

**Coppull Neighbourhood Plan
Consultation Statement V1.6
February 2026**

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1. Introduction

This Consultation Statement accompanies the submission of the Coppull Neighbourhood Development Plan (V4.1, March 2026). It summarises the earlier community engagement and includes a detailed analysis of representations received through the Regulation 14 consultation. It shows how the requirements of Regulations 14 and 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) have been satisfied.

2. Summary of Community Engagement

2.1 Community and Stakeholder Engagement (Pre-Regulation 14)

Community and stakeholder engagement has been undertaken throughout the plan-making process and has informed the aims and policies of the neighbourhood plan, together with evidence and data on various issues.

Engagement activities included:

- Initial residents' meeting;
- Ongoing Parish Council newsletter articles;
- Facebook;
- Residents' questionnaire;
- Use of the Place Standard tool (How Good is Our Place?);
- Later survey booklet;
- Pop Up Shops in all local pubs (at different stages);
- Resident meetings in local Legion covering transport & environmental;
- Business meetings in local Legion around any challenges they face
- Contact with all local schools.

2.2 Outcomes from Engagement

Issues raised included:

- Housing - 42% favoured small developments of under 15 homes and 64% favoured reuse of brownfield sites;
- Flooding and drainage;
- Infrastructure challenges when new developments are approved;
- Problems of water run-off, arising from recent development;
- Protection of heritage of village;

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- Conservation of red brick terraces that are original to Coppull;
- Lack of access to public transport.

These key issues and other more detailed issues raised have informed the aims and policies of the Neighbourhood Plan, underpinned by relevant data and evidence, as set out in the policy rationales.

3. Pre-Submission Consultation (Regulation 14)

3.1 How the Consultation Was Undertaken

Publicity and accessibility

The Regulation 14 consultation was advertised on the Parish Council web site and through the Coppull Parish Magazine, which is delivered to every household.

The Plan was made available on the Parish Council web site, together with links to key supporting documents.

Copies of the Neighbourhood Plan were placed in the following venues:

- Coppull Library
- Coppull Medical Practice
- Springfield Leisure Centre
- Alison Arms Pub
- Springfield Pub
- Printers Arms Pub
- Wheatsheaf Pub
- Red Herring Pub.

People were invited to respond on-line or in written form.

3.2 Legal Compliance

The consultation has undertaken against the context of Regulation 14 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and also consultation case law, including compliance with Gunning Principles. The Plan was at a 'formative stage', so capable of amendment. The Plan was made available, with supporting information, to allow 'intelligent consideration'. The consultation was open for six weeks, so allowed 'adequate time for consideration and response'. Representations made have been given 'conscientious consideration', as set out in the fourth section of this statement.

3.2 Statutory Consultees

The following table lists the statutory consultees, contacted at the beginning of the consultation period.

Organisation
Chorley Borough Council
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Lancashire County Council
Coal Authority for Chorley
Homes & Community Agency
Historic England
Natural England
Environment Agency
English Heritage
Network Rail Infrastructure Company Ltd
Marine Management
Openreach
NHS England
Electricity NW
Cadent Gas
United Utilities plc
Lancs Chamber of Commerce

4. Responses to Representations

This part of the statement summarises representations made in response to the Regulation 14 consultations, together with the Parish Council’s response.

Reference (policy or page)	Representation	Response
	<p>Natural England (letter 4th December 2025)</p> <p>Natural England does not have any specific comments on this draft neighbourhood plan.</p> <p>However, we refer you to the attached annex which covers the issues and opportunities that should be considered when preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and to the following information.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Natural England advice noted. The Neighbourhood Plan already includes policy on green and blue infrastructure, including protection of trees, water features and biodiversity.</p>
COP-3	<p>Unted Utilities (Letter dated 5th December 2025)</p> <p>Investment associated with our water and wastewater infrastructure is influenced by a number of drivers including the construction of new facilities to take account of new environmental requirements, growth, the need to respond to the carbon challenge, or the need to invest in new updated infrastructure. In our current investment period (2025-30), we are</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

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	<p>proposing the biggest investment in water and wastewater services across the North West in over 100 years. The total expenditure by U UW for the period 2025-2030 is approximately £13 billion. This includes various enhancements and improvements to infrastructure, resilience, and environmental standards.</p> <p>The drivers for investment include the Environment Act 2021, which has set a requirement to progressively reduce storm spills into the environment. Such investment will be constrained by engineering circumstances to determine the most appropriate location for additional storage to reduce spills. This may necessitate investment in constrained locations in our urban and rural environments such as in/on land in protected locations (green belt, local green space and open countryside). Consistent with meeting this obligation, U UW requests that the NP includes support for investment in water and wastewater infrastructure that is ultimately beneficial to the environment, biodiversity and our watercourses so it can be delivered in the most timely and effective manner. On this basis we request that the following wording is included within this policy:</p>	
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	<p><i>Water and wastewater infrastructure investment will be supported where the investment is needed to respond to future growth and environmental needs.</i></p> <p><i>Explanatory Text</i> <i>Infrastructure is key to the delivery of sustainable development, economic growth and environmental improvement. The Neighbourhood Plan supports infrastructure investment which facilitates the delivery of wider sustainable development and the meeting of environmental objectives by water and sewerage providers.</i></p>	<p>The suggested policy clause relates to provision by the utility provider. Although these comments are made against Policy COP-3, they appear to be more relevant to housing development.</p> <p>An edited version of the explanatory text has been added into the interpretation of Policy COP2.</p>
COP-4	<p>Please note that biodiversity mitigation / enhancement should not be located directly over water and wastewater assets or where excavation onto the asset would require removal of the biodiversity.</p>	<p>Text edited and added to the interpretation of Policy COP-4.</p>
COP-5 & Green Guidance Note	<p>Whilst we are supportive of the Green Guidance Note, we recommend that the NP / note includes additional text regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainable water management; • the role that landscaping can play in the management of surface water; • the incorporation of water efficiency measures in the delivery of new dwellings; and • the need to have regard to existing utilities in the design of a site. 	

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	<p>All these matters are critical components which contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.</p> <p>Sustainable surface water management helps to control the flows and volumes of surface water that enter the public sewer and therefore this control is an inherent component of reducing flood risk and reducing the likelihood of discharges into the region’s watercourses from sewer overflows. It is an essential component of ensuring that development contributes to achieving sustainable development.</p> <p>The landscaping of a site plays an important role in the response to climate change. We request that the landscaping of a site is intrinsically linked to surface water management opportunities and making space for water, which should be undertaken early in the design process.</p> <p>UUW recommends that the Design Note also refers to the requirement for new dwellings to implement water efficiency measures as set out in the draft local plan. The mechanism to secure water efficient development in new housing is via Building Regulations Part G. This includes a tighter standard for water efficiency of 110 litres per person per day (l/p/d) for new residential</p>	<p>Although these comments are made against COP-5 and the ‘Green Guidance Note, they are more relevant to COP-7 (Surface Water). Wording added to the interpretation of Policy COP-7.</p> <p>Text added to the interpretation of Policy COP-7.</p> <p>Reference to ‘other water efficiency measures’ added to Green Guidance Note.</p>
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	<p>development which can be implemented through local planning policy where there is a clear need based on evidence. Importantly, wider evidence confirms that this tighter standard can be implemented at minimal cost to the developer.</p> <p>On this basis, our recommended wording is set out below.</p> <p>‘All development must avoid flood risk from all sources and mitigate increased risk of storms / flooding with sustainable drainage systems.</p> <p>All applications must be supported by a strategy for foul and surface water management which applies the surface water hierarchy.</p> <p>The design of development must incorporate sustainable drainage, which is multi-functional, in accordance with the four pillars of sustainable drainage, in preference to underground piped and tanked storage systems, unless there is clear evidence why such techniques are not possible.</p> <p>The sustainable drainage must be considered early in the design process and integrated with the landscaping proposals through for example, directing surface water to permeable areas, use of permeable surfacing for driveways and the</p>	<p>Policy COP-7 amended, including an additional clause on mitigation and sustainable drainage systems.</p> <p>The remaining text has been edited and incorporated into the interpretation to Policy COP-7.</p>
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	<p>public realm, tree pits, rain gardens, soakaways, green roofs, and water butts.</p> <p>All new dwellings must achieve, as a minimum, the optional requirement set through Building Regulations Requirement G2: Water Efficiency or any future updates.'</p> <p>We request that the Desing Note also refers to the need to fully identify, and understand the implications of, any existing utility infrastructure that exists within or near to a site prior to commencing the design process. Such constraints can be material to the site design and deliverability. We therefore recommend the following advisor note for inclusion in the NP:</p> <p>'The design of proposals must identify and confirm that existing and proposed services can be incorporated into the design with appropriate offset distances from existing and proposed utility services.'</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan can't include Building Regulations requirements. No changes made.</p> <p>Text edited and added to the interpretation of Policy COP-7.</p>
<p>Allocations</p>	<p>Allocations for New Development</p> <p>We note that there are no new allocations for development in the emerging NP. If this were to change, we would request early dialogue so that we can inform the site selection process and ensure any issues that are a concern to us are highlighted to you as early as possible.</p>	<p>Comment noted and passed to the Local Planning Authority.</p>

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	<p>Our Assets</p> <p>It is important to outline the need for our assets to be fully considered in any proposals in the NP Area.</p> <p>UUW will not allow building over or in close proximity to a water main.</p> <p>UUW will not allow a new building to be erected over or in close proximity to a public sewer or any other wastewater pipeline. This will only be reviewed in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Site promoters should not assume that our assets can be diverted.</p> <p>On occasion, an asset protection matter within a site can preclude delivery of a proposed development. It is critical that site promoters / applicants engage with UUW on the detail of their design and the proposed construction works.</p> <p>All UUW assets will need to be afforded due regard in the design process for a site. This should include (amongst other things) careful consideration of landscaping and biodiversity proposals in the vicinity of our assets, any changes in levels on top of our assets, any proposed highways / crossing points over our assets, or the installation of any new services within the easement for our assets.</p> <p>We strongly recommend that the LPA advises future applicants / promoters of the importance</p>	
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	<p>of fully understanding site constraints as soon as possible, ideally before any land transaction is negotiated, so that the implications of our assets on development can be fully understood. We ask site promoters to contact U UW to understand any implications.</p>	
COP-4	<p>Environment Agency (Letter dated 1st December 2025)</p> <p>We have reviewed the neighbourhood plan and supporting documents having regard to these topics and we would offer the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy COP4 – the second part of this policy is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>2. Development should preserve and avoid causing harm to</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>the river Yarrow and its banks and environs</i> - <i>the network of local brooks and their environs</i> - <i>Coppull's historic industrial ponds and their environs</i> <p><i>We would recommend that this policy is expanded to include a requirement that new development also seeks to enhance these features as well as protect them, where possible.</i></p>	<p>Wording of Policy COP-4 amended to include 'take opportunities to enhance'.</p>
COP-7	<p>Policy COP7 – We would recommend that a third requirement is added to this policy to ensure that all new development incorporates sustainable</p>	<p>Policy amended and additional clause added also in response to United Utilities comments).</p>

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	drainage systems (SUDS) unless evidence demonstrates why SUDS would not be appropriate.	
COP-6	Movement – while the increased use of electric vehicles is identified as a potential issue over the plan period, Policy COP6 does not go on to set any requirements as to how development in Coppull may be expected to accommodate this, such as through the installation of car charging points in new development.	Charging points are normally permitted development, or in new development are dealt with by Building Regulations. No changes made.
	Infrastructure priorities – one of the priorities of the Neighbourhood Plan is to spend community infrastructure levy funding and S106 monies on the “reinforcement and enhancement of ponds”. It is not clear what is meant by “reinforcement” of ponds – should the priority be the retention and enhancement of ponds?	Wording changed to ‘retention’.