

Underground drainage – pipe cross-overs

(June 2021) (Second issue - supersedes April 2011)



Question

Where drainage pipes cross over one another within unadopted areas, what clearance should be provided between the pipes at the point where they cross?

Considerations

- NHBC Standards clause 5.3.15 makes reference to general pipe bedding requirements.
- Drainage pipes should be bedded and backfilled with suitable material to provide the pipes with full support and avoid point loads on the pipes.

Answer

Drainage pipes should not make contact with each other as this can lead to a concentrated load where the pipes touch, which can cause damage to the pipes.

To avoid the risk of concentrated loads drainage pipes should be surrounded in a minimum 100mm pea shingle and kept 100mm apart where they cross each other.

Where pipe gradients cannot be adjusted to provide a 100mm clearance, at the point of cross-over, a minimum 50mm clearance may be accepted.