

South Somerset District Council area

Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) Briefing Note

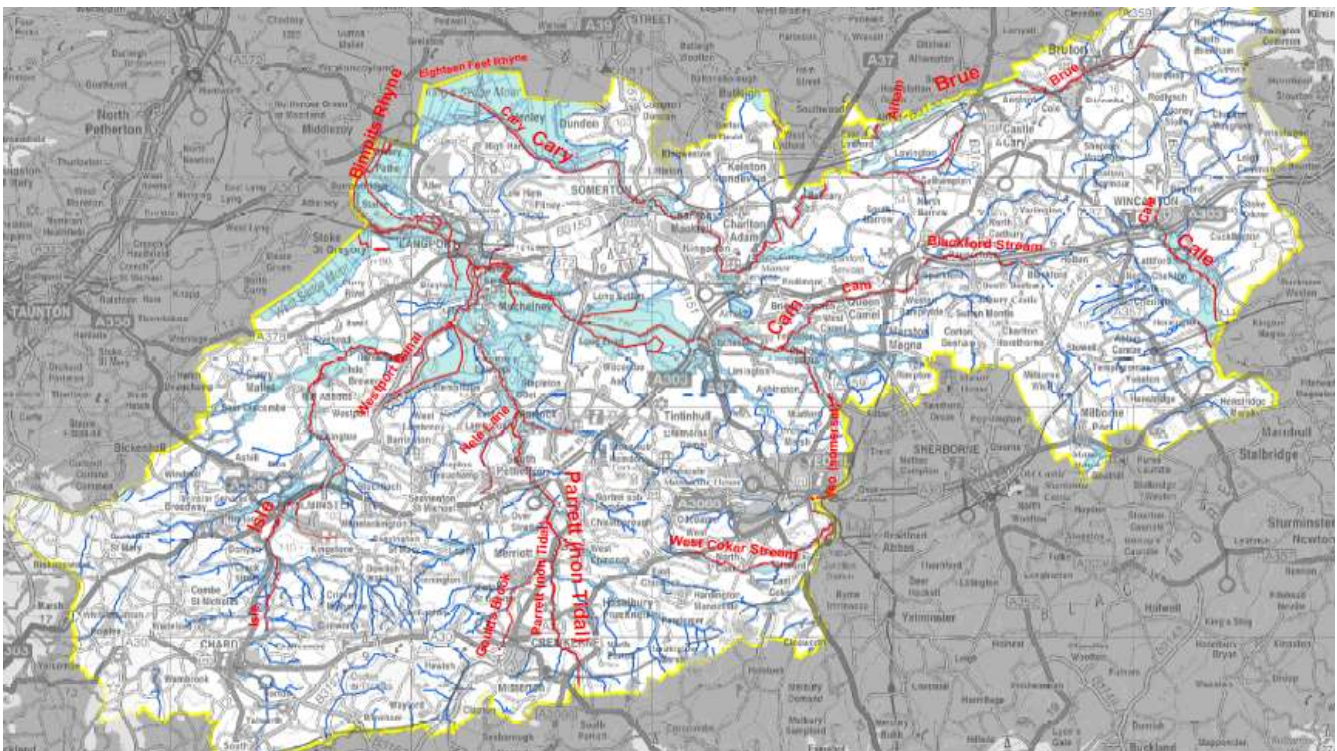
Sept.2015

Our FCRM high level aims and objectives across our Wessex Area

- Reduce flood risk for those communities affected by fluvial / tidal flooding
- Work with partners to help communities better prepare for, and be more resilient to flooding incidents
- Repair, upgrade where possible, and maintain our flood risk management infrastructure
- Improve our flood mapping, warning and forecasting services

Our FCRM current priority aims and objectives in South Somerset District Council's area

- Improve our flood risk knowledge in the District to continuously review and update the Flood Map for Rivers and the Sea, available to the public on our internet site.
- Work with the Somerset Rivers Authority and other partners to implement objectives set out in the 20 Year Flood Action Plan for the Somerset Levels and Moors. This currently includes improvements to the River Sowy system and reducing flood risk to the A372 road at Beer Wall.
- Work with Highways England and other partners to help them find a solution to reduce flood risk to the A303 trunk road, whilst safeguarding against increased flood risk elsewhere e.g. at Ilchester Mead.
- Supporting South Somerset District Council to help them plan and deliver sustainable economic growth in the District.



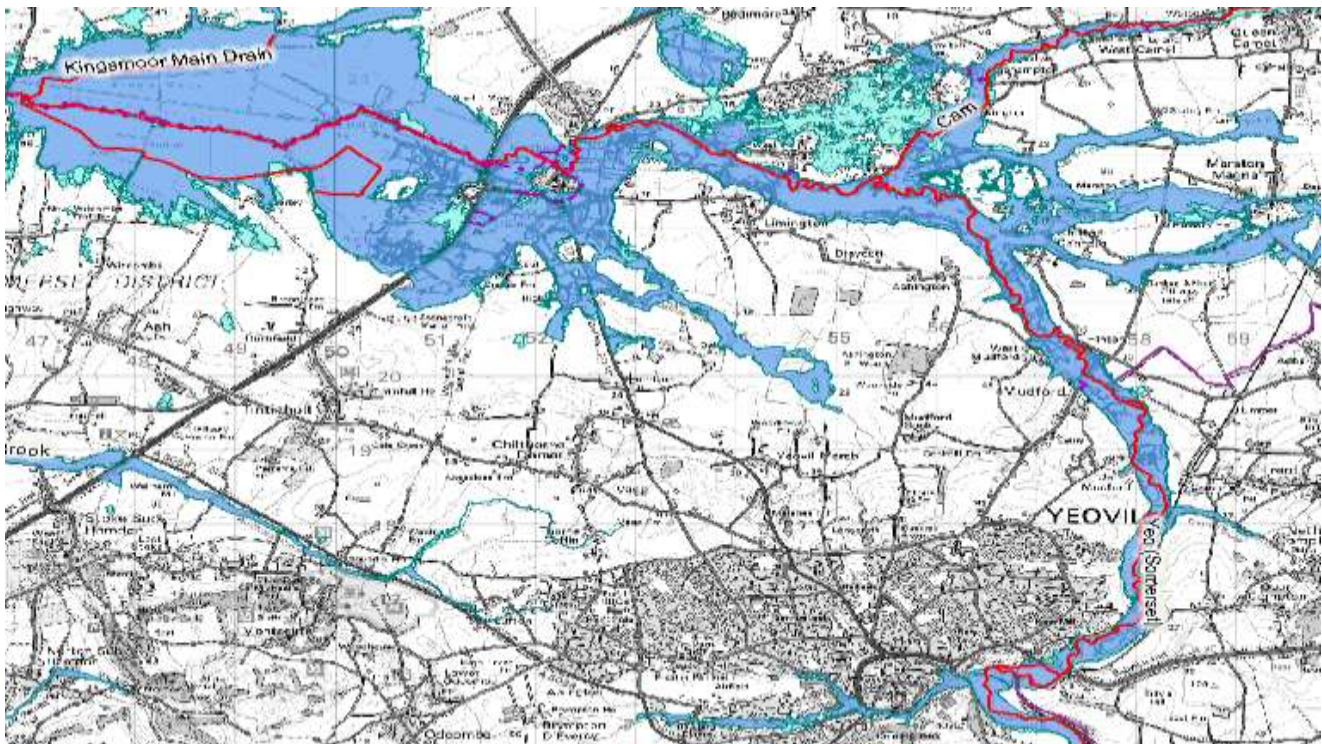
An overview of main rivers and fluvial flood risk in the South Somerset District Council area

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incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188

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A more detailed view of the Flood Map downstream of Yeovil on the River Yeo (Sept 2015)

Overview of Flood Risk in the South Somerset area

Flood risk in the South Somerset District Council (SSDC) area is mainly fluvial (watercourse) derived flooding, with instances of surface water and sewer/highway drainage flooding in specific locations. There is no direct tidal flood risk to the District. South Somerset is a mix of low lying land comprising part of the Somerset Levels & Moors, with higher ground to the south of the District on the edge of the Blackdown Hills, Yeovil scarp lands and North Dorset Hills.

A number of Main Rivers under the jurisdiction of the Environment Agency principally drain the District into the Severn Estuary including the rivers: Parrett; Yeo, Isle, Cam, Sowey; and Brue. The River Cale, a tributary of the Dorset Stour, drains the eastern part of the District around Wincanton to the south coast. There are also networks of drains and rhynes designated as Main River within the District, linked to our pumping stations around Langport, and connected to wider local drainage networks under the jurisdiction of the Internal Drainage Board (IDB).

The table below shows the indicative areas and number of properties at risk from fluvial flooding within the Wessex and South Somerset District Council areas:

Area and Communities at Risk	Area (km ²)	Population	Area in Flood Zone 3 (km ²)	No of properties at risk		
				H	M	L
Wessex	11,100	2.6 million	1,100	1446	3566	21218
South Somerset DC	960	161,300	119	117	272	532

N.B - Population figures taken from 2011 census

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Existing flood defence schemes in South Somerset

Environment Agency maintained flood defences within the District principally consist of raised, linear flood embankments along the Main Rivers, with 'ring banks' and flood walls at historic flooding locations that have experienced the most frequent fluvial flooding in the past. Such defended locations include communities at Ilchester, Langport, Ilminster, Mudford, Isle Brewers, Yetminster, Stoford, Muchelney, Thorny, East Lydford, Yeovilton, and Bridgehampton to name a few.

A large impounding flood storage reservoir located above Bruton on the River Brue is used to control and store flood water from the surrounding upland catchment to limit flood risk in Bruton town centre and downstream at places such as Lovington and East Lydford further down the river Brue.

To the north west of the District, in the Levels and Moors area, there are four principal pumping stations at Long Load, Huish Episcopi, Westover, and Midelney which the Environment Agency operates to remove excess floodwaters from the Moors, pumping it back into the Main Rivers after flood events exceed the main channel capacity.

Many of the other smaller flood control structures across the District are privately operated, such as sluices found at the many mills in South Somerset, and others are operated by the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) and SSDC, in their capacity as risk management Authorities, although not on Main Rivers under our control.



An aerial photo of Muchelney village and surrounding area during the winter 2013/14 flooding event

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Looking north along the A359 at Mudford in January 2014

Future flood risk management works planned in South Somerset

- There are currently no new Capital flood defence schemes programmed by us for the District, although this is continually reviewed annually to establish if projects could come forward at any point, should funding and environmental constraints permit.
- We will be working in partnership with other partners to deliver ongoing flood risk improvements scheduled under the 20 year Flood Action plan led by the Somerset Rivers Authority. We will continue to contribute to enhanced maintenance programmes in the District.
- We have recently completed updated flood risk modelling at Martock, which will be published in forthcoming updates to our Flood Map.
- We are currently about to let a contract for additional flood risk modelling of the Rivers Cam, and Yeo, which will be used to update the Flood Map later in 2016/17.
- We will be monitoring the performance of our recently completed improvement scheme at the Lyewater culverts in Crewkerne, which protects several properties against flooding from the Goulds Brook main river.
- We will be continually inspecting and carrying out remedial works to the Bruton dam impounding reservoir structure, as Operating Authority under the Reservoirs Act 1975.

Major development and flood risk issues in the South Somerset District Council area

- **Yeovil, Crewkerne, Chard:** We have been working with SSDC, and will be further liaising with SCC in their LLFA role to ensure that all of the significant new residential and commercial site allocations around the key towns in SSDC are sited outside floodable areas and will only proceed once appropriate sustainable surface water drainage schemes (SuDs) have been secured from the developer(s) to limit off-site floods risks further downstream e.g. by providing ponds and tanks to attenuate discharge rates from the sites.
- **Ilminster:** The employment allocations around Hort Bridge on the River Isle (including the former Horlicks Dairy site) will deliver channel and flood defence improvements through an environmental realignment of the river through the sites. Surface water drainage will incorporate SuDs systems to limit runoff downstream.
- **Langport:** We are working with SSDC and developers to secure a flood protection scheme that will safeguard new and existing development on the Westover Trading estate.

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Strategic Plans

Flood Risk Management Plan

Flood risk management plans (FRMPs) highlight the hazards and risks from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs and set out how Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) will work together with communities to manage flood risk.

The plan has been developed at River Basin District (RBD) level. South Somerset is part of the [South West FRMP](#) within the South and West Somerset Catchment.

River Basin Management Plans

The South West Flood Risk Management Plan has been developed alongside the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP). It encourages the sustainable use of water and to protect and improve inland surface waters, groundwaters and coastal waters. The river basin management plan RBMP is a strategic plan about the future objectives for water management in that district.

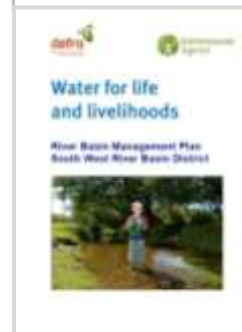
The current [RPMP](#) for the South West RDB was published in December 2009. The second cycle of the plan is due to be published December 2015.

Other RMA Plans

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (District Council): County and Unitary Authorities have undertaken Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRAs) to assess all sources of flood risk in their area and to provide the evidence base for spatial planning decisions for new development allocations and planning decisions.

Surface Water Management Plan (County Council / LLFA) builds on SFRAs and investigates surface water risks in greater detail, identify potential solutions. SWMPs will also help achieve actions in River Basin Management Plans. SCC has produced a SWMP for Taunton and Minehead to date, and has the option to consider additional SWMP production across the County under their role as LLFA.

[Local Flood Risk Management Strategy \(County Council/LLFA\)](#) focuses on local flooding from surface water, ground water, streams and ditches. The strategy will help Somerset County Council to better understand and manage the social, economic and environmental impact of flood risk



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20 Year Flood Action Plan (County Council / LLFA) sets objectives to reduce the frequency, duration and severity of a flood to the Somerset Level and Moors now and for the next 20 years.



In addition to these core documents, there are lots of very useful and practical reference documents, guides and links to the various FCRM related services offered by the Environment Agency at our GOV.UK web pages here:

<https://www.gov.uk/topic/environmental-management/flooding-coastal-change>



FCRM Key Contacts

Nick Gupta, Wessex Manager

Email: nick.gupta@environment-agency.gov.uk
 Telephone: 03708 506 506
 Address: Rivers House, East Quay, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4YS

Nick Lyness, FCRM Manager

Email: nick.lyness@environment-agency.gov.uk
 Telephone: 03708 506 506
 Address: Rivers House, East Quay, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4YS

Simon Foyle, Team Leader Partnership & Strategic Overview (PSO) – Somerset

Email: simon.foyle@environment-agency.gov.uk
 Telephone: 03708 506 506
 Address: Rivers House, East Quay, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4YS

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