

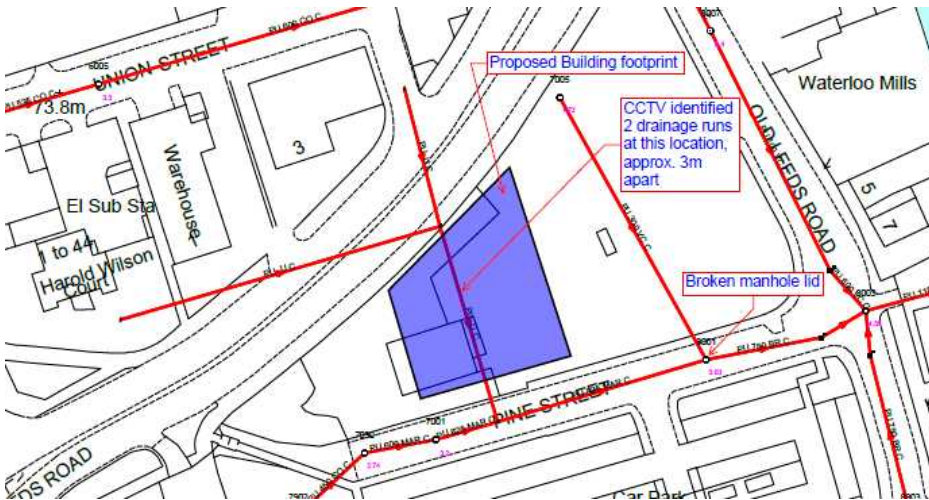
University of Huddersfield

Southgate 2

Removal of redundant Yorkshire Water sewer

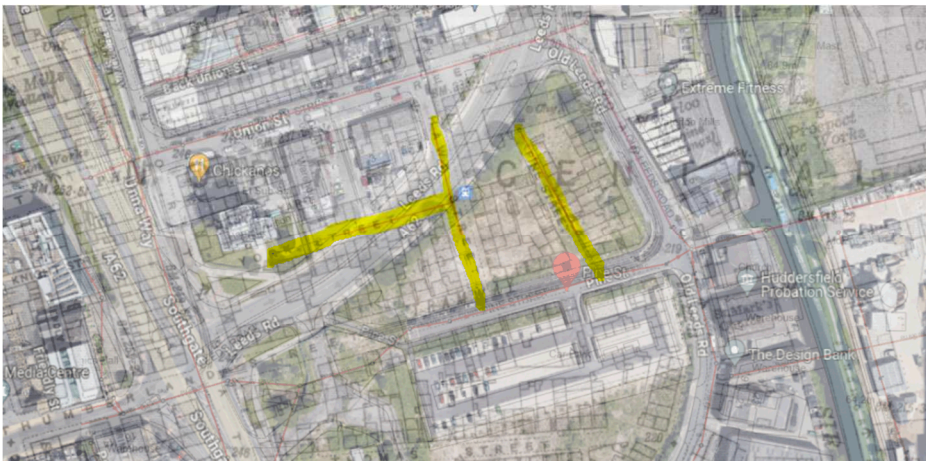
The University of Huddersfield purchased the site known as Southgate in 2020 from Kirklees Council. As works on Phase One (The Daphne Steele Building) progressed, the University moved to develop the second phase, known as Southgate 2 which would be on the plot of land adjacent to Leeds Road.

In late 2023, through ongoing investigation and design work for Southgate 2, it was brought to the attention of the University that a Yorkshire Water sewer ran through the footprint of the building.



The University and their design team believed that the sewer was redundant and subsequently contacted Yorkshire Water who assigned Graham S Phillips, Sewer Diversion and Requisition Senior Engineer to the query.

The University believed the sewers served historic terrace streets (see overlay below) and when the sewer in Pine Street was surveyed, no flow was identified from one of them and the other was unable to be surveyed due to damaged covers on the sewer and obstructions/damage within the sewer.



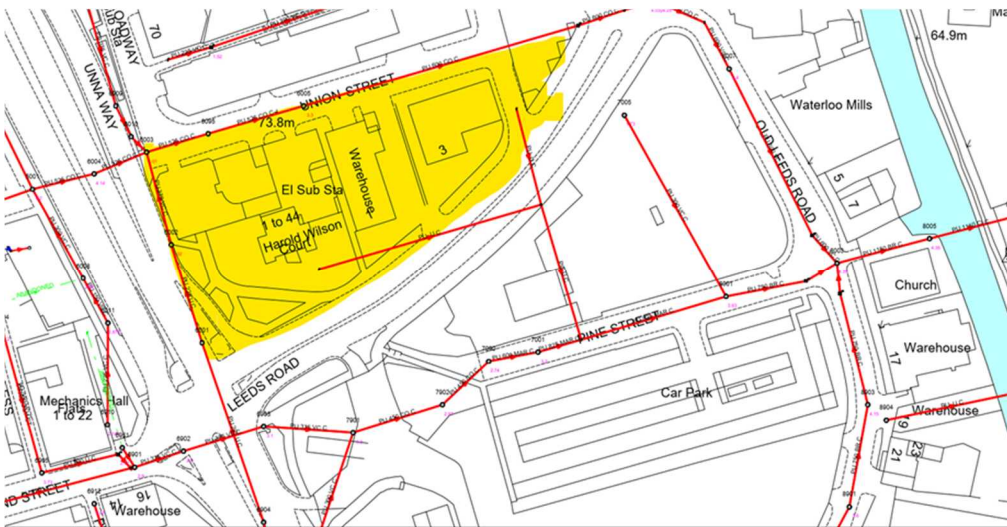
Yorkshire Water expressed a preference for dye testing to ascertain whether the sewer was live or redundant. The University considered this against the required access but having engaged two separate CCTV companies, both failed to identify any manholes or means of access to the sewers on records. As such, there was no ability to dye test from an upstream connection point.

As such, the University proposed to use slit trenches, break the top of the pipes and run a camera from the top. Yorkshire Water accepted this position in principle but requested a method statement for the proposed method of slit trenches which included mitigation of preventing debris entering the system and also include what is proposed if the sewer is found to be live in terms of returning to found state. RAMS were submitted to Yorkshire Water on the 5th January 2024.

The University appointed a Contractor to undertake the works and liaised with Graham to understand the extent of works he would wish to witness which he subsequently confirmed to be the breaking of the pipe. In addition, the University instructed a CCTV survey company to carry out the relevant survey once the pipe had been exposed. This was completed at the end of January 2024 and the initial results highlighted that the sewer was indeed redundant.

Yorkshire Water requested that a Section 116 be formally issued requesting the sewer be deemed redundant. Following an initial period of review, a response was received from Robert Illingworth, Senior Engineer at Yorkshire Water who requested further information with regards sewers in the surrounding area.

To maintain progress, The University team proposed to survey the below ground drainage in the area highlighted yellow to establish if the sewers exist, their condition and their connectivity.



Should the buildings in the area highlighted yellow currently discharge to the sewers that do not pass through our site, it stands to reason that any future development in this area could / should discharge through a similar route as the existing, therefore the sewer which passes through our site would remain redundant. If the surveys prove that the current discharge from the existing below ground drainage does not pass through the University site then it was proposed that the sewer was considered to be abandoned.

A meeting was held on site with Robert Illingworth and the University team on the 20th June 2024 and in advance of the surveys noted above. The subsequent survey found that no drainage from the buildings between Leeds Road and Union Street were found to discharge southward, toward the site. We can therefore determine that should the sewers crossing Leeds Rd be in place these are redundant, therefore the pipe crossing our site is also redundant. Supporting

documents were issued to Yorkshire Water on the 3rd July 2024 with a request to proceed with the abandonment process.

Umar Hussain, Sewerage Adoptions and Diversion Technician Developer Services from Yorkshire Water confirmed on the 10th September 2024 that they approved the closure of the sewer – see email snip below:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Pine Street, (Off Old Leeds Road), Huddersfield, HD1 1SE - S116 Sewer Closure V499039

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed closure of the public combined and surface water sewers.

Under the provisions of Section 116 of the Water Industry Act 1991, Yorkshire Water approves the closure of the approximately 153 meters length of combined sewer(s) detailed on drawing no. SG2-CUR-ZZ-ZZ-DR-C-92501 P01 at the above address.

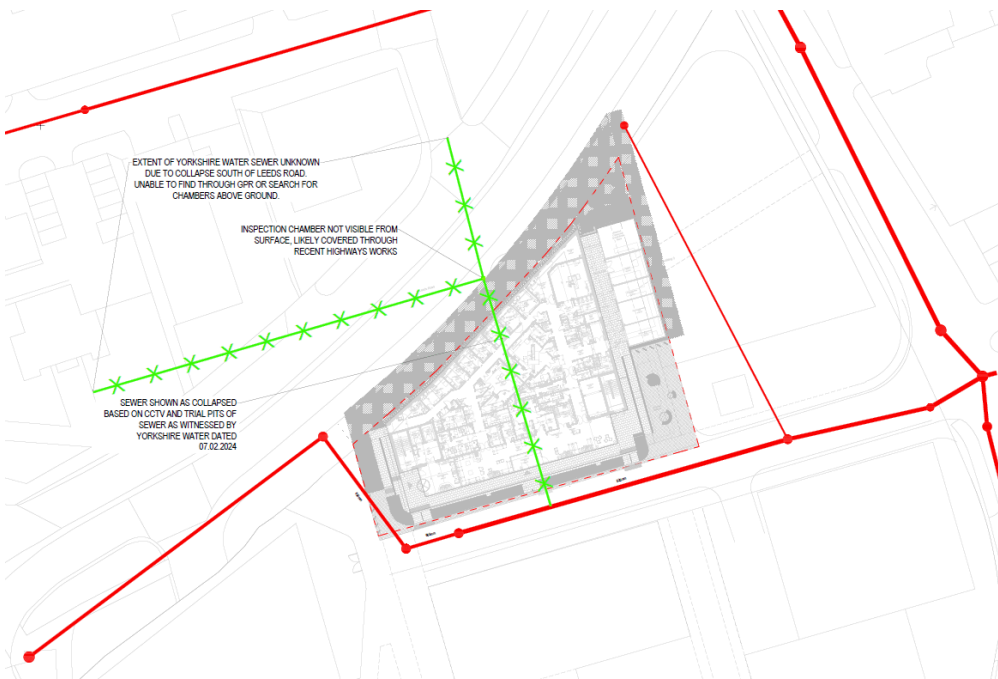
Your client will be responsible for grubbing out the closed public sewer, which must be witnessed by a Yorkshire Water Inspector. We would then arrange for it to be removed from the Statutory Sewer Map enabling your client to lay his own private drainage and buildings accordingly.

Please call 03451 20 84 82 to arrange a visit from a Yorkshire Water inspector.

Should you have any further queries regarding the above please contact me on the above telephone number.

(See attached file: SG2-CUR-ZZ-ZZ-DR-C-92501-P01_Drainage Abandonment Drawing.pdf)

A snip of SG2-CUR-ZZ-ZZ-DR-C-92501 P01 is shown below:



The University have subsequently engaged with a Contractor to remove the sewer in accordance with the requirements of Yorkshire Water. This involved exposing the sewer, taking record photographs, banded it with a stopper and then encased it in concrete for its abandonment. Photos of this process are shown below:



In addition, Michael Royal of Yorkshire Water visited site on the 7th October 2024 to review the works undertaken and discuss with the University Contractor, Kier Construction and their groundwork subcontractor, Moortown.