

Adoption of lateral drains guidance notes

If you so wish you can apply to Anglian Water to adopt your new lateral drain. The lateral drain is the section of drain from the property boundary to the point of connection with the public sewer. Should you decide to pursue this option an additional fee must be paid in addition to the standard vetting and administration fee. The additional fee is also required up front with the Sewer Connection Application Form.

Before you decide whether to apply for adoption of the lateral drain please ensure that the following criteria is met:

- The drain serves one property only.
- The drain connects to the public sewer.
- The drain extends beyond your property boundary before connecting to the public sewer. If the public sewer is located within your boundary and the drain is contained wholly within your land it will not be suitable for adoption.
- A demarcation chamber can be constructed within 1 metre of the boundary to delineate change of ownership. The demarcation chamber will be adopted by Anglian Water.

Once you have established that the lateral drain is suitable for adoption, please confirm your aspiration for the lateral drain to be adopted where asked to do so on your sewer connection application. Your drainage plan should show the position of the lateral drain, the pipe material and gradient and the demarcation chamber. It's recommended to colour this brown (foul) or blue (surface water) to ensure it can be appropriately referenced in the adoption certificate.

To be suitable for adoption the lateral drain must be designed and constructed in accordance with the details indicated in the public lateral drain guidance notes below and which are also available on our website. If you are unable to comply with these requirements your drain may not be suitable for adoption and you are required to contact us before proceeding further with your application.

The lateral drain must be made available for inspection by Anglian Water during construction and Anglian Water are required (where possible) to pressure test the drain once it is completed. If the connection is made directly to the public sewer, i.e. without a manhole, a retrospective pressure test will not be possible and you will be required to provide a CCTV survey, including a DVD and full report at your expense. We will also attend site to inspect the demarcation chamber.

Once the drain, demarcation chamber and connection have been inspected and found to be satisfactory, the lateral drain will be adopted under Section 102 of the Water Industry Act 1991 and added to the public sewer records. Section 102 requires Anglian Water to serve a two month notice on the owner of the drain prior to adoption taking place. The purpose of the notice is to allow the owner

to object to the adoption; however, as the adoption will be taking place at your request you are able to waive the right to a notice by signing the declaration on the application form.

Benefits of lateral drain adoption

Once the lateral drain is adopted it becomes a Public Lateral Drain (PLD), which is maintained at the expense of Anglian Water. Should you decide not to apply for adoption, the whole drain up to the point of connection with the public sewer (including the sections within and outside of your boundary) remains within your ownership and is your responsibility. Consequently should the drain become blocked or fail structurally you alone are responsible for organising and funding the necessary maintenance/repair works.

Due to changes proposed by the Government, the adoption of all new lateral drains and sewers may become mandatory. Due to these changes you may be required to enter into a Section 104 Adoption Agreement in order for the right of connection under Section 106 of the Water Industry Act to be exercised.

The Private Sewer Transfer (PST) took place on 1st October 2011 and automatically transferred lateral drains and sewers constructed before 1st July 2011 into Water Company ownership and this needs to be taken into account when you decide whether to apply for the adoption of your new lateral drain.