

MAIN RIVER



fact file



NRA

*National Rivers Authority
North West Region*

The term "main river" refers to a length of watercourse which has been identified as being essential to the natural land drainage of a river catchment.

The ultimate responsibility for maintaining watercourses lies with the owners of the land through which it passes.

However if the NRA considers work on a stretch of "main river" necessary, it can carry it out itself, or serve notice on the landowner to do the work.

The NRA's powers to carry out maintenance work are discretionary, rather than mandatory and in no way relieve the landowner of his ultimate responsibility.

To be formally adopted as "main river" a length of watercourse has to be formally registered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The NRA in the North West is responsible for maintaining 5,947km of main river.

An eight metre access strip must be maintained along both sides main river to allow heavy plant and machinery to be used to carry out work such as debris removal, weed and grass cutting or to allow for major improvements to the river channel were necessary.

A leaflet on developments in flood risk areas is also available. For further information, contact the Flood Defence Department on 0925 53999.

For more general information about the work of the National Rivers Authority in the North West, contact the Public Relations Department on 0925 53999.



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For some work, such as weed cutting, access may be required several times a year, whilst major works may only be carried out every ten or 20 years.

Any development or planting within this 8m access strip requires NRA consent and although it is unlikely that this will be granted in anything other than exceptional circumstances, advice will be given by NRA Flood Defence staff.



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