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GUIDANCE FROM BPF PIPES GROUP ON CHOOSING AND INSTALLING PLASTIC INSPECTION CHAMBERS

There are significant benefits to be gained from using inspection chambers to access drains and sewers for cleaning, testing, inspection and maintenance.

Prioritising the safety of the public and personnel working on the drain or sewer is paramount. With advancements in sewer inspection technology, including more compact cameras and inspection units, there is an ever-decreasing need for manholes to be installed. Above-ground working is now the default, with below-ground working and access to manholes limited to specific situations (for example deep installations and intersections of multiple property drains). In Water UK/OFWAT's Code for Adoption, Annex C Design and Construction Guidance (Version 2.1 May 2021), inspection chambers are recommended for many points of access to the public sewerage network.

The BPF Pipes Group is strongly committed to the provision of clear and consistent technical information which is easily accessible to developers and designers. It has published a new guide which summarises where, what and how many access points are required for the construction of drains and sewers across all parts of the UK.

In its guidance '*Selection and installation of plastic inspection chambers for underground drain and sewer systems*,' the BPF Pipes Group emphasises the importance of product choice and correct specification to operational efficiency and asset longevity. It looks at choice of chambers and covers, suitability for use in any given application or loading situation, together with practical design and installation tips.

During the guide's preparation, pipe manufacturers shared their technical knowledge to provide practical recommendations on the use of chambers in brownfield sites; the choice of bedding and sidefill including recycled materials; layout of pipes and chambers to minimise blockages and ease maintenance requirements; and construction.

Richard Eddy chairs the BPF Pipes Group Working Group on drains and sewers and recommends the publication to specifiers and installers, commenting: "Our new guidance looks at the different aspects that should be considered when selecting access points and installing plastic inspection chambers and accompanying covers and frames. Correct specification ensures products are suitable for their intended application or loading situation, whilst facilitating ease of installation and a long service life."

More information is available from the BPF Pipes Group's technical guidance section of its website at www.bfppipesgroup.com/support-downloads/technical-guidance/