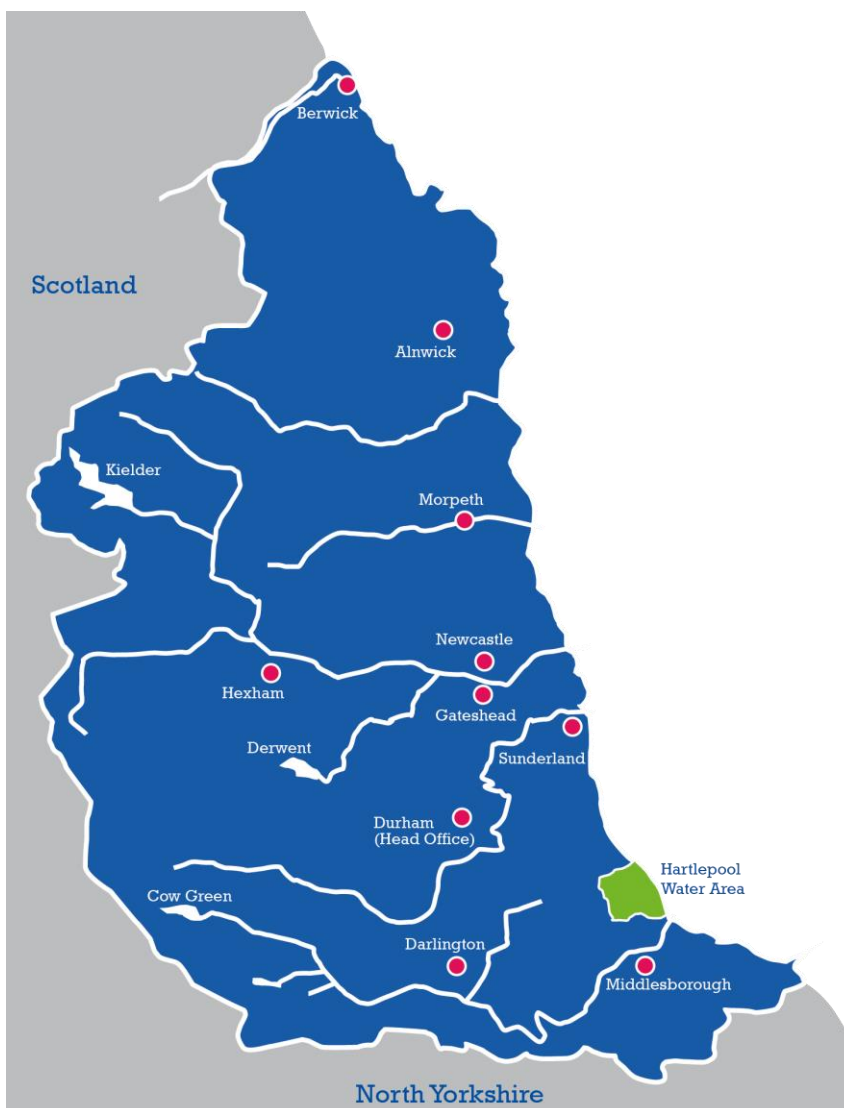


**CROSS
SECTOR
INFRASTRUCTURE
ACCESS
STATEMENT**

INTRODUCTION

Northumbrian Water is committed to working with stakeholders to support growth and enable development within our operating area. Northumbrian Water provide water and sewerage services to 2.7 million people in the north east of England and to ensure continuity of these essential services it is vital we protect existing assets and access to them.

The operating area of Northumbrian Water includes the major population centres of Tyneside, Wearside and Teesside as well as large rural areas in Northumberland and County Durham. Within the operating area of Hartlepool Water, Northumbrian Water only supplies wastewater services.



Assets within this area include:

- 30 water treatment works
- 216 water pumping stations
- 234 water service reservoirs
- 17,034 km water mains
- 413 sewage treatment works
- 29,923.1 km sewers (including 13,510 km of transferred network)

Purpose

This access statement presents practical information necessary for third parties when crossing or working in the vicinity of Northumbrian Water assets. Its purpose is to enable any person or business that needs Northumbrian Water permission or cooperation when installing their own infrastructure or undertaking works on land in which Northumbrian Water have existing assets to minimize risk to these assets. The company is passionate about providing customers with an excellent service and this document will contribute to this by providing important information which includes.

- How to locate Northumbrian Water assets
- Who to contact for advice
- Timescales
- Processes
- Costs
- How disputes will be resolved

LOCATING ASSETS

You can obtain drawings of Northumbrian Water's sewerage and water assets by visiting <http://www.linesearchbeforeudig.co.uk/>

All information provided on these records is indicative only and it is your responsibility to prove the actual location of the assets. You must note and act on the text at the bottom of all hard copies of drawings and "Standard Conditions for Working near Northumbrian Water Apparatus" a copy of which is provided with responses.

You should also bear in mind that no service pipes are shown on plans.

From the 1st October 2011 there may be lateral drains and/or sewers transferred into the ownership of Northumbrian Water which are not recorded on the public sewer map. If you have any queries regarding these assets please call **0345 7171100**.

The actual position of apparatus must be established by taking trial holes in all cases. No machine excavation will be permitted within 1 metre either side of a Northumbrian Water asset without written approval from Northumbrian Water. The actual position of any apparatus must be found by hand excavation. The Company must be given two working days notice before any works, including trial holes, are carried out within their easements.

MAJOR HIGHWAYS SCHEMES

The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 provides a process for the protection of assets covered by this act.

Stage C2 – Preliminary enquiry - drawings of sewer and water mains records can be obtained by emailing plans@nwl.co.uk. If appropriate a charge will be made for the provision of these plans.

Stage C3 – Budget estimates - If works are identified as being required to protect Northumbrian Water apparatus a budget estimate is prepared by Northumbrian Water and sent to the applicant within 20 working days.

Stage C4 – Detailed estimate – If the budget estimate is accepted by the applicant and works are to progress, on request a detailed estimate is provided by Northumbrian Water within 25 working days, if this is not possible the applicant is informed.

All contact relating to C3 and C4 activity should be forwarded to Henry Hirsch henry.hirsch@nwl.co.uk or by telephone on **0191 4196633**.

The applicant will be invoiced for any appropriate fees.

CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS OVER OR NEAR SEWERS

If you are planning any development work or construction, such as a property extension, it is important that you determine the local drainage arrangements on your land. If there is a sewer within 3 metres of your proposed works then you will need Northumbrian Water agreement prior to your works being carried out. This is to protect the sewer and the building from possible damage to each other and to ensure that access to the sewer is not adversely affected.

It is not permissible to build over or within 3 metres of a rising main.

If you have any queries regarding building over of sewers please call **0191 4196577** or e-mail us at buildingregulations@nwl.co.uk

More information on timescales, process and fees can be found at the following location: <https://www.nwl.co.uk/developers/building-over-sewers.aspx>

CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS OVER OR NEAR WATER MAINS

As water mains operate at pressure it is not permissible to build over or within the easement area of them, therefore if you are building something over or near to a water main, or changing the ground level, then the main may need to be diverted.

DIVERSIONS OF WATER MAINS

The work involved and cost to divert an existing water main or ancillary asset can be discussed with a New Development advisor by calling **0845 609 4639**.

DIVERSION OR ABANDONMENT OF SEWERS

If the location of a public sewer prevents land development or property extension, it may be possible to divert the sewer(s) via a Sewer Diversion Agreement under Section 185 of the Water Industry Act 1991.

In some circumstances it may be possible to close a public sewer so that it can be abandoned, which may remove a potential restriction from any future development of the site and may make any site remediation works easier. Before closing part of the public sewer network it must be confirmed that the length being considered for closure is no longer in use and it has become redundant.

If you have any queries regarding diverting or abandoning sewers please e-mail newdevelopmentsewerage@nwl.co.uk and the appropriate New Development Project Manager for the area of your works will contact you.

More information on timescales, process and fees for sewer diversions and abandonments can be found at the following location:

<https://www.nwl.co.uk/developers/adoption-diversions-closures.aspx>

PROTECTION OF STRATEGIC ASSETS

Strategic assets are pipes or other infrastructure critical to the provision of water and sewerage services. Due to the Health & Safety, environmental, customer service and financial implications of failure of strategic assets Northumbrian Water require additional asset protection discussions and actions prior to any activity commencing on site where potential conflicts exist. Northumbrian Water liaise with planning authorities to identify potential conflicts at an early stage and will proactively contact applicants. Early engagement is welcomed from developers and landowners to agree how strategic assets can be protected.

Contact can be made with Niki Mather **0191 4196603** niki.mather@nwl.co.uk

This process will help ensure developers meet their CDM obligations, are adequately insured for site activity and are not liable for Northumbrian Water losses under Civil Liability of Undertakers for Escapes of Water legislation.

Timescales and process will be agreed with stakeholders on a site specific basis and all costs incurred by Northumbrian Water will be rechargeable to the applicant.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Northumbrian Water follow the National Joint Utilities Group guidelines on Co-ordination, Co-operation & Communication, which is a document detailing cross-industry agreed best practice on working with other utilities. This should minimise the number of disputes.

Any disputes can be referred to Steve Wharton (Planning Manager Developer Services) by calling **0191 4196617** or emailing Steve.wharton@nwl.co.uk.

Any disputes that cannot be resolved by the New Development Programme Co-ordinator will be passed on internally to Northumbrian Water's New Development Manager who will be able to co-ordinate a case review with infrastructure providers.

Any infrastructure provider disputing an unsuccessful application to divert a water main or sewer has the right to appeal directly to Ofwat.

Case Management Office
Ofwat
Centre City Tower
7 Hill Street
Birmingham B5 4UA
casemanagementoffice@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk