Main Rivers are designated by Defra on a 'Main River Map'. The Environment Agency has permissive powers to carry out flood defence works, maintenance and operational activities for Main Rivers only. However, overall responsibility for maintenance lies with the riparian owner.

An Ordinary Watercourse is a watercourse that does not form part of a Main River. This includes all rivers and streams and all ditches, drains, cuts, culverts, dikes, sluices, (other than public sewers within the meaning of the Water Industry Act 1991) and passages, through which water flows according to the Land Drainage Act 1991.

This map is intended to provide a strategic overview of fluvial flood risk and should not be used to assess flood risk for individual properties.