



*Water Management
Consortium*

ADVICE NOTE

AN04:

STABILITY OF GARDEN FENCES CLOSE TO BOARD MAINTAINED WATERCOURSES

REVISION RECORD				
Version	Date	Description	Originator	Checked
	09.08.11	DRAFT	MM	--
1	27.09.11	FINAL – BOARD APPROVED	MM	DJS
2	09.07.13	New logo added	LSQ	DJS
3	03.07.18	Updated website link	LSQ	DJS
4	30.04.21	Updated for WMC	LSQ	RB/DC

The Boards reserve the right to update or change this living document at any time without notice.

Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board
Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board
Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board
Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board

INTRODUCTION

The Boards' Byelaw No. 17 (d) states:

No person shall without the previous consent of the Board -

(d) erect or construct or cause or permit to be erected or constructed any fence, post, pylon, wall, wharf, jetty, pier, quay, bridge, loading stage, piling, groyne, revetment or any other building or structure whatsoever in, over or across any watercourse or in or on any bank thereof;

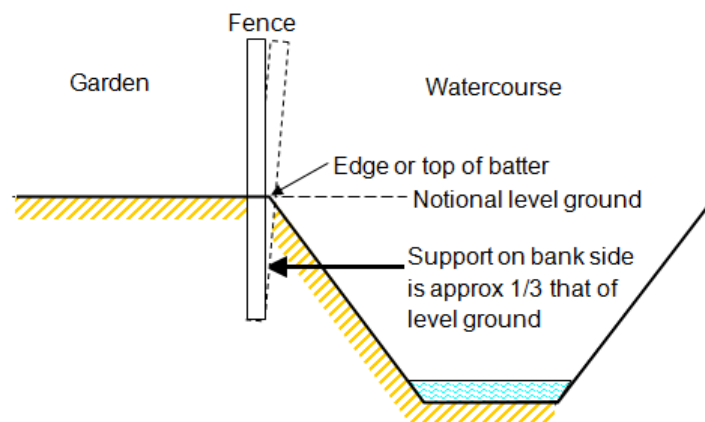
Fences are often erected adjacent to a Board maintained watercourse without consent. Unless they obstruct the Boards in the normal course of their maintenance work they may go unnoticed. If noticed, the Boards have a range of options, from taking no action through to enforcing the removal of the fence.

Regardless of the consent situation the Boards accept no liability for the fence or its stability.

REASONS WHY FENCES MOVE

Soil mechanics is a complex subject. The stability of the ground and the support it gives depends on soil type (sand / silt / clay), the wetness and the overburden.

However a sloping bank (or batter) does not provide the same support as level ground. In particular, the horizontal support to fence posts is approximately one third of that given by level land.

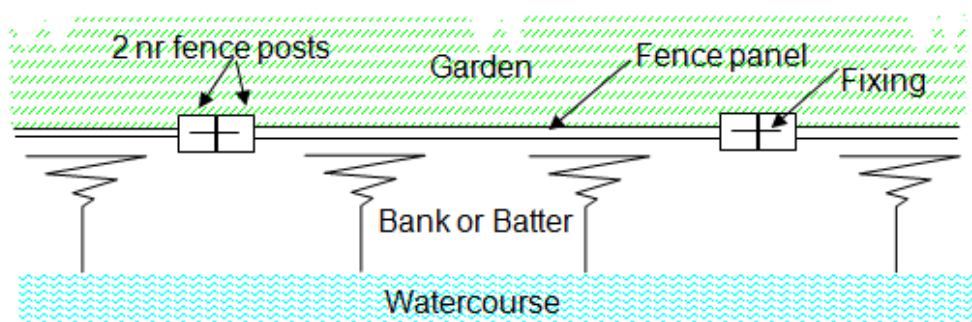


Hence over time, fence posts (telegraph poles etc) will tilt towards the watercourse.

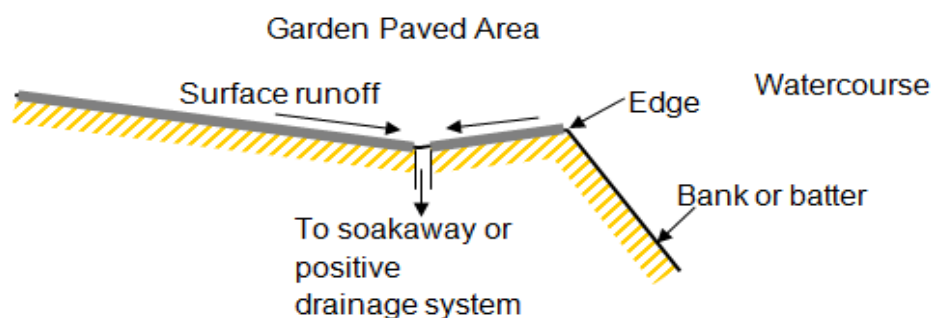
ADVICE

The Boards recommend that garden fence lines are set back from the edge of the bank of the watercourse by at least 1.0 metre.

Where this is not possible fence posts should be double width (150-200mm wide) and installed to a depth of at least 1.0 metre, or 50% of the length of the post below ground level whichever is greatest; the deeper the better. Double width can be achieved by connecting two fence posts together:



Sloping paved areas to the edge of a bank can cause further problems - surface runoff can wash or erode the bank away. Paved areas should be sloped back from the bank edge and drained to soakaways or other positive drainage systems. Please note any piped outfall into the watercourse will require the Boards' consent.



The Boards do not guarantee that the above advice will stop all movement. If you are particularly concerned you should engage a suitably qualified engineer to look into the matter.

The advice given in this document does not absolve applicants of the need to gain the Board's consent prior to the erection of new or replacement fences.

FURTHER GUIDANCE

The Water Management Consortium Boards have the following documents available:

- Consent Application Form
- Technical Guidance Notes
- Byelaws
- Planning and Byelaw Policy

The Boards have also produced a series of other advice notes including:

- AN01: Buildings, Structures, Planting and Fencing
- AN02: Culverts and Bridges
- AN03: Environmental Considerations
- AN05: Service Crossings
- AN06: Surface Water

The above documents are available from the Consortium's office during normal working hours or alternatively, can be downloaded electronically from <http://www.wmc-idbs.org.uk>

If you would like to discuss any of the information in this document or associated advice notes, please do not hesitate to contact the Consortium's offices using the details provided below.

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