

SURCHARGING OF SEWERS IN THE BARNHAM AREA

A short report by the Sussex Area of the Environment Agency

SUMMARY

The foul sewer system in the Barnham area surcharges during most wet winters. This report examines the detailed geology, hydrogeology and other background issues to the problem.

Surcharging is primarily the result of groundwater infiltration into inadequately sealed lateral and main sewers. It will be exacerbated by the absence of a dedicated surface water drainage system over part of the area, by improper surface water connections to the foul sewer and by use of soakaways.

Two main recommendations are made:

- dealing with surface water flows to the sewerage system by provision of a separate surface water drainage system where one is not present, and by identifying and rectifying wrong connections;
- sealing of lateral and main sewers which are presently leaking.

Groundwater levels in the area are unrelated to those in the Chalk aquifer. There is little scope for monitoring of groundwater levels to allow early warning of the onset of surcharging.

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