

# Do you own land that has a watercourse or drainage ditch on or adjacent to it?

Answer: Yes –You are therefore a '**riparian landowner**' and you are responsible for maintaining those watercourses

## What is a watercourse?

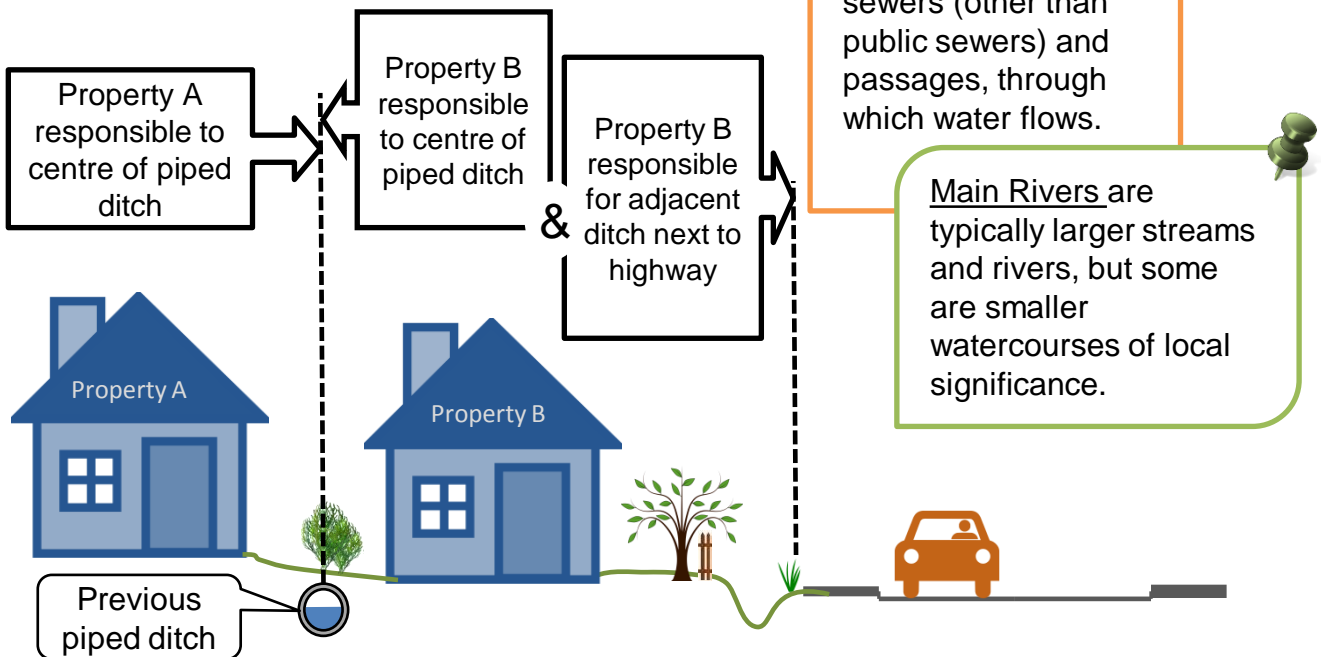
Watercourses are any natural or artificial channel above or below ground through which water flows. Watercourses are classified as either 'Ordinary Watercourse' or 'Main River'.

## Ordinary

Watercourses are watercourses that are not part of a main river and include streams, ditches, drains, cuts, culverts, dykes, sluices, sewers (other than public sewers) and passages, through which water flows.

## Main Rivers

are typically larger streams and rivers, but some are smaller watercourses of local significance.



*What can land and properties owners do to reduce the risk of flooding?*

- ❖ Identify your ordinary watercourses/ditches/piped watercourses – check deeds if required
- ❖ Check whether they are clear from debris and vegetation and if not clear them

**As a landowner you have a right to protect your property from flooding – consider how you might do this and prepare a plan.**



*More information:*

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding>

National Flood Forum provides information on preparing for a flood:

<https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/>



**Hampshire**  
County Council

www.hants.gov.uk