

Foul Drainage Assessment Form (FDA)

Please note: You should only use this form for planning related queries. You cannot use it to apply for an Environmental Permit but you may submit a copy of the information you have provided for planning purposes in support of your Environmental Permit application. Further information on [how to apply for an environmental permit](#) and [general binding rules applicable to small discharges of domestic sewage effluent](#) is available on the gov.uk website.

APPLICANT DETAILS	
Name	
Address	
Telephone No	
e-mail	

We will use the information you provide on this form to establish whether non-mains drainage, either a new system or connection to an existing system, would be acceptable. It is important that you provide full and accurate information. Failure to do this will delay the processing of your application.

You must provide evidence that a connection to the public sewer is not feasible.

Other than in very exceptional circumstances, we will not allow the use of non-mains drainage as part of your Planning or Building Regulation application unless you can prove that a connection to the public sewer is not feasible. We do not consider non-mains drainage systems to be environmentally acceptable in locations where it is feasible to connect to a public sewer. Please note that a lack of capacity in, or other operating problems with, the public sewer are not valid reasons to use a non-mains drainage system where it is otherwise feasible to connect to a public sewer.

Where connection to the public sewer is feasible, you may need to get the agreement of either the owners of any land through which the drainage will run or, if you intend to connect via an existing private drain, the owner of that private drain.

The National Planning Practice Guidance and [Building Regulations Approved Document H](#) give a hierarchy of drainage options that must be considered and discounted in the following order:

- 1 Connection to the public sewer
- 2 Package sewage treatment plant (which can be offered to the Sewerage Undertaker for adoption)
- 3 Septic Tank
- 4 If none of the above are feasible a cesspool

You must respond to all the following questions. If you wish to submit additional information please do so, marked clearly "Additional Information". **In some cases you will be required to provide further information in order to demonstrate that any non-mains foul drainage system proposed is acceptable.**

Feasibility of mains foul sewer connection	YES	NO
Have you provided a written explanation of why it is not feasible to connect to the public foul sewer with this form? <i>This must include a scaled map showing the nearest public foul sewer connection point - check with your local sewerage undertaker.</i>		✓
Is the distance from your site to the closest connection point to the public foul sewer less than the number of properties to be built on the site multiplied by 30m? (see Guidance Note 2)		✓
Does your proposal form part of a phased development or planned development of a wider area? <i>If YES, please provide further details including references of any planning permissions already granted.</i>		✓

Non-mains connection

Please provide a plan with dimensions that clearly shows the location of the whole system in relation to the proposed development and the position of the key elements e.g. septic tank, drainage fields and points of discharge.

1. Existing system	YES	NO
Do you intend to use an existing non-mains foul drainage system?		✓
If YES, does the system already have an Environmental Permit issued by the Environment Agency? (In the case of a cesspool write N/A)		
If YES, please provide Environmental Permit reference number.....		

2. Discharge	YES	NO
Do you propose to use a package treatment plant?	✓	
Do you propose to use a septic tank?		✓
Do you propose to use a cesspool? <i>If YES go to Q4</i>		✓
Have you considered having your system adopted by the sewerage undertaker? (see Guidance Note 7).		✓
Will all, or any part of, the discharge go to a drainage field or soakaway? (see Guidance Note 3) - this includes systems that combine a drainage field with a high level overflow to watercourse <i>If YES go to Q3.</i>	✓	
Do you intend to use a system that discharges solely to watercourse? (see Guidance Note 3) <i>If YES go to Q9.</i>		✓

3. Water abstraction	YES	NO
Do you receive your water from the public mains supply?	✓	
If not, where do you get your water supply from?		

4. Cesspools (For methods other than cesspools write N/A)	YES	NO
Have you provided written justification for the use of a cesspool in preference to more sustainable methods of foul drainage disposal? (see Guidance Note 4)		✓

5. Drainage field design (For cesspools write N/A)	YES	NO
Will the system discharge to a drainage field designed and constructed in accordance with British Standard BS6297:2007?	✓	
If not, why not?		
Will the discharge from the system be located in a <u>Source Protection Zone 1 (SPZ1)</u> ?		✓

6. Ground Conditions (For cesspools write N/A)	YES	NO
6a. Have you submitted a copy of the percolation test results with this form (see Guidance		✓

Note 6)?		✓
6b. If NO please explain the justification for not undertaking or submitting these tests.		✓
6c. Is any part of the system in land which is marshy, water logged or subject to flooding?		✓
6d. Will the soakaway be located on artificially raised, made-up ground or ground likely to be contaminated? If YES please provide details as additional information.		✓
6e. Have you submitted the results of a trial hole at the site to establish that the proposed drainage field will be above any standing groundwater (see Guidance Note 6)?		✓

7. Available Land

	YES	NO
Is the application site plus any available area for a soakaway less than 0.025 hectares (250m ²)?		✓

8. Siting of drainage field/soakaway discharge from a septic tank or package treatment plant or other secondary treatment.

You may need to make local enquiries to get a full answer to these questions.

	YES	NO
Will it be at least 10m from a watercourse, permeable drain or land drain?	✓	
Will it be at least 50m from any point of abstraction from the ground for a drinking water supply (e.g. well, borehole or spring)? This includes your own or a neighbour's supply.	✓	
Will the discharge be within a groundwater Source Protection Zone 1 ? If yes, you will need to apply for an environmental permit		✓
Are there any drainage fields/soakaways within 50m? This includes any foul drainage discharge system (other than the subject of this application) or surface water soakaway on either your own or a neighbour's property.		✓
Will it be at least 15m from any building?	✓	
Will there be any water supply pipes or underground services within the disposal system, other than those required by the system? (For cesspools write N/A)		✓
Will there be any access roads, driveways or paved areas within the disposal area? (For cesspools write N/A)		✓

9. Siting of treatment plant, septic tank or cesspool

	YES	NO
Is it at least 7m from the habitable part of a building?	✓	
Will there be vehicular access for emptying within 30m?	✓	
Can the plant, tank or cesspool be maintained or emptied without the contents being taken through a dwelling or place of work?	✓	

10. Expected flow

Please estimate the total flow in litres per day (see Guidance Note 5).	900
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11. General Binding Rules for Small Sewage Discharges

	YES	NO
Does the system meet the requirements of the General Binding Rules for small sewage discharges ?	✓	

12. Maintenance

How do you propose to maintain the system?	CONTRACT
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13. Declaration

I declare that the above information is factually correct.

Name	Signature	Date

GUIDANCE NOTES:

- 1) This form is for use with the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#), [British Standard BS6297:2007](#) and [Building Regulations Approved Document H](#). It is intended to help Local Planning Authorities establish basic information about your non-mains drainage system and decide whether you need to submit a more detailed site assessment. If a detailed site assessment is requested but not submitted, your planning application might be refused.
- 2) Where the distance from a site to the closest point of connection to the foul sewer is less than the number of properties that are proposed to be built on that site multiplied by 30m an Environmental Permit will be required and an applicant will need to demonstrate as part of any application for such a permit why connection to the public foul sewer is not feasible.

Number of domestic properties served by the sewage treatment system x 30 metres = Answer metres
- 3) In addition to Planning Permission and Building Regulation approval **you may also require an Environmental Permit from the Environment Agency (EA)**. Please note that the granting of Planning Permission or Building Regulation approval does not guarantee the granting of an Environmental Permit. Upon receipt of a correctly filled in application form the EA will carry out an assessment. It can take up to 4 months before the Agency is in a position to decide whether to grant a permit or not.
- 4) The use of cesspools is an option of last resort as set out in the non-mains drainage hierarchy of preference in [Building Regulations Approved Document H](#). In principle, a properly constructed and maintained cesspool, being essentially a holding tank with no discharges, should not lead to environmental, amenity or public health problems. However, in practice, it is known that such problems occur as a result of frequent overflows due to poor maintenance, irregular emptying, lack of suitable vehicular access for emptying and even through inadequate capacity. In addition to this the requirement for frequent emptying is usually carried out by a contractor involving road transport with associated environmental costs. For these reasons, the use of cesspools will not normally be considered to be a long-term foul sewage disposal solution. In view of the environmental risks associated with their use, any proposal to use cesspools must be fully justified to the Local Planning Authority
- 5) Package treatment plants and septic tanks should be designed and sized according to the advice given in the current edition of [Flows and Loads](#), published by British Water. Volumes for larger systems should be calculated based on expected flows arising from the development.
- 6) You should refer to [Building Regulations Approved Document H2](#) with regard to the general requirements for construction of non mains sewerage systems. **Sections 1.33 to 1.38** deal with the test requirements for trial holes and percolation tests and for convenience the text of these sections is repeated below: