

New sewerage adoptions codes, sustainable urban drainage systems and surface water management

1. Why are public sewer records not included as part of the pre-development responses?
 - a. Water and sewer main records are products offered by companies other than the water wholesaler, so we would need to look into the legalities of being able to provide this as part of our service.
2. Could we specify a point of connection on pre-development responses?
 - a. This is something we are looking into as part of the service we will be offering from 01 April, this would be wherever possible, as we stipulate that you're allowed to connect foul drains to the nearest gravity sewer.
3. How does the customer apply for trade effluent consent for a swimming pool?
 - a. Please see our website for an explanation of the process for trade effluent www.unitedutilities.com/Business-services/trade-effluent/
4. If a site was designed in line with Sewer for Adoption (SfA) 6th during the sixth month transition period and discussions are held with United Utilities to move towards a solution, but planning/S104 approval is not confirmed by the October deadline, would the designer/customer be expected to go back a start the whole process again?
 - a. We will always discuss what is the best option is for you.
5. What type of evidence would the customer be expected to provide in order to rule out infiltration as an option without undertaking BRE365 testing?
 - a. United Utilities would need consideration that infiltration based drainage has been considered in line with the drainage hierarchy as outlined in Paragraph 80 of the National Planning Practice Guidance and now the Design and Construction Guidance document.

If in-situ testing is not considered feasible, we would need to see evidence to discount this option. Evidence should ideally be in the form of in-situ ground or site investigation, or where this is not feasible, desk based information. When making this assessment, we would need to be confident that all sources used arrive at a similar conclusion. The type of information we would expect to be used could include:

- British Geological Survey Infiltration SuDS mapping
- In-situ or British Geological Survey borehole logs
- British Geological Survey geological mapping
- Desk based or In-situ contamination assessments
- In-situ or CEH groundwater logging data
- Soilscales online soil drainage assessment
- Topographic or Lidar data.

6. Can United Utilities use S98 powers to drain to a watercourse?
 - a. Unfortunately not, we do not have the necessary powers.

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7. Is United Utilities happy to rule out infiltration prior to infiltration tests if soil investigation (SI) reports demonstrate that the ground is not suitable?
 - a. If the quality of information provided is good then yes, it's something we would consider.
8. Can United Utilities assist with CCTV surveys to confirm sewer levels?
 - a. This is not a service we currently provide, however we now have a much simpler process which makes it easier for the operational teams with the right equipment to access our network.
9. What qualifications are required for contractors so they can access the United Utilities' network to complete such surveys?
 - a. Staff need City and Guilds (confined spaces) to go into the sewers, if they're not entering a sewer they would need 'Zone 2 EX-rated' drainage camera systems which are designed so there is less chance of them generating a spark.
10. Has the storage requirements for adoptable networks changed as there's nothing specifically mentioned in comparison to SFA 6th Edition eg no surcharge in a two years, no flooding in a 30 years etc?
 - a. It's a 30 year event, moving to 100 year plus Climate Change.
11. Will United Utilities consider geo-cellular crates for adoption?
 - a. Yes. When offering sewers for adoption, the designer must consider the access and maintenance of the component and ensure that any proprietary product satisfies the relevant structural checks as outlined within CIRIA Report C737 'Structural and Geotechnical Design of Modular Geocellular Drainage Systems'. Sewers that do not provide adequate access will not be considered for adoption.
12. Is United Utilities increasing the number of staff to deal with the adoption of SuDS?
 - a. Yes, we have planned for future growth.
13. Is United Utilities planning to provide a list of standards for infiltration?
 - a. Please refer to the CIRIA manual.
14. Would United Utilities look to now adopt SuDS features that have been included within a current S104 application that has been granted technical acceptance, but has not progressed to maintenance or adoption ie construction has not yet started on site.
 - a. We will review anything that is currently at this stage of the process.
15. How do we inform United Utilities if we wish to use Design, Construction Guidance or SFA 6th edition for a new S104 application between April and October 2020?
 - a. When sending in the application please let us know in your email which document you are using so the engineer knows which way you wish to progress.
16. Could the CEH link to the rainfall/groundwater levels as well as the British Geological Society geological report online link be circulated?
 - a. Please see below.

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Useful links

http://nora.nerc.ac.uk/id/eprint/526883/1/HS_202001.pdf

This link takes you to the latest version (January 2020) of the monthly Hydrological Summary for the UK and issued by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH). There is normally a month's delay in publishing this information due to data collection requirements. However, you will find it a very useful informative as part of any site specific flood risk assessment. The informative is not detailed but it provides a useful benchmark from which to consider both rainfall patterns and the subsequent response in groundwater levels both in terms of timing and level horizon. Likewise, possible ground investigation requirements. In addition, the CEH produces annual summaries and/or reports specific to a particular flood event. The information is free to download.

<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/products/hydrogeology/infiltrationSuds.html>

This is a link to the British Geological Society (BGS) SuDS infiltration maps – the data includes other data/mapping that can also inform a site specific flood risk assessment and initial SuDS infiltration evaluation. The cost of this information is very affordable.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mining-and-groundwater-constraints-for-development>

Government guidance relating to mining and groundwater constraints and the potential restrictions on SuDS infiltration drainage.