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News

Welcome

Happy New Year to all our clients. We hope that you prosper in 2012 and look forward to working with you during the year.

Workload

As we start a new year the workload here at Assent seems to be increasing. We have experienced another year of growth in 2011 and the signs for the coming year seem to indicate that this trend will continue.

Hospitality

In keeping with our recent philosophy we will be hosting a number of events this coming year. Watch out for our Golf Days, Summer BBQ at HQ and various sporting events.

Charity Support

We will be supporting a number of charities and charitable events again this year. Look out for announcements on our website and in our newsletter for full details. There will be details as to how you can get involved.

Part L 2013

The government are to publish a fresh consultation document on the proposed changes to Part L 2013. We will be running a number of seminars to update our clients. Watch out for further details.

Feature

Assent help resolve Sarah Beeny's Nightmare



Avid watchers of Channel 4's programme *Beeny's Conservation Nightmare* will have noticed two George Clooney lookalikes from Assent making an appearance. John Dilley and Martin Conlon were both called upon to provide consultation advice and guidance after Sarah Beeny and her Husband ran into difficulties with the alterations to Rise Hall.

Rise Hall is their home in East Yorkshire and work to restore it and develop it into a wedding venue fell foul of the Local Authority who were proving to be problematic in giving the approvals needed.

John and Martin provided much needed legal and technical guidance which enabled the situation to be resolved after a 12 month period of arguing.

Assent proved to be invaluable in helping to clear up the issues that the Local Authority were concerned about.

Rise Hall now has a licence to conduct wedding ceremonies.

Check out the restoration work at www.risehall.com

On 1 October 2011, the responsibility for many private sewers and lateral drains which drain to a public sewer and extend beyond your property boundary transferred to water and sewerage companies.

Before the transfer, private sewers were the responsibility of their owners - generally the owners and occupiers of the properties they served.

Unless a problem occurred, many householders were unaware that they were responsible for a private sewer, especially when it continued beyond their property boundary. Where problems did occur, repair costs could be high.

To help ease the burden in these situations and increase environmental protection, the Government decided that the fairest solution was to transfer ownership of these private sewers to water and sewerage companies.

We've created this page to explain the changes and what it means for our customers.

What are sewers, drains and lateral drains?

Sewers are pipes which carry waste from more than one property.

Drains are pipes which carry waste from a single property to the sewer. These become lateral drains when they extend beyond the boundary of the property.

How does the transfer affect me?

From 1 October 2011, the local Water Authority took over ownership of private sewers and lateral drains that extend beyond individual property boundaries within its area.

Now the sewers are the responsibility of the local Water Authority the cost of repairing and maintaining these public sewers will be covered by the sewerage charges our customers pay in the future.

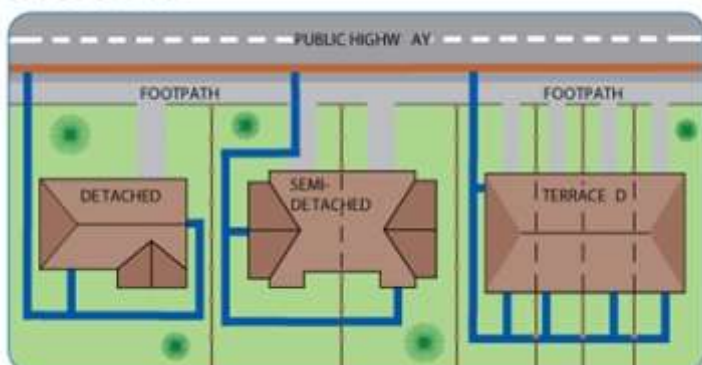
You are still responsible for drains on your land. This means that for any Building Regulation application that relates to an extension or a new building then we will have to consult with the local Water Authority to ensure that the new legislation is complied with in connecting with building over a sewer.

The diagrams below show how ownership changed after the transfer.

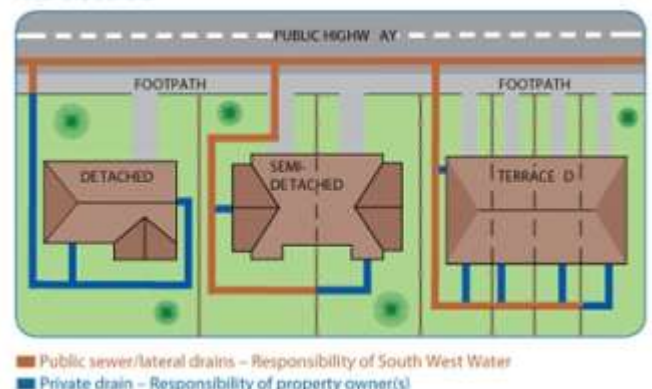
Please note these diagrams illustrate how common types of property are affected. However, it is possible that your property's drains may be laid out differently from those illustrated.

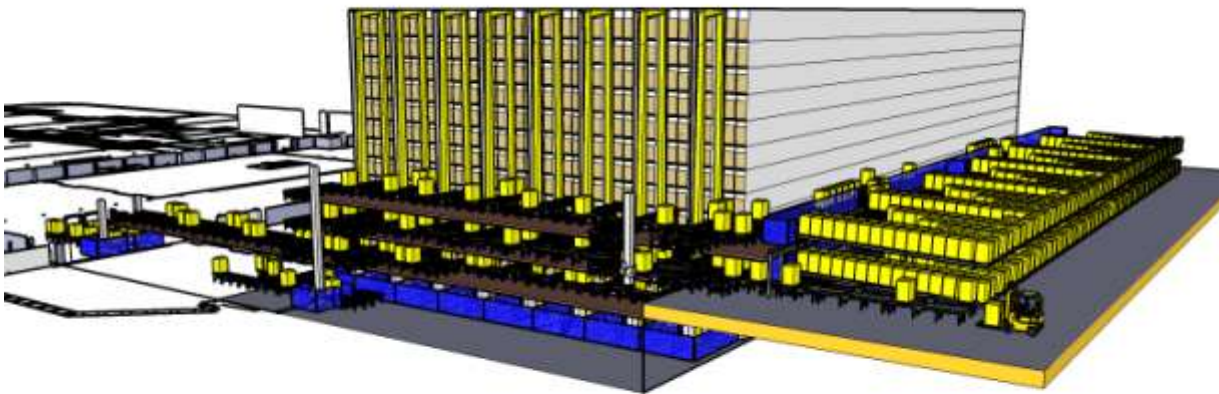
For example if a detached property shares drains with another property then these drains would be included in the transfer and if a terrace property does not share drains with another property then these drains would not be included in the transfer.

Before the transfer



After the transfer





Work has commenced on a multi-million pound extension to the existing Coca-Cola factory at Wakefield. The extension consists of a 34m high bay warehouse with a new dispatch building. The high bay warehouse is a clad rack system which will hold nearly 43,000 pallets.

“We are delighted to be involved early on in the scheme as we can ensure that compliance is designed in” said one of Assents directors John Dilley



Boxpark in Shoreditch is a revolutionary type of retail development. Using shipping containers that are converted to retail units Assent are involved in giving Building Regulations Approvals for the fit out of over 70 units. Ian wood [one of Assents senior staff] commented “ This is a unique development and requires a special thought process to ensure compliance with the Regulations”. Further details can be obtained form Ian Wood on 01525 288614

Assent Support



Assent are going to enter a team to partake in the Hope Challenge 2012, Hope Valley, Peak District., this takes place over the weekend of 6th - 8th July.

The Hope Challenge is organized by Habitat for Humanity who are a Christian based charity, their vision is to end housing poverty and homelessness and to provide everyone with a safe, decent place to live and permanently break the cycle of poverty.

The Challenge requires you to build your own shelter sleep in it for 2 nights, fundraise (orienteering) and compete with other team challenges along the way.

Each team is asked to raise £2470, which is roughly the cost to build a house in a third world country. However if you don't meet that target, as some haven't in the past, there is no penalty.

Any questions can be answered here : <http://www.habitatforhumanity.org.uk/hopechallenge> you can watch u tube video's and look at some photos of the event on this webpage.

These are the dimension of the shelter according to the team size:

For a team of 3 = 3.0m x 3.0m

For a team of 4 = 3.3m x 3.3m

For a team of 5 = 3.7m x 3.7m

For a team of 6 = 4.0m x 4.0m

If anyone wants to enter a team or just want more information then contact Saira Is-Haq on 01924 229180

Recruitment

Despite the economic turmoil of recent years, Assent has not only maintained a stable organisational structure with no redundancies and low staff turnover, we have continued to grow.

In order to meet increasing workload and satisfy the demand of a high quality client portfolio.

Assent are looking for Building Control Surveying staff in the London and Milton Keynes areas. These posts are permanent with a competitive salary and generous benefits.

New Starters

Assent is continuing to grow!!

As part of our expansion we have some new members of staff who have joined us.

Name Location
Ricardo Chamberlain Building Control Surveyor Milton Keynes

Jamie White Building Control Surveyor Canterbury

And Finally

Caption Competition



Send us your caption for the above photograph and the best one will win a bottle of Champagne. E-mail your entry to martin@assentbc.co.uk before 27th February in order to enter.

The winner of our last competition was Karen Lawn of Pearce Bottomley Architects