



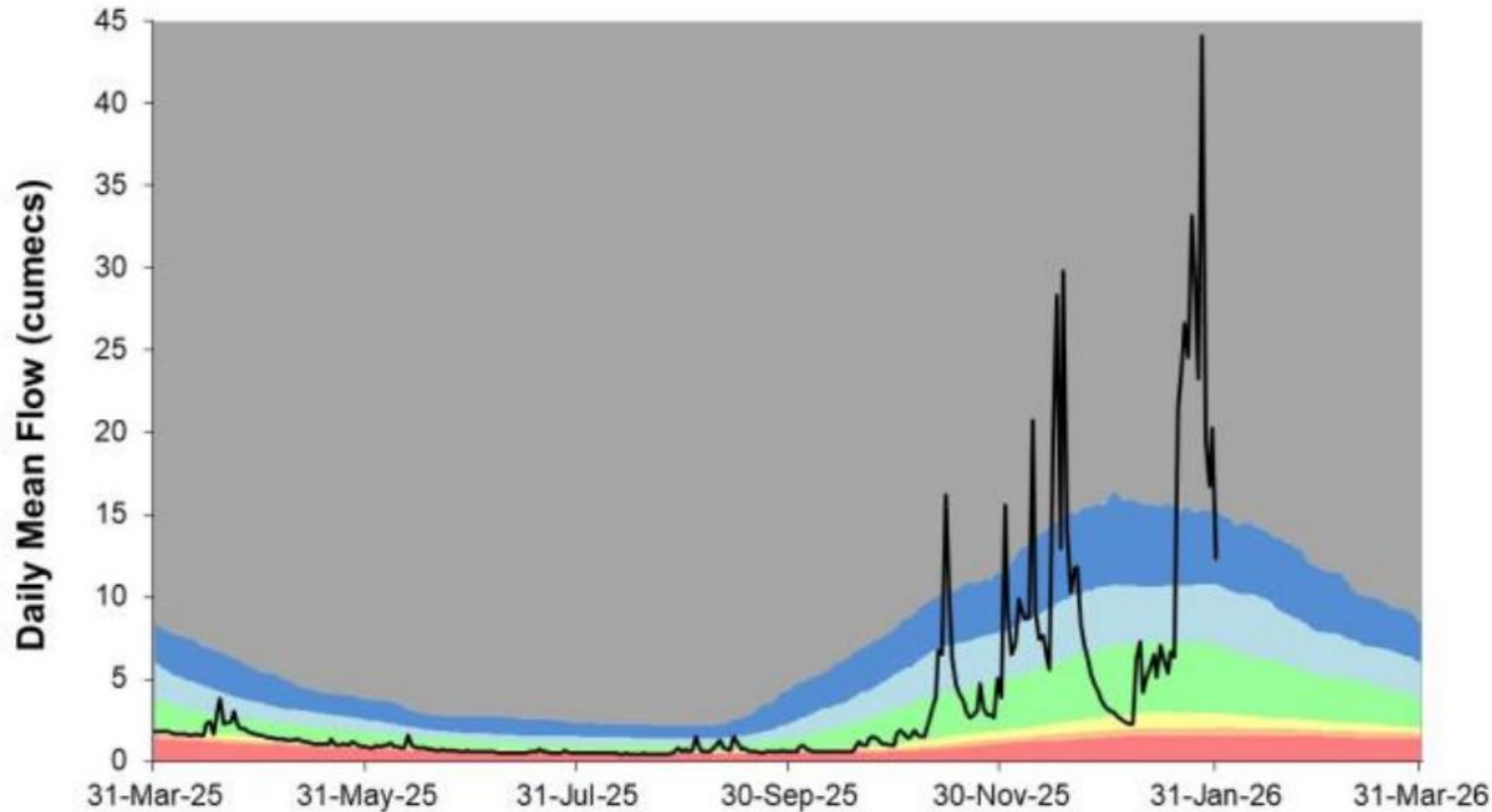
Emma Giffard

Flood Resilience Engagement Advisor

floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk

A Stormy and Wet Winter

BISHOPS HULL, River Tone
Ranking used data from 01/02/1961 to 31/12/2022

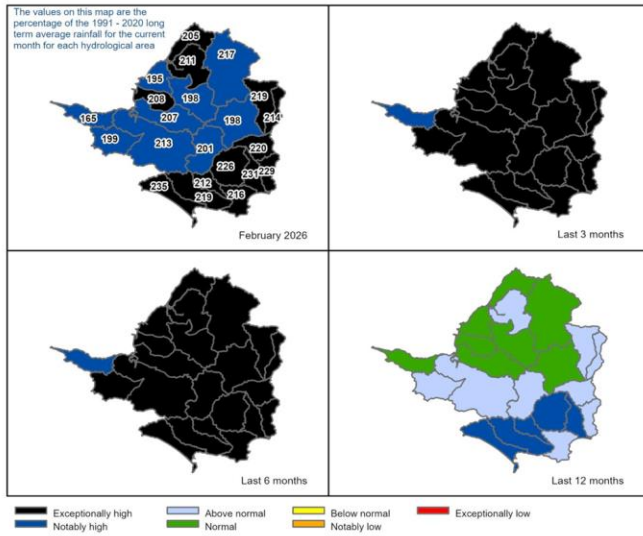


The two month January-February period was the second wettest on record (2014 remains the wettest since records began in 1871).

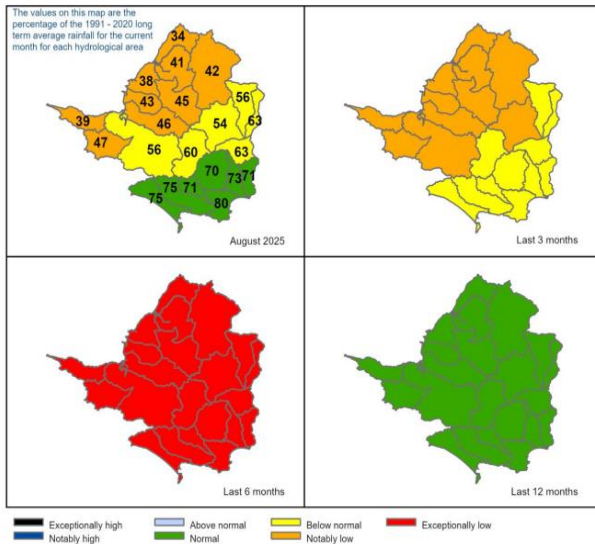
A third of January's rain fell in only two days. At the peak of Storm Chandra, 1.2 million tonnes of water per hour was coming down the Parrett & Tone catchments.

Wet weather continued into February, when the Parrett had 213% and the Tone had 199% of the long-term average rainfall.

Weather extremes

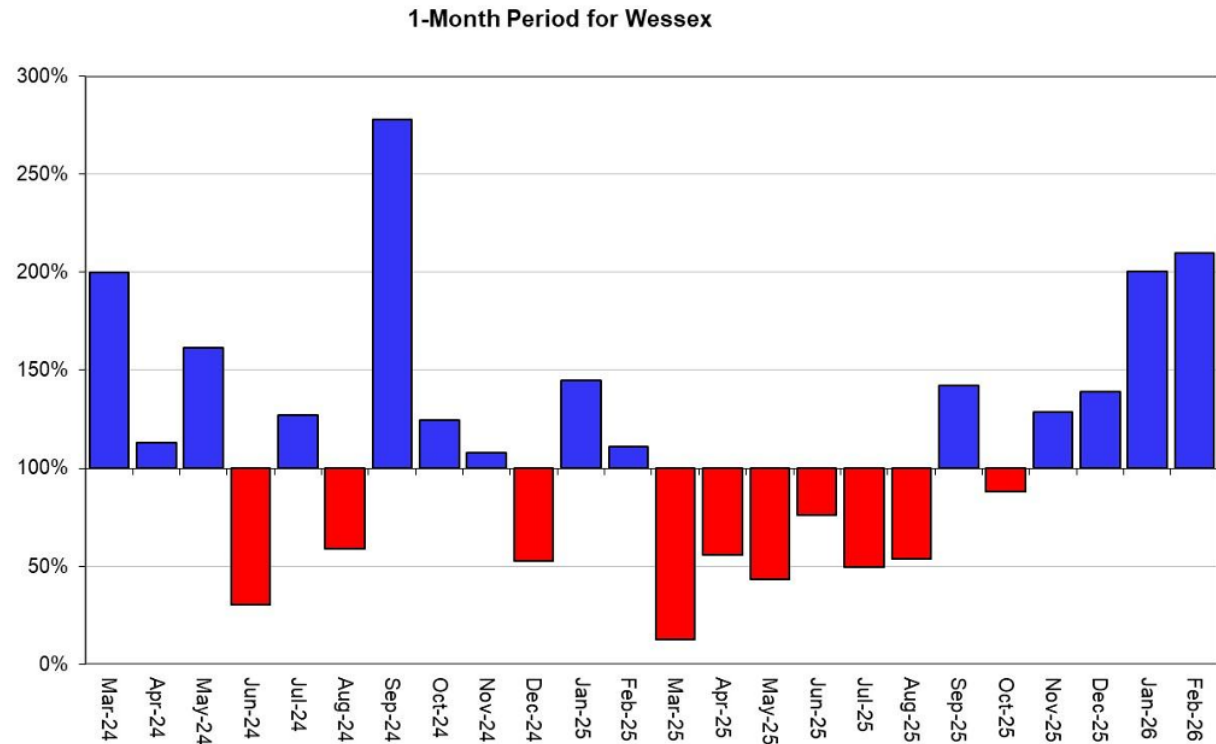


February 2026



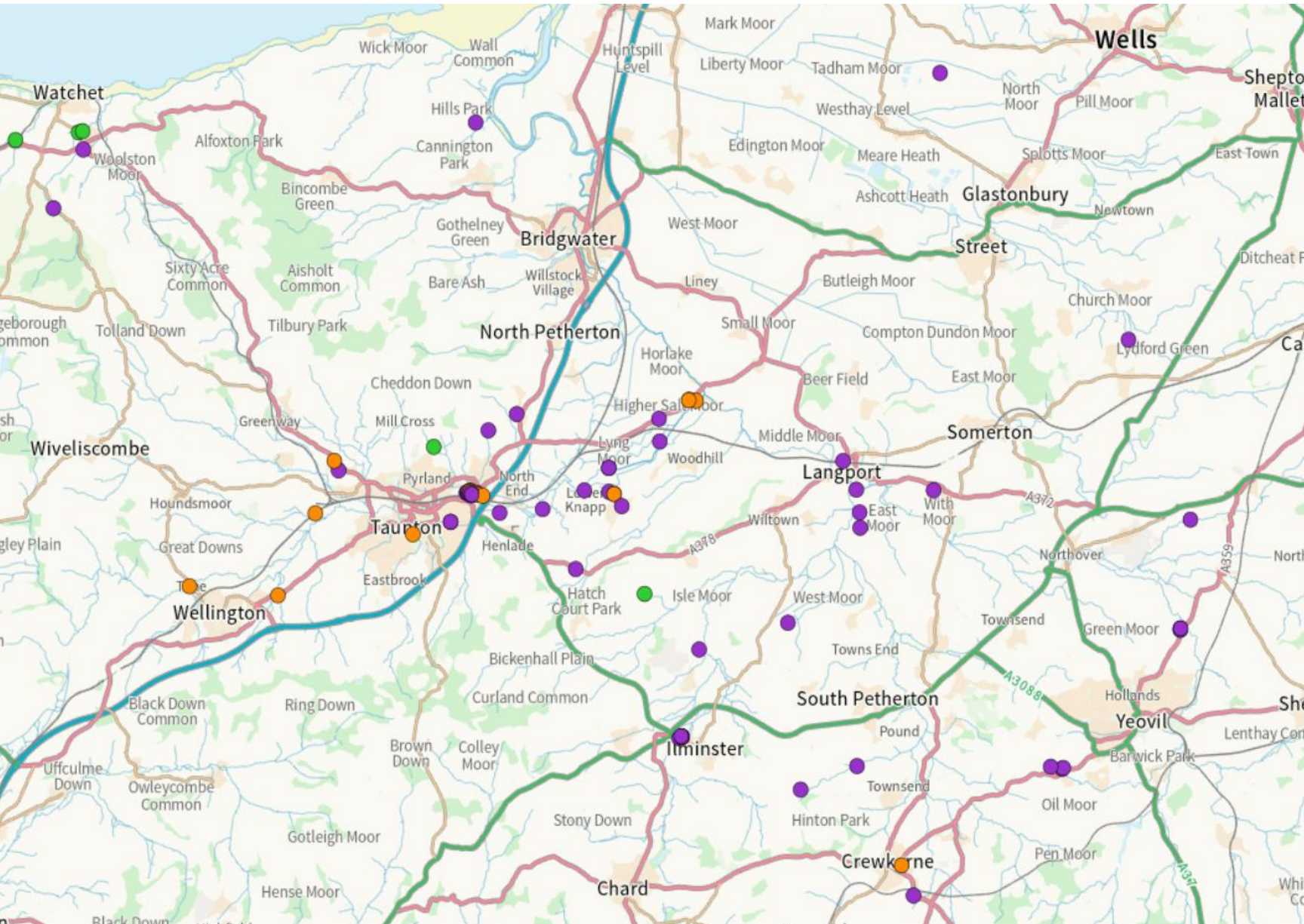
August 2025

■ Above average rainfall ■ Below average rainfall



Monthly Rainfall as % of Long Term Average

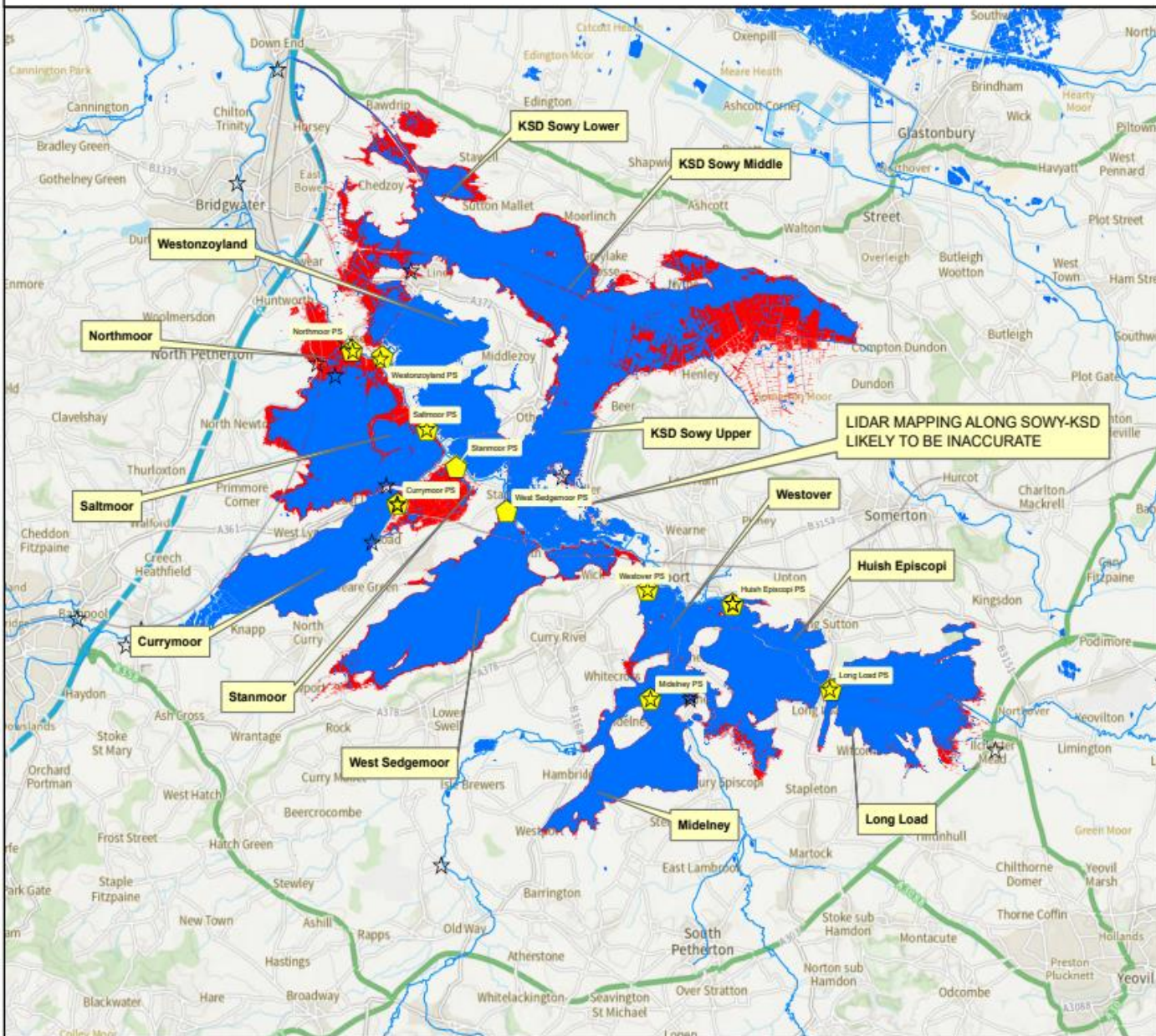
Storm Chandra- Internally Flooded Properties Reported



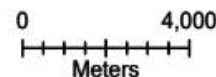
- Mostly scattered individual properties: cluster in Bathpool area (Taunton).
- Majority flooded for a few hours.
- Around 80-90 flooded across Somerset – around 20 of these on the Levels and Moors
- 2860 properties were protected by flood defences maintained/operated by risk management authorities (180 by pump deployment)

Flood Extents

SOMERSET LEVELS AND MOORS - PARRETT AND TONE OVERVIEW JAN/FEB 2026



Scale at A4: 1:150,000



Legend

- Pumping Stations
- Enhanced pumping
- 2013/14 Max extent
- Est. Flood Extent Jan/Feb 2026

Total water coverage:
30.3 sq mi

Please note, this map is estimated based on a combination of satellite and water level data, using the best available information and may not capture all information at this date. The Sowy-KSD extents come from in-channel gauge data and should be viewed with caution given the gradient of the moors.

These data MUST NOT be published in the Historic Flood Map or Recorded Flood Outline without further consideration. These data are not appropriate for property counts, nor for commercial/underwriting/claims.

- Map shows the extent of the flooding in the Somerset Levels and Moors v areas flooded in 2014.
- Around 30 square miles flooded at the peak
- Similar storm pattern / volumes to 2014 but significantly fewer flooded properties
- Largely due to early action taken by partners and the deployment of a significant fleet of temporary pumps, as per the trigger points plan.

Pump Deployment

- Pumps were deployed to 19 locations in this event
- 28 ultra-high volume pumps, and a large number of smaller pumps
- A mix of national stock, locally owned pumps and hired equipment
- Pump deployment initiated before trigger points were met
- Pumps were installed in record time



Flood Warnings



- The Flood Warning service is our primary communication channel for flooding from rivers and sea
- Flood Warning Officers are on duty 24/7, and warning information is updated regularly online
- The Somerset Levels and Moors have unusual hydrological characteristics that are challenging for issuing Flood Warnings
- Upper catchments and smaller watercourses are not usually covered as there is not enough lead time / data to issue warnings
- We are always seeking to improve and feedback on Flood Warnings is welcome



National Context

- Map shows a snapshot of Flood Warnings on Tuesday 27th January.
- Most in South-West England.
- 110 Flood Warnings at peak
- 3 Severe Flood Warnings in Dorset and Devon, indicating risk to life, were also issued to warn and protect communities

Questions and Answers

- Flooding in Somerset receives a high level of public and political interest
- We are still dealing with a very large volume of enquiries
- We have created a dedicated webpage with updates and FAQs
- Visit [Somerset Flooding 2026](#) | [Engage Environment Agency](#) or search ‘Somerset Flooding 2026’



Home / Somerset Flooding 2026

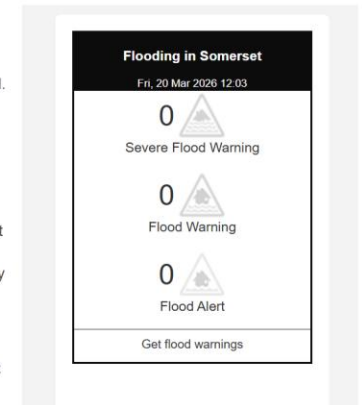
Somerset Flooding 2026

Somerset had the second wettest January on record with more than double the average rainfall. A third of this rain fell during Storm Chandra, which saw around 1.2 million cubic metres of water per hour moving through the Parrett and Tone catchments. Most of this water spilled into the floodplain of the Levels and Moors.

Wet weather continued into February, which had almost double the average rainfall by mid-month. Across the county, there have been widespread impacts from flooding.

Somerset Council declared a major incident on 27 January, with the support of the Environment Agency and Local Resilience Partners. You can read more via this link: [Somerset Council Newsroom](#). Although the major incident has since been stepped down, the Environment Agency continues to respond.

While pumping operations are active on the Somerset Levels and Moors, and while we are undertaking flood recovery activities, we will have this page live for updates, additional information and guidance. The latest updates can be found in the newsfeed at the bottom of this page.



Improvements since 2014

- Since 2014, around £250 million has been spent in Somerset on reducing the impacts of flooding, including:
- Floodwater storage reservoir resilience
- Dredging and water injection dredging
- Road raising
- Upgrading pumping stations
- Natural Flood Management interventions in the upper catchments
- Refurbishing key assets such as Dunball Sluice
- This year, we have been able to deploy temporary pumps faster and get water away more quickly because of these improvements.



Next Steps/ Future Investment

- Somerset Council are undertaking a Section 19 investigation where more than 10 properties have experienced internal property flooding
- Large programme of inspections underway – floods on this scale can cause substantial damage to assets
- We will review operational response and any opportunities for improvement



The Environment Agency's Role

Strategic overview: for flood risk and managing the risk from main rivers, reservoirs, and the sea.

Statutory advisor: planning applications, local and strategic plans, environmental assessments, and nationally significant infrastructure projects.

Infrastructure provider: we allocate funding for and build flood defence schemes. We also operate, maintain and replace significant national flood and coastal defences.

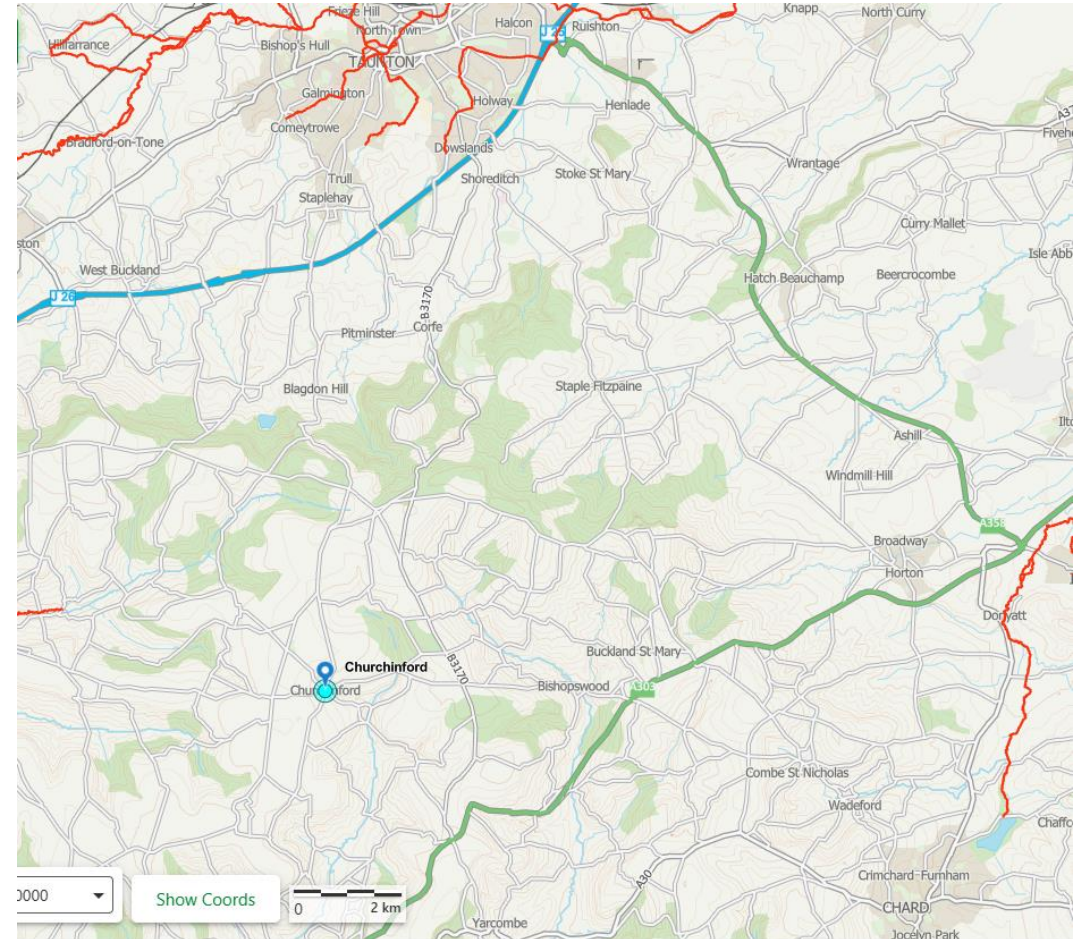
Category 1 emergency responder: warning and informing communities, preparing for and assessing the risk of emergencies.

Statutory Main Rivers

The Environment Agency has **Permissive Powers** to maintain and improve main rivers for the efficient passage of flood flows and the management of water levels on main rivers.

It does NOT have a duty to carry out work.

Funding is allocated nationally where it will have the greatest impact.



Designated Main Rivers shown in red

Surface Water & Ordinary Watercourses



BBC E For you Home News Sport Weather iPlayer

NEWS
Home | UK | Elections 2026 | World | Business | Culture | Politics | Health | Tech | InDepth | BBC Verify
England | Local News | Somerset

Somerset A303 to remain closed for days after flooding

3 November 2023



NATIONAL HIGHWAYS SOUTH WEST
The A303 in Somerset has flooded after heavy rainfall



Who is a riparian owner?

Where a river runs along the boundary of land, the riparian owner will own up to halfway across the watercourse, unless stated otherwise in property deeds.

A watercourse can be culverted, natural, or artificial and includes channels that are dry for long periods of time and may not flow every year.

Check your property deeds as hedges, fences and earth banks may not signify your legal boundaries.

Land ownership can be complex. It is sometimes unknown or disputed, even when looking at title deeds for a property.



Your Watercourse: Rights and Roles

Guidance

Owning a watercourse

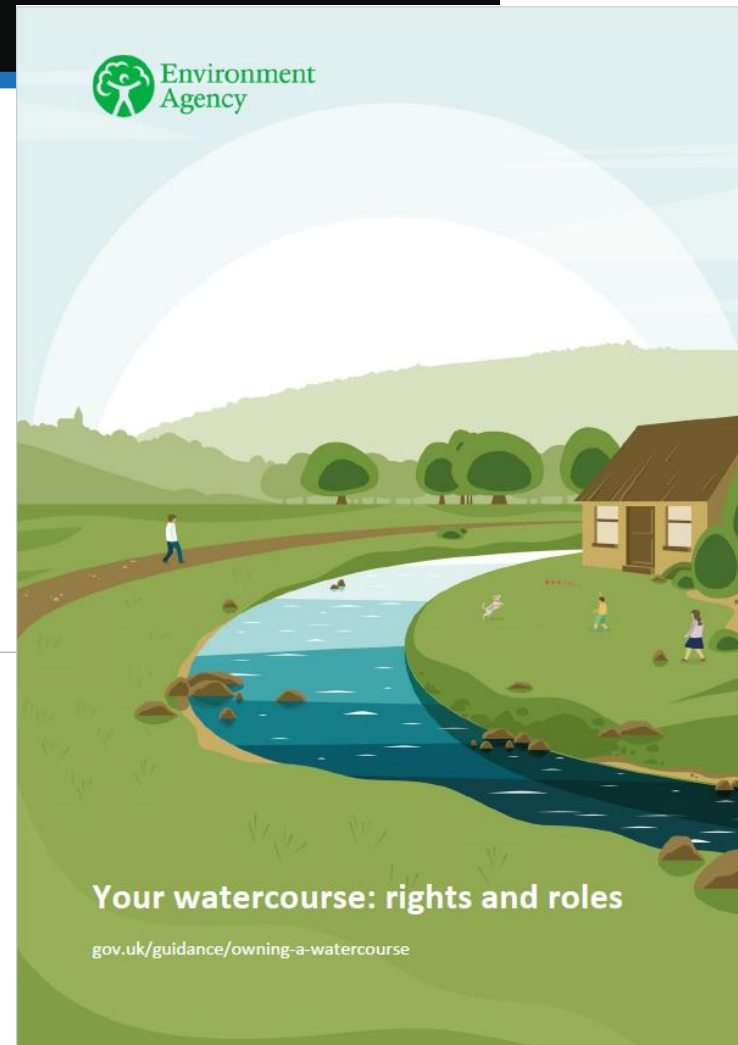
Your responsibilities and rules to follow for watercourses on or near your property, and permissions you need to do work around them.

From: [Environment Agency](#)

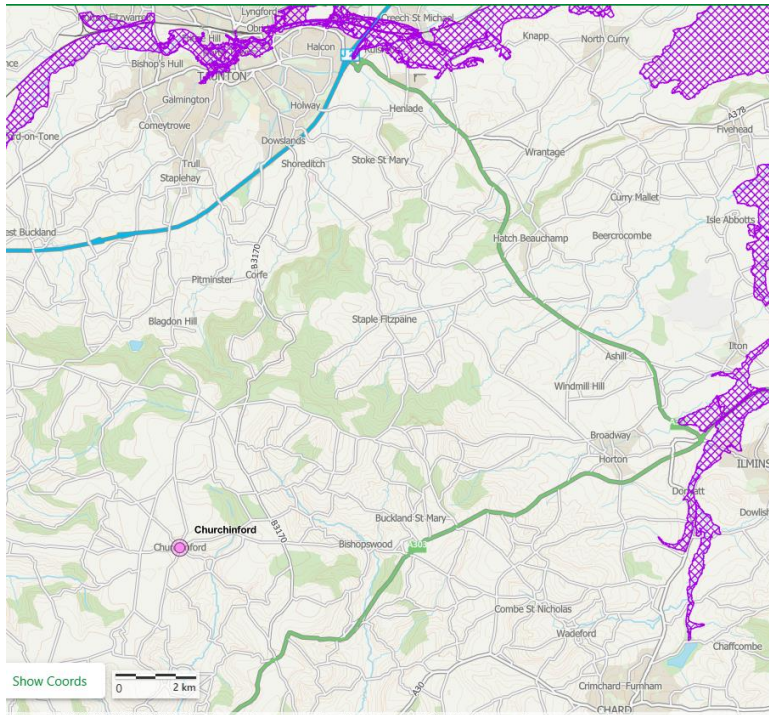
Published 15 February 2018

Last updated 16 July 2024 — [See all updates](#)

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



Flood Resilience



www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings

Community Support

- Along with our partners in the Somerset Prepared partnership, we continue to support Flood Wardens and Community Volunteers
- We send out a quarterly newsletter and run monthly online sessions – next session is Flood Plans - Thursday 28 May 12:30pm, followed by an incident room drop-in for Flood Wardens in early June
- Together with partners, we also offer face to face Flood Warden workshops

Email floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk for advice, information and support