

# Local Flood Rep News

## Residents in Bath survey local drainage

In October, residents of Sydney Buildings combined an annual litter pick with a survey of the local drainage. There had been concerns that some highway gullies were unmaintainable due to general overgrowth in the channel line below a retaining wall. Andy Keith, the Local Flood Rep for the Residents' Association asked the Drainage and Flooding team for a plan showing the highway drainage infrastructure in the area. This plan allowed neighbours to target particular areas, enabling them to uncover a number of 'buried' highway gullies. The information has now been passed to the Council's Highway Maintenance team.



Local residents uncovered a number of gullies buried in the undergrowth



*Despite the rain, we had a good turn out of litter pickers this evening. Four of us worked on uncovering the overgrown road gullies, one of which I had been unable to find. We managed to expose all five of the overgrown gullies. Thanks for the information, which has been very useful. Great support. Andy Keith, Local Flood Rep for Sydney Buildings Householders Association*

Could you organise something similar for your street or village? For example the flood group in Chew Magna organise an 'adopt a highway gully' system where homeowners keep an eye on the gully nearest to their house.—this is simple, effective and especially useful in the Autumn and Winter.

If you would like a map showing highway gullies or land drainage in your area just email [drainage&flooding@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:drainage&flooding@bathnes.gov.uk)



## Repairs to historic culvert in West Harptree

In July repairs were made to an historic culvert near St Mary's Church in West Harptree. The stone arch culvert had been compromised by a sewer, potentially creating turbulent water and debris build up. Around 10m of new pipe work was installed to smooth the system.

*We would like to thank you for your consideration in making this scheme, and others you have carried out within the Parish run as smoothly as possible. We appreciate being kept informed via the updates you have sent and fully appreciate the benefits this scheme will bring to the village. Parish Clerk, West Harptree*



The stone arch culvert runs along the boundary wall of St Mary's Church

## Take an audio tour of the river Avon flood defences

If you've ever wanted to know more about how the river Avon is managed through Bath you can listen to this excellent interview with Melvin Wood, the Environment Agency's Flood and Coastal Asset Performance Manager for the area. It covers the history of the river through Bath and explains how Pulteney weir manages water levels.

Listen to the Podcast at

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-environment-agency-podcast/>



Pulteney Weir and the river Avon, Bath.

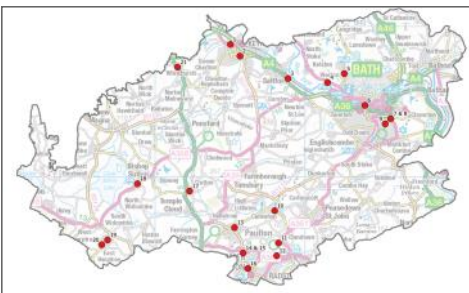
Source: [geograph.org.uk](http://geograph.org.uk) Author: Richard Law

## BANES to survey 3km of culverted watercourse

In July the Drainage and Flooding Team received funding from the Wessex Regional Flood & Coastal Committee Local Levy to undertake condition surveys of approximately 3km of culverted watercourse across 21 locations in the Bath and North East Somerset area. These culverts have been selected as they have complex ownership with multiple private owners and give rise to flood risk to multiple properties. Many of the culverts are located within private gardens, making it difficult to access them

for inspection or maintenance. To facilitate the survey work high pressure water jetting will be used to clean the culverts, a condition survey will then be undertaken using CCTV cameras

on crawler robots. A detailed condition report will allow informed decisions to be made on how best to manage the culverts to ensure no increase in flood risk.



21 culverts throughout the Bath and North East Somerset area will be surveyed.





## Surface water flooding improvements at Hallatrow Bridge



Work was completed in Hallatrow in July to improve the highway drainage system. The carriageway and local properties have been subjected to sporadic flooding over recent years and following several reports from local residents, Bath & North East Somerset Council undertook survey work to establish the problem.

Surveys revealed roots blocking the main carrier drain and also damage as a result of utility company works. A 30m length of pipework was replaced; this has increased the capacity of the drainage system and removed the restrictions that were causing flooding.

The work was carried out over 10 days and required the use of traffic signals to control traffic on the A39. The work is continuing to be monitored and is, so far, successful.

**Are there surface water flood risks in your area?  
Could you give the  
Drainage and Flooding  
team a tour of these  
locations?**

Email us  
[drainage&flooding@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:drainage&flooding@bathnes.gov.uk)

## ...and Phillis Hill, Midsomer Norton

Prior to recent works, surface water collected from the top of Phillis Hill was drained to a system running behind a row of houses on Phillis Hill. This system discharged into an open channel near to an electricity substation and adjacent to the A362 / West Road. In times of high rainfall the volume of water would overwhelm the channel and cause flooding to the highway.

In August a new 180m drainage system was installed up Phillis Hill to capture the water and take it more directly to the Wellow Brook.

These drainage works were combined with resurfacing and pedestrian crossing improvements.



## How to report blocked highway gullies

Back to all reports

**O/s no. 23 gully completely blocked**

Reported in the Blocked drain category anonymously at 13:30 today

I'm writing to inform you about the drainage problem on the Charmouth Road in Bath (BA1 3LJ). This is an access road to the Newbridge Primary School hence it's important that everything is in order. The Virgin Media has been recently doing some work on our road. When they finished working in front of our house (no. 23), I noticed that the drainage has been completely blocked. I don't know what caused the blockage but I asked one of the workmen to hold the metal cover of the drainage so I could take some pictures to show the scale of the problem. The first photo (below) shows that the drainage is completely blocked with a black soil, and the second photo (below) shows that the drainage has been simply covered with the metal cover through which you can still see the scale of the problem. It is obvious that the drainage doesn't let for any flow of rain water which is not helpful because in mind that

**FixMyStreet**

Generally speaking highway gullies in urban areas are cleaned once every two years and gullies in rural locations once a year.

If you believe a road gully is blocked and that this is creating a risk to road safety or property flooding this can now be reported via the Council's Fix My Street portal so that it can be reviewed by the Highway Maintenance team. Fix My Street makes it easy to report the precise location of a gully and include a photo to demonstrate the issue. It's probably the simplest way to report any highway issues.

<https://fix.bathnes.gov.uk>

Alternatively you can still report highway and drainage issues via Council Connect:

Email: [councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk)

Twitter: @ccbathnes

Telephone: 01225 39 40 41

## Free access to flood resilience resources

The Charity Groundwork, who previously provided Flood Warden training in Chew Magna, has launched a new website to support Communities that are working to manage their flood risk. We would like to encourage all Local Flood Reps to sign-up as Members of the Resilience Hub as we believe it has lots of resources that you would find useful.

The Resilience Hub offers free access to example flood action plans and resources to support the longer-term sustainability of community groups, including volunteer recruitment and fundraising. Also provided are adaptable training modules on incident management, flooding, snow and utilities failure.

### Join the Local Flood Rep forum

The Drainage and Flooding team has set up a BANES Local Flood Rep forum so that Local Flood Reps can now easily share ideas and information with each other and the Drainage and Flooding team. There are lots of Parishes and communities that have some great ways of managing their flood risk (see 'Residents in Bath survey local drainage' above) and we think it would be great if these ideas could be shared around for the benefit of everyone.

We would encourage all Local Flood Reps to join the forum. The Drainage and flooding team will use the forum to post news and resources.

### How to join the Local Flood Rep Forum

1. Visit [www.communitiesprepared.org.uk](http://www.communitiesprepared.org.uk)
2. Register as a 'Coordinator'
3. Join the **BANES Local Flood Rep forum** and 'subscribe for new replies'
4. Share your news and ideas!

[www.communitiesprepared.org.uk](http://www.communitiesprepared.org.uk)

# ARE YOU A COORDINATOR OR MEMBER OF A COMMUNITY EMERGENCY VOLUNTEER GROUP?

Our training and support is designed to help you:

- Build greater confidence to take the lead in your community
- Feel better informed and able to respond to emergencies
- Develop and implement community emergency plans and strategies
- Feel better connected to your community group and to local partners

Our pilot phase supported over 300 volunteers  
in 30 communities in the South West

“ The training from Communities Prepared has built confidence in our team. Our volunteers feel empowered that they'd be able to go out and respond. ”

MEGAN HART, BRIXHAM  
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE  
TEAM COORDINATOR



## GET IN TOUCH TO FIND OUT HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP:

**[communitiesprepared.org.uk](https://communitiesprepared.org.uk)**

✉ [communitiesprepared@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:communitiesprepared@groundwork.org.uk)

☎ 01179 103930

🐦 @CommunitiesPrep  
📘 CommunitiesPrepared  
🌐 communities-prepared



## Would you know what to do in a flood?



**FLOOD  
ALERT**

**PREPARE**

- Prepare a bag that includes medicines and insurance documents
- Visit [flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk](https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk)



**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: [flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/what-to-do-in-a-flood](https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/what-to-do-in-a-flood)

#PrepareActSurvive



**Be aware: Culverting or filling-in a ditch without consent is unlawful. If you intend to alter a ditch, stream or other watercourse get in touch with the Council first!**

Drainage ditches, including those running along the perimeter of private fields or alongside hedgerow, are defined as 'watercourses' within the Land Drainage Act. As such, any proposal to modify, culvert or fill in a ditch or small stream, even if privately owned, requires the Consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority (Bath & North East Somerset Council) before any work can be carried out. In the majority of cases, culverting or filling-in would not be given Consent. If ditches are culverted or filled in without Consent, the landowner will be in breach of the Land Drainage Act and will be required to reinstate the watercourse.

Last year we had a few instances where landowners had not applied for Consent, leading to some difficult conversations!

Please make sure that anyone that has drainage ditches or small streams on their land is aware of the restrictions around modifying watercourses. There is some excellent information available online at [www.bathnes.gov.uk/flood](https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/flood) and we have a poster that helps to explain watercourse ownership and responsibilities—see following pages.

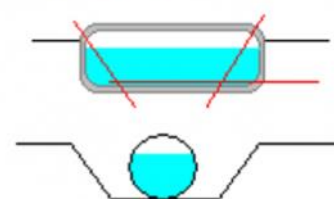


Culverting a watercourse requires consent from the Lead Local Flood Authority or the Environment Agency. In most cases, culverting is NOT permitted.

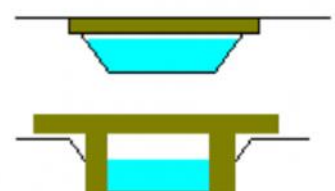
### Works that require Land Drainage Consent:

If the structure is likely to impede the flow of a watercourse then Consent is normally required.

Culverting, including trash screens



Bridge structures within channel



Weirs and Dam like obstructions, this could include temporary works



## Getting in touch with the Council's Drainage and Flooding team



Local Flood Reps are an important part of helping us identify what's important to local people. We are grateful for the time that Local Flood Reps have taken to flag up surface water flooding locations in your communities,

Like all Council departments, the Drainage and Flooding team has a limited budget so it's extremely useful for the team be informed of issues so that they can be prioritised as, unfortunately, we are unable to fix everything!

We would be delighted to get your feedback on this newsletter and our communications with you. Equally, if you would like to talk through a local drainage or flooding issue please get in touch initially by email: [drainage&flooding@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:drainage&flooding@bathnes.gov.uk)

This newsletter has been put together by the Drainage and Flooding Team at Bath & North East Somerset Council.

## Resources for Local Flood Reps and communities

The Drainage and Flooding team can email or send to you any of the following items.

A map of your area highlighting flood risk

A map showing the highway drainage network in your area (in order to aid reporting of blocked gullies)

A poster explaining how to report flooding

A poster explaining watercourse responsibilities

If there is something you would like please email [drainage&flooding@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:drainage&flooding@bathnes.gov.uk)



## How to report flooding

### Report watercourse flooding

Watercourses are split into two categories: Ordinary Watercourses and Main Rivers.

Main Rivers tend to be the larger rivers or systems and in Bath and North East Somerset these include the Avon, the Chew, the Cam Brook and Wellow Brook.

**To report Main River flooding contact the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60.**

Any watercourse that is not a Main River is known as an Ordinary Watercourse and includes drainage ditches, small streams and pipes.

**To report Ordinary Watercourse flooding contact the Council via Council Connect.**

### Report surface water flooding

To report surface water flooding including highway flooding and blocked road gullies contact the Council via Council Connect. Please note the Council does not provide sandbags.

### Report sewer flooding and burst water mains

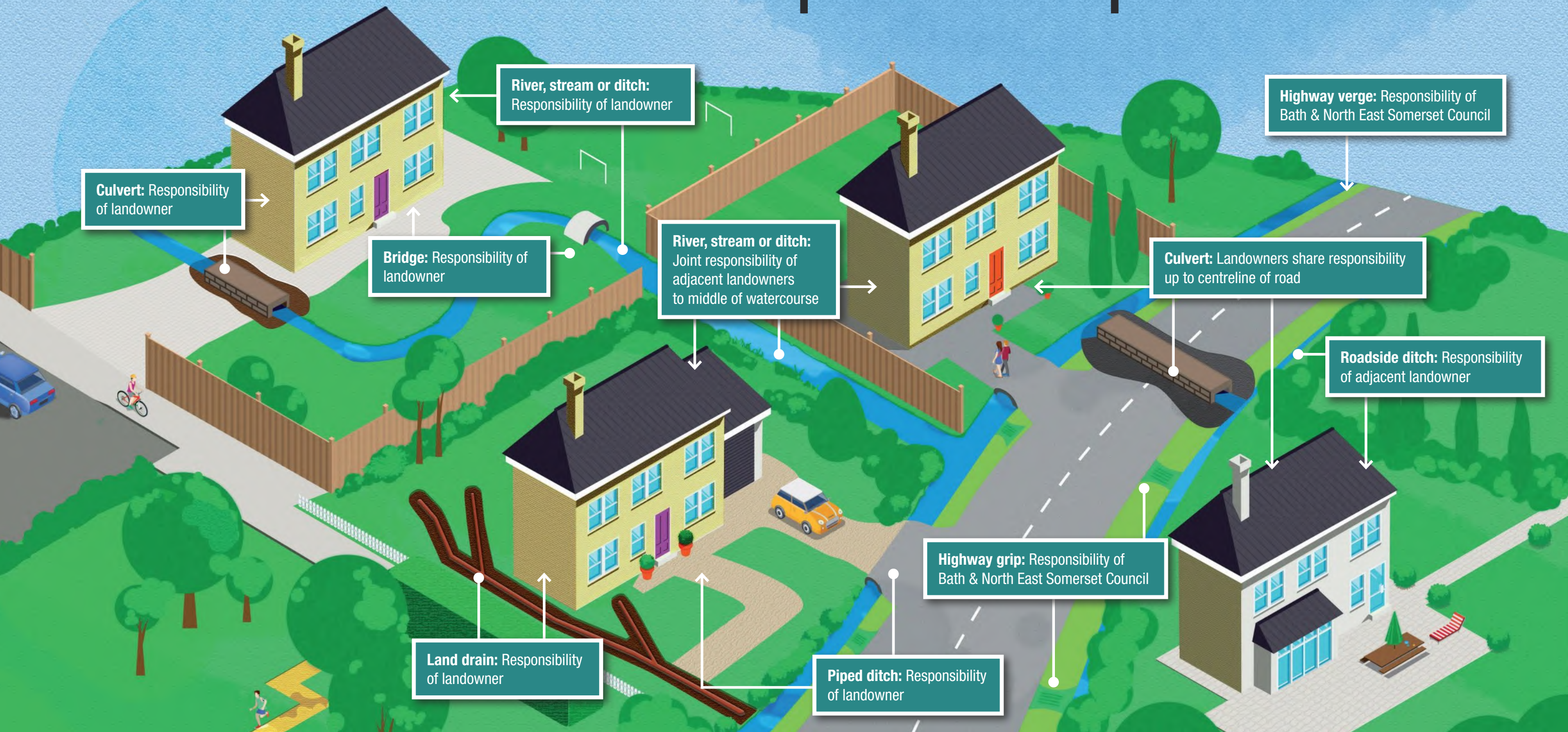
**To report sewer flooding contact Wessex Water on 0345 600 4 600.**

**To report a burst water main in the Bath area contact Wessex Water on 0345 600 4 600.**

**To report a burst water main outside of the Bath area contact Bristol Water on 0800 801 011.**



# Watercourse ownership and responsibilities



If you have a watercourse running through or alongside your land you are responsible for ensuring that water can flow freely and is not polluted. You may have to remove blockages, fallen trees or overhanging branches from your watercourse, or cut back trees and shrubs on the bank.

## What you can do if you see a blocked watercourse.

If you see a blocked watercourse, your first point of contact should be the person or organisation responsible for its maintenance. A 'watercourse' can be any river, brook, ditch, stream or culvert.

If you're not sure who owns an area of land, it's often worthwhile talking to local neighbours or your Parish Council. Alternatively, a land registry search can be carried out. Be aware that title deeds for a property may not show watercourses within the property boundary.

Any proposed alterations to a watercourse, or the construction of structures such as weirs, culverts, bridges or outfalls, may require formal consent from the Environment Agency or Bath & North East Somerset Council before they can be made. To find out more about watercourse rights and responsibilities visit [www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse)

Your Local Flood Rep is:

**Flood Risk Management** is shared between a number of different organisations with individuals and communities having an important part to play. To find out if your home or business is at risk of flooding and what you can do to manage your risks visit: [www.bathnes.gov.uk/flood](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/flood)

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

Environment  
Agency



# How to report flooding

## Did you know

Anyone that has a river, stream or drainage ditch running through, or adjacent to their land is known as a 'riparian owner', and is responsible for maintaining the bed and banks to ensure that water can flow normally.

## Reduce the impact of flooding

The National Flood Forum can advise on things like finding flood insurance, or ways you can make your home more flood resilient. [www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk)

## Did you know

The maintenance of roadside ditches generally rests with the adjoining landowner.

## Is your home at risk of flooding?

Find out your flood risk by looking at the Environment Agency's flood maps for rivers and surface water. [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

## Did you know

A third of flood-related deaths in the UK involve drivers taking unnecessary risks. **Do not drive through flood water!**

**If your home or business has flooded it's important to let the Council know so that we can investigate.**

You can report flooding in a variety of ways:

- Complete an online form at [www.bathnes.gov.uk/reportit](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/reportit)
- Email [councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk)
- Tweet [@ccbathnes](https://twitter.com/ccbathnes)
- Call **01225 39 40 41**
- Text **07797 806545**

If you know the precise cause of flooding please also contact the relevant organisation.

## Watercourse flooding

Watercourse flooding, also referred to as fluvial flooding, occurs when water overtops the banks of a river, stream or drainage ditch.

This can occur because there is more water draining into the channel than it can hold, or because it is blocked.

### Report watercourse flooding

Watercourses are split into two categories: Ordinary Watercourses and Main Rivers. Main Rivers tend to be the larger rivers or systems and in Bath and North East Somerset these include the Avon, the Chew, the Cam Brook and Wellow Brook.

To report Main River flooding contact the Environment Agency on **0800 80 70 60**.

Any watercourse that is not a Main River is known as an Ordinary Watercourse and include drainage ditches, small streams and pipes.

To report Ordinary Watercourse flooding contact the Council via Council Connect.

## Surface water flooding

Surface water flooding is caused by rainwater, which runs across the surface of the ground and pools in low lying areas.

Surface water flooding commonly affects roads and can occur quickly during intense rain storms.

### Report surface water flooding

To report surface water flooding including highway flooding and blocked road gullies contact the Council via Council Connect.

Please note the Council does not provide sandbags.

## Sewer flooding and burst water mains

Sewer flooding happens either when the pipes in the network are blocked or when there is heavy rainfall and the sewers cannot cope with the amount of water. You can help prevent blockages by only flushing the three Ps – paper, poo and pee, and avoid pouring fats, oils and grease down the sink.

The danger of this type of flooding is that water can become contaminated with raw sewage and enter land, property, or the river system.

### Report sewer flooding and burst water mains

To report sewer flooding contact Wessex Water on **0345 600 4 600**.

To report a burst water main in the Bath area contact Wessex Water on **0345 600 4 600**.

To report a burst water main outside of the Bath area contact Bristol Water on **0800 801 011**.



Information and resources available from  
the Environment Agency...



## 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)
- For river levels and to sign up for flood warnings, visit <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/river-and-sea-levels>
- Wessex Area Monthly Water Situation Reports are produced on Gov.uk at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-situation-local-area-reports>
- 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)

## Helpful resources and guidance that you can access on-line and download (click on the picture)



### What to do before, during and after a flood

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



### Prepare your property for flooding

A guide for householders and small businesses to prepare for floods.



### Sandbags - How to use them properly for flood protection



### Flooding from Groundwater

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

## Flood Plan Templates (click on the picture)



### Personal flood plan



### Would your business stay afloat?

A guide to preparing your business for flooding



### Community Flood Plan

### [Riverside Ownership](#)

Your responsibilities and rules to follow for watercourses on or near your property, and permissions you need to do work around them.

## Useful contacts

Contact **Floodline** on **0345 988 11 88** 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 environmental incident.



# Flood warnings - know what to do?



**FLOOD  
ALERT**

**PREPARE**

- Prepare a bag that includes medicines and insurance documents
- Visit [flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk](https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk)



**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

[floodsdestroy.campaign.gov.uk](https://floodsdestroy.campaign.gov.uk)

**FLOODS  
DESTROY  
BE PREPARED**

Floodline on 0345 988 1188

#PrepareActSurvive

## Help us to Help Your Community

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.

If you have received training on SWIM (Severe Weather Information Management) system you can record information directly at <https://swim.geowessex.com>  
Alternatively you can email us at [floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## 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, please remember to ring our Incident Hotline **0800 80 70 60** which is open and manned 24hrs 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.

## 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](mailto:floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk) and we will update our records and sign you up to receive the newsletter and invitations to future training opportunities.