



**middle level
commissioners**

Proudly managing water levels in the Fens since 1862

Middle Level Commissioners and Administered / Associated Boards Consent for Discharge to a Watercourse – Advice

Under the byelaws of the Middle Level Commissioners and associated Internal Drainage Boards (“The Board”), prior consent is needed to discharge any increase in flow or volume of surface water or foul water. The consent must be given before the discharge can be made.

To cover the cost of dealing with this discharge, the Board requires an application fee and also a drainage contribution fee, depending on the rate and volume of water discharged, which will help fund the running and improvement costs of the drainage network (The Middle Level is a 2-tier system in which water may be pumped multiple times.) These costs do not include any consent required or works which might be needed to private ditches etc., to help the water flow into the Board’s drain.

The drainage contribution fees are reviewed annually, and are calculated as follows:

- For new or increased surface water discharge, the contribution fee relates to the impermeable area created, the greenfield rate, the proposed discharge rate, and the number of times the water is pumped, or the actual cost of the works needed to deal with the additional flow or volume, whichever is greater.
- For new or increased effluent discharge from waste water treatment works / sewers, or similar, or for surface water if an impermeable area is not relevant, a charge is made per cubic metre discharged per day, or the actual cost of the works needed to deal with the additional flow or volume, whichever is greater.

For the current charges see the Fees document on the consent page of our website.

The application fee must be submitted with your application form and relevant information as advised below. Once the application has been determined, you will be advised of the drainage contribution fee. This must be paid before the consent will be granted. If the application cannot be validated, you may be asked to supply further information or might be advised that consent will not be issued.

Any application for discharge consent must include adequate information to demonstrate that the development will not detrimentally affect the surrounding land drainage system or show that the developer will undertake improvement works to prevent this. The following may be required in order to determine whether a discharge consent application can be approved:

- Plan(s) clearly showing in a distinctive colour the increased impermeable area.
- Details of the receiving systems including any mitigation works, if required, e.g., channel deepening or re-profiling, enlarged culverts etc.
- Engineering details of access culverts, manholes, outfall structures, method statements etc.
- Associated engineering calculations.
- Copies of correspondence concerning future liability, maintenance schedules etc.
- An Environmental Assessment
- A Flood Risk Assessment

If surface water discharges totally to soakaways, a discharge consent is not needed, and an ‘infiltration device option 1 or 2’ must be submitted. Please see our ‘Infiltration Device Certification and Checking Service Guidance Document’ for further information. The Board may require technical evidence to show the soakaway works properly and may investigate the works if necessary.

Please send your application for discharge consent, and/or soakaway certificate, to the address or email below.

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