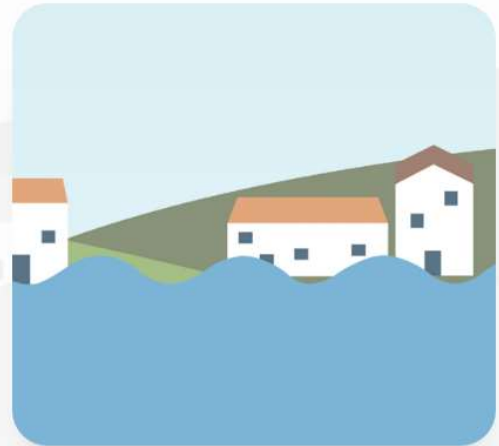


[View this email in your browser](#)

Preparing for Winter

Autumn 2023



Welcome

Autumn Newsletter 2023

Welcome to the Flood Warden Autumn Newsletter 2023!

Over the next few days, we are expecting more rainfall associated with Storm Ciarán. There is still some uncertainty about the track of the storm, but catchments are already saturated and we are likely to see widespread bands of heavy and persistent rain. The Met Office has issued yellow warnings for wind and rain for the south west from tomorrow until Thursday (1 and 2 November) and an amber warning for very strong winds along the south coast on Thursday (2 November). We are likely to see impacts across the patch in particular to our coastal communities.

Across Wessex, we expect more Flood Alerts and Warnings to come online over the next few days with expected high tides, rising river levels, and groundwater recharging through the catchment.

We have staff on duty 24/7 closely monitoring the situation. Both of the Environment Agency incident rooms are open, in Bridgwater and Blandford Forum. We have briefed our partners in the Local Resilience Forum and will keep stakeholders, partners and communities informed.

Our advice to the public is to:

- Stay safe and not enter floodwater.
- Stay away from seafronts, quaysides and jetties, due to the risk of overtopping by waves.
- Call Floodline on **0345 988 1188** for updates on flooding, to sign up for flood warnings, or to report flooding.

and what to do in a flood.

- Sign up for [Flood Warnings](#)
- Visit the [Environment Agency website](#) (which contains information on current river levels and flooding)
- Follow us on X, formally known as Twitter: [Twitter.com/EnvAgencySW](https://twitter.com/EnvAgencySW)
- Visit our [Facebook page](#)

Ground Water Update

Levels are rising across the Chalk in Dorset & in the Vale of Wardour, but more slowly on Salisbury Plain. By the beginning of next week, three or four areas will be likely to meet Flood Alert criteria.

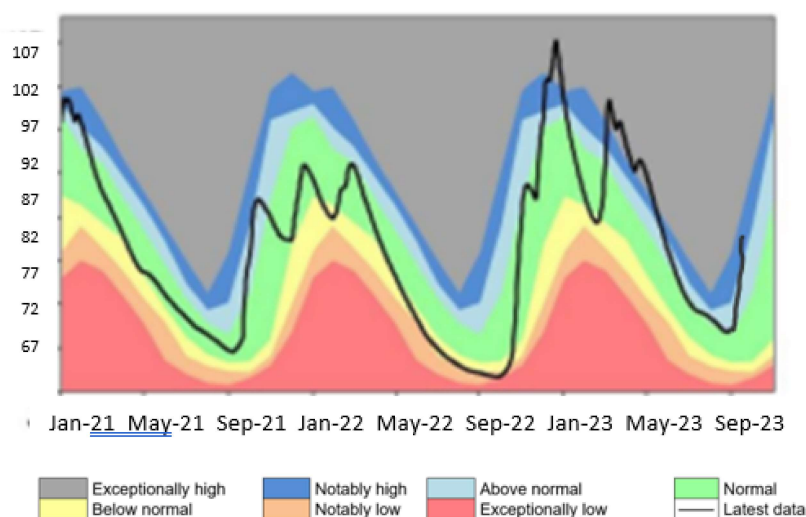
Firstly, a very wet spring pushed levels back up through May and early June and the rather miserable summer has led to the water table being several metres higher than we would normally expect in early October.

October has seen similar rainfall totals to last year, but when combined with the higher start point, we have reached 83.5m at the Woodyates National Indicator Site - a whole month earlier than last year. It is likely that Groundwater Flood Alerts will be in force in West Dorset and Cranborne Chase by the second week of November.

It would be a good idea to check your pumps if you have them.

Woodyates

Ranking derived from data for the period Jan-1942 to Dec-2017



November. The sessions are focussed on groundwater flooding and living on the chalk. We will discuss the impact of climate change on groundwater flooding and the forecast for this winter. It is an opportunity for communities to find out how to be better prepared and build resilience through the Groundwater Flood Warning Service, Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures that are suitable and effective for groundwater flooding, together with details about Natural Flood Management.



Groundwater in Dorset and Wiltshire

Join us to learn more about groundwater flooding and living on the chalk. We will discuss the impact of climate change on groundwater flooding and the forecast for this winter.

Find out how you and your community can be better prepared and build resilience through the Groundwater Flood Warning Service; and Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures that are suitable and effective for groundwater flooding.

Join us from 6-8pm at any one of our hub locations:

- 1 November** - Sixpenny Handley Village Hall, SP5 5NU
- 7 November** - Sydling St Nicholas Village Hall, DT2 9NX
- 14 November** - Wylde Village Hall, BA12 0QP
- 15 November** - Puddletown Village Hall, DT2 8RX
- 22 November** - Milborne St Andrew Village Hall, DT11 0JX
- 30 November** - Shrewton Village Hall, SP3 4JX

To book, contact:
floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk

Please note these events are being held at hub locations across Dorset and Wiltshire so will not be focussing on individual issues from the groundwater flooding. There will be short break mid-way when guests will have the opportunity to speak with representatives from the various agencies and raise any queries.

Should you want further information about these events or to book a place, please email: floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk

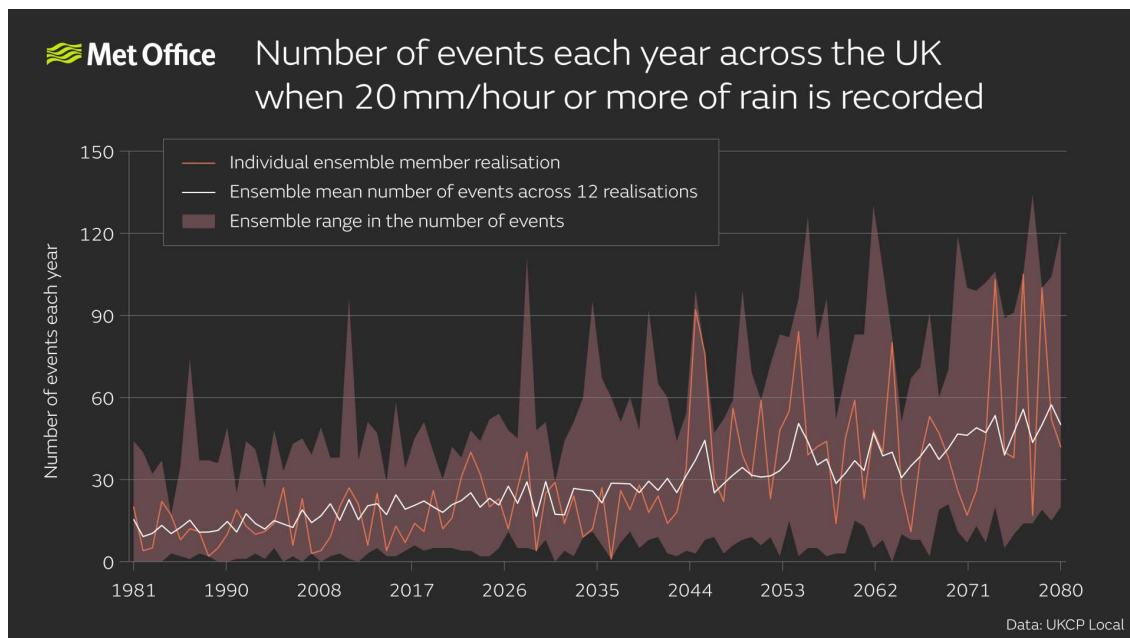
Recent Flooding

September Flooding 2023

Since our last newsletter we have again seen exceptional amounts of rain fall in a very short space of time, resulting in flash flooding. On Sunday 17 September, intense thundery rainfall resulted in flooding in West Somerset and parts of Dorset. Our partners at the Fire & Rescue service received over 100 calls and initial reports

Large volumes of surface water flowed across land and roads causing flooding. The Washford River, the Doniford Stream and the River Tone also rose, and we issued flood warnings and alerts in response. Our field teams cleared trash screens, checked our assets, and responded to reports of blockages.

[Recent research by the Met Office](#) show that the frequency of extreme rainfall events (more than 20mm/hour) is increasing across the UK. More than ever, we need to be prepared for more events such as those that we've seen in Wessex this year. We will continue to support communities to be as prepared as possible for flooding, and continue to work closely with our partners to help communities recover after flooding occurs.



Surface Water Flooding - September 2023



A surface water flood event occurred in the early hours of 17th September 2023. 25mm of rain fell within one hour and was equivalent to a 1 in 25 rainfall event, so was relatively extreme. Dorset Council, as the Lead local Flood Authority, have received no individual reports from this report, despite informal observations from the community that some properties had experienced flooding.

We would like to encourage flood reporting as it helps us better understand the impacts and can provide evidence for potential future identifiable viable schemes. Reporting can be property specific or based on a local area identified by a flood

Report Flooding

Reporting flooding in properties helps us to map where the issues are. We can then use this information to concentrate resources to where they are needed, better inform development and apply for Government funding to reduce the risk of future flooding.

There is an easy online form, and there is no time limit. Often when this happens to you the last thing you think about is reporting it. But when you can, the information we collect is very useful.

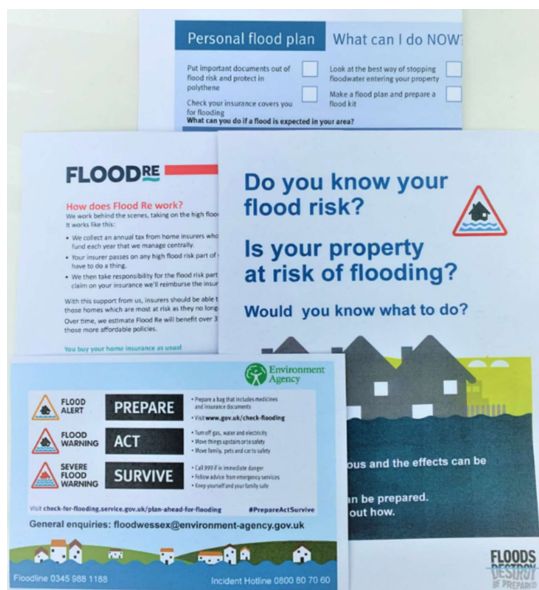
Your report will inform recovery, flood warnings and long term flood risk management. Please complete the form for all sources of flooding. For assistance in filling out the form please call the number below and ask for the Flood Risk Management Team

dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/reportflooding

Tel: 01305 221000



Flood Action Guides



Across Wessex we are supporting communities who are dealing with the immediate aftermath of flooding. 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)
- Recovery flood action guides
- Personal Flood Plan
- FloodRe leaflet (helpful insurance guide)
- Flood Warnings (know what to do and when)

If you would like this information for your community, please email us at floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk.

EA News

Emergency Alert Impact on Flood Warnings

Should I still sign up/remain signed up to the Flood Warning Service?

the seas where there is an immediate threat to life and will supplement a Severe Flood Warning message. You need to be registered to the Flood Warning Service in order for us to contact you and warn that your property could be affected by flooding. This means you will get the latest information, wherever you are, by mobile, text and email.

In addition, the Environment Agency's Flood Warning Service is more targeted to those in flood risk areas, where as Emergency Alerts will be sent to phones on 4G or 5G within reach of the mobile tower in the areas of concern.

For more information, please visit www.gov.uk/alerts

Environment Agency Hydrometric Data Explorer

This application provides access to Environment Agency open hydrology data: river flow, river level, rainfall and groundwater level readings for open hydrometric stations and water quality data from our water quality units for open and historic sites throughout England.

Data can be downloaded in CSV format or by using an API (application programming interface). More information about this can be found on the [API documentation page](#). Raw data is uploaded on a regular basis and replaced by checked data once plausibility checks have been completed. For further information please visit: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/hydrology/explore>

Partner Updates

Reporting Blockages



As autumn arrives in Bristol the city council raise the status of weather warning notifications to account for the heightened risk of blockages to drainage systems caused by increased leaf fall. This is a major seasonal issue that can occur quite rapidly and, during what our typically our wetter months, has led to numerous flooding problems in the past.

flooding issues occurring. Resources available for this purpose include the online reporting system [FixMy Street](#), for blocked road gullies, or over the phone where our trash screen blockage clearance signs indicate an emergency contact number to call (see photo examples at Doncaster Road, Southmead).

Further information for managing other types of flooding experienced in the Bristol area can also be found on the [Flooding and storms](#) section of the council website.

As autumn arrives in Bristol the city council raise the status of weather warning notifications to account for the heightened risk of blockages to drainage systems caused by increased leaf fall. This is a major seasonal issue that can occur quite rapidly and, during what our typically our wetter months, has led to numerous flooding problems in the past.

Anyone who witnesses such an instance of this arising may also have the means available to them to report this to help relieve the issue sooner, ahead of any major flooding issues occurring. Resources available for this purpose include the online reporting system [FixMy Street](#), for blocked road gullies, or over the phone where our trash screen blockage clearance signs indicate an emergency contact number to call (see photo examples at Doncaster Road, Southmead).

Further information for managing other types of flooding experienced in the Bristol area can also be found on the [Flooding and storms](#) section of the council website.



Winter Readiness

Working in partnership with

Wiltshire Council

OFWG Meetings

This is your opportunity to meet with statutory agencies, Environment Agency, Network Rail, Highways Agency, Water Companies and council staff to discuss your local drainage, flooding issues or planning applications in areas at flood risk. Join on-

Winter Preparedness

Advise the drainage team if there has been internal property flooding in your community. Take photographs and as much detail as possible. Contact drainage@wiltshire.gov.uk

As the year progresses we may experience heavy, prolonged or short intense rainfall events. If you are concerned about roads flooding and/or that need to be closed, blocked gullies or drains causing internal property flooding or standing water on a high-speed road (60 mph), contact either our customer service team by phone 0300456 0100 or use My Wilts <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting>

Use the discretionary gully tanker service and ask the parish steward to prioritise drainage assets when wet weather is predicted.

Staff endeavour to cover known hotspots but cannot be everywhere. The information you provide us enables us to target resources where they are most needed.

Check your flood plans are up to date along with your contacts. Encourage residents to check the flood risk to their properties and to take steps to protect themselves, and their families. Contact renate.malton@wiltshire.gov.uk for more information.

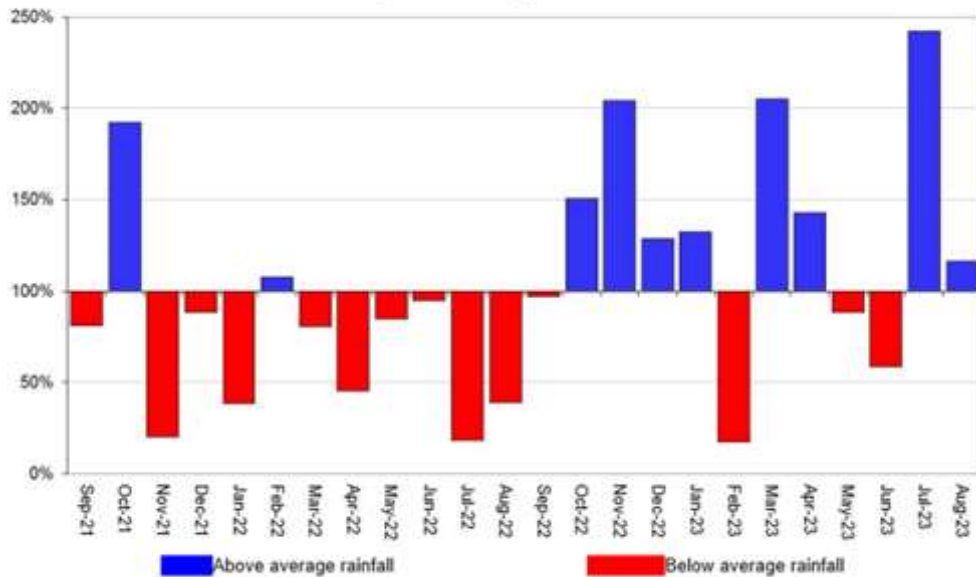
Water Situation Report

Water Situation Report June, July and August 2023

In total across Wessex for June, July and August 2023.

2023	June	July	August	September
Flood Alert				
Fluvial	0	0	1	
Tidal	0	1	18	
Groundwater S Wessex	0	0	0	
Flood Warning				
Fluvial	0	0	0	
Tidal	0	0	1	
Groundwater S Wessex	0	0	0	
Severe Flood Warning				
Fluvial	0	0	0	
Tidal	0	0	0	
Totals	0	1	20	

For the full water situation report visit: [Wessex Area Water Situation Reports](#).



HadUK rainfall data. (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2023).

Useful Information

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

Visit check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/plan-ahead-for-flooding

#PrepareActSurvive

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.

Where to find further information

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

The Met Office's Community Resilience website: Met Office Community Resilience

for river, sea, groundwater and rainfall levels. [River, sea, groundwater and rainfall levels](#)

[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: [Flooding FAQ](#)

[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!

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](#)

[Flood Warden Video 2](#)

Please email us at floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk with your name, your community and contact number.

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



Our mailing address is:

floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).