

Drainage

- Types of Drainage
- There are many types of drainage, sewers and drains that serve properties, land drainage, highway drainage and watercourses
- Drainage YW is not responsible for
- The local highways authority is responsible for highway drainage i.e road gullys and highway drainage systems on adopted roads.
- With watercourses or land drainage the person whose land they cross is responsible for them i.e riparian ownership

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- Public sewers
- Water Authorities are only responsible for drainage serving some properties
- The first legislation that really defined what a public sewer is was the Public Health Act 1936. In s24 of that act a public sewer was defined as a pipe that served at least two properties that were built prior to 1st October 1937
- After 1937 the local councils would adopt sewers serving properties using their own local adoption standards.
- In 1989 the Water Industry Act set up the Water Authorities in England and Wales. Within the act it stated that developers could apply to the Water Authority to have the sewers serving the new properties adopted, residents of existing properties served by a private sewer could apply to the Water Authority to have a sewer adopted and everyone has a right to connect a foul connection to a foul public sewer.
- In the act it required the Water Authority to map and keep records of the public sewer network. In Yorkshire Water the public sewer records are on a map on the computer. We have few records of private drainage as we are not responsible for private drainage.

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- Commonly held beliefs
- A drain is defined as serving one property and a sewer serves at least two properties. A person or persons is responsible for a private drain or private sewer up to the point of connection to the public sewer i.e if the private drain has collapsed in a road before it connects to a public sewer then it is the responsibility of the property served by the drain to repair it.
- Also there may be a situation where a pipe has collapsed in a persons land but that persons property doesn't connect into the collapsed pipe. It is the responsibility of the property owners served by the pipe to repair it and not the land owner.

- Contacts for drainage problems
- Environmental Health investigate private drainage problems and they can be contacted on 01274 434366
- If a customer has a drainage problem and they believe it to be related to a public sewer they can contact our contact centre on 0845 1242424.

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- Future Drainage Legislation
- Drainage responsibility is not straight forward to many customers
- Currently the government have a white paper concerning changes to drainage legislation which may be that the water authorities accept all private sewers and drains in the highway serving properties as presently in Scotland. Although this has not been defined. It is thought the legislation will not come into effect for many years.