

Mains Drainage Connection

The parish Council has agreed to act as application co-ordinator for all Wendens Ambo applications for first time connection requests. Each applicant has to complete Form S101A found on Anglian Water website and then forward the form to the clerk of the parish council. wapc@gmail.com This will not be a quick process, in the meanwhile please read the requirements below.

New requirements for domestic sewage

New regulations for domestic sewage not connected to public sewers came into force on 1st January 2020. This will impact many properties within the village (mainly west of the railway, but it is up to all property owners/residents to check their property status). The rules are quite complex and we strongly recommend everyone researches them in detail. The following is for initial quick guidance only. Note that EVERYONE is subject to the general binding rules applicable to their particular circumstances.

Prior to these regulations, properties were allowed to discharge sewage either via a septic tank (ST) or a sewage treatment plant (STP) directly to surface water (stream, pond, flowing ditch etc) or into the ground via a drainage field.

Under the new regulations, discharge from a septic tank direct to surface water is NO LONGER legal.

Now, if discharging direct to surface water, one needs to install a sewage treatment plant to BS12566 (whether for a new build property or an upgrade due to above regs). Note: no new discharge (to water or ground) is allowed if the single property is within 30m of existing public sewer if connection is practicable. (NB different rules apply for multiple properties/business/commercial/shared ST or STP etc).

See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/general-binding-rules-small-sewage-discharge-to-a-surface-water>

Requirements for septic tanks & treatment plants discharging to ground will depend on whether the system is “existing” or “new”.

If installed prior to 1st January 2015 AND discharge into ground is NOT due to a recent change from discharge to surface water AND the discharge point has NOT been moved by more than 10m AND peak discharge (e.g. with visitors etc) is less than 2000Litres/day, then it can be classed as “existing” otherwise it will be classed as “new”. If “new” or greater than 2000L/day peak then it MUST connect to the public sewer if practicable.

Regardless of what system is used, all “operators” (generally residents!) must ensure they meet the following obligations:

1. The system is designed to meet the peak sewage capacity (ST & STP)
2. Tank and drainage field (BS 6297:2007 for drainage fields) or treatment plant (BS EN 12566) is correctly designed (ST & STP)
3. The tank is de-sludged regularly by a registered waste carrier (ST). The Environment Agency recommend annually for a household of 4 persons.
4. Equipment is serviced regularly to manufacturer’s guidelines (STP)
5. Any defects (cracks etc) are repaired promptly (ST & STP)
6. Must not pollute ground water or surface water (ST & STP)

See gov.uk website at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/general-binding-rules-small-sewage-discharge-to-the-ground>

If all above conditions apply AND the discharge point is NOT within a groundwater Source Protection Zone 1 (SPZ1) (or within 50m of private well/borehole used for domestic supply) then no permit is required. (NOTE MUCH of Wendens Ambo IS within an SPZ1 see pale area in map below.

Otherwise, a permit form is required. For many, the form B6.6 is applicable:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928445/Application-for-an-environmental-permit-Part-B6.6-existing-small-sewage-discharges-to-ground-within-a-source-protection-zone-1.pdf

