Technical Guidance

Access to manholes/inspection chambers

Question

If a manhole/inspection chamber is sited under a fence what action should be taken to ensure reasonable access is provided?

Considerations

- Manholes/inspection chambers should be readily accessible for inspection and maintenance.
- Covers to drainage systems should not be obstructed by boundary fences.

Answer

Manholes/inspection chambers should be located to provide adequate access for inspection and maintenance.

Where a manhole/inspection chamber is obstructed by a fence, either the fence or the manhole/inspection chamber should be relocated.

In exceptional circumstances a removable fence panel can be accepted provided that the fence panel can be removed easily (e.g. by the removal of a few bolts).

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