

Who's responsible for managing flood risk?

Private drainage and surface water

The property owner is responsible for private drainage up to the boundary of the property, and rain water through the roof e.g. via storm damage.

Watercourse (riparian) ownership

You own a watercourse if it runs adjacent to, through, or under your property. These ordinary watercourses include culverts, streams and ditches. You are responsible for maintaining the natural flow of water and reporting incidents such as blockages and flooding.

Main river and coastal flooding

This is the responsibility of the Environment Agency (EA). Main rivers are those which are designated as such on the EA's Main River Map. To report incidents and flood risk issues, call the Incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60. To sign up for flood warnings, call the Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

Groundwater flooding

The Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) are responsible for managing groundwater flooding. This can occur when periods of prolonged rainfall cause the water table to rise and emerge in basements or above ground.

Surface water flooding

The Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) are responsible for managing surface water flooding. This can occur when the capacity of drainage systems on land or roads is exceeded by heavy rainfall.

Public sewers and utility pipes

These are the responsibility of the water company, United Utilities. This includes shared sewer pipes where they meet between properties before joining the public sewer.

Highway gullies and drains

Responsibility of the local highway authority which will be either the County Council or the Unitary Authority. Responsible for highway roads, footpaths, drains and gullies.

Major roads and motorway drainage

The highway authority is Highways England.