



Solihull
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Roles & Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities

Various landowners and organisations are responsible for minimising the risks of flooding across the borough. The following information will explain the role that each have in relation to potential flooding. If you have any queries or concerns, please reach out to one of our team at drainage@solihull.gov.uk who will be happy to assist.

Solihull Council

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Solihull Council is a designated Lead Local Flood Authority. Our responsibilities are:

- To prepare and maintain a strategy for local flood risk management
- To investigate significant local flooding.
- To carry out works where appropriate to manage local flood risks.

It should be noted that Solihull Council is only responsible for solving a problem if the flooding has occurred due to inadequate drainage on public highways. If the issue is occurring due to inadequate drainage on private land, then the Council is not responsible.



Environment Agency

The Environment Agency is the regulator for Main River flooding. “Main River” is a legal definition and refers to larger rivers and streams. The overall designation can be found on the [EA Main River Map](#)

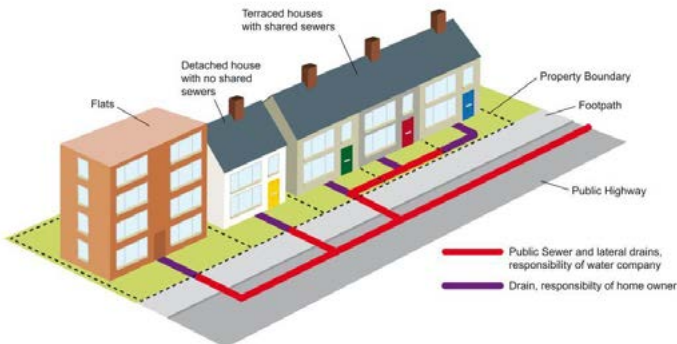
For Solihull, this covers the River Blythe and Mount Brook downstream of Earlswood Lakes, the Hatchford and Westley Brooks in Olton, and the River Cole through Kingshurst.



Environment Agency

Severn Trent Water (STW) is responsible for maintaining surface water and foul water pipes.

When pipes on private land join from multiple properties, STW often adopts these and will therefore be responsible for their maintenance. More information about ownership is available on their website: <https://www.stwater.co.uk/my-supply/waste-water/looking-after-your-sewers/sewer-pipe-responsibility/>



The property/landowner

The Land Drainage System deals with a large proportion of the water arising from rainfall and surface water run-off, as well as groundwater. The Land Drainage System incorporates rivers, watercourses, ditches, culverts, pipes, lakes, and ponds.

The Land Drainage Act 1991 requires a watercourse to be maintained by its owner in a way that ensures the free flow of water.

The Council does not own any land drainage ditches unless they are adjacent to or on Council Land.

If you own land located immediately adjacent to or bordering a drainage ditch, river or any other inland body of water then in legal terms you are a 'Riparian Owner' and have certain common law rights & responsibilities:

- You have the responsibility to pass on water flow without obstruction, pollution or diversions affecting the rights of others.
- You must accept flood flows through your land, even if these are caused by inadequate capacity downstream.
- You must maintain the bed and banks of the watercourse as well as the trees and shrubs growing on the bank. You must clear any debris even if it did not originate from your land/person.
- You must keep the bed and banks clear of any matter that could cause an obstruction, either on your land or downstream if it is washed away.

- You must keep any structures that you own clear of debris. These structures include culverts, trash screens, weirs, and mill gates.
- You are responsible for protecting your property from water that seeps through natural or man-made banks.
- You are responsible for damage caused by any alterations on your land that modifies the natural discharge of surface water onto adjacent lower land. For example, changes in ploughing regimes or construction of impermeable surfaces.

The landowner has the right to protect their land from erosion or damage due to a watercourse. However, if this involves altering the watercourse in any way then Solihull Council must be contacted to consent to the works taking place. Works that require this consent may include culverting or installing bridges/weirs which reduce or restrict the flow, full details can be found here: <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Roads-pavements-and-streetcare/Watercourse-consenting>

It is important that land is managed in a way that increases the amount of infiltration and reduces the potential amount of runoff. Flood risk can be reduced through decreased runoff, which will also reduce soil erosion.

For further details, please refer to the Riparian Ownership leaflet.

If you would like to know more or have had an incident of flooding, please contact Solihull Council and one of our flood risk team will be happy to help

drainage@solihull.gov.uk

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