

1. Introduction

Subject to the conditions found within Section 116 of the Water Industry Act 1991 we have the power to restrict or close the use of the public sewer. In order to facilitate new development we recognise that there is on occasion circumstances that arise which lead to a developer requesting the abandonment of a sewer. Before an existing public sewer can be closed, we need to check that there are no other legal users connected to the sewer and understand the impact that a closure of a sewer may have on the rest of the sewer network.

2. General Requirements

If we agree to close (or abandon) a public sewer, the works in removing the sewer and reinstatement is the applicant's responsibility and we will require the applicant to pay the full cost of carrying out the work, our inspection fees, admin fees and legal fees.

We may, subject to a legal agreement allow you to carry out the grubbing out or grouting works to abandon the sewer, however, the works should be completed in line with the agreement and the associated drawings.

If a manhole does not exist at the downstream end of the sewer that is being abandoned one must be constructed. This is so the abandoned sewer can be physically disconnected from the manhole and the entire length of pipework can then be removed from the ground, or alternatively filled with a cement grout.

3. Applying for an Abandonment

If your sewer closure is not part of a Section 104 or 185 application you will need to forward the information below to us at

WastewaterDeveloperServices@uuplc.co.uk

Sewer closure drawings

- Please provide us with drawings that include all of the existing public sewers and manholes that need to be closed for the development proposals. The location of the pipework needs to be confirmed with a comprehensive CCTV survey provided covering all lengths of pipe connected to the sewer, including private drains if applicable.

These drawings are in addition to the Section 104 and/or Section 185 drainage layout plans.

Details of our Section 104 process and 185 process can be found on our website unitedutilities.com/builders-developers

Please note: Due to the private sewers transfer many public sewers and drains may not be mapped on our sewer records. The presence of such assets may affect your proposals. You can help us by identifying any sewers of which you are aware of that are not shown in the public sewer record.

- The sewers and manholes which the developer is applying to abandon need to be clearly labelled and referenced with details of the pipe diameters, pipe material and also include survey numbers.
- The reference locations shall correspond with the respective CCTV survey footage.
- The sewers which are being considered for abandonment shall be identified by using black crosses with notes confirming details of the proposed method of abandonment, e.g. grubbing out, or grouting. Information should be included confirming where the grouting operation will commence, and the position of air release points.
Note: Grouting of private sewer will mean the pipe will remain on the public sewer records (although highlighted as 'abandoned') this may lead to future checks being required during conveyancing of any properties located within 3m of the sewer.
- Manholes to be abandoned must be either fully removed or grubbed out to soffit level where grouting has taken place.
- Detail of how manholes will be abandoned should also be included on the drawing with separate sections or details to support.
- Drawings showing the position and levels of all sewers and manholes
- Details of your proposal for the site
- A hard copy of the CCTV connectivity survey on DVD and a condition report is required. This report should be coded in line with the WRC Manual of Sewer Classification (4th Edition) and ideally in WinCan format or similar.
- The lengths surveyed shall be in order and correspond with those details noted on the abandonment drawing.
- Sewer must be clean and cleared at the applicant's expense prior to survey.

For further information



unitedutilities.com/builders-developers
WastewaterDeveloperServices@uuplc.co.uk



United Utilities Developer Services,
Second floor Grasmere House,
Lingley Mere Business Park, Lingley Green Avenue,
Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 3LP.

- The DVD will only contain those surveys which are identified for abandonment. If any additional surveys have been included which are not relevant to the abandonment proposals, the survey will be returned, and a resubmission of the survey and report will be required.

Please Note: Part-submissions will not be viewed and classed as an 'incomplete submission'.

- The survey shall be in colour with clear definition. Any submerged footage will not be accepted and in those cases the survey will be returned.
- Survey of all incoming connections into the line which is proposed for abandonment, shall be included. The developer must establish the operational status of these connections with supporting evidence.
- A 'manhole survey card' or photographic surveys of any manhole to be abandoned must be provided showing all incoming and outgoing pipes. These should also be clearly referenced with the submitted drawings.
- **The developer may need to establish the connectivity of surrounding areas in order to confirm no drainage from them passes into the site. This may require surveys of pipes beyond the site boundary.**

Working on or entering the public sewer (including CCTV survey work, entering the public sewer or public sewer manholes)

Prior to any of the above works taking place - your appointed contractor will need to obtain an Access Certificate from United Utilities. They will need to submit their Risk Assessments, Method Statements and City & Guilds Confined Space Certificates to the Network Engineer in order to obtain this permission. They will need to call our call centre and ask for the Network Engineer for your Local Authority area in order to gain work authorisation, the number to call is **0345 6723723**.

All of United Utilities wastewater assets fall under the 'Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations' (DSEAR) and as such all sewers are classed as 'zone 2'. This means that any CCTV survey equipment used within the sewers needs to be intrinsically safe (Ex rated) as to not cause ignition or spark in a potentially explosive atmosphere.

4. On Acceptance

Once we have agreed your proposal in writing, we have received your fees and we are satisfied with your proposals you must give us at least 5 working days' notice of when you intend to start work on site. This is so we can arrange for one of our Developer Services Inspectors to attend site during the abandonment work and ensure the abandonment has been completed to a satisfactory standard.

United Utilities will not view abandonments complete unless it has been witnessed by a company inspector or compelling evidence has been provided.

5. Summary of Costs

In all cases you are responsible for the following:

- Designing your proposal
- Your contractors costs in demolishing manholes, removing any pipework and backfilling the trench
- Capping off the sewer
- Any compensation that may be required for third parties
- Processing the application
- Our engineering assessment and technical site visit
- The cost of CCTV survey and any other drainage investigations that may be required

6. Checklist for submission (in addition to any other information required for S185 Diversion applications)

Please ensure that you provide the following information with your submission:

1. Abandonment drawing (plan)
2. CCTV survey of all affected lengths (please remember to account for all incoming connections) & report (clearly referenced on with the abandonment drawing)
3. A 'manhole survey card' or photographic surveys of all manholes proposed for abandonment (clearly referenced on with the abandonment drawing)



About us

United Utilities is the North West's water company. We keep the taps flowing and toilets flushing for seven million customers every day. From Crewe to Carlisle, we work hard behind the scenes to help your life flow smoothly.