamination sources at the development site. This is in line with paragraph 187 of the NPPF.

Condition 5

Restriction on surface water drainage

No drainage systems for the infiltration of surface water to the ground are permitted other than with the written consent of the LPA. Any proposals for such systems must be supported by an assessment of the risks to controlled waters. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reasons

To ensure that the development does not contribute to, and is not put at unacceptable risk from or adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution caused by mobilised contaminants. This is in line with paragraph 187 of the NPPF.

Condition 6

Boreholes

A scheme for managing any borehole on site shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall provide details of how redundant boreholes are to be decommissioned and how any boreholes that need to be retained, post-development, for monitoring purposes will be secured, protected and inspected. The scheme shall be fully implemented and subsequently maintained, in accordance with the scheme, or any changes as may subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the LPA.

Reasons

To ensure that redundant boreholes are safe and secure, and do not pose an unacceptable risk of groundwater pollution or loss of water supplies in line with paragraph 187 of the NPPF and Position Statement A8 of [‘The Environment Agency’s approach to groundwater protection’](#).

Condition 7

Piling

The Piling using penetrative method hereby permitted by the LPA may not commence

until such time as a scheme has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the LPA.

The scheme shall be based on the information submitted as part of the application and, where necessary, supported by:

- Foundation Works Risk Assessment including risks of downward contamination mobilisation
- A conceptual site model
- Specification of the type, number and depth of proposed piles/ foundations/ dimensions of shaft/tunnel/ design of heating and cooling system
- A contingency action plan including the list of potential mitigation measures that will be implemented, should unexpected changes in groundwater quality be noted as a result of decommissioning piling works.

The scheme shall be fully implemented and subsequently maintained, in accordance with the timing/phasing arrangements contained in the scheme, or any details as may subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the LPA.

Reasons

To ensure that the proposed piling, does not harm groundwater resources in line with paragraph 187 of the NPPF and Position Statement A3 of [The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection](#).

Advice to applicant

Land contamination: risk management and good practice

We recommend that developers should:

- Follow the risk management framework provided in [Land Contamination: Risk Management](#), when dealing with land affected by contamination. This guidance describes the type of information that we require in order to assess risks to controlled waters from the site - the local authority can advise on risk to other receptors, such as human health.
- Consider using the [National Quality Mark Scheme for Land Contamination Management](#) which involves the use of competent persons to ensure that land contamination risks are appropriately managed
- Refer to the [contaminated land](#) pages for more information

Waste on-site

Developers should ensure that all contaminated materials are adequately characterised both chemically and physically, and that the environmental permitting status of any proposed on-site operations are clear. If in doubt, the Environment Agency should be contacted for advice at an early stage to avoid any delays.

We recommend that developers should refer to the [waste management](#) page on GOV.UK.

We will consider any queries in relation to the use of [Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice \(DoWCoP\)](#) (which is to be updated) through our environmental permitting enhanced pre-application advice service, considering site

conditions, the materials that are proposed to be used, and the potential for harm to the environment and to human health. We can also provide advice as to whether an environmental permit is required.

Waste to be taken off-site

Contaminated soil that is (or must be) disposed of, is waste. Therefore, its handling, transport, treatment and disposal are subject to waste management legislation, which includes:

- Duty of Care Regulations 1991
- Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005
- Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016
- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011

Developers should ensure that all contaminated materials are adequately characterised both chemically and physically in line with [British Standard BS EN 14899:2005 'Characterization of Waste - Sampling of Waste Materials - Framework for the Preparation and Application of a Sampling Plan'](#) and that the permitting status of any proposed treatment or disposal activity is clear. If in doubt, the Environment Agency should be contacted for advice at an early stage to avoid any delays.

If the total quantity of hazardous waste material produced or taken off site is 500kg or greater in any 12-month period, the developer will need to register with us as a hazardous waste producer. Refer to the [hazardous waste](#) pages on GOV.UK for more information.

If you have any queries regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to contact the advisor identified below.

Yours faithfully,

Environment Agency – Solent & South Downs

Sustainable Places Advisor: John Fanning
Direct e-mail John.Fanning@environment-agency.gov.uk