



**middle level
commissioners**

Proudly managing water levels in the Fens since 1862

Middle Level Commissioners and Associated / Administered Internal Drainage Boards Development which restricts Spoil Disposal

The watercourses maintained by the Middle Level Commissioners and their associated internal drainage boards (IDBs) regularly need machine cleansing / dredging to remove the build-up of material which restrict channel flows. This dredged material (spoil) is normally disposed of on to the adjoining land, as recommended by both flood defence and waste management legislation.

However, some developments that take place on land that adjoins watercourses mean that this method of spoil disposal must be reduced or stopped altogether. Dredging and spoil disposal must still be carried out, and development can often increase the need for this work, due to the increased need for flood defences in the area.

The disposal of spoil by other methods off-site is heavily regulated under Waste Management legislation and means that any alternative method of disposal creates substantial additional costs to the Commissioners or IDBs. It is therefore only fair and appropriate that these costs should be passed on to those who benefit from the development that has caused the alternative disposal methods to be used.

Therefore, a charge will be applied to all developments (whether they require planning permission or not) which restrict the ability to deposit spoil in the normal way. The charge is based on the linear metrage of the watercourse affected by the development, and can be found on the fees document, on the consents page of our website. Please note that this normally only involves developments which have been permitted within the maintenance strip of the Commissioners or IDBs watercourses. If you have a query about a proposed development, please contact the Planning department at the address below.

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