

## Works proposed within 8 metres of main river prior to EA Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP) approval

On a recent project, groundworks activities including topsoil removal were proposed to be undertaken within 8 metres of an Environment Agency (EA) regulated main river, prior to a Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP) being in place. In addition, spoil was to be stockpiled within 10 metres of the watercourse which would significantly increase the silt pollution risk.

- An investigation was carried out to determine the root cause, so we can make improvements to our ways of working. The root cause was found to be a combination of poor communication between internal stakeholders involved, insufficient handover between the incoming and outgoing site management, and ongoing changes within design. This was rectified and a Flood Risk Activity Permit was obtained.
- As works were planned within 8m of a main river, formal permission from the Environment Agency should be in place prior to works commencing.
- All materials and stockpiles should be stored at a distance of >10m from a watercourse at all times.
- All subcontractors should be made aware of all the environmental constraints on-site including the relevant environmental legislation and permit requirements.



### Before you start work:

#### Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP) or Land Drainage Consent required to work in or near a watercourse

- Check whether the scheme requires a FRAP (for an EA Main River) or Land Drainage Consent (for Local Authority Ordinary Watercourse). If you are unsure, consult an Environmental Planner or Advisor.
- Watercourses are often dry at certain times throughout the year. However, they still require a Permit or a Consent to work in or around them.
- Where Permits or Consents are required, please ensure that the conditions to work are briefed, documented in your method statements and understood by all those working on-site.

#### Have all ecological concerns been addressed?

- Are there protected or invasive species present?
- Have the correct controls been put into place to protect the watercourse?

**Having a Flood Risk Activity Permit or Land Drainage Consent does not mean that Protected Species Licences are not required. You may still need both!**

**Plan Early - Consent from an Environmental Regulator can take up to 12 weeks or longer before permission is granted.**

For further information see the MWH Treatment procedures, processes and guidance notes:

- [EVPD05-01 Environmental Compliance](#)
- [EVPR05 Environmental Compliance \(Permits, Licences and Consents\)](#)
- [EVGD05-07 Working In or Near Watercourses](#)
- [EVGD05-13 Flood Risk Permits and Land Drainage Consents \(England and Wales\)](#)

