

Standing advice for agricultural and equestrian developments

Introduction:

Any development within the Internal Drainage Board's District and catchment is potentially subject to a consent from the appropriate Drainage Board under the Land Drainage Act 1991 and associated byelaws made under section 66. Land Drainage Consent application forms are to be used and they can be found on our website at:

<http://somersetdrainageboards.gov.uk/development-control-byelaws/land-drainage-consents/>

Consents are required for both temporary and permanent works in or adjacent to **any** watercourse (except a main river). This includes any of the below:

Mill, dam, weir, culvert or other obstruction to the flow, infilling or stopping up of a watercourse, building, structure, road, footpath, track, tree, shrub willow or similar growth, any pipe or wire crossing a watercourse, any excavation of a watercourse bank or bed, any outfall into a watercourse, fence, post, pylon, jetty, wharf, pier, quay, bridge, loading stage, piling, groyne, revetment, any engine or mechanical contrivance.

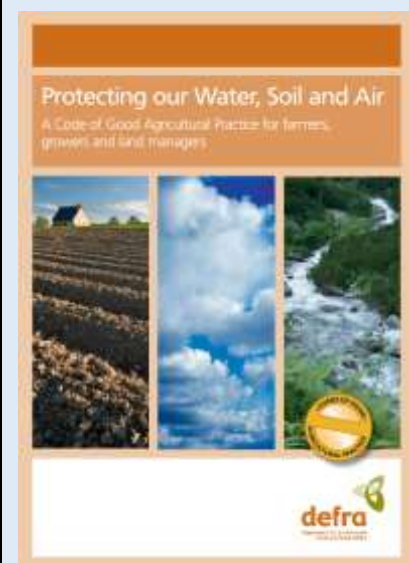
Consent is required for anything listed above in or within 9m of a watercourse.

Existing watercourses should be protected with a suitable buffer. Typically the buffer should be 9m both sides of a watercourse that is maintained by the Board on a regular basis (ie. a viewed rhyme) and 6m for all other watercourses. Any variation from this should be discussed with the IDB.

Layout principles:

The layout of any agricultural development should be in accordance with the Defra publication *"Protecting our Water, Soil and Air - A Code of Good Agricultural Practice for farmers, growers and land managers"*

- Buildings that house livestock or store silage, fertiliser, fuel or pesticide should be located at least 10m from a watercourse.
- Manure stores should be at last 10m from a watercourse.
- Rainwater should be separated from dirty water and manure.
- Adequate facilities for the management, collection, storage and treatment of manure and dirty water should be provided.



Rainwater management:

Wherever possible rainwater should be captured and re-used.

Any discharge to a watercourse will require a consent from the Drainage Board. Any surface water outlet and any treated effluent outlet should be above the summer water level (often referred to as the summer penned level) and a suitable headwall should be used.

Gateway culverts:

Consent is required for all culverts on any watercourse in the Board's District.

Culverts should be as short as possible and a headwall should be used at both ends. The culvert size is dependent on the location and the importance of the watercourse and should be agreed with the Drainage Board.

Fencing:

The location of both permanent and temporary fencing requires consent from the Board. The location and suitable type of fencing should be discussed with the Board.

Planting:

Planting adjacent to a watercourse requires consent from the Board, the suitability and location of any planting should be discussed with the Board.

Service crossings:

Any pipe or cable crossing of a watercourse requires consent from the Board. The crossing should be a minimum of 1m below the hard bed of the watercourse and protected with a concrete slab. Marker posts may be required. Full details should be provided with a consent application to the Board.