



Consent and Enforcement Action

Under Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, temporary or permanent works to ordinary watercourses require Consent from the Council. Works likely to cause an obstruction to flow, restrict storage or that involve installing a culvert, changes to structures (dams, weirs, culverts or other like obstructions) already in place will also need consent. Please note if works are undertaken without consent, where the Council deems that consent was required, **works cannot be retrospectively consented**. In this case enforcement action will be taken to see that the watercourse is put back to the condition it was in before.

Examples of **permanent works/structures** include diversions, construction of bridges, culverts, weirs, dams, alteration of a culvert or any other objects which will permanently interfere with or change the flow of water in a watercourse.

Permanent works



Temporary works



Examples of **temporary works/structures** include placement of sand bags used to create a dry working area, or any objects or materials that will be removed at a later date that interfere with or change the flow of water in a watercourse.

Main River Consent

For watercourses designated **Main River**, under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010, you need to apply for an environmental permit from the Environment Agency for all development within several metres of the top of the bank of a Main River. This is because development in this proximity to a Main River may affect flood risk or land drainage, or interfere with the Environment Agency's access.