

Role of the Lead Local Flood Authority

June 2024

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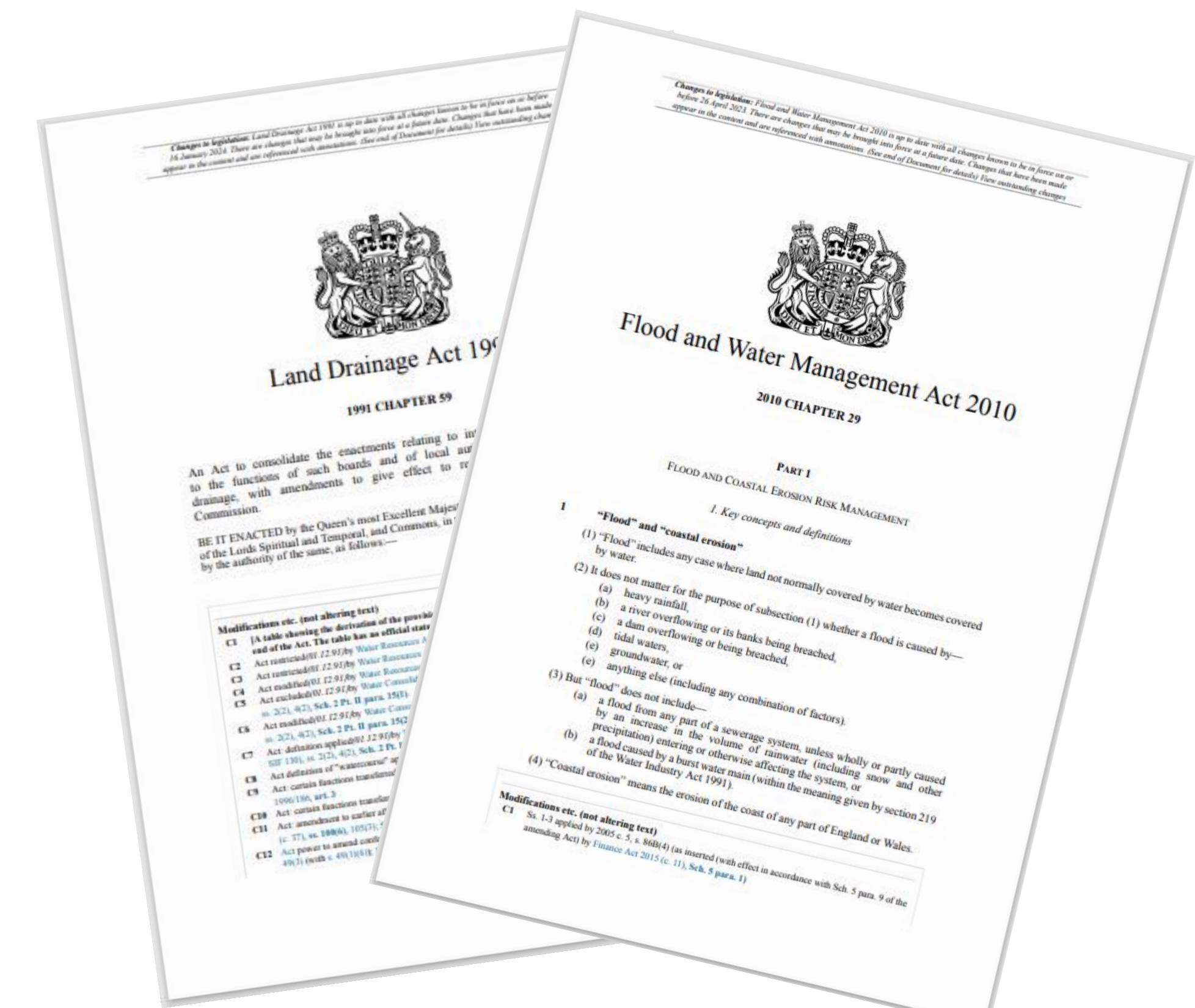
Lead Local Flood Authority

Responsible for:

Managing the risk of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses

Key responsibilities:

- Local Flood and Water Management Strategy
- Surface Water Statutory Consultee for major planning applications
- Ordinary Watercourse Consenting and Enforcement
- Significant Flood Investigations



Email: FWM@hants.gov.uk

[Flood and water management | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](http://Flood and water management | Hampshire County Council (hants.gov.uk))

Ordinary Watercourses

Consenting

- All works affecting capacity of an ordinary watercourse requires consent
- Presumption against culverting
- Maintenance work is exempt
- 2-month determination period



[Making changes to a watercourse | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](http://hants.gov.uk)

Enforcement

Enforcement – Maintenance and Unconsented Works

- If lack of maintenance is causing flooding or considered to be a significant risk, enforcement letters can be sent
- Lengthy and time-consuming legal process
- Action prioritised on risk basis
- Evidence required, particularly to demonstrate unconsented works



Maintenance Responsibility

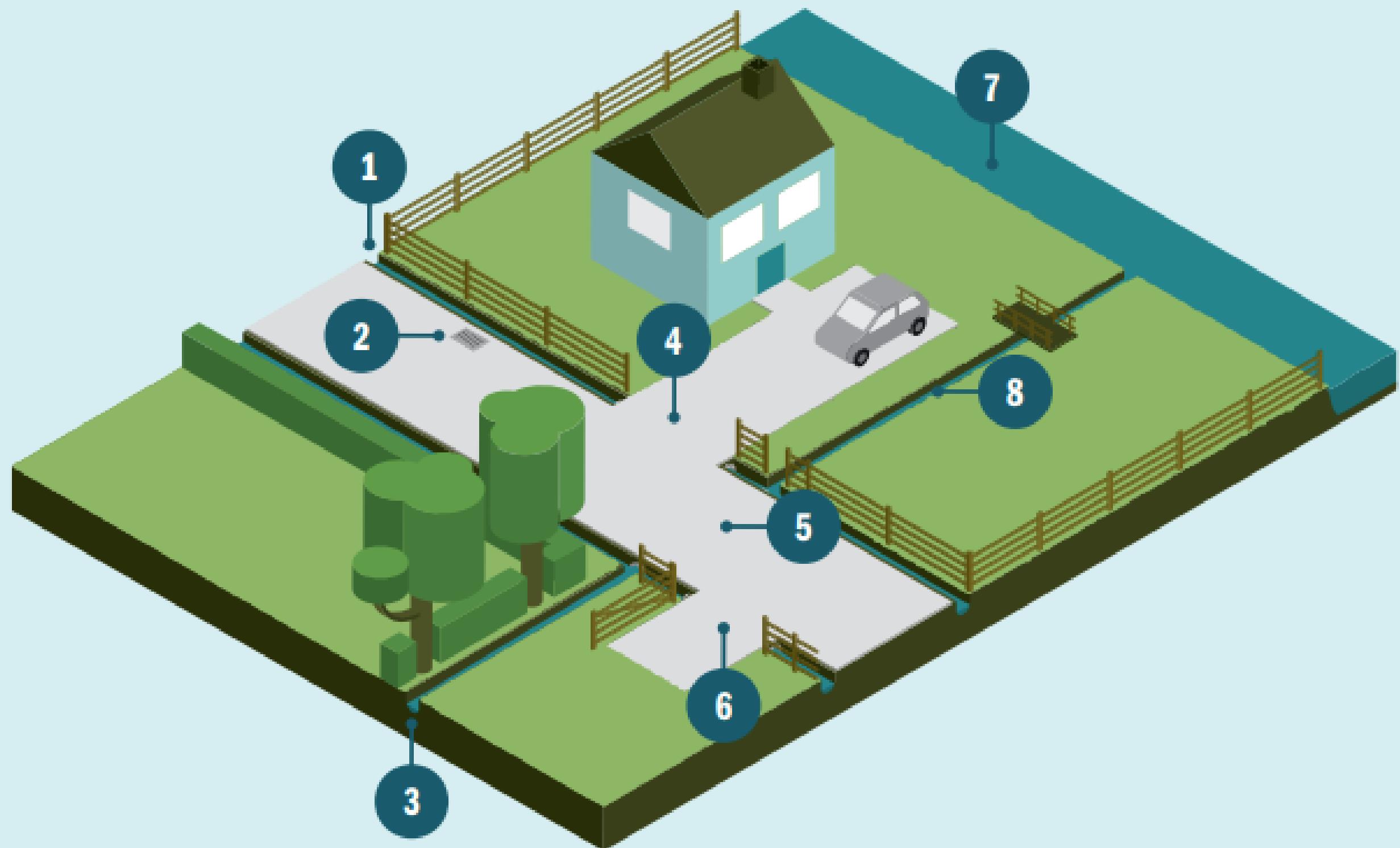
Riparian Landowner

- Responsible for ensuring suitable maintenance of drainage infrastructure including ditches, pipes and chambers
- All features within curtilage and shared ownership of boundary features (unless documentation states otherwise)
- Ditches adjacent to roads are generally responsibility of the adjacent landowner NOT the Highway Authority

If in doubt, contact FWM@hants.gov.uk



Who is responsible for maintaining watercourses?



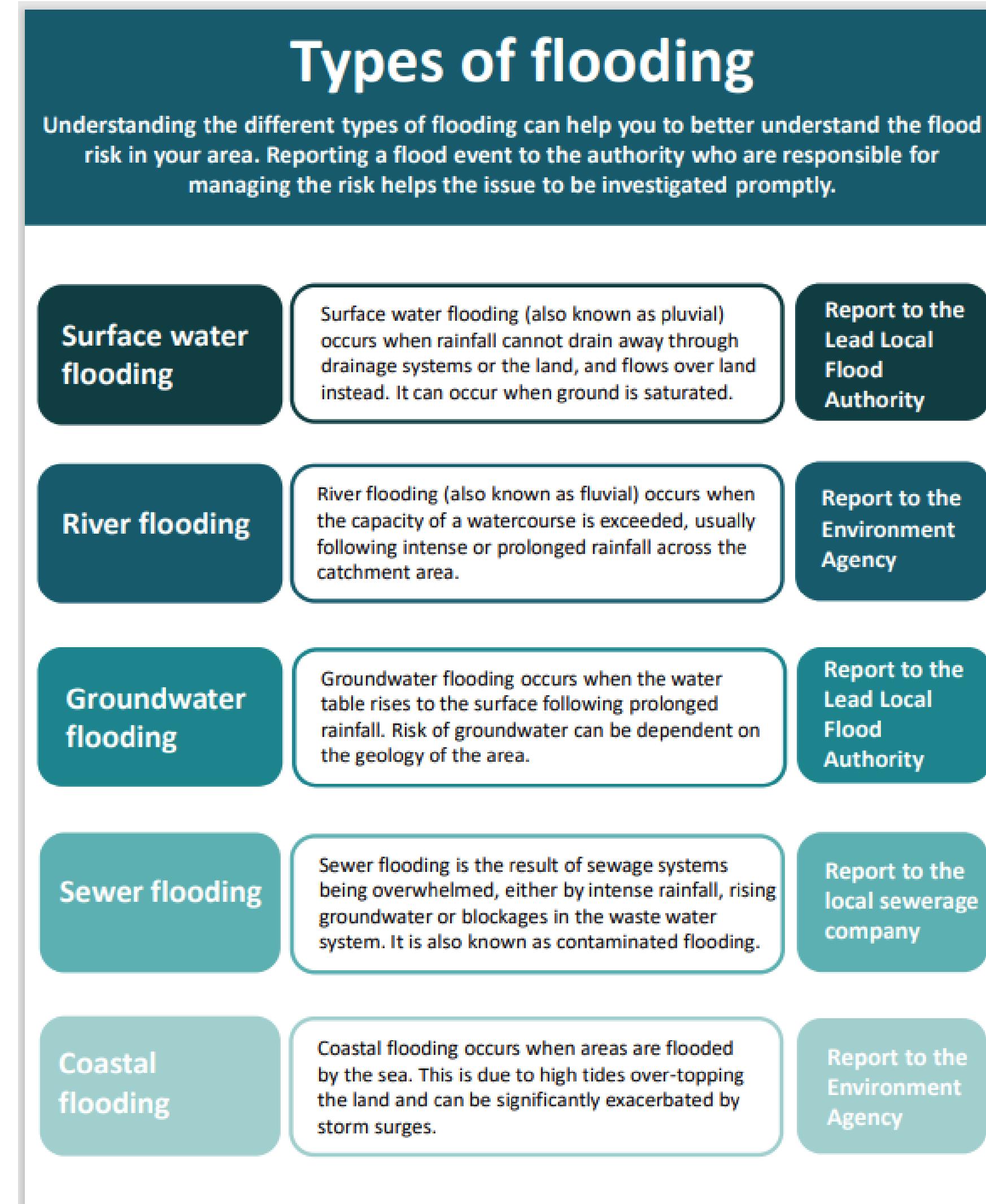
Report flooding and maintenance incidents to Hampshire County Council at:
hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding

- 1 Roadside ditch- Landowner
- 2 Road gully ditch- Highway Authority
- 3 Boundary ditch- Landowner
- 4 Pipe under driveway- Landowner
- 5 Pipe running from one side of the road to the other- Highway Authority
- 6 Pipe under field access - Landowner
- 7 Watercourse at boundary - Landowner
- 8 Watercourse within land - Landowner

Reporting

- Essential that reports are logged correctly via our web form [Report flooding | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/report-flooding)
 - Allows for assessment, monitoring and recording
- Future funding reliant on reports

More information and guidance available on our website: [Reducing flood risk | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/reducing-flood-risk)



Flood Investigations

- Flood investigation response dependant on impact
- If maintenance failings identified, relevant asset owner notified
- Not all flooding can be prevented
- No powers to require improvement – only maintenance
- Property level resilience measures may be required



Questions?

