



Water for the North West

**United Utilities Water Limited**

Haweswater House  
Lingley Mere Business Park  
Lingley Green Avenue  
Great Sankey  
Warrington WA5 3LP

Telephone: 01925 237000

[unitedutilities.com](http://unitedutilities.com)

**Our ref:** EIR/ID435

**Date:** 03/07/2025

**Email:** [EIRRequests@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:EIRRequests@uuplc.co.uk)

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

EIR Reference: EIR/ID/435

Thank you for your request 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

**Specifically, I am seeking information that your organisation may hold regarding the siting of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) installations in relation to groundwater protection zones within your area:**

- 1. Is your organisation aware of any existing or proposed BESS installations located:**
  - a) Within Source Protection Zone 1 (SPZ1)**
  - b) Within Source Protection Zone 2 (SPZ2)**
  - c) Within close proximity or next to SPZ1 (by close proximity we could limit that to 100 meters)**
  - d) Within close proximity or next to SPZ2 (as above)**
- 2. For any such installations identified, please provide:**
  - a) the approximate location, e.g. postcode, co-ordinates or named area, whichever is easier, and**
  - b) Any associated risk assessments, environmental impact assessments or mitigation measures addressing groundwater contamination or related environmental concerns**
  - c) Details of any consultations, objections, or recommendations made by your organization in relation to such developments**
- 3. If you are aware of any applications for such installations over SPZs 1 or 2 that have been refused, would you please provide the address or the planning application reference of such proposed sites.**

Our response

We have reviewed all Battery Storage/BESS planning applications and identified those; within GPZ1, within 100m of GPZ1, within GPZ2 and within 100m of GPZ2. Please note, we use the terminology GPZ (Groundwater Protection Zone) below rather than SPZ, but the terms can be used interchangeably and mean exactly the same thing (see [Groundwater source protection zones \(SPZs\)](#) -

[GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)). Based on this information I set out below our response to the matters raised:

1. **a) & c)** Within GPZ1 and within 100m of GPZ1 - We have identified 1 application which we are in the process of responding to. Our ref: DC/25/1267, Planning application reference 25/00228/FUL (postcode L33 3AJ). Our senior engineer has been consulted and has provided detailed comments which will be set out in our formal response to the planning application. This will be available on the Council's website once submitted.

**b) & d)** Within GPZ2 and within 100m of GPZ2 – We have identified the following applications:

- Our ref: DC/23/3871, planning application reference: 23/02704/FUL (postcode L33 7TT). UU's formal comments were provide to the Local Planning Authority and are attached above. The application was approved on 30/05/24. (attached)
- Our ref: DC/23/3665, planning application reference: 23/02667/FUL (postcode L33 7TT). UU's formal comments were provide to the Local Planning Authority and are attached above. The application was approved on 30/04/24. (attached)
- Our ref: DC/23/3045, planning application reference: 23/02008/FUL (postcode L33 7TT). UU's formal comments were provided to the Local Planning Authority and are attached above. The application was approved on 30/04/25. (attached)
- Our ref: DC/25/1267, Planning application reference 25/00228/FUL (postcode L33 3AJ). Senior engineer has been consulted and has provided detailed comments which will be set out in our formal response to the planning application which will be available on the Council's website once submitted.

1. **a)** I have included the postcodes for these applications above.

**b)** Risk assessments, environmental impact assessments or mitigation measures addressing groundwater contamination or related environmental concerns are documents prepared by the applicant (where required) and where these documents have been submitted with the application, they will be available to view on the Local Planning Authority website.

**c)** Please see our attached responses, labelled using our reference numbers.

2. Based on the applications we have assessed as part of our planning application identification and assessment process, we are not aware of any applications which have been refused; albeit one has not yet been determined, and we only have information available for the applications we have commented upon and which have 'battery storage' or 'BESS' stated in the description of the proposal.

It is important to note that United Utilities is not a statutory consultee in the planning application process however the planning team proactively reviews local authority websites to identify planning applications that may impact UU assets and/or services (including GPZs). The planning team reviews all types of development including battery storage/BESS applications.

Where risk is identified these planning applications are reviewed by the relevant UU expert to assess the risk to UU's assets and/or services (including GPZs) and to provide advice on how to mitigate the risk through the planning application process. Based on this expertise UU's planning team prepares a formal response letter which is sent to the local planning authority for their consideration as part of the determination of the planning application. Where necessary UU may require that additional information is submitted to address the risk which has been identified and may request that conditions are attached to any subsequent Decision Notice, should the local authority decide that the planning application can be approved.

In instances where the risk to UU's assets and/or services has not been satisfactorily addressed or mitigated UU may object to a planning application. However, the local authority is ultimately the decision maker in the planning application process, and they do not have to reflect UU's comments or recommended conditions in their determination of a planning application.

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](mailto:EIRRequests@uuplc.co.uk), addressing your request to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [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.

Kind regards