

# Private Drains & Sewers Information Sheet

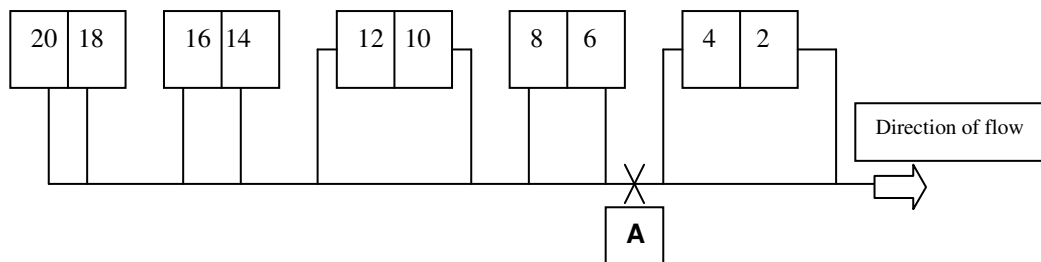
**Did you know** that a drain only serves one property but a sewer serves more than one?

If you get a blocked sink, toilet or gully, it is your responsibility to clear it, **BUT, did you know** that if your property was built after 1936, you may be responsible for a blockage to a pipe further down the street. This is because you are served by a private sewer, which means you are responsible for your waste right up until the point it enters the public sewer (which is usually in a main road). You are also responsible for any repairs that are needed to the pipe. The responsibility is a shared one between those persons served by the pipe at the point of blockage / defect. The Local Authority has the power to serve notice on persons responsible to un-block or repair private sewers and recover any costs in so doing. Some examples are shown below.

Please make sure that any manhole covers on your property are accessible and are not covered over.

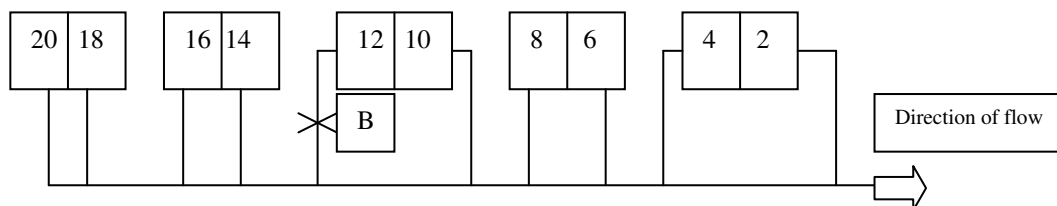
If your property was built before 1936 and you have a blockage to the sewer, the responsibility for clearance may lie with Severn Trent..

## Example A



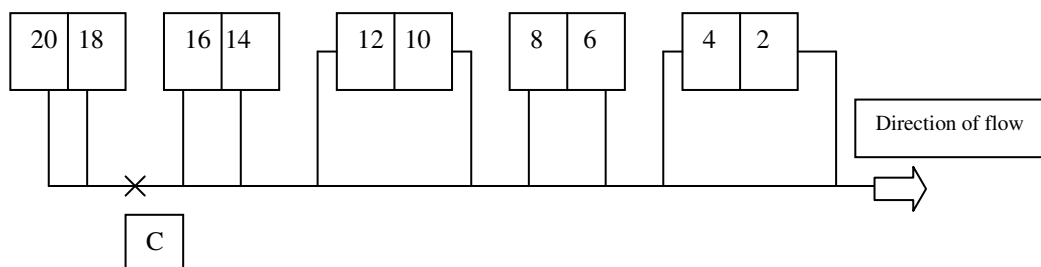
If there is a blockage at point A, the responsibility lies with numbers 6-20 for the clearing of the blockage.  
Numbers 2 and 4 are not served by the pipe at point A

## Example B



The section of pipe at point B only serves property number 12, therefore number 12 is responsible for clearing it.

## Example C



If the blockage is at point C, numbers 2 to 16 are all running freely.  
Numbers 18 and 20 are both served by the pipe at point C and are therefore responsible for clearing the blockage.

**Contact:** Oadby & Wigston Borough Council, Environmental Health Division, Consumer Services Department, Council Offices, Station Road, Wigston, LEICESTER, LE18 2DR.  
**Telephone** – 0116 257 2601; **Fax** – 0116 288 7828; **e-mail** – [environhealth@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:environhealth@oadby-wigston.gov.uk)