

Domestic drainage investigation, delivering best practice for best value.

Young Technical Services core work is with Industrial companies, property developers, water companies, local authorities and consultant engineers. However our expertise has also been utilised many times by private householders dissatisfied by the drainage services available to them.

The domestic drainage industry is overrun with the “just claim on your house insurance” type contractors, they may have little or no drainage qualifications but have enough knowledge to convince the householder that major work needs doing and that their quotation is reasonable.

CASE STUDY

A group of house owners were faced with a quotation of several thousand pounds to cut roots out of the last length of a shared private foul drain, the contractor said the drain should then be relined to prevent the roots growing back. He could not guarantee the work for more than a year unless the trees (a conifer hedge) near the drain were cut down. The properties were 30 years old and this had been there first drainage problem.

One of the house owners knew of Young Technical Services through their work and asked us to give a second opinion.

We asked the drainage contractor to provide a copy of his CCTV inspection video and coded report so that we could evaluate the root ingress problem, we also asked for a detailed quotation and method statement for the proposed relining work. None of this was forthcoming. We visited the site to find the drain blocked again, which we easily cleared with drain rods, using our own CCTV equipment we surveyed the pipe.



The cause of the blockage was found to be a broken pipe joint, probably due to an adjacent excavation made for the footings of a garden wall done six months earlier, there was no evidence of tree roots in the pipe. Root cutting could have smashed this broken joint further and relining would have done nothing to remedy this offset joint and may have made the problem worse. We were on site for a total of two hours.

We recommended a ground working drainage contractor who dug down and replaced the pipe. This repair work was done in one day.

This foul drain continues to work perfectly No insurance claims were made for the cost of this work as the shared costs incurred were less than the house insurance policy excess amounts.

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