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Work instruction:	Date Raised
Determining Ownership (Drainage)	18/06/2012

Work Description
Prior to undertaking out any repair work and/or some investigations it is necessary to determine who is responsible for the drain.
Instruction
<p>1. Refer to W0001 & W002</p> <p>2. <u>Drains serving only one property.</u></p> <p>By means of CCTV survey and water dye testing establish how many properties are using the drains. Damage to drains serving only one property are almost always the responsibility of the property owner, inside the property curtilage.</p> <p>After the drain leaves the property boundary, then becomes the responsibility of the sewerage undertaker if the line connects to a sewer, or remains the responsibility of the property if it does not connect to a sewer.</p> <p>Having made the assessment of who is responsible, complete section 1.6.3 of the project paperwork and add any supporting information in the additional comments section where necessary.</p> <p>3. <u>Shared Drains/Sewers</u></p> <p>Once you have confirmed a drain/sewer is used by more than one property, or cross the boundary, it is necessary to determine whether it meets the legal definition of a sewer. In order to be classed as a sewer the pipeline must meet the following criteria, or have done so in the past.</p>
The pipe must take drainage of foul or surface water from buildings
The pipe must be used by more than one property in separate curtilages or cross the boundary.
The pipe must have a proper outfall, i.e. connect to a sewer and not be connected to a cesspool or septic tank etc.
<p>If the above criteria are met the sewer is the responsibility of the Sewerage Undertaker (Local Water Authority).</p> <p>If there is a doubt as to the criteria, tick the "don't know" box in section 1.6.3 and supply relevant information for head office to contact the sewerage Undertaker for confirmation.</p> <p>When identified as a Public Sewer and found to be defective, the Sewerage Undertaker (Local Water Authority) must be contacted at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>If a sewer is not a public sewer, then it is classed as a Private Sewer (shared drain).</p> <p>Occasionally it may be possible to assess whether the customer is connected to a Local Water Authority Sewer as if they are they should have sewerage rates on any bill from the Local Water Authority.</p> <p>The cost of maintaining private sewers (shared drains) where no formal prior agreement has been recorded in the property deeds, shall be divided equally between all of the property owners that are connected upstream of the section in question.</p> <p>The number of upstream users in this case must be recorded in the additional comments section along with the property addresses.</p>

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Responsibilities

Drainage Investigation, Site Investigation and Drainage Repair Engineers
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Key Objectives

To determine ownership of drain

All in accordance with WRc – The Drain Repair Book – 4 th Edition, best practice manual for the inspection and repair of domestic and light industrial drains
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