|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **In this edition:**   * [Welcome our newest team member](https://mailchi.mp/daf64703a0db/xbbco6o3i5?e=d8b01cd513#Welcome) * [Recent Flooding](https://mailchi.mp/daf64703a0db/xbbco6o3i5?e=d8b01cd513#RecentFlooding) * [Getting Ready for Spring](https://mailchi.mp/daf64703a0db/xbbco6o3i5?e=d8b01cd513#ReadyforSpring) * [Property Flood Resilience (PFR)](https://mailchi.mp/daf64703a0db/xbbco6o3i5?e=d8b01cd513#PFR) * [What's coming up?](https://mailchi.mp/daf64703a0db/xbbco6o3i5?e=d8b01cd513#WhatsComingUp) * [Partner Updates](https://mailchi.mp/daf64703a0db/xbbco6o3i5?e=d8b01cd513#PartnerUpdates) * [Community Funds](https://mailchi.mp/daf64703a0db/xbbco6o3i5?e=d8b01cd513#CommunityFunds) * [Useful Information](https://mailchi.mp/daf64703a0db/xbbco6o3i5?e=d8b01cd513#UsefulInformation) | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Welcome** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Meet the newest member of the Wessex Flood Resilience team!**  I am sure it has been an exceptionally busy winter for all of you as community flood wardens. I started in my new role as the Flood Resilience Engagement Advisor for Wessex in the first week of January, during that very wet spell when many of you would have been closely watching river levels. Groundwater warnings were out in force, and catchments were extremely wet and responding quickly to rainfall.   I landed in the midst of all this, and within a few days, the incident room in Bridgwater had been opened so that staff could act quickly in response to the increased flood risk. My previous role was at Somerset Rivers Authority as a Community Engagement Officer, so I was able to get stuck in and help straight away. As well as getting information out to communities and partners, I helped set up and run drop-ins on the Somerset Levels and Moors so we could support residents and answer questions.   What I have seen on joining the EA is an organisation full of incredibly knowledgeable and dedicated people, who are determined to help communities however they can. The organisation is geared up to respond to flooding and other incidents at the drop of a hat. Both during incident response and outside of it, staff clearly care very deeply about supporting those affected by flooding, whether that’s through delivering a robust flood warning service, working on flood mitigation projects, or helping communities develop their own capabilities through measures like property flood resilience or community emergency volunteer groups.   I’m glad to be part of such a knowledgeable and committed team, and I’m looking forward to my path crossing with many of you out at community events in the future. I hope this edition of the Flood Wessex newsletter is useful – we have articles on the recent flooding, property flood resilience, reservoirs, news from our partners and more. Our next update will be in summer 2023.  **Emma Giffard Flood Resilience Engagement Advisor** | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Recent Flooding** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Flooding - January 2023**  Following a declaration of drought in 2022, and nine years since a major flood incident, heavy rain once again impacted Wessex. In January the catchments of the Bristol Avon, Dorset, Wiltshire and Somerset Levels and Moors, were most affected with multiple reports of flooded properties.  Groundwater levels across Dorset and Wiltshire had reached close to record levels, the Bristol Avon catchments responded quickly and the Somerset Levels and Moors filled resulting in multiple flood alerts and warnings.  We know many of you worked with us during this event to help warn and inform communities and provided valuable real time information such as river levels and flows. We are now working with partners and communities to review the flood and what happened. We may have already been in contact, but we will continue to work with you to ensure we support you and flood affected communities across Wessex. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the recent flooding please contact us at[floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk](http://floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk/) or [wsx.recovery@environment-agency.gov.uk](http://wsx.recovery@environment-agency.gov.uk/) | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Groundwater Flooding - Winter 2022/23**  Chart, bar chart  Description automatically generatedThe dry winter of 2021/22 followed by the long, hot summer of 2022 brought near drought conditions on the chalk in Wessex; levels in the aquifer started the recharge season from an unusually low base. This situation changed quite rapidly following four months of exceptionally high rainfall, with groundwater levels rapidly rising into flood conditions by the middle of January. Between the 3rd and 20th of the month, thirty-three of the thirty-five available groundwater warnings were issued. Communities in the west were affected some three weeks earlier than those in the east. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The impact was felt widely across Dorset and Wiltshire, with the usual problems around basement flooding, sewage systems failing and flooded highways for most of January and early February. Property level resilience measures, including sump/pump schemes and non-return valves, which have been installed at many vulnerable locations over several years performed well and many properties were protected from the worst effects. The Groundwater flood warning service performs a valuable role in giving advance notice of the onset of flooding – allowing residents time to service and lay out protective equipment.  The long duration of groundwater flooding meant that roads were still flooded for several days after the rainfall had stopped and temperatures had dropped below freezing. The wash from vehicles meant that many pavements became impossible to walk on due to black ice. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Flood Resilience team will be offering a series of public events on evenings throughout the coming weeks covering how groundwater flooding occurs and how to how to protect your property. Please get in touch if you would like your community to host an event – with our support of course! | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | *The Wylye Valley, January 2023* | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Flood Action Guides** If your community has been affected by the flooding experienced across Wessex or if you want to raise awareness and preparedness in your community about flooding, we can provide printed guides for you to share with your community. They include:   * Flood Action Guide (adapted for your community) * Personal Flood Plan * FloodRe leaflet (helpful insurance guide) * Flood Warnings (know what to do and when) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | For communities recently affected by groundwater, we can produce a Community Groundwater briefing note (adapted for your community) including details on property flood resilience, reporting flooding, groundwater flood warnings and owning a watercourse. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | *(example of a groundwater community briefing note)* | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | If you would like this information for your community, please email us at [floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk). | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Getting Ready for Spring** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **How Environment Agency Flood Alleviation Schemes reduce the risk of flooding to communities**  The winter of 22/23 was a very busy period for the Environment Agency and other organisations that respond to flooding.  Following a summer of drought, November 22 was the third consecutive month of above average rainfall for England as a whole and the wettest since 2009.  Rainfall during the final quarter of 2022 resulted in the eighth wettest October to December period since 1891.  In some locations in Wessex, river and groundwater levels were similar to the conditions of the 2013/14 flooding event that saw widespread flooding accross the area.  The Environment Agency operates and maintains approximately 78,000 flood and coast defence assets in England with a value of £26 billion. This includes: 7,000km of linear river and coast defences such as flood walls, embankments, channels and culverts - twice the length of the UK’s motorway network.  As river levels began to rise across Dorset, Wiltshire, Somerset, Bristol and Bath areas our operational response increased.  Many of these Flood Alleviation schemes, pumping stations, flood walls and embankments, Flood Storage Reservoirs, mobile assets and conveyancing channels that reduce the risk of flooding to properties across Wessex were working very hard throughout November, December, January and February.  In some locations, trash screens were being cleared twice daily in response to high flows as debris was being mobilised down the catchments and through our Flood Alleviation schemes. Many of our pumping stations were being manned 24/7. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Downton, Hampshire Avon**  This winter, the scheme reduced the risk of flooding to approximately 130 properties since levels began to rise in November 2022. The flooding event in Downton was comparable to the 2000 event where properties flooded prior to the scheme.  During the event flood water was up against the flood walls and embankments and the pumping station was pumping groundwater and surface water that would have emerged from behind the flood walls and earth embankments. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | *Downton Flood Alleviation Scheme* | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Chippenham Radial Gate , Wiltshire**  The Upper Bristol Avon catchment is very flashy, meaning that river levels respond very quickly to intense rainfall. Many of the Flood Alleviation schemes in the upper Bristol Avon catchment comprise of trash screens that catch debris that could cause a blockage and increase flood risk to properties. These structures are crucial to convey higher flows through these communities in these catchments reducing the risk of flooding.  Throughout the wet period the field team was ensuring debris screens and other pinch points were kept clear and ready to respond to higher levels and intense rainfall that fell across the patch.​  At Chippenham gate, a tree was mobilised from upstream by flood water. The tree became stuck on the radial gate in Chippenham. The Upper Bristol Avon Field team floated the tree off downstream from dry land to avoid it getting trapped under. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Mobile pumps deployed on the Somerset Levels and Moors** | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | *Northmoor Pumping Station                        Currymoor Pumping Station* | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | In total, 79 additional temporary pumps were deployed across the Somerset Levels and Moors to alleviate flooded areas and increase our pumping capabilities. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | To find out more about the work the EA does to maintain its flood defence assets and the maintenance we carry out follow this link [Reducing flood risk – the maintenance work we do to keep rivers flowing - Creating a better place (blog.gov.uk)](https://environmentagency.blog.gov.uk/2022/03/28/reducing-flood-risk-the-maintenance-work-we-do-to-keep-rivers-flowing/) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Reservoirs**  Across Wessex, we’re doing improvement work as part of our legal obligations under the Reservoir Act 1975. This work relates to floodwater storage reservoirs at Curry Moor, West Moor and Southlake on the Somerset Levels and Moors, and Gooseum Rhyne reservoir in Congresbury. Unlike reservoirs designed to supply drinking water, the purpose of these flood control reservoirs is to temporarily store flood water and release it slowly at a safe rate.   These reservoirs are in low-lying areas that naturally fill with water when there is flooding. Although they were used as part of informal flood management for many years, the Reservoirs Act required areas of this kind to be formally classified to make sure that they are managed safely. If the EA had not been made responsible for the reservoirs, the landowners would have been expected to carry out the work instead.   Following inspections, locations have been identified that require improvement or repair to ensure the safe operation of the reservoirs. The Environment Agency is doing the improvement works to resolve the identified safety issues. Work includes strengthening embankments, improving spillways, and repairing or replacing structures including pipes, siphons, and trash screens.   The current works will repair and sustain the existing water management approach, while making sure the movement of water happens in a safe and controlled manner whilst the reservoir is compliant under the Reservoir Act 1975. At Gooseum, work will commence in spring 2024 and will be completed by autumn 2025. On the Somerset Levels, vegetation clearance has started in some locations, but most of the main construction will be done in two phases between April 2023 and October 2024. We will pause work between November 2023 and April 2024 due to the potential of seasonal flooding, with work expected to be completed by September 2025.   Meetings have been held with local communities, landowners and residents at Gooseum, West Moor and Curry Moor, and we are looking forward to meeting residents and interested parties near Southlake reservoir very soon. If you have questions or would like to sign up to receive scheme updates, please email the relevant team at: [currymoorreservoir@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:currymoorreservoir@environment-agency.gov.uk); [westmoorreservoir@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:westmoorreservoir@environment-agency.gov.uk); [southlakereservoir@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:southlakereservoir@environment-agency.gov.uk); [gooseumreservoir@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:gooseumreservoir@environment-agency.gov.uk) or call 03708 506 506. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Property Flood Resilience (PFR)** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Environment Agency has an ongoing programme to reduce flood risk and to protect life and property from flooding.  As part of our programme of work, we are proposing a Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Scheme for certain areas at flood risk.    The PFR scheme involves engagement with the public, raising flood awareness and recruiting Flood Wardens.  The scheme encourages homeowners and communities to create flood plans and to sign up to receive flood warnings.  Additionally we can also install physical measures to increase the flood resilience of individual properties.   These physical measures are Flood Resilience, i.e. trying to prevent water from entering a property, and Flood Resistance, i.e. making changes internally to minimise the damage which also helps homeowners recover quicker after an event.       Eligible properties which fit the criteria of flood risk will be surveyed to ascertain the most suitable measures on an individual basis.  Recently a public meeting was held in Shepton Mallet to make the community aware of the scheme and property surveys will take place soon.  The Castle Combe area is next on the schedule.   Once the PFR measures have been installed, it is vital that the equipment is stored, maintained and checked regularly to ensure it will work properly when it is needed next.  It is essential that those who have PFR installed sign up to our free Flood Warning Service and are therefore made aware of when there is likely to be a flood event and have time to set up their equipment.   If you would like more information, please contact [WessexPFR@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:WessexPFR@environment-agency.gov.uk)  For some useful guidance on Property Flood Resilience (PFR) please visit: [Property Flood Resilience - Environment Agency - Citizen Space (environment-agency.gov.uk)](https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/hnl/propertyfloodresilience/) and [https://floodmary.com/](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffloodmary.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cfloodwessex%40environment-agency.gov.uk%7C40b7c054afcf470bdfe108db310a10d6%7C770a245002274c6290c74e38537f1102%7C0%7C0%7C638157692051217123%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=trnxxbpdCn7jnAsRlG2yj6S2nRnNeDGuv640yB5gVR0%3D&reserved=0) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What's coming up?** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **No Mow May** - All of May 2023  Find out more about how you can do your part here: [www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/](https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/)  At the Environment Agency, where we can, we let the grass grow during No Mow May, to help our pollinators. In some locations we do have to mow in May. You can read why here: [Why we cut the grass on flood defences?](https://environmentagency.blog.gov.uk/2020/07/02/why-we-cut-the-grass-on-flood-defences-2/)  Follow our social media channels throughout May to find out more. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Emergency Alerts**  Emergency Alerts is an upcoming UK government service that will warn you if there’s a danger to life nearby.  In an emergency, your mobile phone or tablet will receive an alert with advice about how to stay safe.  One of the reasons you may get an alert is because of severe flooding.  Find out more here: <https://www.gov.uk/alerts> | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Partner Updates** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **New Toolkit launched to help communities across Somerset take action on climate adaptation**    People and communities across Somerset are already feeling the impacts of climate change. Recent winter flooding in the Levels and Moors, last summer’s extreme heatwave and flash flooding in towns like Chard have highlighted the urgent need to adapt to our changing climate.  The good news is there are lots of ways we can **Act to Adapt**, making us, and our community spaces, better prepared for the changing climate.  To share this knowledge and help communities across the county, the Adapting the Levels project has released a **FREE** **Climate Adaptation Toolkit**, filled with information and resources to enable positive action.  The toolkit includes:   * information about the need for climate adaptation * actions individuals and communities can take to adapt * advice on funding sources, consents and permits * resources to help create locally tailored climate adaptation plans   The toolkit is designed to be used collaboratively, supporting community members to identify and discuss local climate risks and contribute to adaptation plans. This process can be led by flood wardens, local action groups, or town or parish councils. By getting involved, you can help spur adaptation action across Somerset!  Download the toolkit, for **free**, on the Adapting the Levels website: <https://www.adaptingthelevels.com/>  We will also be sending a copy to every town and parish council in Somerset. *While the toolkit is focussed on Somerset, it can be used by any community interested in taking climate action!* | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Wessex Water Guardians – Working in Partnership with the Wildlife Trusts**  Somerset, Wiltshire and Dorset Wildlife Trusts have partnered with Wessex Water to deliver the Wessex Water Guardians Community Project.  Funded by Wessex Water and coordinated within each of the 3 counties, local volunteers are recruited and trained to monitor watercourses, identify possible pollution incidents and report them for further investigation. The project works towards cleaner rivers and improving the quality of habitats for wildlife.  Water Guardian volunteers are the additional eyes and ears on the ground, playing an essential role in maintaining the health of their local river. As well as monitoring for pollution, volunteers can also help with recording wildlife sightings and organising local engagement events.   Find out more about these community projects within:  Somerset Wildlife Trust - <https://www.somersetwildlife.org/get-involved/volunteering/wessex-water-guardians-community-project>  Wiltshire Wildlife Trust - <https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/water-guardians>  Dorset Wildlife Trust - https://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/things-do/volunteering/water-guardians        Icon  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **New Community Resilience Liaison Officer (CRLO) for the Dorset Local Resilience Forum (LRF)**  Hello everyone, my name is Clare Jennings, and I am the new CRLO for the Dorset LRF. This is a new post for the LRF, and I am delighted to have been chosen to fulfil the role, and to be working with all agencies across the LRF. While I was born in Dorset, I have spent a significant time away, pursuing a career in the Royal Air Force, I am very happy however, to be back living and working in our lovely county. I hope you won’t mind, but I might be a little reliant on you to start with, not only to help me to understand the flooding risks associated with your communities, but also to be my authority for any wider community risks that you will be aware of. Finally, and if you are happy to do so, I would be grateful for your help in introducing me to the people of your communities, who I am also very excited to meet. Please do contact me when you have time, I will be very pleased to arrange to visit you in the hope that I can start to support the excellent work you already do. [clare.jennings@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clare.jennings@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Communities Prepared**  This Spring Communities Prepared is running an online workshop series on various hazard and community resilience topics. This includes an online session on Flood Volunteering on Wednesday 12th April 6-7pm in which they will cover some of the trickier areas of flood volunteering through a discussion led workshop and answering questions. This course is aimed at anyone whose interested in knowing about what to do before and during a flooding event. They are also running a Community Emergency Planning workshop series across Wednesday 19th April and 3rd May 6-7.30pm. It is for anyone who is leading on the creation or updating of a community emergency plan and will examine both the purpose and potential of emergency plans and specific elements of your developing emergency plan, including plan-sharing and feedback.  These courses are supported by self-led online learning module and handbooks and resources which can be accessed through the learning space, all of which is free and available to anyone looking to inform their understanding of Flood Volunteering and Emergency Planning. Register as a member for access to these courses and more via this link <https://www.communitiesprepared.org.uk/register/>.  Contact Communities Prepared at [communitiesprepared@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:communitiesprepared@groundwork.org.uk) Facebook: CommunitiesPrepared Twitter: CommunitiesPrep  **Emily Roach Osborne Project Support Officer** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Community Funds** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Some of our partners offer funds for volunteer and community groups. Some of the funds may be closed at the moment but you can keep an eye on them at the links provided. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Wessex Water Environment Fund** - Opens 24 April 2023  The Environment Fund supports charitable and community activities that aim to have a positive impact on the local environment.  Find out more here: <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/community/apply-for-funding/the-environment-fund> | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Wessex Water Community Fund** - Opens 25 September 2023  This fund aims to support community-based activities or projects that meet a local need and seek to improve the lives of local people who are in most need of support.  Find out more here: [https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/community/apply-for-funding/the-community-fund](https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/community/apply-for-funding/the-environment-fund) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Bristol Water Together for Good** - Open year round  Each month Bristol Water give away £500 to a local community project or charity within their supply area.  Find out more here: <https://www.bristolwater.co.uk/home/community/together-for-good/> | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **South West Water & Bournemouth Water Neighbourhood Fund** - Currently Closed  The Neighbourhood Fund is all about supporting our local community. There will be £100,000-a-year funding available for neighbourhood community groups which inspire physical activities, education, health and wellbeing and deliver positive environmental outcomes.  Find out more at these links:  <https://www.bournemouthwater.co.uk/about-us/community/neighbourhood-fund>  <https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/community/support/neighbourhood-fund/> | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **SSEN Resilient Communties Fund** - Currently Closed  The Resilient Communities Funds core aim is to help communities become more resilient in the face of storms, severe weather and prolonged power interruptions.  Find out more here: [https://www.ssen.co.uk/about-ssen/our-communities/resilient-communities-fund/](https://www.bournemouthwater.co.uk/about-us/community/neighbourhood-fund) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Useful Information** | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Water Situation Report**  In total, across Wessex, for the months of November - February we issued: | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | In December, Wessex received 121mm of rainfall (129% of LTA). In January a similar total of 118mm (133% LTA) rain fell, most of which in the first half of the month. February had a notable low rainfall total of just 11mm (17% LTA), making it the 12th driest February since our records began in 1891 and the driest for 30 years.  Soil moisture deficit (SMD) decreased by around 10mm to close to zero throughout December and January. In February, soil moisture deficit increased slightly above the LTA.  In December, all the reporting sites in Wessex experienced above average monthly mean river flows. This trend continued into January with most flows notably or exceptionally high at the beginning of the month before decreasing with drier weather. Decreasing flows continued through February with most sites below normal by the end of the month.  Groundwater levels throughout Wessex continued to increase during December as rainfall recharged the aquifers. High groundwater levels continued throughout January with most sites peaking around the middle of the month before decreasing. The groundwater levels at the end of February ranged from exceptionally low to above normal with most sites reporting normal groundwater levels.  Reservoir levels increased throughout December and January, peaking by the end of January to around 100% for Both Bristol Water and Wessex Water. Reservoir levels either remained steady or decreased slightly during February, with storage levels 96% for both Wessex Water and Bristol by the end of the month. This is similar to 2022 levels for Wessex Water but 8% higher than 2022 for Bristol Water. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Chart, waterfall chart  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Know your Local Authority's policy on sandbags**  BANES - see their policy [here](https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/environment/lead-local-flood-authority) Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole - see their policy [here](https://www.bcpcouncil.gov.uk/Roads-and-transport/Maintaining-our-roads/Extreme-weather/Flooding.aspx) Bristol City Council - see their policy [here](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/crime-and-emergencies/emergencies/severe-weather/flooding-and-storms?dm_t=0,0,0,0,0http://&dm_i=3O4M,17YDI,5KQ4FE,4DNDY,1) Dorset Council - see their policy [here](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/-/sandbags-and-local-flooding-advice) North Somerset Council - see their policy [here](https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/nuisances-pollution-environmental-issues/flooding-drainage/preparing-flooding) Somerset Council - see their policy [here](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/beaches-ports-and-flooding/flood-prevention-and-sandbags/) South Gloucestershire Council - see their policy [here](https://www.southglos.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/staying-healthy/health-protection/emergency-planning-and-weather-advice/emergencies/civil-emergencies-emergencies/civil-emergencies-flooding/preparing-for-flooding/?dm_t=0,0,0,0,0http://&dm_i=3O4M,17YDI,5KQ4FE,4DNE4,1) Wiltshire County Council - see their policy [here](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/civil-emergencies-sandbags) | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Where to find further information**  For local weather information including weather warnings visit the Met Office at: [www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/)  The Met Office have also updated their Community Resilience leaflet which contains some really useful information:[Met Office Community Resilience Leaflet](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/business/public)  To sign up for flood warnings: [Sign up for flood warnings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings)  For river, sea, groundwater and rainfall levels: [River, sea, groundwater and rainfall levels](https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/river-and-sea-levels?dm_i=3O4M,15532,5KQ4FE,41BZU,1)  [Wessex Area Water Situation Reports](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-situation-local-area-reports?dm_i=3O4M,15532,5KQ4FE,41BZA,1). 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](http://www.floodre.co.uk/)  The National Flood Forum provide further advice and support at: [www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/)  Flooding - Find out the answers to frequently asked questions:  [Flooding FAQ](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/348925/Flooding_questions_and_answers_February_2014.pdf?dm_i=3O4M,15532,5KQ4FE,41BZX,1)  [Property Flood Resilience Toolkit | The Flood Hub.](https://thefloodhub.co.uk/property-flood-resilience-toolkit/?term=sandbags)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! | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Graphical user interface, application, Word  Description automatically generated](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444659/LIT_4112.pdf) | | **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 | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Graphical user interface, text, application  Description automatically generated](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-flood-plan-template) | | **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 | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Shape  Description automatically generated](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/297421/flho0911bugi-e-e.pdf) |  |  | | --- | | [A picture containing application  Description automatically generated](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/451622/LIT_4284.pdf) | | | |  | | --- | | [Graphical user interface  Description automatically generated with medium confidence](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/410606/LIT_5284.pdf) |  |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Graphical user interface, text, application  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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**  We need your help to keep our list of contact details up to date:    In the two short videos 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. [Flood Warden Video 1](https://youtu.be/tyijSO4aH-g) [Flood Warden Video 2](https://youtu.be/YUKA9GauIxc)   Please email us at [floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk) with: · your name · community name · contact number  E-mail 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.  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](https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/)  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)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about/personal-information-charter) | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com/envagencysw) | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/environmentagencywessex) | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Email](mailto:floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk) | | | | | | | |