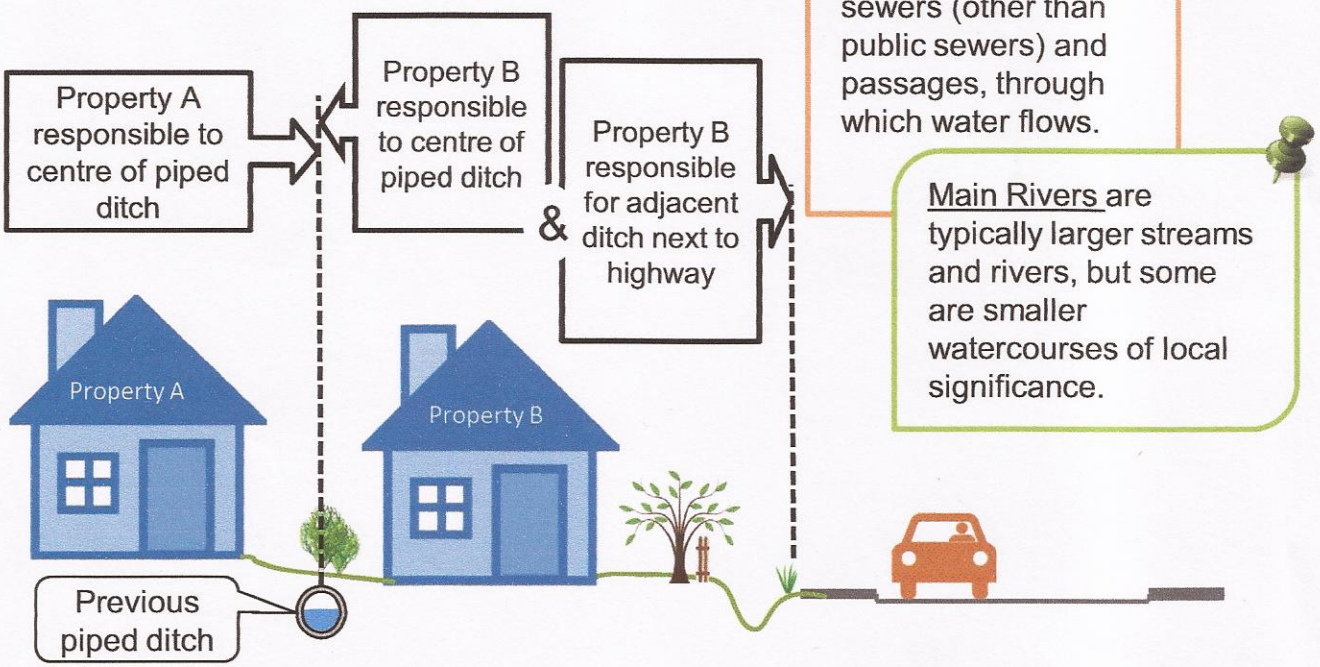
Do you own land that has a watercourse or drainage ditch on or adjacent to it?

Answer: Yes –You are therefore a '**riparian landowner**' and you are responsible for maintaining those watercourses

What is a watercourse?
Watercourses are any natural or artificial channel above or below ground through which water flows. Watercourses are classified as either 'Ordinary Watercourse' or 'Main River'.

Ordinary Watercourses are watercourses that are not part of a main river and include streams, ditches, drains, cuts, culverts, dykes, sluices, sewers (other than public sewers) and passages, through which water flows.

Main Rivers are typically larger streams and rivers, but some are smaller watercourses of local significance.



What can land and properties owners do to reduce the risk of flooding?

- Identify your ordinary watercourses/ditches/piped watercourses – check deeds if required
- Check whether they are clear from debris and vegetation and if not clear them

As a landowner you have a right to protect your property from flooding – consider how you might do this and prepare a plan.

More information:
https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding
National Flood Forum provides information on preparing for a flood:
https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/