



xfordshire
Be Ready...



DITCHES AND DRAINAGE

Your guide to drainage in
Oxfordshire



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Lead Local Flood Authority

The Lead Local Flood Authority works with the Land Drainage Authority to oversee watercourses other than main rivers. However, they are not responsible for maintenance which is usually carried out by riparian owners.

Riparian owners

Responsible for any watercourse that runs alongside or through their property, including maintenance of that watercourse.

Any maintenance to be carried out requires consent from the Lead Local Authority or Land Drainage Authority.

Highway drains

These drains are privately owned by the Highway Authority and are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council. They are intended for highway water and the Highway Authority may discharge these drains into any ditch, watercourse or piped watercourse.

Gullies

Grated iron mouldings generally in the channel of roads which take rain water to the highway drains.

Kerb offlets

Holes in the kerb-line which drain water off the highway into a ditch or pipe.

Grips

Generally found in rural areas, these channels are cut across roadside verges to drain the carriageway of excess water into roadside ditches. These are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council.

Surface flood water

Oxfordshire actively promotes the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), such as soakaways, ditches and porous pavements to aid the drainage of surface flood water.

Balancing pond


Pond areas which store excess rainfall balance the levels of water in watercourses and drainage systems. Maintained by the Highway Authority or the development management company.

Public sewers

Both foul sewers and surface water sewers throughout Oxfordshire are the responsibility of Thames Water Utilities.

Foul sewers - carry waste water from domestic, commercial and industrial premises. Maintenance of these sewers is the responsibility of Thames Water.

Surface water sewers - collect the rain water and surface run-off in hard-standing and other impermeable areas such as car parks. These are maintained by Thames Water.



The Highway Authority has no obligation to maintain private ditches. If you wish to alter your ditch, you will require consent from your Land Drainage Authority.

Main rivers

Responsibility for main rivers and important small watercourses lies with the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency may do maintenance but generally oversee Thames Water maintenance schemes.

Watercourses

A watercourse is a channel in which water flows (such as a river, stream or ditch) which is not defined as a main river by the Environment Agency.

Piped Watercourses and Culverts

Generally these are the responsibility of the adjacent landowners. The Highway Authority is responsible for the piped watercourse if it goes under a carriageway.

Where the watercourse crosses under a public highway, the responsibility for its maintenance lies with the Highway Authority.

Ditches

Adjacent landowners (riparian owners) are usually responsible for the maintenance of ditches. This includes roadside ditches, landowners can drain their property into any ditch on their property.

Trash screens

Essential for maintenance of culverts to prevent debris blocking the watercourse and for safety reasons.



Riparian owners

Riparian owners are landowners who have a watercourse or ditch running alongside or within their property. As a riparian owner, it is their responsibility to maintain their drainage system to help prevent flooding.

Any work to be undertaken requires consent from Oxfordshire County Council.

Please note roadside ditches may also be the responsibility of the landowner and not the Highway Authority.

For more information on riparian ownership and how to carry out maintenance please contact:

Environment Agency: 08708 506 506

Highway Authority: 08453 101 111

Or visit the Environment Agency website and search for the 'Living on the Edge' document.



What do I do?

Reporting Issues

For issues concerning grips, surface water, flooding or SUDS, please contact:

Your Lead Local Authority:

Oxfordshire County Council on 01865 792422

For issues concerning small watercourses, please contact:

Land Drainage at your District Council:

Oxford City: 01865 249811

West Oxfordshire: 01993 861000

South Oxfordshire: 01491 823000

Vale of White Horse: 01235 520202

Cherwell District: 08453 101 111

Need more information?

Oxfordshire County Council

Highways and Transport Drainage Team

0845 310 1111

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Highwayenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Thames Water

www.thameswater.co.uk

0845 920 0800



Environment Agency

[www.environment-](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

[agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

08708 506506

This leaflet has been produced by Oxfordshire County Council's Emergency Planning Unit



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