
**Dear Flood Wardens, Community Volunteers and
Town and Parish Clerks - Welcome to the Winter
2022 Newsletter**



**Dorset Prepared
Community Resilience
online event
07 to 11 March 2022**

Come and join us for the 2022 Dorset Prepared Community Resilience event. It will be held on-line again this year and is being hosted by the [Dorset Local Resilience Forum \(LRF\)](#), supporting community volunteers to be better aware, informed, prepared, trained, supported and more resilient when faced with emergencies.

The event is being held over 5 days with participation from both Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council and Dorset Council. Other contributors include Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, Environment Agency, Communities Prepared, Met Office, Wessex Water, Dorset Police, Utility Companies, Wessex 4x4, together with community groups who will be sharing their stories of working together to support their communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

With this event now being organised by the LRF, it enables the scope and topics covered to be far more wide-ranging than previously. For example, this year will include sessions on cyber crime, fraud, health, fire prevention, PSTN (public switched telephone network) switch off and mental health awareness.

The first two days, 7th and 8th March, will be focussed on all things water related including flooding and climate change. There will be a mix of presentations and training available to help you be prepared and confident in your Flood Warden role, whether you are new to the role or looking to refresh your knowledge and share your experience with others.

We will be emailing a full agenda with details of all the sessions available shortly but in the meantime, if you would like to email your interest in advance, please feel free to email us at floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk

NB - Many of the sessions will contain information and guidance which is relevant regardless of where you are located, so if you are not based within Dorset, but would like to attend some of these sessions, please feel free to sign up. We want as many people as possible to benefit from the training and support available.

Feedback from the Somerset Prepared Resilience Online Event - October 2021



On behalf of all the Somerset Prepared partners, thank you for registering for the event we held in October. Over the 3 weeks of the event we were pleased to offer a variety of sessions and useful resources focussed on building emergency preparedness and community resilience, presented by many of the Somerset Prepared partners and special guest speakers. Communities Prepared also presented three very valuable training sessions on Recruiting Volunteers in partnership with Spark Somerset, Insurance for Community Emergency Volunteers and finally Risk Assessment. We hope you were either able to attend those of interest at the time or have been able to access the session recordings and resources which remain available on our website:

<http://www.somersetprepared.org.uk/somerset-prepared-event/videos-and-resources/>

We would be very grateful for your feedback about the event, and to hear your thoughts and ideas for the next event which will take place this coming Autumn. This simple form should take no more than 5 minutes to complete and all your comments will be most welcome: <https://forms.office.com/r/bri0Fk9Zsw>. Alternatively you can email me, Dawn James, directly: DJames@somerset.gov.uk.



Communities Prepared working across Wessex

A massive thank you from the Communities Prepared team to the many Flood Wardens and others from across the Wessex region who attended one of our training sessions in 2021. These mostly took place online, but it was particularly wonderful to visit Langport, Somerset, for two in-person sessions towards the end of the year (see photo).

We will soon be confirming further training sessions across the region, so keep an eye on the events page of our website where you can also access [our hub](#) of emergency preparedness learning resources. Communities Prepared is also able to offer one-to-one support for communities facing particular challenges, for example recruiting volunteers, fundraising, working with authorities and companies, or any other particularly knotty issues you are experiencing. You can post queries on the Communities Prepared online forum or send us an email at: communitiesprepared@groundwork.org.uk



Do you know how to report a flood or possible cause of flooding?



Report a flood or possible cause of flooding - Who you need to contact depends on what's flooding

The link below explains when you need to report an incident to the **Environment Agency**, your **local water company** or your **local council**:

[Report a flood or possible cause of flooding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

This can sometimes be confusing so we hope this provides some clarification for you.



Residents and Flood Wardens are able to report flooding online on the [Flood Online Reporting Tool, FORT](http://www.geowessex.com) link: [FORT - Home \(geowessex.com\)](http://www.geowessex.com).

For Flood Wardens, Coordinators and Community Emergency Volunteers who would like to understand more about FORT and how to use it to report flooding and how the information is used to help your community, there is a pre-recorded presentation by Guy Parker, Environment Agency, that you can view here: [Flood Online Reporting Tool \(FORT\) Presentation - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43bD2psS5Zo)

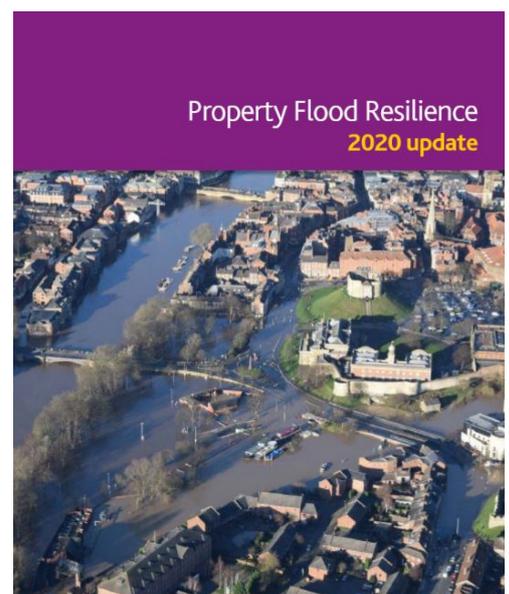


Property Flood Resilience (PFR)

If you have ever joined one of our Community Resilience Days you may well have seen a presentation by Mary Dhonau, a Property Flood Resilience Specialist, who works to raise local flood awareness by planning for flooding and advising on Property Flood Resilience (PFR). She works closely with the Environment Agency and Local Authorities to promote the uptake of PFR within communities at risk of flooding.

There is a great Property Flood Resilience booklet that Mary Dhonau, in partnership with FloodRe, the EA and an insurer, has produced which includes lots of case studies of flooding and resilience measures which have been implemented. Link: <https://edition.pagesuite.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&pubid=b3dddc3f-8c89-4711-86f3-4f0f9ce9a713>

The link below is to Mary's PFR video which was done for the Somerset Prepared event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43bD2psS5Zo>



Stories from homes and businesses who have made adaptations to help them recover more quickly after a flood



Wiltshire Council



Salisbury River Park Update



Our scheme received planning permission last November. Since then we've been getting ready for the start of construction. Vegetation clearance and tree works begin at the end of January.

The fine details of the design of the scheme are still being worked up but completion is expected soon. Final plans and drawings will be available on our website.

Some of the river banks involved in the scheme are home to water voles, a species protected by law. We will relocate them to a lovely new home in the south of the catchment. It's a win-win for water voles. Their new home hasn't supported water voles for at least 40 years, due to a high predator population, and new water voles will almost certainly move straight back into the finished River Park because we're creating riverbank habitat perfect for water voles.

Main construction work will begin in May 2022 and is due for completion in December 2023.

Keep up-to-date with progress by visiting our website: www.salisburyriverparkphase1.com



SALISBURY RIVER PARK
VIEWPOINT 03 [DTM 16/11/2020]

Ten Free Somerset Film Events Offer Treats New and Old



A new Somerset film called "Down by the River" premieres in February, with ten free screenings countywide.

Each event will also include an entertaining and thought-provoking selection of Somerset archive films.

Down by the River is a documentary about the inspiring ways that communities across Somerset have responded to flooding, celebrating the extraordinary work of local volunteers. It was commissioned by Somerset Rivers Authority from Bridgwater-based charity Somerset Film.

Archive films include historic Somerset floods, local groups like the Home Guard in World War Two, and fundraising carnivals. The exact mix will vary from place to place, but all the films show what Somerset people can do when they put their minds to it, and illustrate how valuable past experiences can be in responding to challenges such as climate change.

Each event will last about two hours, with free tea and cake. The screening schedule is:

Glastonbury Town Hall, 4 February, 7pm
Cheddar Village Hall, 12 February, 7pm
Martock Parish Hall, 19 February, 7pm
Shepton Mallet Whitstone School, 2 March 7pm
Minehead Regal Theatre, 5 March, 2pm
Taunton Creative Innovation Centre CIC, 9 March, 7pm
Burrowbridge Coronation Hall, 12 March, 7pm
Yeovil Westlands, 16 March, 7pm
Bridgwater Arts Centre, 18 March, 7pm
Roadwater Village Hall, 20 March, 7pm

To reserve your free seat, visit www.somersetfilm.com/get-involved.

The SRA team would love to hear from anyone who would like to be involved, to look at new resilience groups, recruiting volunteers, or strengthening existing groups. Contact egiffard@somerset.gov.uk for more information.



BANES - see their policy [here](#)
Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole - see their policy [here](#)
Bristol City Council - see their policy [here](#)
Dorset Council - see their policy [here](#)
Mendip District Council - see their policy [here](#)
North Somerset Council - see their policy [here](#)
Sedgemoor District Council - see their policy [here](#)
Somerset County Council - see their policy [here](#)
South Gloucestershire Council - see their policy [here](#)
Wiltshire County Council - see their policy [here](#)

Some information from the MET Office



The Met Office have updated their Community Resilience leaflet which contains some really useful information:

https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/business/public-sector/community-resilience-leaflet_oct21.pdf

2021 has been less of a record breaker than 2020 but there has still been plenty of notable weather:

[2021: the UK's weather in review](#)

Mild spell has led to provisional new temperature records for New Year's Eve and January for the UK but temperatures are now starting to trend down:

[New Temperature Records for the UK](#)

New analysis of the latest climate science shows that future extreme rainfall could be more extreme than previously thought:

[Future extreme rainfall more extreme than first thought](#)

A new study has examined how high-impact weather in the UK, such as extremely hot days, heavy rainfall and very cold conditions, could be affected at different levels of global warming:

[Climate change shifting UK's high-impact weather](#)



Wessex Water Factsheets

Wessex Water have updated their factsheets on the Stour and Poole Harbour Catchments: [Stour Factsheet](#) and [Poole Harbour Factsheet](#).

Please help us keep your contact details up to date



We need your help to keep our list of contact details up to date. In the two short videos – see links below – we describe why we need your contact details and how we will use them to help support you in your role as Flood Warden or Community Emergency Volunteer. We also explain why, how and when our Flood Warning Duty Officer might want to contact you.

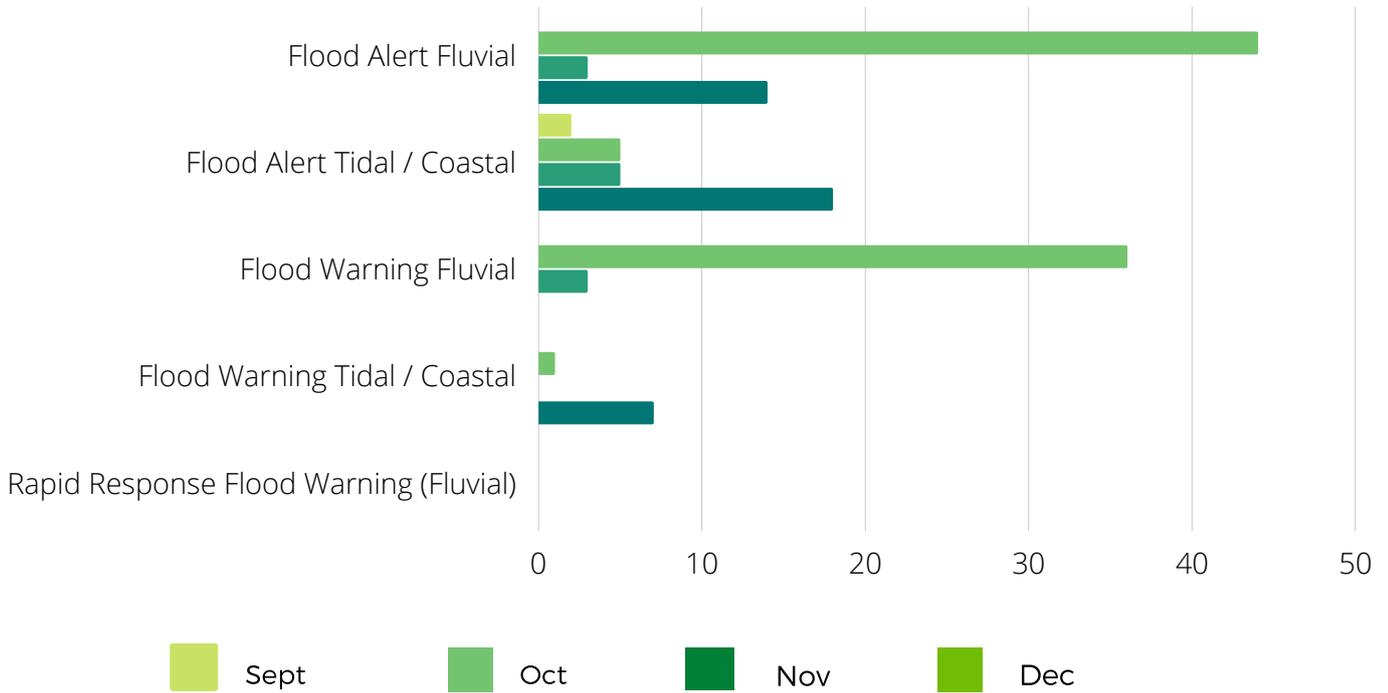
<https://youtu.be/tyjSO4aH-g>
<https://youtu.be/YUKA9Gaulxc>

Please email us at floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk with:

- your name
- community name
- contact number

Email us if you would like more information about how and why we contact Flood Wardens, Community Emergency Volunteers and Town Clerks, or about how we handle your data.

In total across Wessex in the last four months we issued:



The last four months of 2021 were remarkable in that, despite some records being broken for both wet and dry weather, the overall result has been near average rainfall, river flow and groundwater level across the Area. Even the coastal storms largely passed us by in Wessex.

Using raw numbers when it comes to rainfall can be misleading; the average annual rainfall on Exmoor is nearly half as much again as Salisbury Plain so we usually compare monthly totals with a long term average (LTA). The table below shows each month compared to 100% of LTS or 'normal'.

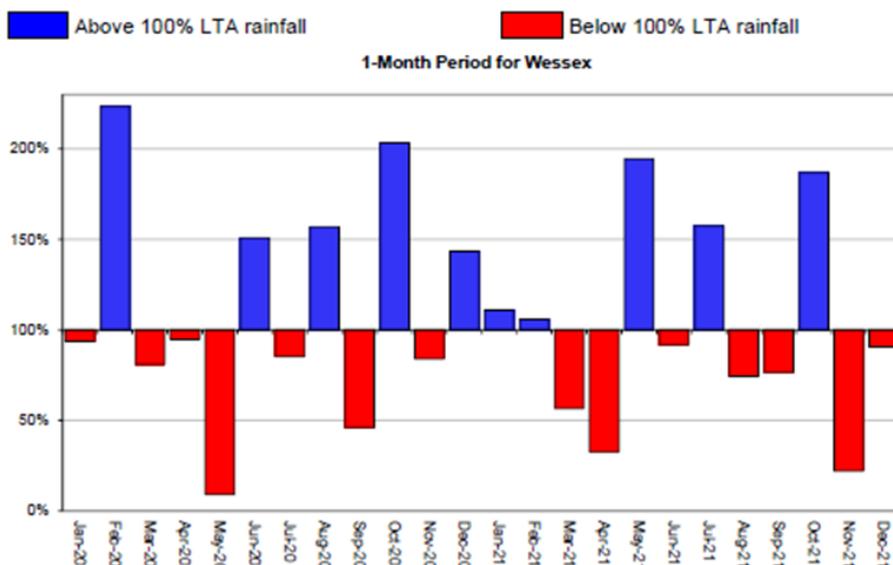


Figure 1.2: Monthly rainfall totals as a percentage of the 1961 – 1990 long term average. Produced using HadUK data based on the Met Office 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from rain gauges (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright 2021). Provisional data based on Environment Agency 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from Environment Agency intensity rain gauges.

October saw some particularly wet days, in fact nearly all 150mm fell in just 8 days at the beginning and end of the month and on the 19th / 20th. Flooding occurred in several locations including Ilchester, Gillingham, Motcombe and Tisbury. Notable rainfall totals between 08:00 and 09:00 on 31st at Kingstag when 31.4 mm fell within the hour and at Gillingham during the same period slightly less was recorded at 30.4mm. Similar totals were achieved along a band stretching from Exmoor, through Yeovil towards Salisbury.

Fluvial response was confined, for the most part to smaller watercourses, with some notably high levels being recorded. The gauge at Tisbury on the River Nadder recorded a 30 year high.

Groundwater levels responded towards the end of October in the west and continued to rise through November. In the east, on Salisbury Plain, recharge started some four weeks later, only peaking at the end of the month. The older Chalk in West Dorset is more heavily fractured and so allows greater transmissivity.

Storms Arwen and Barra fortuitously missed the peak spring tides with the result that little damage was caused along the coasts.

Where to find further information



For local weather information including weather warnings visit the Met Office at:
www.metoffice.gov.uk

The Met Office have also updated their Community Resilience leaflet which contains some really useful information:
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/business/public-sector/community-resilience-leaflet_oct21.pdf

[River and sea levels and to sign up for flood warnings](#)

[Wessex Area Water Situation Reports](#). Monthly reports are produced on Gov.uk

Flood Re has been set up to help those households who live in a flood risk area find affordable home insurance. For more information contact your insurer or visit:
www.floodre.co.uk

The National Flood Forum provide further advice and support at:
www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk

Flooding: Find out the answers to frequently asked questions [here](#)

[Property Flood Resilience Toolkit | The Flood Hub](#). This toolkit contains all the resources you need as a basic introduction for your property to become more flood resilient. Click on each resource to download it and build up your toolkit!

Section	Details	Emergency	Insurance
Name			
Address			
Phone			
Mobile			
Work			
Emergency contact			
Utility companies			
Insurance			
Other			

Personal Flood Plan Template

The personal flood plan includes a list of things you should do (like moving sentimental items to safety), and provides space for you to note down important contact details such as your utility companies and insurance

community flood plan

Parishes and communities working together

Community or group	Address
Floodline Quickflood Number	Which Environment Agency flood warnings are you registered to receive?

Local flood warning trigger

Community Flood Plan Template

This flood plan template is for anyone involved in supporting communities or groups to improve their ability to plan for a flood



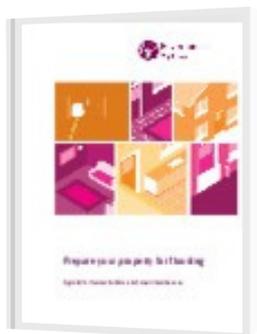
What to do before, during and after a flood

Practical advice on what to do to protect you and your property from flooding



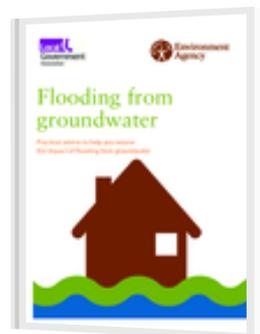
Would your business stay afloat?

A guide to preparing your business for flooding



Prepare your property for flooding

A guide for householders and small businesses to prepare for flooding



Flooding from groundwater

Practical advice to help you reduce the impact of flooding from groundwater

Would you know what to do in a flood?



**FLOOD
ALERT**

PREPARE

- Prepare a bag that includes medicines and insurance documents
- Visit www.gov.uk/check-flooding



**FLOOD
WARNING**

ACT

- Turn off gas, water and electricity
- Move things upstairs or to safety
- Move family, pets and car to safety



**SEVERE
FLOOD
WARNING**

SURVIVE

- Call 999 if in immediate danger
- Follow advice from emergency services
- Keep yourself and your family safe

Useful contacts

Contact Floodline on **0345 988 1188** for up to date flood warning information or advice.

Contact the Environment Agency incident hotline on **0800 80 70 60** to report flooding, blockages in rivers or any other environment incident.

Reporting flood risk and riparian responsibilities



If you are concerned about blockages, obstructions to flow in the river or know of cut vegetation being deposited in the watercourse, which can cause pollution, remember to ring our Incident Hotline **0800 80 70 60** which is open and manned 24 hours a day. You will be given advice and guidance and the information you share will be recorded and passed to the relevant duty team who will be able to take any necessary actions.

If your community is affected by flooding please remember to share this information with us. Photos, times and description of flooding are vital in helping us understand how your community has been affected and what we can do going forwards, whether it be changes to flood warning thresholds or assessing your community for a scheme or property flood resilience measures.



Keeping in touch

If you are a new Flood Warden or have received this Newsletter from your Town or Parish Clerk, please contact the Wessex Flood Resilience Team at floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk so that we can update our records and sign you up to receive the Newsletter and invitations to future training opportunities.

[Subscribe to the Flood Warden Newsletter](#)



The Environment Agency will contact you in relation to your role as Flood Warden or Community Volunteer. We will only share your contact details with members of the [Local Resilience Forum](#) if relevant to support you in your role as Flood Warden or Community Emergency Volunteer. We will not transfer the personal data that you provide outside the UK and you have the right to withdraw consent for us to hold your data at any time.

You have rights under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018). The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is the supervisory authority for data protection legislation. The ICO website has a full list of your rights under data protection legislation, you can access this here: [Your data matters | ICO](#)

For general information on how the Environment Agency treats your personal data and how to contact us, see our Personal Information Charter: [Personal information charter - Environment Agency - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
