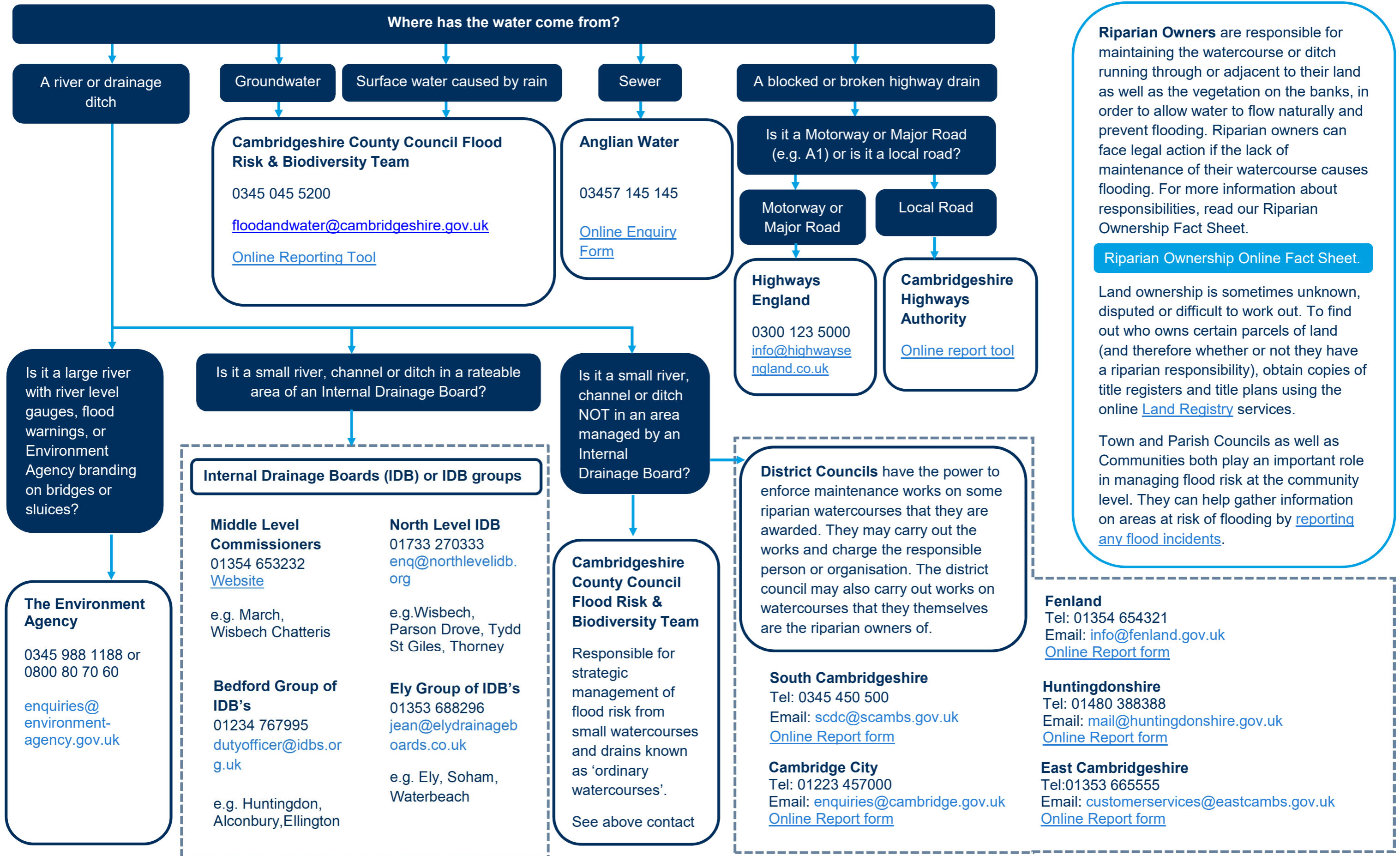


# Investigating and Regulating Flooding: Who manages what?



**Riparian Owners** are responsible for maintaining the watercourse or ditch running through or adjacent to their land as well as the vegetation on the banks, in order to allow water to flow naturally and prevent flooding. Riparian owners can face legal action if the lack of maintenance of their watercourse causes flooding. For more information about responsibilities, read our Riparian Ownership Fact Sheet.

[Riparian Ownership Online Fact Sheet.](#)

Land ownership is sometimes unknown, disputed or difficult to work out. To find out who owns certain parcels of land (and therefore whether or not they have a riparian responsibility), obtain copies of title registers and title plans using the online [Land Registry](#) services.

Town and Parish Councils as well as Communities both play an important role in managing flood risk at the community level. They can help gather information on areas at risk of flooding by [reporting any flood incidents](#).