

EA requirement as per General binding rules: small sewage discharge to a surface water - GOV.UK and supporting evidence

New discharges that started on or after 2 October 2023

You're in this category if, on or after the 2 October 2023, you:

- started a discharge from a small sewage treatment plant
- changed a discharge from surface water to ground
- moved the location of the discharge to more than 10 metres away from the previous location
- increased a discharge to ground to more than 5 cubic metres (5,000 litres) a day to surface water

If so, you must meet the:

- rules that apply to all discharges
- additional rules for discharges started on or after 1 January 2015
- additional rules for new discharges started on or after 2 October 2023

RULE

Rule 2: only discharge 5 cubic metres or less a day in volume

For sewage from a residential property, use the [daily discharge calculator](#) to work out how much you discharge a day.

For commercial properties (such as a hotel, restaurant or office) or holiday accommodation (such as a cottage or chalet), use [British Water's Flows and Loads guidance](#). You will need to add all sources of flow together.

If you discharge more than 5 cubic metres (5,000 litres) a day to surface water, you must connect to the public foul sewer when it's [reasonable](#) to do so. You must [apply for a permit](#) if it's not.

EVIDENCE

Discharge and Effluent

. For pumped outlets connecting pipework will link to appropriate point of discharge as stated in the scope of works above. **The final effluent and connection comply fully with the Environmental Agency 2020 regulations** as well as the Government's general binding rules.

Annual Maintenance and Servicing

You may also wish to participate in our managed maintenance service; we will call you with reminders to arrange Pumping Out as required for your system and can offer an annual service on each anniversary of the installation date. For more information regarding our Service Package please contact services@proseptic.co.uk. Information about our service package will be provided in your Customer Completion Pack

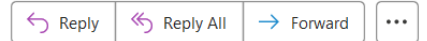
Sales Director



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Email from supplier Proseptic confirming discharge less than 5m3 per day.

General binding rules for small sewage discharges (SSDs) with effect from 2 October 2023 - GOV.UK



Thu 11/7/2024 12:27 PM

Hi Richard,

Nice to see you again this morning. Please find attached the general binding rules for sewage Treatment Plant discharges. Look specifically at discharge to surface water and you will see that no permit is required providing discharge does not exceed 5000 L per day. The plants that has been sized and quoted for at the Marina will only discharge a maximum of 4500 L per day.

We will be in touch soon with the interceptor quote following today's visit.

Kind regards
Tom

RULE

Rule 3: only discharge domestic sewage

The sewage must be domestic in nature. For example, from a toilet, bathroom, shower or kitchen of a house, flat or business (such as a pub, hotel or office).

Find out more about [what the definition of domestic sewage includes](#).

EVIDENCE

Confirmed within application detail under "Description of proposal".

RULE

Rule 4: do not cause pollution of surface water or groundwater

The sewage must not cause pollution – find out how to [check for pollution](#).

EVIDENCE

Confirmed within application under "Description of proposal".



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RULE

Rule 6: use the correct treatment system

You must use a small sewage treatment plant to treat the sewage if you're discharging to a watercourse such as a river or stream. A sewage treatment plant, also known as a package treatment plant, treats sewage to a higher standard than a septic tank.

If your septic tank discharges directly to a watercourse, as soon as possible you must do one of the following:

- connect to a public foul sewer
- replace your septic tank with a small sewage treatment plant
- install a drainage field (also known as an infiltration system) – a series of pipes with holes placed in trenches and arranged so that the waste water can trickle through the ground for further treatment – and check if you meet the [general binding rules for discharges to ground](#)

You must have plans in place to do this work within a reasonable timescale, usually 12 months.

EVIDENCE

Val Wyatt currently have a septic tank that gets pumped out twice a week and are applying for permission to replace with a sewage treatment plant. Val Wyatt have explored the option of connecting to mains drainage; however, this was not feasible or proportionate on a cost or logistic level. The supplier has recommended the system based on our requirements and suitability, therefore is the correct system.

RULE

Rule 8: in tidal areas, make sure you discharge below the mean low water spring mark

If you're in an area where the water level changes according to tides, you must make sure the top end of the pipe that releases sewage is below the 'mean low water spring mark'. This is the average low water mark at the time of spring tides. Check the [low water mark where you live](#).

EVIDENCE

N/A as not in tidal area.



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RULE**Rule 9: make sure your treatment system meets the right British Standard**

Your system must meet the relevant British Standard that was in place at the time it was installed.

The current standards for new systems are:

- BS EN 12566 for small sewage treatment plants
- BS 6297:2007 for drainage fields

How to check if your treatment system met the British Standard

Your septic tank or treatment plant met the British Standard in place at the time of installation if:

- it has a [CE mark](#)
- the manual or other documentation that came with your tank or treatment plant has a certificate of compliance with a British Standard
- it's on [British Water's list of approved equipment](#)

You can also ask the company that installed your equipment to confirm that it met the British Standard in place at the time of installation.

EVIDENCE

Proseptic Ltd, Unit 2,
Hawkes Farm, Dores Lane, Braishfield, Romsey,
Hampshire SO51 0QJ

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www.proseptic.co.uk

QUOTE REF: Val Wyatt Marine – RG10 8LH- STP Pumped

Richard Snowball
Val Wyatt Marine
Willow Lane
Wargrave
Berkshire
RG10 8LH

24th June 2025

Visiting Engineer: Tom Roach

Dear Richard,

Following my second visit and with a clear understanding of the size of system required following a separate visit from Oliver Beaumont from Marsh Industries. I am happy to offer our final quotation for the supply and installation of a Shallow 30 population pumped outlet Marsh Sewage Treatment Plant. Inlet pipework connection from the final foul manhole, electrical connection to the plant and heavy duty 40 ton water proof traffic bearing lids and full reinforced concrete surround.

We are happy to recommend the Marsh 30 population pumped outlet ension sewage treatment plant. The Marsh Ension is made from glass fibre and is tested to BS EN 12566 and CE marked to ensure compliance. It has a 3 chamber system correctly sized for separation and retention of solids providing optimum effluent quality. A low energy efficient compressor ensures minimal running, maintenance and servicing costs. Internal recirculation (from final to primary chamber) continues treatment process to provide higher effluent quality whilst balancing flow over 24 hour period or periods of intermittent use.



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RULE

Rule 10: make sure your treatment system is installed and operated correctly, and has enough capacity

Your treatment system must be large enough to handle the maximum amount of sewage it will need to treat.

If you install a new small sewage treatment plant, or installed one after 1 February 2006, you must check with the installer that it meets the sizing requirements in [British Water's Flows and Loads guidance](#).

Your treatment system must be installed and operated in line with the manufacturer's specification. This is the instruction manual or technical set of requirements that comes with the equipment.

EVIDENCE

Attention to be drawn to supporting document provided by supplier "TUV Ensign".

RULE

Rule 11: get your treatment system regularly maintained

You should have your treatment system regularly maintained in line with the manufacturer's instructions. If these are not available, ask your local maintenance company for advice.

EVIDENCE

Attention to be drawn to the Proseptic quote/info document, that included in our quote is a progress visit post-installation to check system is working as expected. Also included in the quote/information is the option to join the maintenance/service package.

RULE

Rule 12: get your treatment system regularly emptied

You must get the sludge that builds up in your sewage treatment plant removed (desludged) before it goes beyond the maximum capacity. You should do this at least once a year or in line with the manufacturer's instructions.

The company you use to dispose of your waste sludge must be a registered waste carrier. You can find this out by either:

- asking the company to confirm this when you arrange to have your tank emptied
- asking the tanker driver for a copy of the company's waste carrier's certificate



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EVIDENCE

As per previous rule, attention drawn to the Proseptic quote/info document, that included in our quote is a progress visit post-installation to check system is working as expected. Also included in the quote/information is the option to join the maintenance/service package.

RULE

Rule 13: if you sell your property, tell the new owner about the sewage treatment system

If you sell your property, you must tell the new operator (the owner or person responsible for the sewage treatment plant) in writing that a sewage discharge is in place.

Include:

- a description of the treatment plant and drainage system
- the location of the main parts of the treatment plant, drainage system and discharge point
- details of any changes made to the treatment plant and drainage system
- details of how the treatment plant should be maintained and the maintenance manual, if you have one
- maintenance records, if you have them

EVIDENCE

N/A but noted.

RULE

Rule 14: if you stop using your treatment system, make sure it's decommissioned properly

You must remove anything that could cause pollution (for example, remaining sludge) when you stop using a septic tank or sewage treatment plant.

This does not apply if you only stop using the equipment temporarily. For example, if your property is empty.

You can ask a maintenance company for advice on how to decommission your septic tank or treatment plant properly.

EVIDENCE

N/A but noted.



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RULE

Rule 15: check if you can connect to a nearby public foul sewer

If you connect to a public foul sewer:

- the general binding rules will not apply to you
- you will not need a permit

To find out if there is a public sewer near your property, contact your [local water company](#). You can also ask owners of neighbouring properties if their property is connected to a public sewer.

EVIDENCE

This option has been explored with Third Party professionals, however deemed unfeasible logistically and financially disproportionate. Enquiries with the neighbouring properties revealed they also rely on sewage treatment plants or septic tanks.

RULE

Rule 17: make sure the discharge point is not in or near protected sites

You cannot meet the general binding rules if the discharge will be in or within 500 metres of any:

- biological sites of special scientific interest (SSSI)
- special protection areas
- special areas of conservation
- Ramsar wetland sites
- designated bathing water
- protected shellfish water
- freshwater pearl mussel population

You also cannot meet the rules if the discharge will be in or within:

- 200 metres of an aquatic local nature reserve
- 50 metres of a chalk river or aquatic local wildlife site

If you have or are planning to start a discharge to surface water in or near a protected site, you must connect to the public foul sewer when it's [reasonable](#) to do so. You must [apply for a permit](#) if it's not.



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EVIDENCE**How to check the locations of protected sites**

You can use [Magic map](#) to identify the locations of most of these sites.

1. Search for the discharge site location.
2. In the table of contents, open 'Designations', then 'Land-Based Designations', then 'Statutory'. Select 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)', 'Special Protection Areas (England)', 'Special Areas of Conservation (England)', 'Ramsar Sites (England)' and 'Local Nature Reserves (England)'.
3. If the discharge will be to an estuary or the sea you should also open 'Marine Designations', then 'Statutory'. Select 'Special Protection Area (Marine) (GB)', 'Special Area of Conservation (Inshore) (GB)', 'Special Area of Conservation (Offshore) (GB)' and 'Bathing Waters 2016 (England)'. Also open 'Marine' in the table of contents, then 'Fisheries and Fishing Activity'. Select 'Shellfish Waters 2014 (England)'.
4. To measure the distance from the discharge site to any protected sites, select the 'Measure' tool from the menu then use the 'Distance' option.
5. To find out if a site is a biological SSSI or if a local nature reserve is aquatic, select the 'Identify' tool from the menu, then select the protected site on the map. Open the site detail link to read the description.

Map Layers

☒ Magic

> Access

> Administrative Geographies

> Countryside Stewardship Targeting & Scoring Layers

☒ Designations

☒ Land-Based Designations

☒ Statutory

☐ Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (England) ⓘ

☐ Limestone Pavement Orders (England) ⓘ

☒ Local Nature Reserves (England)

☐ Moorland Line (England) ⓘ

☐ National Nature Reserves (England)

☐ National Nature Reserves (Scotland)

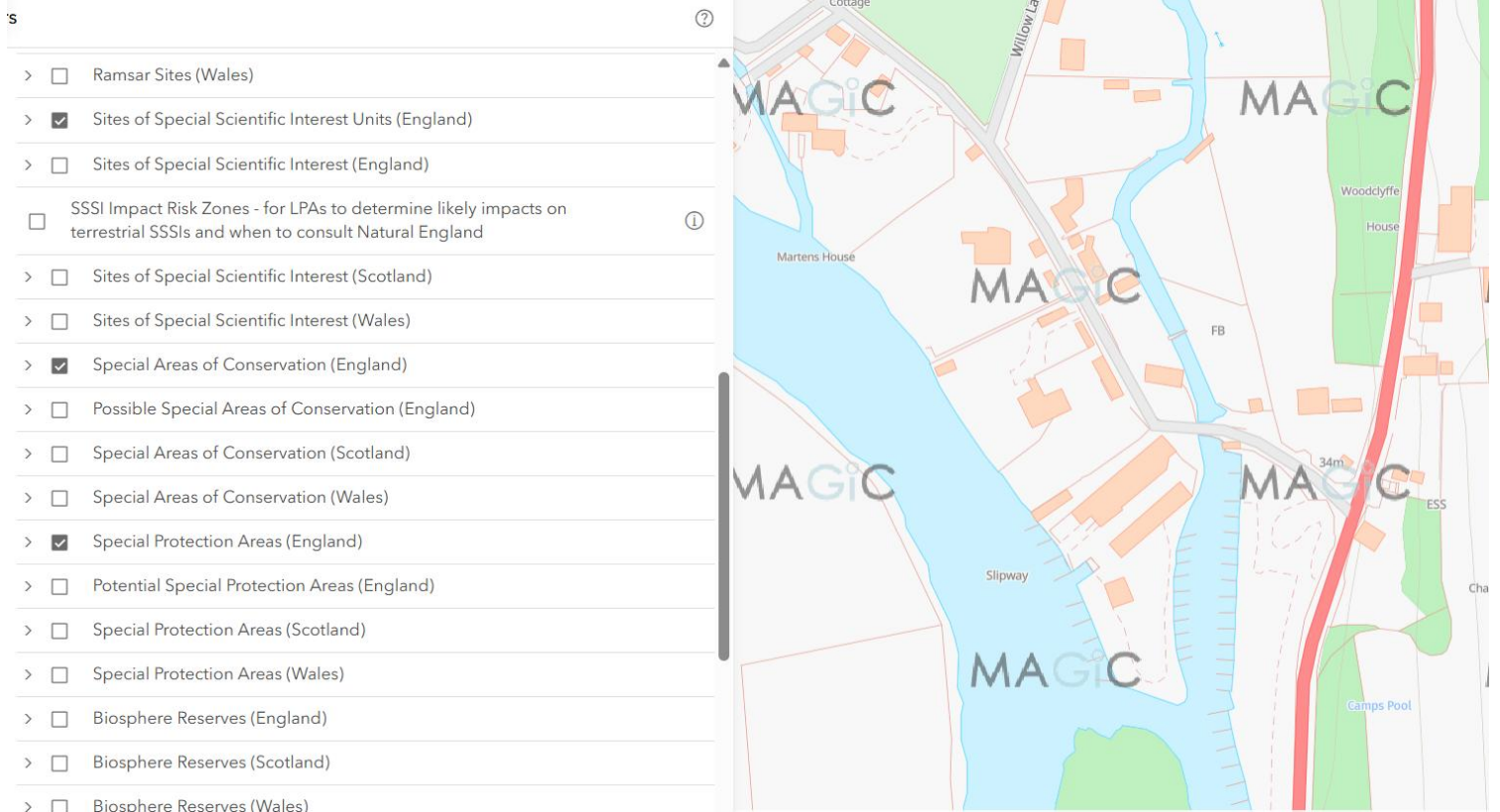
☐ National Nature Reserves (Wales)

☐ National Parks (England) ⓘ

☒ Ramsar Sites (England)

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All craft and equipment moored, moved and stored at owner's risk | Terms of business available on our website or by request



RULE

Rule 19: make sure the surface water has flow

You cannot meet the general binding rules if you have a discharge to:

- a ditch or a surface water that does not contain flowing water throughout the year, unless there is a drought or an unusually long period of dry weather
- watercourses that seasonally dry up

EVIDENCE

Discharge will be into the Hennerton Backwater which does have a flow.



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RULE

Rule 20: Make sure any partial drainage field is close enough to the watercourse

A partial drainage field is a length of perforated pipe that is installed between the sewage treatment plant and the outfall. It's installed instead of a solid pipe. This allows some of the waste water to soak into the ground when the ground is dry and flows in the watercourse are likely to be lower.

If you're using a partial drainage field for a new discharge, the perforated section of the pipe must not extend more than 10 metres from the edge of the watercourse. You must only use it with a small sewage treatment plant, not a septic tank.

EVIDENCE

N/A as the proposed system does not use this. System uses 110mm UPVC pipe.

RULE

Rule 21: do not discharge to an enclosed lake or pond

You cannot meet the general binding rules if you have a discharge to an enclosed lake or pond. This means a lake or pond in which all of the following apply:

- it contains water throughout the year, other than in extreme weather conditions
- it does not have an outfall that connects it to a watercourse, or has an outfall that only discharges in extreme weather conditions
- it is sealed or lined to prevent water draining into the ground or soaking into the surrounding soil

You do not need a permit to discharge to an enclosed lake or pond. But you must use appropriate [pollution prevention measures](#) to make sure your discharge does not cause pollution.

EVIDENCE

N/A as discharged will be into Hennerton backwater, part of River Thames.



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RULE

Rule 22: make sure your new discharge does not use the same discharge point as any other discharge if the combined volume would exceed the general binding rule limit

A new discharge must not use the same outlet as any other discharge if the combined volume is greater than 5 cubic metres (5,000 litres) a day to surface water. You must have a permit for the new discharge if the combined volume of the new and existing discharges is above this limit.

EVIDENCE

Val Wyatt confirm that this will be a new discharge and the only one in use.

RULE

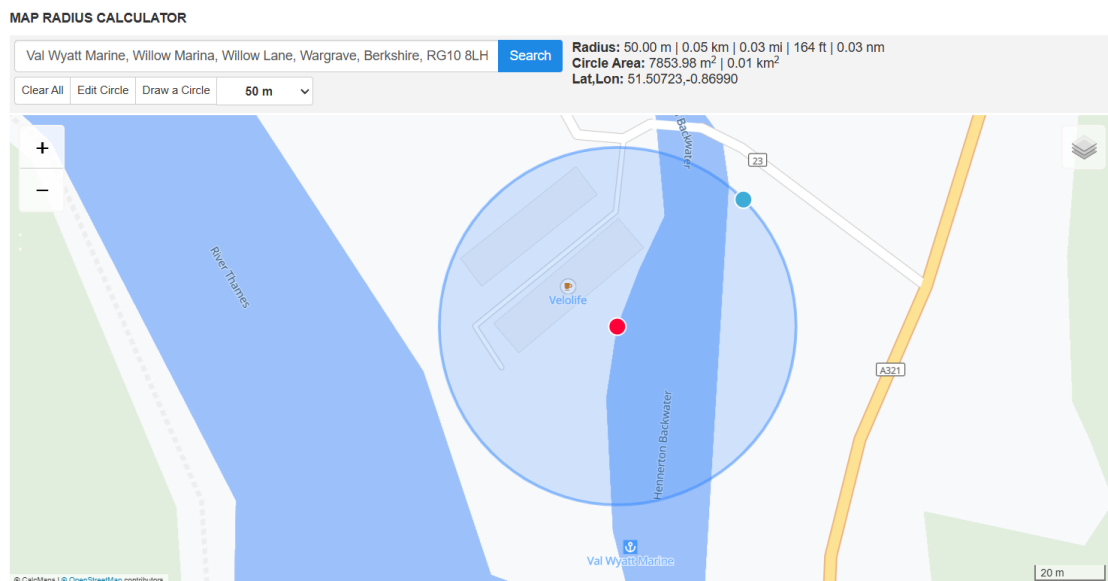
Rule 23: make sure your new discharge is not within 50 metres of any other exempt small sewage discharge

Ask your neighbours if their foul drainage solution discharges under the general binding rules. If so, ask how far their discharge is from your discharge location.

You must have a permit for the new discharge if it's within 50 metres of any other system that discharges under the general binding rules.

EVIDENCE

As shown using Calc Maps, 50m radius from the discharge site remains within Val Wyatt property boundary and therefore confirms no other discharge.



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Further supporting evidence

← ↻ 🏠 <https://proseptic.co.uk/drainage-services/sewage-treatment-plant-installation/>



Find a service ▾

Why Proseptic? ▾



Within the tank:

Solid waste is broken down by bacteria and self-cleans

The result is filtered into the liquid waste.

Then:

✓ Aeration is achieved by injecting compressed air into the liquid section, which generates bacteria.

✓ This bacteria then works to clean the liquid effluent to almost drinking water standards. However, you must not ingest this.

The cleanliness of the liquid sewage exiting the Sewage Treatment Plant has been approved by the Environment Agency to allow for dispersal into a running ditch, streams and lakes with flowing water. Therefore, this provides an eco-friendly alternative to filtering raw sewage through the ground.

However, where any of these options are not available the clean effluent should go into a new drainage field and, in extreme cases a bore hole with the appropriate permit from the EA.

What type of sewage treatment plant do I need? ▾

What does our sewage treatment plant installation service include? ▾



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