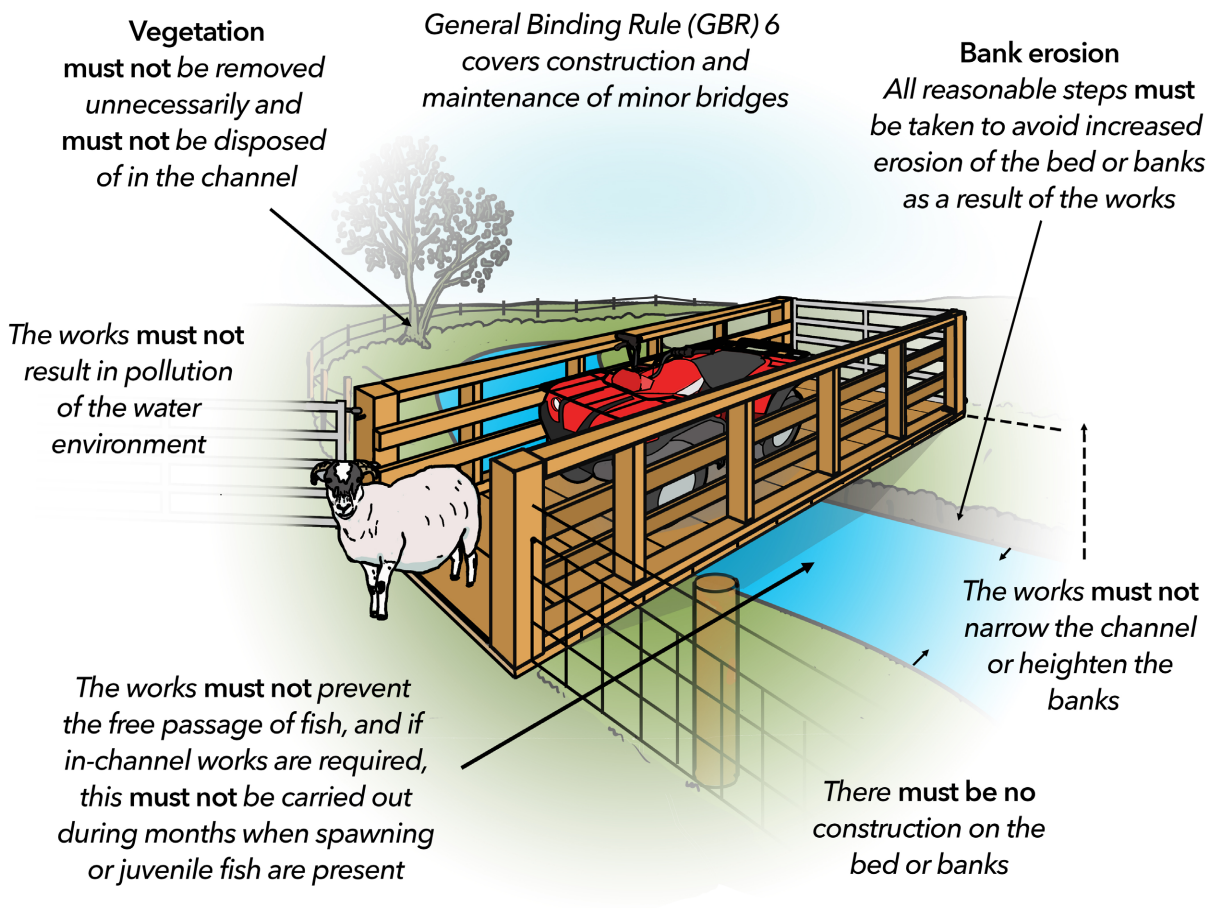
FARMING & WATER SCOTLAND

Crossing points

Installing a suitable crossing point may help prevent livestock accessing a watercourse and so reduce the risk of poaching damage and loss of land through bankside erosion. A crossing can be installed across a minor watercourse without contacting SEPA.



Note: *Unless you are on a minor watercourse, to install crossings that impact on the bed and/or banks of a watercourse you will need a registration or licence from SEPA.*

Figure 15.1. Example of a minor bridge.

A **minor bridge** (Figure 15.1) can be installed across a **watercourse** without contacting SEPA. However, you **must not**:

- unnecessarily remove vegetation from the bank
- dispose of vegetation into the channel
- narrow the channel or heighten the banks
- prevent the free passage of fish
- undertake work within the channel during periods in which fish are likely to be spawning nor in the period between any such spawning and the subsequent emergence of the juvenile fish – May to September is usually the best time for such work to be carried out but you should check with your local fishery trust
- cause pollution of the water environment.

If necessary, a temporary culvert may be installed to facilitate the works, but the culvert **must not** extend more than 10 metres along the length of the river, burn or ditch and **must** be removed on completion of the works.

All reasonable steps **must** be taken to avoid increased erosion of the bed or banks as a result of the works.

To install any crossing point on anything not considered a minor watercourse or if your crossing cannot comply with GBR 6, you **must** contact SEPA to check to check the level of authorisation required before any work is carried out.

Definitions:

Minor watercourse – a watercourse not shown on the 1:50,000 scale Ordnance Survey maps (Landranger series).

Minor bridge – a bridge having no part of its structure within the channel of a river, burn or ditch and constructed for the purpose of supporting a single-track road

Water Environment – all surface water, groundwater and wetlands