

ARE YOU A RIPARIAN OWNER?



- Consider the proximity and relationship of the land between the watercourse and your boundary.
- Is a strip of land or pathway definable, and could it possibly be owned by a third party?
- Checking your title deeds / plan should confirm your boundary (riparian ownership rights and responsibilities can still apply even if riparian ownership is not explicitly mentioned within the title).
- If in doubt, a land registry search can help to confirm the owner of any intervening land.
- If you are unsure about roadside ditches, those constructed by the Highways Authority, or within the freehold land owned by them and intended to be used for draining the highway, is the responsibility of the Highways Authority.
- A ditch on either the field side or roadside of fences and hedges taking land drainage as well as highway drainage, under common law is the responsibility of the adjacent Riparian owner.
- If still in doubt, speak to the relevant risk management authority with strategic oversight for the watercourse in question.

**** The exception would be an awarded watercourse where the awarded body has the riparian responsibilities for maintenance.**