

# You are a riparian landowner.

## You are responsible for maintaining the watercourse that borders or runs through your property.



## Your Responsibilities as a Riparian Landowner

Land Drainage Act 1991

**We have contacted you because there is a watercourse on or next to your property.**

A watercourse is any natural or artificial channel above or below ground through which water flows, such as a river, stream, brook, beck, ditch, mill stream or culvert.

As the owner of the property, under common law, you are responsible for the maintenance of the watercourse within it. If the watercourse flows along your property's boundary then your responsibility is deemed to be up to its centreline.

You must ensure that water can flow freely through your land and there are no restrictions that may increase the risk of flooding.

Certain types of work within or next to a watercourse may require consent.

**Contact us if you need further advice or information.**

**Your responsibilities include;**

- Clearing any debris
- Managing vegetation within the channel
- Ensuring the flow of water isn't obstructed

**You can also:**

- Protect your property from flooding
- Protect your land from erosion

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