

## **8.5 Foul Sewage and Surface Water (Sustainable Drainage Systems) Assessment**

### Background

Sewage issues are often raised by the drainage bodies and/or local residents who question whether a development proposal will be acceptable in relation to existing systems. While some of the more complex issues arise with larger scale developments there is also the issue that some of the local sewer systems and treatment works within the National Park are near capacity. On other occasions many properties do not have any local connection.

In these circumstances, it is considered reasonable for developers to have investigated the sewage systems that will be used in relation to their development and to explain this in the application submission. With new development it will often be necessary to connect to existing services and this may have either a visual, tree or archaeological impact. It will be necessary for applicants to work through these issues at some stage of the development process and there are considered benefits if this information is included at the registration stage.

With many sites that cannot connect to a mains network, there will be a need for a treatment system which releases a discharge to a watercourse. This will require a Discharge Consent from the Environment Agency and the specification of that consent will depend on the watercourse where the out flow is being discharged to. Many water courses have been identified for their conservation importance and that can have an impact on the requirements set out in the consent and, in turn, the system that can be installed to meet those requirements.

### Requirements

All new buildings need separate connections to foul and storm water sewers. If an application proposes to connect a development to the existing drainage system then details of the existing system should be shown on the application drawing(s). It should be noted that in most circumstances surface water is not permitted to be connected to the public foul sewers. It will be necessary to demonstrate in all submissions how surface water will be dealt with. These applications need to clearly indicate how surface water will be dealt with. Advice regarding Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) can be found at:

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/sustainable-drainage/>  
<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change/reducing-the-causes-and-impacts-of-flooding/why-are-sustainable-drainage-systems-important/>

Where the development involves the disposal of trade waste or the disposal of foul sewage effluent other than to the public sewer, then a fuller foul drainage assessment will be required including details of the method of storage, treatment and disposal. A foul drainage assessment should include a full assessment of the site, its location and suitability for storing, transporting and treating sewage. Where

connection to the mains sewer is not practical, then the foul/non-mains drainage assessment will be required to demonstrate why the development cannot connect to the public mains sewer system and show that the alternative means of disposal are satisfactory. Guidance on the consideration of non-mains drainage assessment is provided through National Planning Practice Guidance and Building Regulations Approved Document Part H<sup>1</sup>.

If the proposed development results in any changes/replacement to the existing system or the creation of a new system, scale plans of the new foul drainage arrangements will also need to be provided. This will include a location plan, cross sections/elevations and specification. Drainage details that will achieve Building Regulations Approval will be required. If connection to any of the above requires crossing land that is not in the applicant's ownership, other than on public highway, then notice may need to be served on the owners of that land. That land should also be included in the application red-lined site.



ENPA: Sustainable Drainage System at Dulverton

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<sup>1</sup> [www.planningportal.gov.uk/england/professionals/en/1115314110382.html](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/england/professionals/en/1115314110382.html)