

Guidance for working near our assets

Please ensure that a copy of these conditions is passed to your representative and/or your Contractor on site. If any damage is caused to Hafren Dyfrdwy (HD) apparatus, the person, Contractor or Subcontractor responsible must inform us immediately on 0800 085 8033 (24 hours).

These general conditions and precautions apply to the public sewerage, water distribution and telemetry systems. The conditions include sewers which are the subject of an Agreement under Section 104 of the Water Industry Act 1991 and mains installed in accordance with the Agreement for the self construction of water mains. Please be aware that due to The Private Sewers Transfer Regulations June 2011, the number of public sewers has increased, but many of these are not shown on the public sewer record. However, some idea of their positions may be obtained from the position of inspection covers and their existence must be anticipated.

On request, we will issue a copy of the plan showing the approximate locations of HD apparatus although in certain instances a charge will be made. The position of private drains, private sewers and water service pipes to properties are not normally shown but their presence must be anticipated. This plan is furnished as a general guide only and no warranty as to its accuracy is given or implied. The plan must not be relied upon in the event of excavations or other works in the vicinity of HD apparatus. No person or Company shall be relieved from liability for damage caused by reason of the actual position and/or depths of HD apparatus being different from those shown on the plan.

In order to achieve safe working conditions adjacent to any apparatus the following should be observed:

1. All HD apparatus should be located by hand digging prior to the use of mechanical excavators.
2. All information set out in any plans received from us, or given by our staff at the site of the works, about the position and depth of the mains, is approximate. Every possible precaution should be taken to avoid damage to our apparatus. You or your contractor must ensure the safety of our equipment and will be responsible for the cost of repairing any damage caused.
3. Water mains are normally laid at a depth of 900mm. No records are kept of customer service pipes which are normally laid at a depth of 750mm; but some idea of their positions may be obtained from the position of stop tap covers and their existence must be anticipated. 2 Guidance for working near our assets May 2014 [public]
4. During construction work, where heavy plant will cross the line of HD apparatus, specific crossing points must be agreed with the Company and suitably reinforced where required. These crossing points should be clearly marked and crossing of the line of HD apparatus at other locations must be prevented.
5. Where it is proposed to carry out piling or boring within 20 metres of any HD apparatus, HD should be consulted to enable any affected HD apparatus to be surveyed prior to the works commencing.

6. Where excavation of trenches adjacent to any HD apparatus affects its support, the HD apparatus must be supported to the satisfaction of HD. Water mains and some sewers are pressurised and can fail if excavation removes support to thrust blocks to bends and other fittings.
7. Where a trench is excavated crossing or parallel to the line of any HD apparatus, the backfill should be adequately compacted to prevent any settlement which could subsequently cause damage to the HD apparatus. In special cases, it may be necessary to provide permanent support to HD apparatus which has been exposed over a length of the excavation before backfilling and reinstatement is carried out. There should be no concrete backfill in contact with the HD apparatus.
8. No apparatus should be laid along the line of HD apparatus irrespective of clearance. Above ground apparatus must not be located within a minimum of 3 metres either side of the centre line of HD apparatus for smaller sized pipes and 6 metres either side for larger sized pipes without prior approval. No manhole or chamber shall be built over or around any HD apparatus.
9. A minimum radial clearance of 300 millimetres should be allowed between any plant being installed and existing HD apparatus. - We reserve the right to increase this distance where strategic assets are affected.
10. Where any HD apparatus coated with a special wrapping is damaged, even to a minor extent, HD must be notified and the trench left open until the damage has been inspected and the necessary repairs have been carried out. In the case of any material damage to any HD apparatus causing leakage, weakening of the mechanical strength of the pipe or corrosion-protection damage, the necessary remedial work will be recharged.
11. It may be necessary to adjust the finished level of any surface boxes which may fall within your proposed construction. Please ensure that these are not damaged, buried or otherwise rendered inaccessible as a result of the works and that all stop taps, valves, hydrants, etc. remain accessible and operable.

Minor reduction in existing levels may result in conflict with apparatus such as valve spindles or tops of hydrants housed under the surface boxes. Checks should be made during site investigations to ascertain the level of such apparatus in order to determine any necessary alterations in advance of the works. 3 Guidance for working near our assets May 2014 [public]
12. With regard to any proposed resurfacing works, you are required to contact HD on the number given above to arrange a site inspection to establish the condition of any HD apparatus in the nature of surface boxes or manhole covers and frames affected by the works. HD will then advise on any measures to be taken, in the event of this a proportionate charge will be made.
13. You are advised that Hafren Dyfrdwy will not agree to either the erection of posts, directly over or within 1.0 metre of valves and hydrants.
14. No explosives are to be used in the vicinity of any HD apparatus without prior consultation with HD.

Tree planting restrictions

There are many problems with the location of trees adjacent to sewers, water mains and other HD apparatus and these can lead to the loss of trees and hence amenity to the area which many people may have become used to. It is best if the problem is not created in the first place. Set out below are the recommendations for tree planting in close proximity to public sewers, water mains and other HD apparatus.

15. Please ensure that, in relation to HD apparatus, the mature root systems and canopies of any tree planted do not and will not encroach within the recommended distances specified in the notes below.
16. Both Poplar and Willow trees have extensive root systems and should not be planted within 12 metres of a sewer, water main or other HD apparatus.

17. The following trees and those of similar size, be they deciduous or evergreen, should not be planted within 6 metres of a sewer, water main or other HD apparatus. E.g. Ash, Beech, Birch, most Conifers, Elm, Horse Chestnut, Lime, Oak, Sycamore, Apple and Pear.
18. **HD** personnel require a clear path to conduct surveys etc. No shrubs or bushes should be planted within 2 metres of the centre line of a sewer, water main or other HD apparatus.
19. In certain circumstances, both the Company and landowners may wish to plant shrubs/bushes in close proximity to a sewer, water main or other HD apparatus for screening purposes. The following are shallow rooting and are suitable for this purpose: Blackthorn, Broom, Cotoneaster, Elder, Hazel, Laurel, Privet, Quickthorn, Snowberry, and most ornamental flowering shrubs.