

Wastewater adoptions process

Applicant action
United Utilities action

Application

 **Apply for an adoption agreement. This will include a design of the sewers to be adopted, usually designed by a civil engineer.**



There is an application fee payable. Further fees are payable on acceptance which is calculated from the estimated value of construction works.



We will review the design against the national standards and feed back to the applicant any changes that we need to see to make it compliant.

 **The applicant will amend their designs and resubmit.**



Once we are happy that the design is compliant with the standards we will issue technical acceptance.



The applicant will need to pay the balance of the fees which will cover inspection costs.



Once we have received the fees we will issue a draft agreement, usually to the applicant's solicitor.



The applicant or their solicitor will return the signed agreements with any conveyancing information such as deed of grants of easements (for sewer not in the highway or in private land) or land transfers (required for pumping stations).



We will sign the agreement and return copies to all parties.

Construction



The developer (or their sewer contractor) will request an inspection when they have finished constructing the sewers. We do not supervise works, it is the responsibility of the developer to build the sewers in line with the agreed standard. We will inspect against this standard and the agreed drawings. The site needs to have over 50% of the properties connected to each length of sewer, this is usually carried out after most if not all properties are occupied.



The inspection will usually be in two parts:

1. A visual inspection of the manholes (sewer access points).
2. A CCTV survey of the pipe work, this is usually provided by the developer's contractor who laid the pipes.

If the site has a pumping station, then a third inspection will be required which will cover both the civil engineering aspects and the mechanical/electrical.

The developer will attend all inspections, usually with their contractors who carried out the work.

If we identify any defects during our inspection then we will issue a defect or 'remedial work list'.



The developer or their contractor will carry out any work to bring the sewers (or pumping station) up to standard. Occasionally this can include significant work such as re-excavating the pipework.

 **We will carry out a further inspection once the work is complete or review any further CCTV footage as required.**



Once we are satisfied the sewers have been constructed to a suitable standard we will issue a 'provisional certificate'. This starts a 12 month maintenance period for the developer, before we formally adopt.



The developer will continue to maintain the sewers for this period and just before the 12 months is up we will do a final visual inspection, mainly to check for any significant defects (such as settlement) or cross connections.



We will then issue a vesting certificate and adopt the sewers.