

Welcome to the Autumn 2026 Flood Warden Newsletter



Welcome to the Flood Action Week 2026 special edition, with some exciting news about how we are going to share news and events in future.

From **12 to 18 October**, communities across England will come together to raise awareness of flood risk and encourage people to take simple steps to prepare for flooding. With around **6.3 million homes and businesses at risk of flooding**, helping people understand their risk and know what actions they can take has never been more important.

As community volunteers, you play a vital role in supporting local resilience. Through your local knowledge, trusted relationships and commitment to helping others, you help ensure communities are better prepared before flooding happens.

This year's campaign marks the launch of [Flood Action Online](#), a new GOV.UK resource that brings flood information, advice and support together in one place. The website will help people understand their flood risk, access trusted guidance and take practical action to protect their homes, businesses and communities.

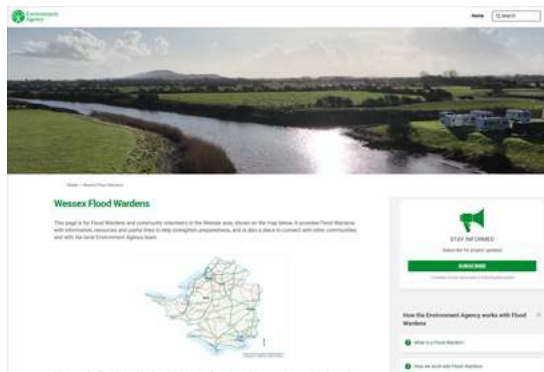
We are also changing the way that we support and communicate with you and the Wessex Flood Warden community. We have launched a new local page with information and resources for [Wessex Flood Wardens](#), which also has a space for you to share your stories and ideas with the wider community. **This website will be where we share news, updates and information in future**, rather than through the newsletter.

We will continue to use our email distribution list for reminders about events, and our contact list remains a crucial resource if duty officers need to get in touch in an emergency. **So please make sure that your contact details stay up to date** by emailing us at floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk.

As we head into the winter months, your support can help spread important messages on flood awareness and preparedness. Whether you're sharing information, engaging with residents or promoting campaign resources through your networks, every action helps make a difference.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support. Together, we can help create safer, more resilient communities that are better prepared for flooding.

New Wessex Flood Warden Support page now LIVE!



The Environment Agency has launched a new online hub for flood wardens and community emergency volunteers across Wessex. The hub brings together guidance, resources, training information and updates to help volunteers support their communities before, during and after flooding.

Flood wardens play a vital role in raising awareness of flood risk, supporting community flood plans and acting as a link between residents, local authorities and emergency

responders. The new hub aims to make it easier for volunteers to access the information and support they need in one place.

Visit the hub and explore the resources available – you can also share your stories with other local flood wardens, and share ideas for how the page can be used in the future.

<https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/wessex-flood-wardens>

Flood Warden Lunch & Learn Sessions

We continue with the popular Lunch and Learn series this Autumn. Sessions usually are held on the third Thursday of the month and are online (unless stated as a face to face event) and start at 12:30 for 30 mins with a chance for topic related Q&A after the presentation.

We aren't running a Lunch and Learn in October, however we will be back on Thurs, 19 November at 12:30pm with a session by the Met Office talking about the weather warning service and useful information about forecasts relevant for flood wardens.

NEXT FLOOD WARDEN LUNCH & LEARN SESSION – Met Office Weather Warnings and Winter Weather Outlook, Thursday 19 November 12:30pm

Microsoft Teams meeting Join:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/33637107959074?p=vGDXnol7urFNsnoRNm>

Meeting ID: 336 371 079 590 74 Passcode: RE9s3Ws9

Sessions will then start again in the New Year and future topics include:

- Recruiting and Keeping Volunteers
- Exercising Plans
- Fly Tipping, Waste Crime and Recycling
- Flood Risk and Awareness – how to stay safe as a volunteer during flood events

If you have any suggestions or requests for future topics, please email us at

floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk

Previous Lunch & Learn Recordings:

- Introduction to the Flood Warden Role - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_niBfDjQQU
- Flood Risk Management - <https://youtu.be/h2lqZyAVuZI>
- Property Flood Resilience (PFR) – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KDAaupa4h0>
- New Warning Service - <https://youtu.be/bhRDiiXZQDk>
- Natural Flood Management – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pAXjjh56oY>
- Flash Flooding – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcK2ufdPTwg>
- Groundwater - <https://youtu.be/CR6xkrHFa0U>

Riparian reminders

Flood Wardens often ask us about owning a watercourse and the associated rules and responsibilities. A reminder that there's a detailed booklet available at:

<https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagehq.com/your-watercourse-rights-and-roles>.

For more guidance on owning and managing a watercourse, see:

[Owning a watercourse - GOV.UK](#)

For more detailed information on permissions you might need for certain work around rivers, please see the above booklet or: [Flood risk activities: environmental permits - GOV.UK](#)



Ready for Winter? Run through your Flood Warden Checklist

Make sure you are signed up to receive both **flood alerts and flood warnings** for your community.

Flood Warnings are for main river, sea and groundwater - [Get flood warnings by text, phone or email - GOV.UK](#)

Sign up or download the **Met Office app for forecasts and weather warnings** especially if your community is affected by surface water or flash flooding: [Subscribe to email alerts, warnings and newsletters - Met Office](#)

Check the **5 day flood forecast, current flood warnings and updates, river, sea, groundwater and rainfall levels** - [Check for flooding in England - GOV.UK](#)

Is your **flood plan or flood warden action card** up to date? If you need a template email us at floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk

Other Upcoming Events

Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Day – Wednesday 21 October 2026

Young people are stepping up to help Somerset communities become more resilient in emergencies, and we're celebrating that at this year's Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Day.

Join us on Wednesday 21 October at Millfield School (BA16 0ST) in Street, for a free event bringing together the Environment Agency, Somerset Rivers Authority, Somerset Council and more:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/somerset-prepared-community-resilience-day-2026-tickets-1990766160175?keep_tld=true

This year's focus is on young people and the fresh ideas they bring to emergency planning, with a keynote from disaster management expert Martin Parham of The University of Manchester. There'll be hands-on workshops on emergency planning, wildfire preparation and understanding weather patterns, plus a look at what three days' worth of emergency supplies really looks like.

The day includes the Community Resilience Awards, celebrating people who've gone above and beyond for their community.

[Young people's role in incidents to be celebrated in Somerset - GOV.UK](#)

Contact bel.deering@somerset.gov.uk

Partner Updates

British Red Cross



Find out more about our free face-to-face and online training workshops for adults that offer effective, easy-to-learn education in an informal style:

[Community educational workshops | British Red Cross](#)

CLIMATE

Flooding: aware, prepare, care

Free community flooding workshop

Flooding affects more than homes and infrastructure; it disrupts daily life, harms wellbeing and can have long-lasting physical, emotional, and social impacts on communities.

Through interactive activities, real community stories, and scenario-based decision making, Our free Flooding: aware, prepare, care workshop helps you:

- Understand local flood risks
- Recognise official flood alerts
- Take the right actions at each stage.
- Create a simple flood action plan
- Prepare your home and essential items.

For more info and to book, scan the QR code or visit: redcross.org.uk/community-education-workshops



Human**kind**



Met Office App and Training

The Met Office has recently refreshed their app making it easier to get instant alerts of warnings in your area and access all UK weather warnings via a single click. Read more here:

<https://weather.metoffice.gov.uk/weather-app>

The Met Office also have a programme of online Community Resilience Courses including Winter Weather Hazards, Climate Change and Community

Dates available in October and November [Met-office-2026-online-community-resilience-training-prospectus.pdf](#)

Emergency Volunteer Action Group (EVAG)

EVAG continues to issue flood resilience kit to householders, having gained experience by issuing to over 120 households in Somerset so far. All we need is the name and address, with contact details of threatened households and we will visit, survey and issue kit.

Flood wardens are our primary contact to guide us to the right addresses.

Contact us on evag@evag.uk



Bath & North East Somerset Council Emergency Planning Support

Bath & North East Somerset Council is continuing to encourage community groups and businesses to start the process of creating a resilience plan to ensure that in the event of an incident, such as a fire, flood or utility cuts, they can support the emergency services response and help their community recover quickly. To find out more visit: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/plan-emergency>

Bath & North East
Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Emergency Preparedness

For Communities in Bath and North East Somerset

Prepare for the known risks in your area



Emergency Community Contacts

They will help coordinate response in the community and they will liaise with the emergency services and local authority.

- Know who your Emergency Community Contacts are
- Have a home emergency plan for you and your family
- Know where your closest place of safety is

Prepare an Emergency Preparedness Kit

- Torch/battery powered lantern
- A list of key contacts, phone numbers/addresses
- First aid kit
- Bottle of water/snacks
- Phone charger/portable battery charger

Don't forget to plan for your pets!

- Food & water for a few days
- Travel carrier
- Pet & vet documentation

For further information go to www.bathnes.gov.uk/plan-emergency

Young people & Community Resilience – Duke of Cornwall award

The Duke of Cornwall Community Safety Award was launched in 2012 in response to significant flooding in Cornwall. The award aims to educate and train young people to assist before, during and after a crisis. It was developed to give young people in the UK an opportunity to learn what to do in an emergency.

There is no requirement to register to take part in the award scheme. All of the materials and resources including an award handbook are available from this site: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/fire-and-rescue-service/keeping-safe/community-safety/community-safety-award/>

Helping Communities adapt to Climate Change and Flooding



Somerset Wildlife Trust are continuing work on their Act to Adapt project, supporting Somerset communities to plan adaptation to the impacts of climate change, such as flooding, through community action and nature-based solutions. With Frome launching their plan this summer and Mudford, Ashington, and Chilton Cantelo's plan to be launched this November. The Act to Adapt team are now working with communities in Shepton Mallet, Langport and Porlock to create their local plans.

The team are also working with Somerset Council through their new Act Together to Adapt project, which aims to embed local voices and community-led adaptation planning into council policy.



If you would like to learn more about these projects, please visit Somerset Wildlife's website at [Act to Adapt](#) and [Act Together to Adapt](#). Or you can join the team at their Wilder Together event this October the 10th in Taunton by signing up here: [Wilder Together 2026 | Somerset Wildlife Trust](#).

Report Flooding on the Flood Online Reporting Tool (FORT)

You can use FORT in Dorset, BCP, South Gloucestershire or Somerset using the link below – you will be redirected to the page for your area.

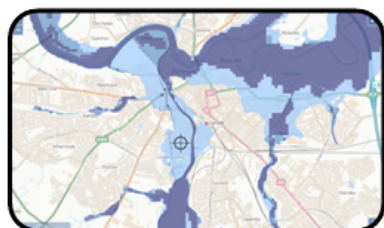
Will reporting a flood affect my insurance?

What is the Flood Online Reporting Tool (FORT)?

FORT is simply a data-collection system for local councils to understand where flooding happens and plan responses accordingly.

Reports are shared with risk management authorities to support incident response and long-term flood planning. **We do not publish reports.**

Flood Online Reporting Tool



Do insurers already know about flood risk?

Yes. Insurers already use independent flood-risk data, mapping, and industry databases. Even if you didn't report a flood, the risk level of your area (and sometimes the property) is already known or modelled.

Reporting ≠ notifying your insurer

Filing a report through the council tool is not the same as making an insurance claim.

There is a legal duty to disclose flooding to a property as part of a conveyance process and when getting insurance – whether a claim has been made or not. Not to disclose could constitute fraud and prevent a claim being paid in the event of a future flood event.



What does affect insurance?

Your premium might change if:

- You make an insurance claim for flood damage
- You disclose a history of flooding when asked during a policy application
- Updated risk modelling reclassifies your area over time

Reporting a flood through the Flood Online Reporting Tool **does not** raise your insurance premium.

Reporting a flood helps by:

- Securing funding for drainage and flood defences
- Improving understanding of local flood risk through better modelling and planning
- Supporting grants for property protection

Report a flood by scanning the QR code or visiting the link below:
floodreport.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



Other Environment Agency News

How you can help report waste crime



Waste crime is dealt with in accordance with size, scale, environmental impact and who's involved.

The Environment Agency is responsible for dealing with large scale waste crime. This looks like more than a lorry load of waste. Signs that you could be witnessing waste crime include:

- increased numbers of lorries entering a site
- drastic increases in waste stored on sites in a short period of time
- activity out of hours
- waste going in but not coming out
- smoke
- water pollution
- machinery operating like excavators, dust, noise and increased site work

You can report these types of waste crimes and those you believe are involved to our partner, Crimestoppers. 100% anonymous. Always. 0800 555 111 or online: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

Local councils are responsible for dealing with small scale waste crimes, such as fly-tipping. They also have powers to fine unregistered waste carriers, to investigate and deal with statutory nuisance and waste issues, such as someone burning waste in their garden impacting their neighbour and noise and dust nuisance from waste activities.

You can report these types of waste crimes to your local council: www.gov.uk/find-local-council

In addition, local councils share responsibility with the Environment Agency for some medium scale waste crimes such as illegal dumping, disposal, treatment and burning.

Water Situation Report

You can find the latest Water Situation Report for Wessex on gov.uk here: [Water situation: area monthly reports for England - GOV.UK](#)

The reports are published monthly, and contain a wealth of information about rainfall and river levels, soil moisture levels and comparison with historic averages. The reports come out around the middle of the month, with statistics from the month before.

Current conditions in Wessex are drier than usual, with September having been another dry month. September had an average of 38mm rain falling across Wessex, 57% the long term average (LTA).

Rainfall was generally below normal across Wessex with only the Dorset Stour hydrological areas receiving normal rainfall.

The previous 3-month period has been the second driest July to September on record (43% LTA). The previous 6 months have been the third driest April to September on record (59% LTA).

Soil moisture deficit (SMD) for the Wessex region showed some early recovery but increased again by the end of the month to a historic maximum for this time of year. Daily mean flows across Wessex remained low throughout the month with little response to rainfall.

The majority of sites across Wessex reported below normal to exceptionally low monthly mean flows with the River Tone and Bristol Frome at a historic low for September.

Groundwater levels fell across much of Wessex during September. All sites were notably or exceptional low by the end of the month except Allington which was normal. Most sites on the Chalk Aquifer are reporting as notably low or exceptionally low. Wrington (Carboniferous Limestone) is also reporting exceptionally low at the end of the month.

Reservoir storage has reduced with Wessex Water ending the month at 28% total storage capacity, significantly below 1976, 2022 and 2025. Bristol Water ended the month at 44% total storage capacity similar to 2025.

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 Met Office
www.metoffice.gov.uk

Met Office's Community Resilience website: [Met Office Community Resilience](#)

Get flood warnings: www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings

For river, sea, groundwater and rainfall levels: [River, sea, groundwater and rainfall levels](#)

To find out more about preparing for flooding: www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding

[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 and Health advice
www.gov.uk/government/publications/flooding-and-health-public-advice

For Property Flood Resilience (PFR) and Flood Plan templates:
[BeFloodReady – Property Flood Resilience \(PFR\) | Helping Reduce Flood Risk](#)

Communities Prepared: Flood warden booklets and online training:
<https://www.communitiesprepared.org.uk/>

Your Watercourse: rights and roles:
[Your watercourse: rights and roles | Engage Environment Agency](#)

Keeping In Touch

We need your help to keep our list of community Flood Wardens and Town and Parish contact details up to date:

In the two short videos we describe why we need these 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

No longer a Flood Warden? - [Unsubscribe](#)



