

Somerset Levels and Moors Update – December 14th 2023

Current situation

It is an improving picture across all areas of the Somerset Levels and Moors, but there remains a lot of standing water in the moors and in low-lying areas. Drier weather this week has seen river levels slowly drop, which has allowed more pumping to take place in both the Axe/Brue and Parrett/Tone catchments. The forecast through the weekend remains mostly settled, with no significant rainfall totals expected. However, unsettled weather may return from Tuesday onwards.

November was the fifth consecutive month that the Wessex area received above average rainfall, making this the fourth wettest July to November period since records began in 1871. Ground conditions are still wet and will remain responsive to further rainfall for some time to come. With this in mind, we are proactively installing extra pumps at several stations to increase our capacity to empty the moors ahead of any change in the weather.

As well as the pumps currently being installed at Westover and Huish Episcopi, we're also deploying extra pumps to increase capacity at Long Load, Midelney and North Drain pumping stations. In addition, pumps are being delivered to Northmoor pumping station today and will be installed on Monday, weather depending. Installing these proactively means that we can minimise disturbance to the community in the lead up to the holiday period. There may be short periods of up to 15 minutes when traffic needs to be held on Huntworth Lane to allow for equipment movements. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

The emergency flood gates on Cutts Road, New Road and Langport Road remain closed by [Somerset Council Highways](#). We continue to work closely with Somerset Council to monitor conditions on Law Lane at Muchelney, but water levels in this area are slowly dropping.

There are two [flood warnings](#) and three [flood alerts](#) in place for Somerset. For the most up to date information please check: <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and-warnings>.

Outlook

Weather over the weekend is expected to be largely dry, but there are signals for a return to more unsettled weather from Tuesday onwards, when an area of persistent and potentially heavy rainfall looks likely to move across southern and central parts of England and Wales. There is a good chance unsettled conditions will return to all areas within 6-10 days from now.

Somerset Rivers Authority Flood Action Plan

Somerset Rivers Authority is a partnership of Flood Risk Management organisations in Somerset. They are currently reviewing their Flood Action Plan and are seeking views from members of the public about how to reduce the risks and impacts of flooding across Somerset over the next ten years. They are holding two online events in the New Year:

- Monday 8 January 2024 at 7pm - [Have your say on Somerset Rivers Authority's Strategy and Flood Action Plan Tickets, Mon 8 Jan 2024 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- Tuesday 9 January 2024 at 4pm - [Have your say on Somerset Rivers Authority's Strategy and Flood Action Plan Tickets, Tue 9 Jan 2024 at 16:00 | Eventbrite](#)

See <https://srastrategy.co.uk> to contribute your views, or to find out more.

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 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
- Follow us on social media: www.facebook.com/environmentagencywessex
www.twitter.com/EnvAgencySW
Or visit: 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.somersetprepared.org.uk/hazard-advice/flooding>
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/how-to-recover-from-flooding)
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