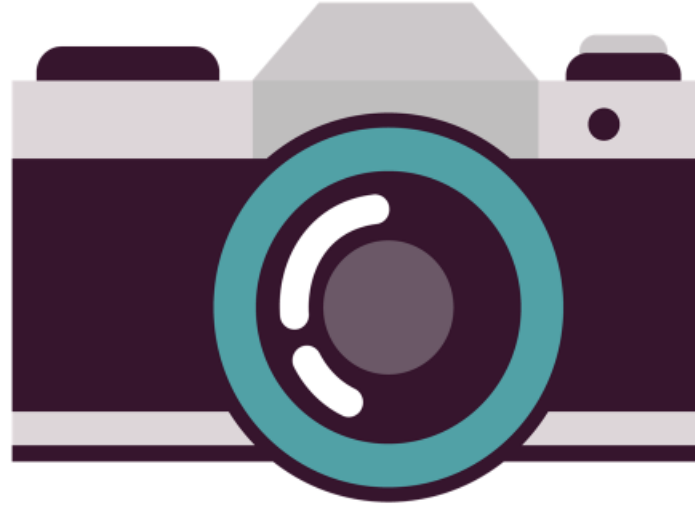


Please Note



This event is being photographed for publicity purposes.

Images taken at this venue may be used by Somerset Council staff for promotional materials, including our website, press releases and social media posts.

If you do not want your image used, please let a member of the Local Community Network Team know. **Thank you.**

House Keeping

- If the fire alarm sounds leave the building immediately- fire exists clearly signposted
- Could everyone turn your mobile's WiFi off to ensure those online get the best experience possible.
- All information is captured during online discussion and forms part of the notes.
- Please put your phone on silent.
- **When speaking please hold one of the microphones and speak clearly into it. They will work automatically when you start speaking, indicated with a green light.**
- Please raise your hand to alert the chair you'd like to speak



Your Local Community Network

**Avalon and
Poldens LCN**

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Notes from the previous meeting and actions
3. Update from working groups
 - a. Highways and Traffic
 - b. Health and Wellbeing
4. Flooding mitigation: understanding our issues, mapping, and action planning with key agencies
5. Actions
6. Dates of the next meetings

Highways working group

Topic suggestions:

Local Traffic Control

- Speed
- Volume
- Type
- Parking
- Signage
- Parking
- Enforcement

General Road Improvements

- Local (own Parish)
- Major Routes

Getting Highways Maintenance Work Done

- Urgent
- “Discretionary” (Enhanced Highways maintenance scheme)

Public Transport

Footpaths

- Existing maintenance
- New

Other Maintenance

- Verges
- Gullies

Health and Wellbeing Working Group

Heather Shearer/ Link officer

Community Health and Wellbeing

Fodo Higginson- SALC



SALC are working with Somerset Council, Public Health and other partners, to help support Somerset's city, town and parish Councils to actively engage in and deliver, Community Health & Wellbeing projects locally.

The Community Health & Wellbeing team are available to help – to talk through project ideas and work with your council to develop these ideas into worthwhile, long-lasting projects of all sizes.



£££...

We are hoping to encourage long lasting projects. We understand this might mean a financial or time commitment from your council so, to help kick start ideas, grants have been made available from Somerset Public Health:

Seed Grants to scope out ideas – **up to £1500**

Small Grants for smaller projects or smaller councils - **up to £2500**

Large Grants for larger projects, maybe a group of Councils working together - **up to £35,000**

Our programme has already supported several projects across Somerset, from community gardens and social clubs to bike maintenance workshops. It's designed to be accessible to city, town and parish councils, helping you create a healthier, more connected community:

Large Grant example:

South East Somerset LCN – Youth Outreach This project is all about getting young people more engaged and helping those who might be struggling. This was a large grant because the project covers all parishes in the LCN area and needed significant funding to provide youth outreach services across the patch. The 4 larger councils pitched in financially to match fund the £35K grant. They're also teaming up with local schools and organisations.

Seed Grant Example:

Shepton Mallet Town Council – Youth Council This is a grant to scope out young people's interest in taking an active role in decision making in Shepton Mallet. The council will be working with the school and existing youth provision to reach all young people.

Small Grant examples:

Lympsham Parish Council - Chatty Hour Club A weekly session for more isolated residents to meet, chat socialise and bring in the occasional speaker on useful topics like fraud prevention.

Bishop Hull Parish Council - Allotment Project This project tackles the growing demand for allotments by installing raised beds and seating, making the space accessible for everyone, including those with mobility issues.

Crewkerne Parish Council - Nature Reserve Project This project is all about making the local nature reserve more accessible and educational. They're updating welcome boards, improving access, and creating fun ways for families to explore the reserve and learn about local wildlife.

Curry Rivel Parish Council - Cookery Skills Project Offering cookery classes to help families and individuals on low incomes learn how to prepare nutritious meals on a budget. It's about building essential life skills while also providing a social space where people can connect, share recipes, and improve their confidence in the kitchen.

Burnham-on-Sea Town Council - On Your Bike To cover bike maintenance & road safety advice the council brought in On Your Bike. They even worked with the police to engage disaffected young people, offering them something constructive to do.

Grant Guidance – Key Points

- Grants are for city, town & parish councils in Somerset Council area
- Match funding isn't required for Seed Funding
- Some match funding is required for Small & Large Grants. This could be previous, current or future council funding for a project, outside funding, officer time or other 'in kind' support
- The grant will be paid to one council even if a few are applying together.
- If a council doesn't have General Power of Competence or the power to deliver a project, with sufficient S137 availability, then the grant can be paid into the bank account of a collaborating organisation. However, the council will remain responsible for the spending of the grant monies

Application Guidance – Key Points

- Projects might target 1 or more of the 11 identified factors
- Councils can work individually or in collaboratively on projects. This could be across a whole LCN area
- Councils are encouraged to work with local, Somerset wide or national groups and organisations
- Evidence of need is required. This could be via Community Plans, Reviews or Surveys, scoping exercises, other organisations evidence or other local data
- Projects will require minuted evidence that full council approves the application
- There will be monitoring and evaluation to feedback to SALC Community Health & Wellbeing programme*

**This Community Health & Wellbeing programme is about us helping
you to support your communities to live happier healthier lives**

To start a conversation contact:

Fodo Higginson

Community Health & Wellbeing Officer

Somerset Association of Local Councils

HWBSupport@somerset-alc.org.uk

Mb: 07932265419

Website

<https://somerset-alc.org.uk/health-wellbeing/>



Flooding presentations

Simon Phelps – Natural England

Emma Giffard – Environment agency

Bel Deering and Paul Elliston- Somerset Rivers Authority



Withycombe, September 2023

Flooding in Somerset since January 2023

January 2023 – Somerset Levels and Moors

May 2023 – Flash Flooding - North Cadbury, Queen Camel, Milverton

September 2023 – Flash Flooding - Minehead, Watchet, Withycombe

October 2023 – Storm Babet

November 2023 – Storm Ciaran

December 2023 – 4th Dec rainfall event – Widespread surface water flooding (54 communities in Somerset)

January 2023 – Storm Henk – Shepton Mallet, Croscombe

February 2023 – 18th & 21st rainfall events – Godney & repeat flooding in Sheppey catchment

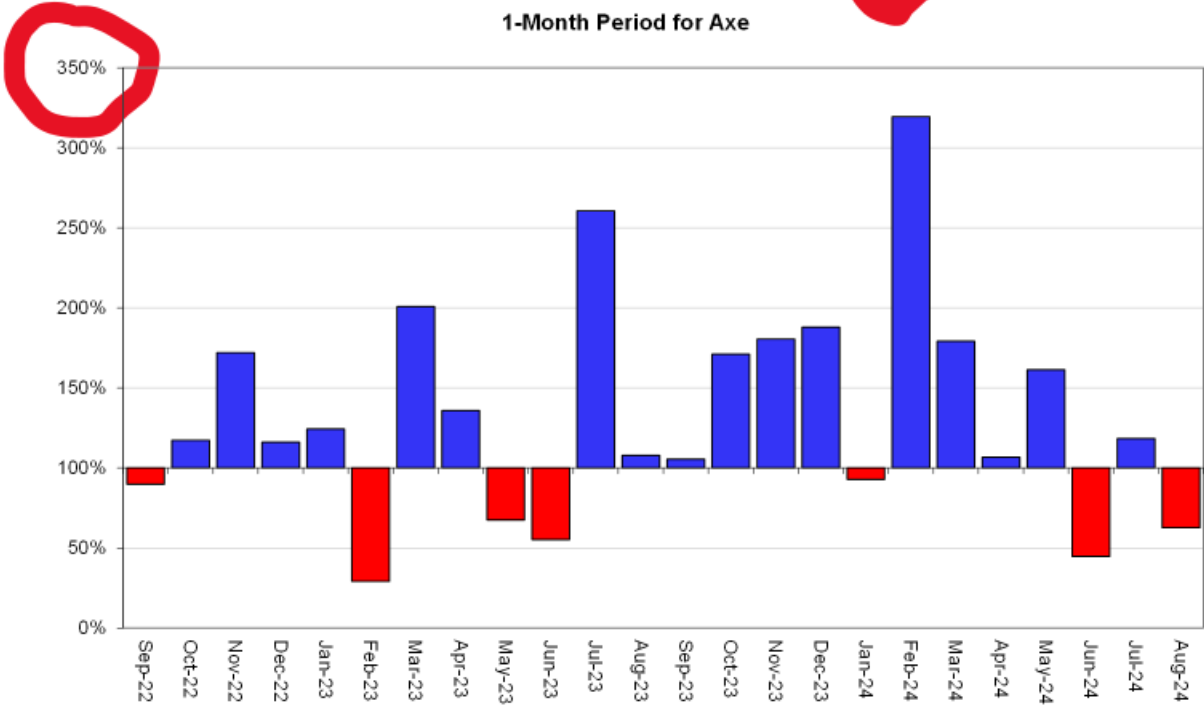
Hundreds of properties have been flooded, many more than winter 13/14

Rainfall as a Percentage of Long Term Average (1961 – 1990)

319%



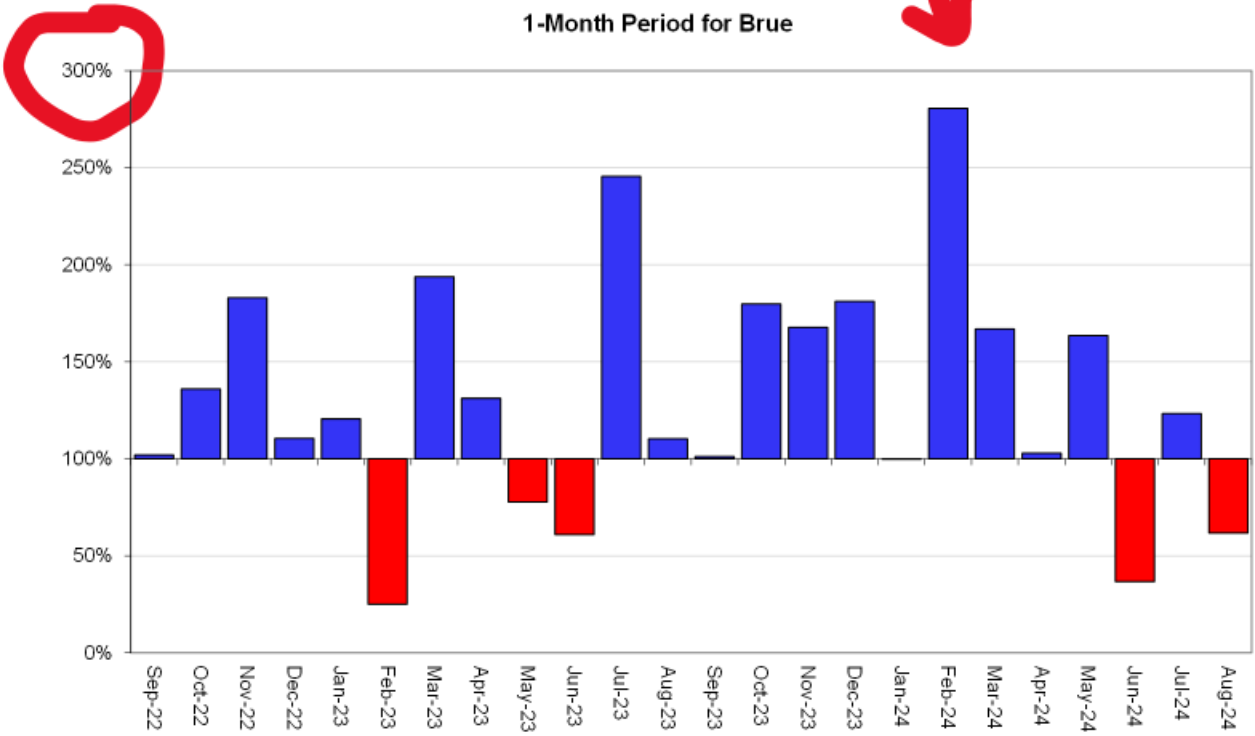
1-Month Period for Axe



280%



1-Month Period for Brue



Winter Rainfall Records

6 months from October to March

Brue Catchment

Wettest		
rank	year start	year end
1	2023	2024
2	2000	2001
3	2013	2014
4	1911	1912
5	1929	1930

Long term average winter rainfall = 439.57mm

Winter 23/24 = **771mm**

Axe Catchment

Wettest		
rank	year start	year end
1	2023	2024
2	1929	1930
3	2000	2001
4	2013	2014
5	1911	1912

Long term average winter rainfall = 472.14mm

Winter 23/24 = **862.90mm**

Winter Rainfall Records

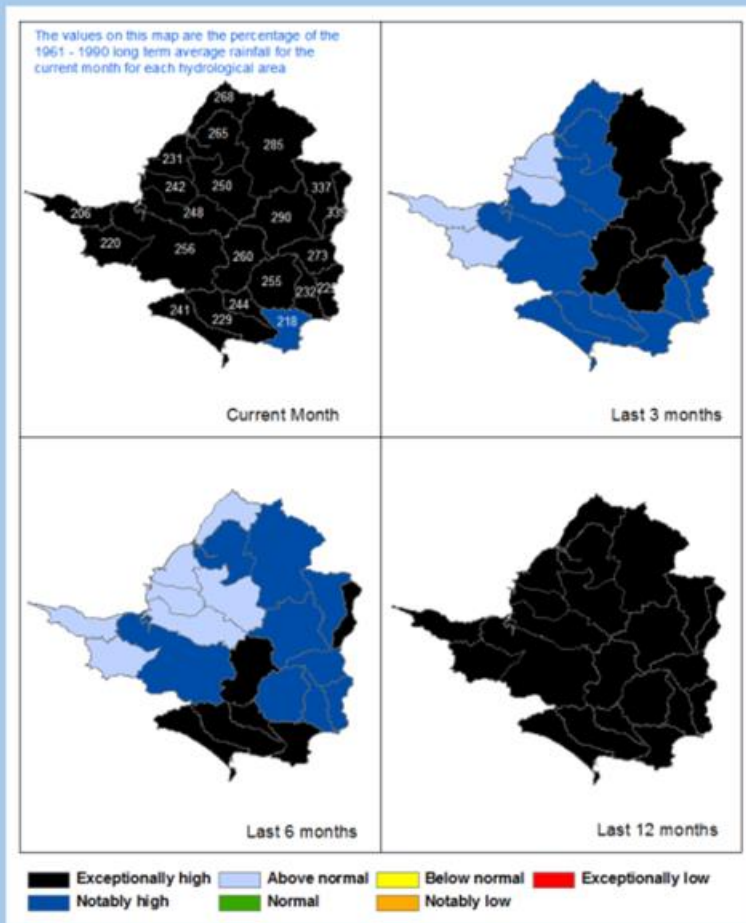
6 months from October to March

Parrett Catchment

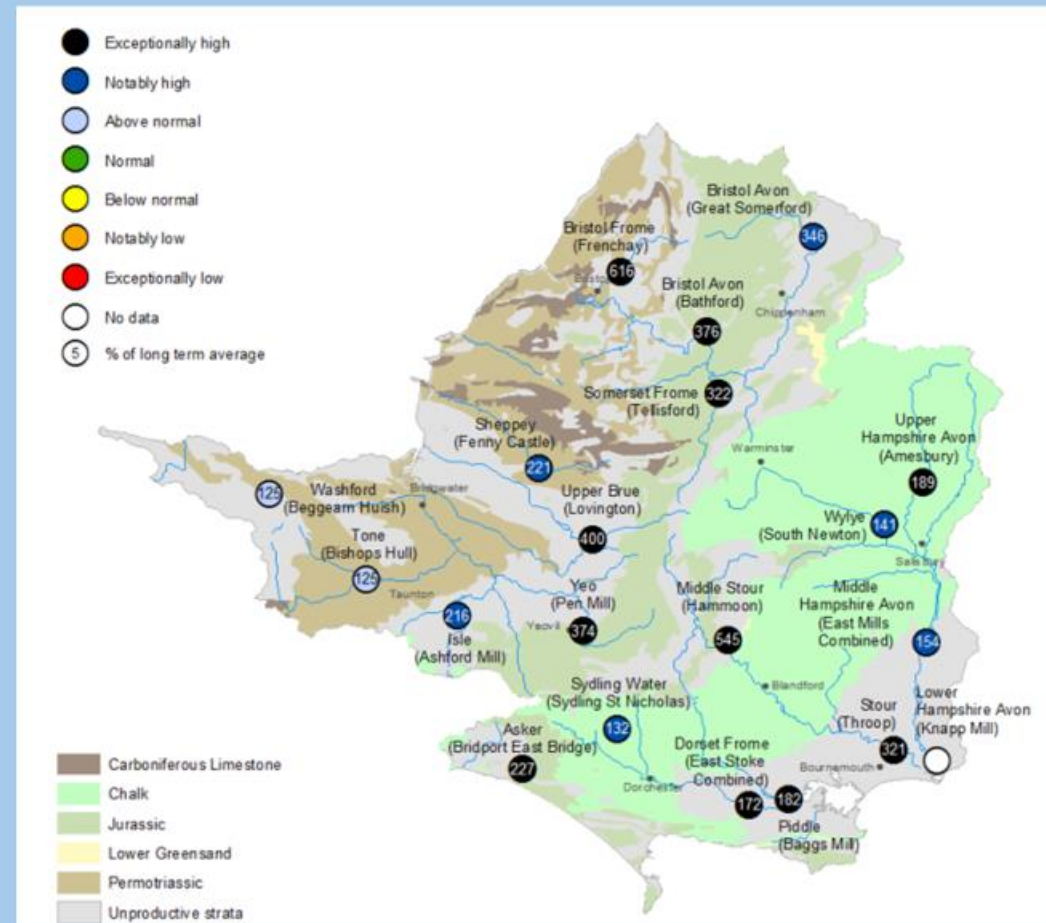
Wettest		
rank	year start	year end
1	2013	2014
2	2023	2024
3	2000	2001
4	1929	1930
5	1976	1977

Tone Catchment

Wettest		
rank	year start	year end
1	1929	1930
2	2013	2014
3	2000	2001
4	1976	1977
5	2023	2024



Rainfall up to 30
September 2024



Monthly mean river flow -
September 2024, (% of
long term average)

September
2024 rainfall
(percentage of
long term
average):

Brue: 248%

Parrett: 256%

Pumping Operations



North Drain Pumping Station



Gold Corner Pumping Station

Riparian Maintenance

Landowners are responsible for watercourse and culvert maintenance

The Environment Agency has permissive powers on main rivers / sea, and oversees permitting / enforcement

The Local Authority or Internal Drainage Board oversees permitting / enforcement on smaller watercourses

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>





Report Flooding

If there is a risk to life, call 999.

For non-emergency reporting

www.swim.geowessex.com/somerset

For other emergency reporting:

Main Rivers: Environment Agency incident hotline 0800 80 70 60

Ordinary Watercourses / Roads: Somerset Council

www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/

For Sewage / Burst Mains: Wessex Water 0345 600 4 600

(24hr) www.wessexwater.co.uk/your-wastewater/flooding/sewer-flooding

Welcome to the Flood Online Reporting Tool

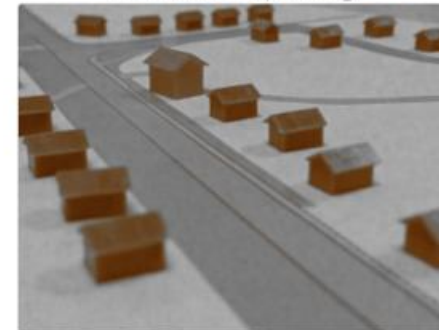
This system allows property owners, flood risk authorities and volunteers to share details of flood reports and observations to assist with flood risk planning.



Record current flooding

If you are flooding now this will inform multiple agencies, however, this will not trigger an immediate response from any agency.

[Start now >](#)



Record recent flooding

If your property has been affected by flooding in the last 5 years, this will inform recovery and long term flood risk management.

[Start now >](#)



Update a record

You can provide an update to an existing record you created.

Please note: you will need your FORT ID and access code.

[Start update >](#)

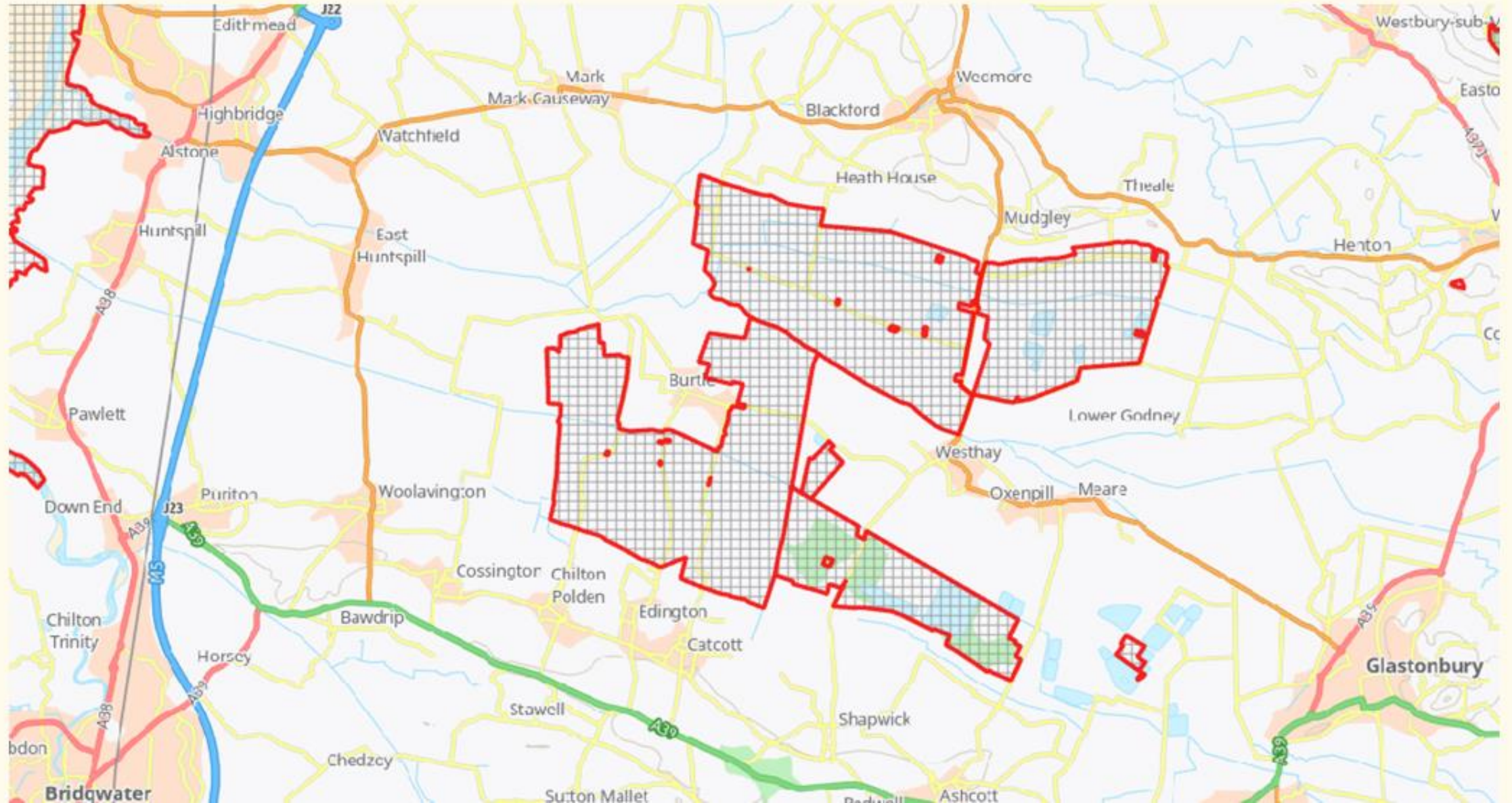


Natural England and water level management in Somerset

Simon Phelps

Senior Officer in Somerset Area Team

Protected Sites locations





David Mitchell, SRA Senior Manager

Who is the SRA?




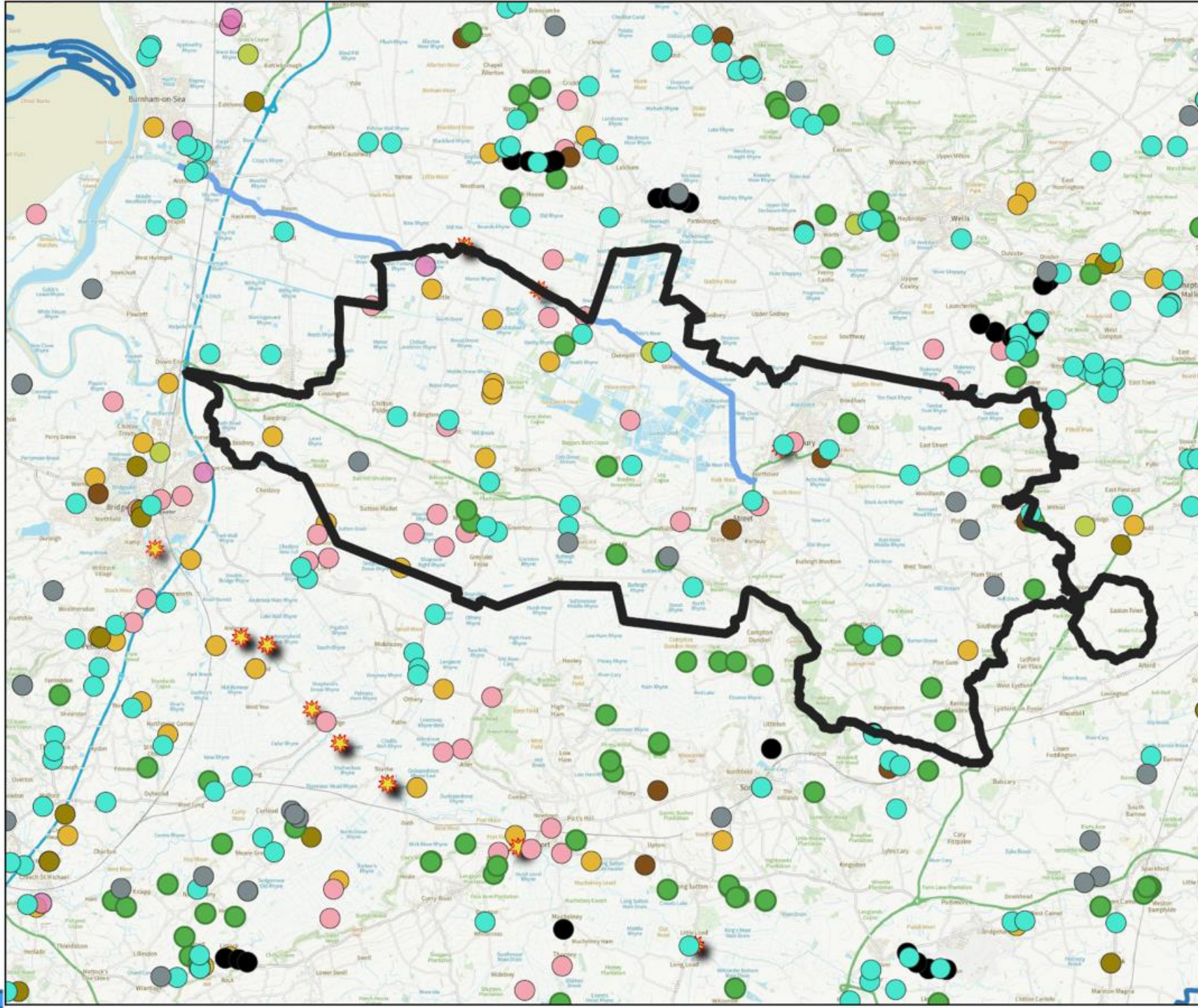
Wessex
Regional
Flood & Coastal
Committee



LCN

Avalon and Poldens

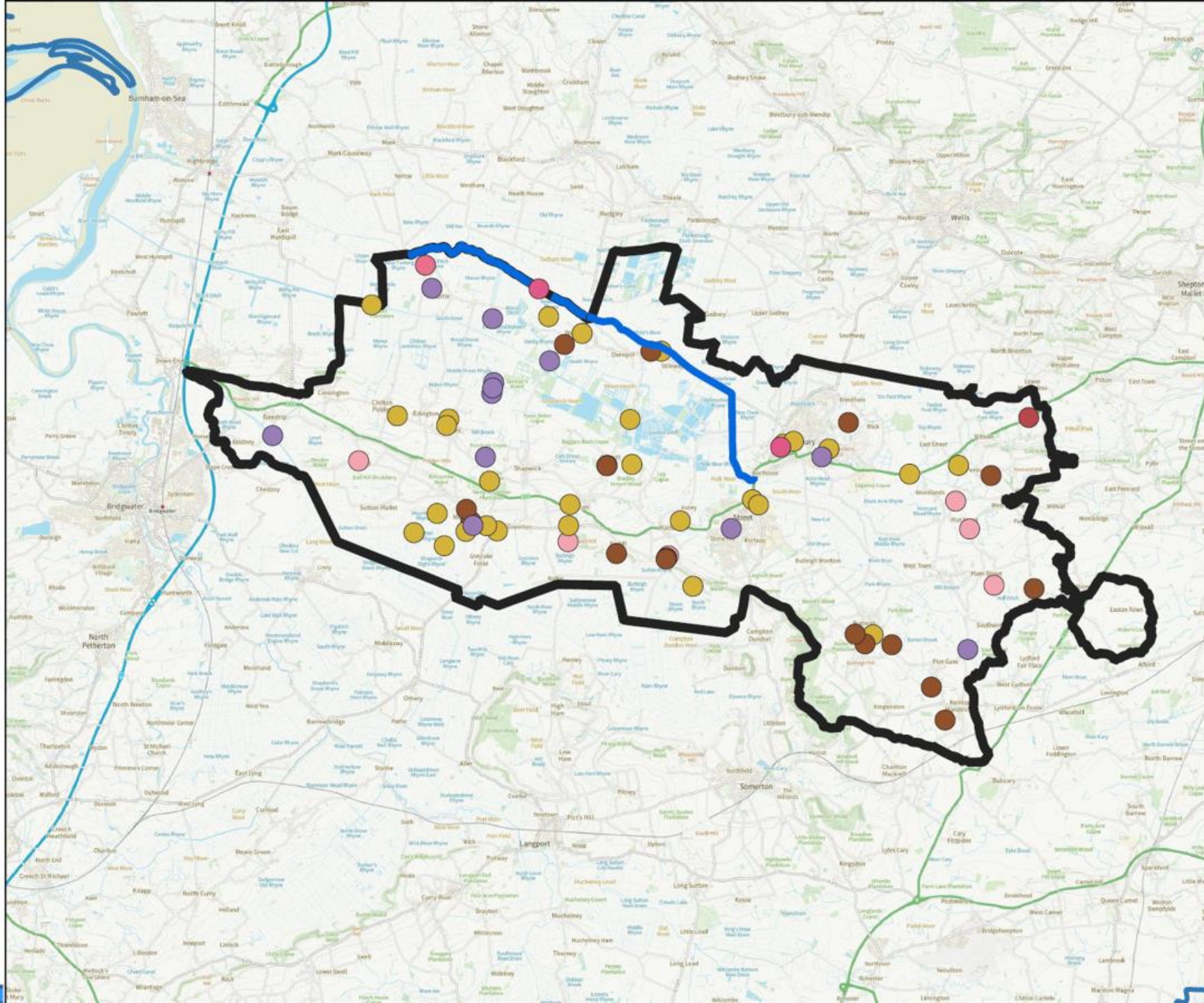
-  Avalon and Poldens
-  Capital grant schemes
-  Enhanced Jetting [413]
-  Road Edge Cleaning [173]
-  Somerset Trees for water [12]
-  Silt Trap locations [91]
-  De-Silting Structures [64]
-  Culvert Remedial sites [7]
-  Co-adapt_output_markers
-  Trash Screens [51]
-  Asset Upgrades at Freq Jetted
-  Modelling for Dredging [1]
-  Pumping Station Works [20]
-  Projects



LCN

Avalon and Poldens

- projects 10
- pumping station 2
- modelling for dredging 1
- Asset upgrades 1
- co adapt 11
- Culvert Remedial sites 1
- de silting structures 1
- silt trap locations 2
- Trees for water 16
- Enhanced jetting 17
- Capital Grant Schemes 6
- Avalon and Poldens



Community Flood Action Fund

- **Launching 10 December**
- For projects between £3,000 and £20,000
- Open to town and parish councils (and others).
- small scale, straight forward actions
- Can be completed quickly
- makes a difference locally
- Application and assessment process as light touch as we can
- Open throughout the year, 4 decision meetings a year

Community Resilience is about the public being *supported to “harness local resources and expertise to help themselves and their communities to: **prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover** from disruptive challenges”*

IMMEDIATE: COULD YOU RESPOND WELL?

CURRENT: ARE YOU MANAGING YOUR CONTEXT WELL?

FUTURE: WHAT ADDITIONS WOULD HELP?





Immediate – can you respond well?

- Do you have an emergency plan?
- Do you have emergency response volunteers?
- Do you test your emergency plan?



Immediate – can you respond well?

- Do you have an Emergency Community Contact?
- Do you have a Place of Safety?
- Are you signed up for a flood warning service?



Immediate – can you respond well?

- Do residents have any household PFR?
- Do residents have household emergency plans and grab bags?
- Do you have any community flood resilience equipment?
- Do you need to consider warning road users?

The image shows a digital form titled 'People Prepared' with the subtitle 'Simple Plans Safer Places'. The form is divided into several sections for user input:

- Your Household:** Includes a field for 'Address: _____'.
- Your Contacts:** Includes two sets of fields for 'Name: _____' and 'Phone Number: _____'.
- Friends and Family Meeting Points:** Includes two numbered fields: '1. _____' and '2. _____'.
- Plan of Your House:** A large empty box for drawing, with the instruction 'Get the kids involved ✓'.
- Checklist:** A section titled 'Things to consider drawing on your House Plan:' with checkboxes for 'Places to shelter', 'Grab Bag location', 'Emergency exits', 'Emergency supplies', and 'Utility points'.

Additional text on the form includes: 'Complete this Plan with everybody in your household so that everyone is aware of what to do in an emergency.', 'For more information and more copies of the plans please visit: www.SomersetPrepared.org.uk @SomersetPrepare', and a tip: 'TIP: You can use your phone to download local area maps for offline use.'

Immediate – can you respond well?



- How prepared are your...
 - Businesses?
 - Schools?
 - Vulnerable residents?

Current – are you managing your context well?

- Have you mapped your watercourse system?
- Are you clear about who is responsible for what?
- Do you have flood wardens or watercourse watchers?
- Do you have a flood action group?



Current – are you managing your context well?



- Do landowners understand and carry out their riparian responsibilities?
- Do you know who to contact for issues with Main Rivers, Ordinary Watercourses, IDB areas, drains, sewage water mains &c.?

Future – what additions would help?

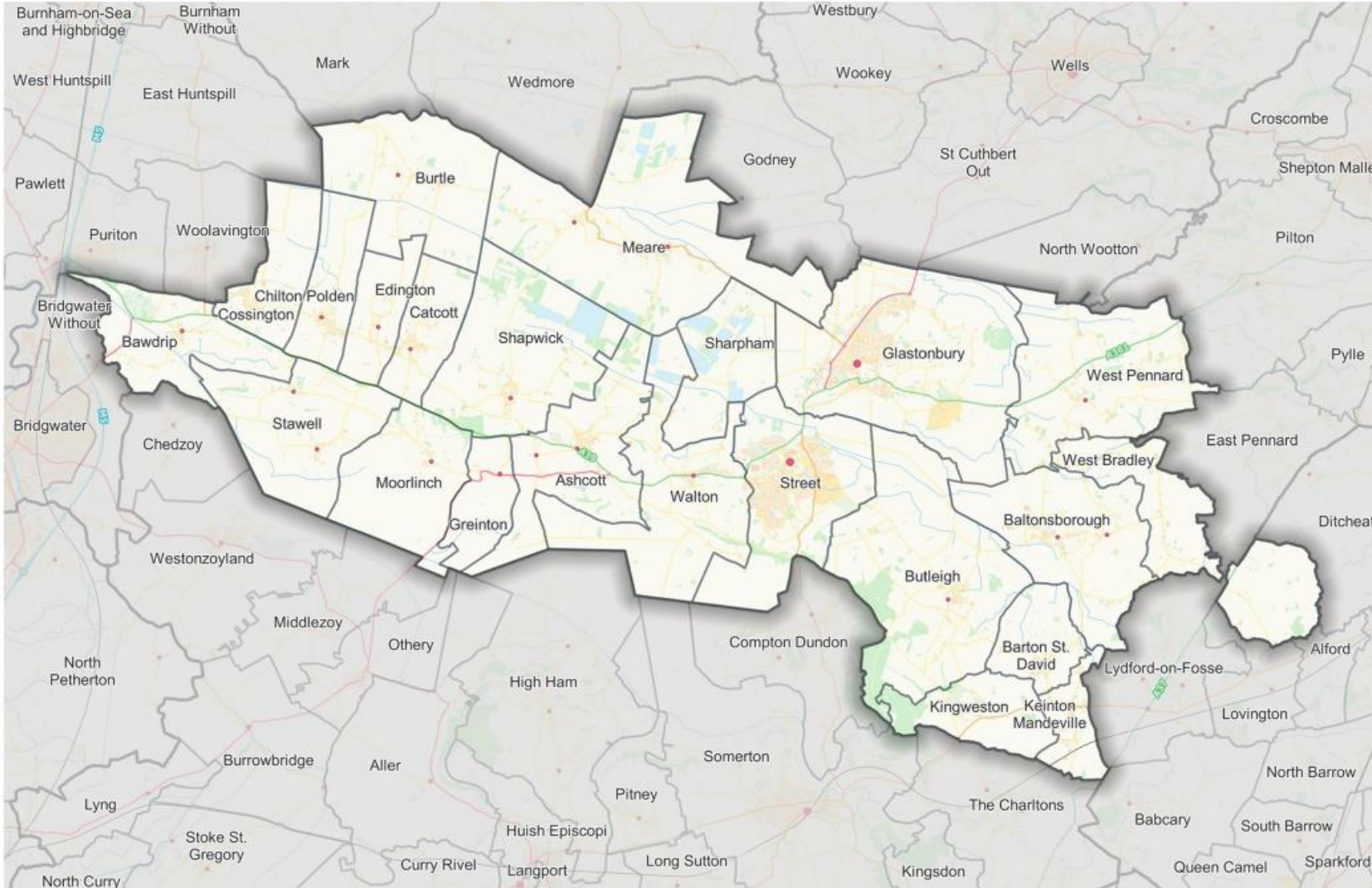


- What actions, equipment or resources will reduce your flood risk?
- Who do you need to work with to progress this?
- Is there grant funding available to support schemes that reduce flood risk?

Future – what additions would help?

- Do you have a flood network for your catchment?
- Do you have a Resilience/Climate Adaptation Plan?
- Do you have an advocacy strategy?
- Do you have succession plans for your teams and working groups?





Avalon & The Poldens LCN Engagement in Past 12 Months

Greinton
Glastonbury

Planned Future Engagement
West Pennard
West Bradley

bel.deering@somerset.gov.uk
paul.elliston@somerset.gov.uk

Somerset Rivers Authority

The logo graphic consists of three curved lines that sweep upwards from left to right. The top line is a dark blue, the middle line is a medium blue, and the bottom line is a light blue. These lines are positioned below the text 'Somerset Rivers Authority'.

Thank you for listening. Any questions?

Questions

1. What happens when it rains?
 - a. Highlight the flooding pinch points (areas of excessive water, roads and houses that flood etc.) using a blue dot on the first LCN sized map.
2. In your experience why do you think this is happening?
 - a. What leads up to the pinch points - highlight the areas/infrastructure that lead up to the flooding on the catchment sized maps using red and pink for gulleys, green for land issues, yellow for river issues, purple for other highway issues
3. Taking more of a macro view, what do we need to plan longer terms mitigation?
 - a. What causes the infrastructure to be overrun, where does the water flow through the system
4. What actions can we take as communities and who do we need to work with?

Catchment	Issue	Detail	Solution	Action
Brue	Dredging	Silt getting into river	Increased planting at edge of fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• X landowner and PCs• Hedge/tree planting schemes

Dates for future Meetings

➤ Monday 20th January

➤ Wednesday 23rd April

➤ Wednesday 9th July AGM