

## Somerset Levels and Moors Update – January 5<sup>th</sup> 2024

### Current situation

Throughout the Christmas period, unsettled weather has continued across Somerset. All our river catchments are saturated and responding quickly to further rainfall. Following Storm Henk and further heavy rainfall since the new year, we are seeing river levels rising and the Somerset moors are very wet.

We have staff on duty 24/7 monitoring the forecast and river levels, which allows us to optimise our operations to minimise risk to people and property across the Levels and Moors. Ahead of the Christmas period, additional temporary pumps were put in place. However, pumping can only take place when river levels are low enough to receive the pumped flood water. Currently river levels are too high to allow pumping.

The weekend is forecast to be generally dry with clearer weather in the long-term forecast. However, there is now a lot of water in the river networks, which will take time to work its way through the catchment.

You can find out the status of roads that have [Emergency road closure gates](#). We are working closely with Somerset Council monitoring water levels that could affect the A361.

Our field teams are busy responding to reports of flooding and ensuring that assets are operating as expected.

There are currently 15 Flood Warnings and 14 Flood Alerts in place for Somerset. We will continue to issue Flood Warnings and Alerts as appropriate. For the most up to date information please check: <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and-warnings>.

### Axe / Brue Catchment

River levels remain high in the Brue catchment. There are active flood warnings in the area for the [River Sheppey](#), [River Brue and Glastonbury Millstream from Lovington to Highbridge](#) and [River Brue and Glastonbury Millstream from Lovington to Highbridge, low lying properties](#). Our teams are out checking screens and assets, and we continue to be vigilant to ensure our operations are as effective as possible in reducing flood risk to people and property.

### Parrett / Tone Catchment – Upstream of Langport

Many of the moors are very wet as is normal in the winter. There is capacity in many of the moors around Langport to receive water as it makes its way through the system. We will operate pumps as soon as there is enough room in the main channels to receive the flood water.

### Parrett / Tone Catchment – Downstream of Langport

There is currently an active flood warning in place for [Curry Moor and Hay Moor](#). Currymoor is full and Athelney Spillway is running. Northmoor and Saltmoor currently have capacity. We are closely monitoring the situation and will issue further flood warnings as appropriate. We will operate pumps as soon as there is enough room in the main channels to receive the flood water.

## Outlook

The forecast for Friday is mostly dry with possible light showers. The weekend and into next week is forecast to be generally dry.

## What happens next?

We will continue to keep residents and our partners informed.

## Flooding advice and information

Our advice to the public is to stay safe and not enter floodwater – just 30 cm of fast flowing water can move a car, and just 15 cm of fast flowing water could be enough to knock you off your feet.

## What to do to prepare for flooding

- Call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 for updates on flooding, to sign up for flood warnings, or to report flooding.
- Go to [www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding](http://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding) or search 'know my flood risk' to sign up for Environment Agency flood warnings, receive information on the risk in your area and what to do in a flood.
- Sign up for flood warnings at [www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings](http://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings)
- Follow us on social media: [www.facebook.com/environmentagencywessex](https://www.facebook.com/environmentagencywessex)  
[www.twitter.com/EnvAgencySW](https://www.twitter.com/EnvAgencySW)  
Or visit: [www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk](http://www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk)

## What to do during a flood

- Stay up-to-date on weather information and warnings: <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/plan-ahead-for-flooding>
- Report current flooding to the Environment Agency Incident Hotline 0800 80 70 60 (main rivers or sea), Somerset Council 0300 123 2224 (ordinary watercourses) or Wessex Water (sewers) 0345 600 4600
- Get information on what to do during a flood from: [www.gov.uk/help-during-flood](http://www.gov.uk/help-during-flood)  
<http://www.somersetprepared.org.uk/hazard-advice/flooding>  
[www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk/useful-info](http://www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk/useful-info)
- **Call 999 if there is a risk to life**
- Remember: Always stay safe. In an immediate flood emergency or where there is a risk to life, follow the advice of the emergency services.

## Recovery from Flooding

- For information on recovering from flooding, see: [How to recover from flooding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk); or: <https://floodmary.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/homeowners-guide-to-flood-recovery.pdf>
- Somerset Council may be able to support with housing and welfare issues <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/beaches-ports-and-flooding/flooding-information-and-advice/>
- Submit a detailed property flooding report at <https://swim.geowessex.com/somerset>
- Flooding is very distressing, and it is common for people's emotional health to be impacted. Somerset Talking Therapies may be able to offer help: <https://www.somersetft.nhs.uk/somerset-talking-therapies/>

For all enquiries, or if you would like to be added to the distribution list for Somerset Levels and Moors updates, please email [WessexEnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:WessexEnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)