United Utilities Water Limited
Haweswater House
Lingley Mere Business Park
Lingley Green Avenue
Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LP

Telephone: 01925 237000

unitedutilities.com

Our ref: EIR-995
Date: October 2026
Email: EIRRequests@uuplc.co.uk

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your request for environmental information. We appreciate your interest, and we want to let you know that your request has been carefully considered in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR).

Your request, and our response to your specific questions, are outlined below:

I am seeking information relating to the water supply and wastewater infrastructure serving Green Lane, South Meade, West Meade, Hinchley Green and the surrounding area of Maghull, Merseyside.

This request is particularly relevant to a current proposal for approximately **258 new dwellings on Green Lane, Maghull**. I am seeking factual information about the existing infrastructure, its capacity and any known constraints, and whether it would be capable of accommodating a development of this scale without adversely affecting existing residents.

1. Existing drinking-water supply
Please provide information held by United Utilities regarding:

- **The existing drinking-water supply infrastructure serving Green Lane, South Meade, West Meade, Hinchley Green and the surrounding area.**
- **Any known capacity constraints, pressure issues or reinforcement requirements affecting this area.**
- **Whether United Utilities has assessed the ability of the existing water network to accommodate an additional 258 residential properties.**
- **Whether water-main reinforcement, additional infrastructure, pumping or other works would be required to serve a development of this scale.**
- **Any existing or historic records of interruptions, low pressure, supply problems or other water-service issues affecting this area.**

United Utilities is required to make water network plans available to view for free. If you wish to view the water-supply network infrastructure plans for this area, you can do so via United Utilities' on-line viewing facility.

Property Searches manages the appointment diary on behalf of UU Water Ltd so please contact them on 03707 510101 to book an appointment. You can read more about this on our website, here: Property Searches : United Utilities

There is no fixed measure of spare water supply capacity. Instead, future supply capability depends on a range of factors including the location and magnitude of growth across the North West, the performance of the wider water supply system, future water demand and any infrastructure investment required. As a result, capacity is not assessed as a static value, but through the supply-demand balance and network growth assessments which identify the interventions needed to support forecast development.

The amount of water available in the future is subject to a range of uncertainties. Regardless of these uncertainties, we will need to increase available supplies to meet projected demand. In addition, because our interconnected supply system covers most of the North West, we have the flexibility to develop new water resources across a wide geographic area and transfer water through the network to where it is needed. You can find further information in our Water Resources Management Plan, which can be found in the following link: Our current Water Resources Management Plan

As such, there is no specific assessment concerning the ability of the local water network to accommodate a proposed development of approximately 258 new homes. Therefore, under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, we cannot provide this information, as it is not held.

Table 1 below shows the two low pressure events that have been recorded in the local area over the past five years.

Demand Monitoring Zone (DMZ) Name	DPA Reference	DPA Name	DPA Total Properties	Event Start Date and Time	Event Finish Date and Time	Period (Hours and Minutes)
Southport	205-04-PA-01	Green Lane, Maghull	1,307	04/07/2026 12:45	04/07/2026 14:00	1 Hour 15 Min
Southport	205-04-PA-01	Green Lane, Maghull	1,260	14/04/2023 19:45	14/04/2023 22:30	2 Hour 45 Min

Table 1 – low pressure events summary

Demand Monitoring Zone (DMZ). There are currently 33 DMZs in our region, which are areas used to monitor demand and losses. All supply inputs and outputs are metered around the boundary of a DMZ. A DMZ is built up of a number of smaller units; however, these are predominantly for water quality and leakage detection purposes.

District Pressure Area (DPA). District Pressure Area is a small geographical unit used to manage pressure across our water network.

There are no recorded instances of supply problems or interruptions in this area over the past five years. As such, under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, we cannot provide this information, as it is not held.

2. Wastewater and sewer capacity
Please provide information held regarding:

- **The existing foul-water/sewer network serving the Green Lane, South Meade, West Meade and Hinchley Green area.**
- **Any known capacity constraints within this network.**
- **Whether the existing sewer network has sufficient capacity for an additional 258 dwellings.**

- **Any hydraulic modelling, capacity assessments or other technical assessments undertaken by United Utilities relating to development or capacity in this area.**
- **Whether sewer reinforcement, upsizing, additional pumping capacity, storage or other infrastructure would be required to accommodate 258 additional dwellings.**

United Utilities is required to make sewer plans available to view for free. If you wish to view the foul/wastewater sewer network plans for this area, you can do so via United Utilities' on-line viewing facility.

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Maghull is in the drainage catchment for Hillhouse Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW). United Utilities does not undertake 'headroom/capacity' assessments; instead, we undertake annual Dry Weather Flow (DWF) assessments based on the flow limit stated within each sites' environmental permit. These assessments help us understand environmental impact, plant capacity and regulatory compliance risks. This is known as a 'Q90' assessment.

The Q90 is a statistical flow metric representing the daily volume of wastewater treated at the works that is exceeded 90% of the time so the lowest 10% will be the flows received by the works under 'dry' conditions, and therefore the representation of the domestic/commercial flows alone, without the impact of rainfall.

The Q90 is typically calculated by gathering a full year (365 days) of total daily volume (TDV) data from a site, then sorting the 365 individual values from lowest to highest. The Q90 is then the 10th percentile value within that list of ascending data. This means that this is the flow rate, over a year, that is exceeded 90% of the time.

For the 2025 calendar year we have calculated the Q90 at Hillhouse WwTW as 14,174 m^3 against the permitted value of 16,700 m^3, as set by the Environment Agency. This shows that the site is operating well within its hydraulic capacity**.**

As outlined below in our response to question 6, to date, United Utilities has only received pre-development enquiry, meaning no objections or conditions can be made by United Utilities at this point. There are currently no known capacity constraints in this area, but we will likely condition the developer to ensure the site can be adequately drained without any increase in flooding risk.

3. Existing sewer flooding and incidents
Please provide, for the above area, details of recorded incidents during approximately the last 10 years, or the longest period for which records are readily available, relating to:
- **Sewer flooding;**
- **Sewer surcharging;**
- **Sewer blockages;**
- **Sewer collapses or failures;**
- **Foul-water flooding;**
- **Internal or external sewer flooding;**
- **Pollution incidents associated with the sewer network; and**
- **Complaints or reports concerning inadequate sewer capacity.**

Where possible, please provide the date/year and general location of incidents rather than

any personal information relating to individual customers.

The enclosed appendix 1 shows all the wastewater incidents held on our systems for the 'L31 8—' postcode over the past seven years. Our INS system only contains data back to 2019, hence why this assessment has been undertaken to this period. This is in line with our data retention policy.

Customer names and addresses have been removed from the dataset. This is in line with Regulation 13 of the EIR, UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018. We have retained the postcode associated with the incident for reference.

4. South Meade / Hinchley Green storage infrastructure
I understand that United Utilities has previously provided underground storage infrastructure in the South Meade / Hinchley Green area in connection with wastewater/sewer capacity and/or flooding issues.
Please provide:

- **The correct technical description and purpose of this infrastructure;**
- **The date it was constructed;**
- **Its approximate storage capacity;**
- **The problem or capacity constraint it was designed to address;**
- **Any United Utilities assessment, report or correspondence explaining why the infrastructure was required;**
- **Whether the infrastructure remains operational;**
- **Whether it is currently considered to have spare capacity; and**
- **Whether additional wastewater generated by approximately 258 homes would require additional storage, pumping or network reinforcement.**

United Utilities previously installed a detention tank on our sewer network on Sefton Drive, near South Meade, in January 2010. The tank has 6,283 m^3 of storage capacity and was built to help reduce the sewer flooding risk at more than 30 properties in the local area. This tank remains operational to this date. There is no capacity assessment or infrastructure report associated with this asset. Likewise, there is no assessment concerning the potential need for additional storage, following the proposed development of approximately 258 new homes. As such, under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, we cannot provide this information, as it is not held.

5. Previous development assessments
Please provide any available United Utilities consultation responses, technical assessments, capacity assessments or correspondence concerning proposed housing development in the Maghull West / Green Lane / South Meade / West Meade area.
In particular, I would like to know whether previous developments in this area were considered capable of being accommodated by the existing water and sewerage infrastructure and whether infrastructure improvements were identified as necessary.

United Utilities does not hold any technical or capacity assessments documents relating to development in the Maghull West/Green Lane/South Meade/West Meade area. As such, under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, we cannot provide this information, as it is not held.

6. Current proposed 258-home development
Please confirm whether United Utilities has been consulted regarding the current proposal for approximately 258 dwellings on Green Lane, Maghull.
If so, please provide:

- **United Utilities' consultation response;**
- **Any capacity assessment undertaken;**
- **Any objections, concerns or conditions raised;**
- **Any infrastructure requirements identified;**
- **Any requirement for the developer to fund or undertake network reinforcement; and**
- **Whether United Utilities considers the existing water and wastewater infrastructure capable of accommodating the proposed development without reinforcement.**

If United Utilities has not yet assessed the proposal, please confirm this.

United Utilities did receive a pre-development enquiry earlier this year regarding this site. A copy of our response is enclosed as Appendix 2.

The development has not yet been submitted to planning, or if it recently has, then we have not been made aware of it yet, meaning no objections or conditions can be made by United Utilities at this point. United Utilities is not a statutory consultee on this development, but we will likely condition the developer to ensure the site can be adequately drained without any increase in flooding risk. The modelled risk on the wastewater network appears to be high and this scheme has been escalated to our risk management team to further investigate and identify any works that may need to be carried out.

United Utilities have not requested the developer undertake any network reinforcement works.

7. Planned infrastructure and investment
Please provide details of any planned or programmed United Utilities investment affecting the water or wastewater network in the Green Lane / South Meade / Maghull area, including:

- **The nature of the proposed works;**
- **The reason for the works;**
- **The anticipated timescale; and**
- **Whether the works are related to existing capacity, flooding, network performance or anticipated development.**

There are no major capital projects planned by United Utilities in the 2025 to 2030 (AMP8) period in the Green Lane/South Meade area. As such, under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, we cannot provide this information, as it is not held.

We hope that this response answers your request. However, if you're not satisfied with how we've handled it, you can request an internal review. To do this, please write to us at Environmental Information Office, Haweswater House, Lingley Mere, Warrington, WA5 3LP or email us at EIRRequests@uuplc.co.uk, addressing your request to [redacted] and explaining why you're unhappy with our response. We'll be very happy to review your request and ensure we've done everything we can to assist you.

Any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this response, and we will reply within 40 working days from receipt of the request for internal review.

Many thanks

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We’d love to hear your feedback on how we handled your request! If you have a moment, please complete our short survey here – your input helps us improve our service.