Understanding your site area map





Water for the North West

General information

To calculate your surface water and highway drainage charges, we use a geographic information system called ArcMap.

To be certain that your chargeable area is correct, we rely on you to tell us about any change(s) that could affect your surface water and highway drainage charges. If you believe there is a discrepancy with the data, please discuss this with your retailer first.



The information below helps to explain the site area map we have provided and describes the features you may see on it. Please note that the map we send will only show information that relates to your premises.

Feature name	What does it mean?	Visual
Premises	This can represent one of three things:	
boundary	 A boundary for premises with one occupier A building with more than one occupier A building on a site with more than one occupier 	
	Premises boundaries will normally extend to perimeter fences and gates and cover all parts, whether or not we charge for them.	
	Wherever a premises boundary is shown on a site map, we believe the customer's property is within the outlined area.	
Site boundary	This shows a site with more than one occupier. It normally extends to perimeter fences and gates and covers all parts, whether or not we charge for them.	
Communal area	This shows areas within a premises or site boundary that are available for use by all occupiers or patrons of the site.	
Exclusive area	This shows physically restricted areas within a premises or site boundary that can only be used by a single occupier, or a group of customers, and is not available for use by all site occupants and/or patrons.	
Surface water drainage – connected	This shows areas that have been proven to be connected to the public sewer for surface water. We charge full surface water charges for these areas. This will only appear on the site map if we have carried out a surface water investigation.	
Surface water drainage – not connected	This shows areas that have been proven not to be connected to the public sewer for surface water. We do not charge surface water charges for these areas. This will only appear on the site map if we have carried out a surface water investigation.	
SuDS area	This shows areas that drain to the public sewer through an approved SuDS (sustainable drainage system).	
Trade effluent catchment	This shows areas where there is a trade effluent consent in place for us to treat contaminated surface water discharging into a foul public sewer. You can read more about this here: unitedutilities.com/Business-services/trade-effluent	
Ordnance Survey MasterMap® Topography Layer	This is the Ordnance Survey MasterMap® (OSMM) Topography Layer that we base our site area data on and use to determine what we class as chargeable and non- chargeable areas.	Crdnance
	We receive regular updates to show most (but not all) new developments and changes to land and buildings.	Ordnance Survey
	The OSMM [®] Topography Layer key can be found at:	
	unitedutilities.com/globalassets/documents/pdf/osmm_key.pdf	



03/24/SD/9560b



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