

**Matter 11 – Policy SP13 Climate Change and Sustainable Development
Policy SP17 Renewable Energy**

United Utilities Water Limited (UUW)

Questions 7 and 14

7. Should the Policy consider development on land used for public water supply and potential mitigation measures to ensure that the development has no impact on water supply or quality?

14. Is the policy effective, justified and consistent with national planning policy? Specifically, should it ensure that the risk to water catchment land should be assessed and mitigated?

Development in water catchment areas can impact groundwater and surface water by resulting in pollution, altering flow regimes, potentially increasing flood risk from impermeable surfaces, causing sedimentation from construction runoff, and affecting water quality variables like pH.

In relation to renewable energy, such as wind farms, key impacts stem from the construction of foundations, tracks, and borrow pits, which can lower water tables or introduce pollutants. Proper management during the construction, operational, and decommissioning phases, along with thorough environmental impact assessments, is crucial to mitigate these potential effects on water resources.

Farm proposal, such as those associated with cattle can also have an impact.

As such, where proposals for any development are located on catchment land used for public water supply, policy within the local plan must ensure that careful consideration is given to the location of the proposed development and a risk assessment of the impact on public water supply may be required with the identification and implementation of any required mitigation measures including a management plan.

Example policy wording is set out below.

Development proposals on land used for public water supply catchment purposes will be required to consult with the relevant water undertaker. The first preference will be for proposals to be located away from land used for public water supply purposes. Where proposals are located on catchment land used for public water supply, careful consideration must be given to the location of the proposed development and a risk assessment of the impact on public water supply may be required with the identification and implementation of any required mitigation measures including a management plan.

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