



**middle level  
commissioners**

*Proudly managing water levels in the Fens since 1862*

## **Middle Level Commissioners and Administered / Associated Boards Commuted Maintenance Fees - Advice**

Commuted Maintenance fees (CMF) are charged by various Internal Drainage Boards in connection with responsibilities relating to the future maintenance of new assets such as culverts, bridges, water control structures, outfalls, or sustainable drainage systems. These liabilities may be for routine maintenance only, to preserve an appropriate flow, or in the case of a new structure can also be accepting responsibility for future structural repairs/replacement of the asset.

### **Commuted Maintenance Fee (CMF) Rates**

A Commuted Maintenance Fee (CMF) is a one-off charge payable where the Board will become responsible for the future maintenance costs associated with a new or refurbished culvert, bridge, weir, outfall, or other structure within their Internal Drainage District.

The relevant fee will be stipulated as part of a notification of intent to consent, at which point the applicant will be given a month to accept the CMF as a condition of consent. The fee is payable before the consent is issued following the applicant's confirmed acceptance of the conditions of consent.

The Board will not seek to abandon the commuted responsibilities pertaining to any adopted structure for which a commuted maintenance fee has been paid and recorded in the commuted obligations register. This is true only when there is a defined timeline of adoption which has not elapsed. Please see the Fees document on the Planning page of our website for the current CMF. Fees will be increased by inflation annually.

### **Culverts in watercourses not vested in or adopted by the Board**

Boards may consider adopting private culverts in watercourses not owned by the Board subject to the payment of a CMF.

In such instances the Board will be responsible only for maintaining the clear flow of water through the structure while it is structurally sound (as determined by the Board's Officers). This will include desilting and vegetation clearance on a recurrence deemed necessary to meet water level management requirements. The responsibility for structural maintenance will remain with the riparian landowner and the Board maintains the right to remove or require the removal of structures which pose a flood risk or safety risk due to poor repair. As such the CMF is derived from the costs that will be incurred by the Board in maintaining the clear flow of water through the structure over the lifetime of the adoption (length of adoption to be determined by the Board).

The CMF for culverts up to 150 metres in watercourses not owned by the Board can be found on our fees document. For culverts over 150 metres the Board's Officers will determine the commuted maintenance fee based on a case-by-case basis.

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