

Anglian Water's position statement on Infiltration

Infiltration refers to the unintended and unwanted entry of groundwater or surface water into the sewerage system, usually through cracked or damaged sewers. This can lead to more water in the sewers than the system is designed to carry, which can cause flooding, pollution, and increased operational costs.

It is a significant contributor to the hydraulic overload of our sewers, especially in areas with high groundwater levels or permeable soils. It can compromise the performance and capacity of our assets, affecting our ability to provide reliable and resilient services to our customers. It can also affect the quality and quantity of the wastewater we treat.

If we suspect infiltration is entering the public sewerage system through a network built by a developer, it's a technical requirement for flow monitoring equipment to be installed in the last manhole – before the point where it connects to the public sewer.

To produce a sufficient level of data, this equipment should be in place for at least three months. We can then measure against rainfall data to see if infiltration is getting into the system from the developer's site, as one of several checks we may conduct. If there's not enough rainfall for us to obtain sufficient data in the first three months, the monitoring period will be extended.

If our checks shows infiltration is getting into the system, we'll ask the developer to provide an action plan within a reasonable timeframe (typically two weeks), outlining how they'll investigate and identify the cause of the issue.

Once the source(s) of the infiltration has been found, the developer must put forward a remedial plan for resolving the issue(s) identified within 2 weeks. This matter should be given appropriate priority to reflect the potential impact it could have on the environment and the need to resolve it quickly. Dates and time frames for completion of the remedial works should be included in the remedial plan.



If you'd like help with arranging flow monitoring for your site, get in touch with Douglas Mlambo at dmlambo@anglianwater.co.uk for more information.