


Ordinary Watercourse Consent (OWC) Fee Structure

This table outlines the consent requirements and associated fees under the Land Drainage Act 1991 for various structures affecting ordinary watercourses.

Structure Type	Diagram	Description	Consent Required?	Fee
Culverts		Piping or altering a section of watercourse.	Yes – under Section 23(1)(b) and (c). See Notes 1 and 3.	£50 per headwall, inspection chamber/silt trap, and pipe section.
		Using oversized box culverts.	Yes – under Section 23(1)(b) and (c). See Notes 1 and 3.	£50 per box section and per headwall/wingwall arrangement.
Outfalls		Headwall structure does not encroach into the channel.	No – see Notes 1 and 2.	N/A
		Structure encroaches into the channel.	Yes – under Section 23(1)(a). See Notes 1 and 2.	£50 per structure.
Erosion Protection / Bank Stabilisation		Structures to control erosion or strengthen banks.	Possibly – if encroachment occurs. See Notes 1 and 2.	£50 per structure.
Bridges		Clear-span bridge with no encroachment	No – see Note 1.	N/A
		Clear-span bridge with soffit below bank tops.	Yes – under Section 23(1)(a). See Note 1.	£50 per bridge.
		Clear-span bridge with abutments not in the channel.	No – see Note 1.	N/A
		Bridge with abutments within the channel.	Yes – under Section 23(1)(a). See Note 1.	£50 per bridge.
		Bridge with supports within the channel.	Yes – under Section 23(1)(a). See Note 1.	£50 per bridge.
Service Ducts		Clear-span above the channel.	No – see Note 1.	N/A
		Buried below the hard bed level.	No – see Note 1.	N/A
		Encroaches into the channel.	Yes – under Section 23(1)(a) if unavoidable. See Note 1.	£50 per duct.

Structure Type	Diagram	Description	Consent Required?	Fee
Screens		New or altered screens.	Yes – under Section 23(1)(b) and (c). See Note 1.	£50 per screen.
Weirs / Dams / Impoundments		Structures that obstruct or impound flow.	Yes – under Section 23(1)(a). See Note 1.	£50 per structure.
Permanent Diversions		Re-routing a section of watercourse.	Yes – under Section 23(1)(a). See Note 1.	£50 per diversion.
Temporary Works		Temporary works that obstruct or divert flow.	Yes – under Section 23(1)(a). See Note 1.	£50 per temporary structure or activity.

Guidance Notes

Note 1: Consent is required for any temporary works that obstruct or divert flow in an ordinary watercourse, even if the main works do not require consent.

Note 2: Consent is not required for any structures that are flush with or set back into the bank profile, as they do not reduce the channel's cross-sectional area. However, if the encroachment of the structure into the channel is unavoidable, consent is required.

Note 3: All culverting proposals must comply with the [West Sussex County Council Culvert Policy](#).