

Local Flood Rep News

Flood risk reduced in Hinton Blewett

Following reports of flooding affecting the highway and adjacent properties the Drainage and Flooding Team completed a drainage improvement scheme in October.

Our investigations had revealed that a culverted watercourse was undersized, in poor condition and took an inefficient route.

Over the course of four weeks the scheme upgraded the culvert to a larger pipe which was installed on a

more direct line to further improve its capacity. During the works additional defects were identified with the highway drains and the opportunity was taken to improve them.

The scheme was delivered in partnership with Bristol Water and Wessex Water who assisted with the diversion of water mains in the way of the new culvert and gave timely approvals to the required alterations on their networks.



Further works are planned for the next financial year including the installation of a screen to prevent debris from entering the culvert and works to the watercourse further up the catchment to improve the performance of the highway drainage system.

Whilst the scheme has yet to be robustly tested, early feedback is positive:

"Just to say it has poured with rain for two days and we have hardly a puddle! Thanks." Local resident



Before: Flooding was affecting the road and access to properties

Flow monitors installed in Keynsham

Following surface water flooding in the east Keynsham area last summer, the Council's Drainage and Flooding Team have been working in partnership with Wessex Water to understand how the surface water drainage systems are performing. Wessex Water has installed a number of flow monitors within the

surface water system serving the housing development in east Keynsham. The flow data will be analysed during rain storms to determine how well the drainage system is able to cope with heavy rain. The results can then inform any remedial action.

In the meantime the Council's Drainage and Flooding Team have improved some highway drainage in the area to intercept surface water.

4,000m of watercourses cleared of debris and overgrown vegetation

Bath & North East Somerset Council annually maintain around 4km of rivers and streams. In total the Council attends to 35 watercourses throughout the authority area. These watercourses have been identified for annual maintenance as there is a flood risk to homes associated with them.

Legally the maintenance responsibility for the majority of these watercourses rests with the 'riparian owners' (landowners whose land includes or adjoins a watercourse), however the Council's Drainage and Flooding Team has chosen to keep these watercourses in good order due to their sensitivity.



The work took place in November ahead of the wet weather in late November and early December and involved sensitively removing any debris from channels that could have impeded the flow of water. The work also included clearing debris from 44 'trash screens' that are in place to reduce the risk of culverts blocking.

"Making sure that these watercourses are well looked after is the most efficient way to manage flood risk. As well as allowing water to flow, regular maintenance also means we can easily and safely access the watercourses and screens if we need to clear a blockage quickly." Jim Collings Flood Authority Manager, Bath & North East

Annual watercourse maintenance in numbers

3,923m of rivers and streams were inspected and cleared of debris and overgrown vegetation

2 fallen trees removed from watercourse channels

90m³ of debris removed from 'trash screens' protecting culverts.

3 weeks to complete the work

10% reduction in costs compared to the previous year

Highway drainage improvements near Pensford

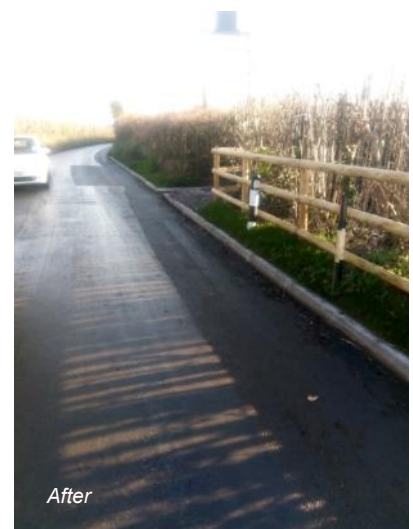
A long-standing surface water issue on Publow Lane near Pensford was resolved at the end of 2018.

Large capacity soakaways were constructed to drain water from the highway and kerbs were installed alongside the road in order to prevent erosion of verges and keep silt build up to a minimum.

Many thanks to the public for their patience during the works.



Before: Inadequate drainage



After

Kelston Mills gets busy managing local drainage

Kelston Mill (opposite Saltford weir on the River Avon), was a brass battery mill, operated prior to 1767 by William Champion, and later by the Bristol Brass Wire and Copper Company. The Mill was still in use until the late 1840s before being converted to residential housing and joining a hamlet of homes. The area lies at the foot of Kelston Round Hill and is immediately adjacent to the river Avon. As such the area is at risk of flooding from the river and from surface water. Claire Warren is the Local Flood Rep for Kelston Mills and has spent the last few years working



with neighbours to keep local drainage ditches and a small stream in good order.

At the end of the summer the Drainage and Flooding Team were able to assist with some of the heavier work by organising some time for their contractors to remove some large pillows of limescale that had built up on small weirs within drainage ditches and to reinstate some highway 'grips' that had been lost to the undergrowth.

"This work has proven to be a great success. Stuart and the team were wonderfully helpful." Claire Warren, Local Flood Rep for Kelston Mills

Own a Septic Tank? Make sure it's compliant by 2020

If you have a septic tank that discharges directly to a watercourse you will need to replace or upgrade your treatment system by 1 January 2020.

To find out more visit www.gov.uk/guidance/general-binding-rules-small-sewage-discharge-to-a-surface-water

Are there surface water flood risks in your area? Could you give the Drainage and Flooding team a tour of these locations?

Local Flood Reps are an important part of helping the Council identify what's important to local people.

If you have any long-standing surface water flooding issues that are affecting homes, businesses or roads in your area, the Drainage and Flooding team would be happy to come out and take a look. This could lead to formal drainage improvement works, or could simply help you to identify what can be done locally to improve things.


If you would like the Drainage and Flooding team to visit your area please email: drainage&flooding@bathnes.gov.uk

How to report blocked highway gullies

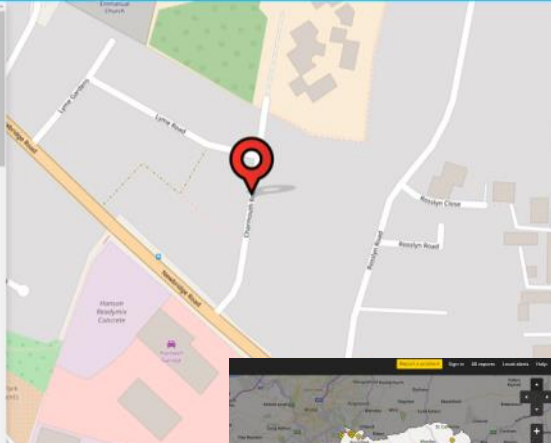


Back to all reports

O/s no. 23 gully completely blocked

Reported in the Blocked drain category anonymously at 13:30 today



I'm writing to inform you about the drainage problem on the Charnmouth Road in Bath (BA1 3LJ). This is an access road to the Newbridge Primary School hence it's important that everything is in order. The Virgin Media has been recently doing some work on our road. When they finished working in front of our house (no. 23), I noticed that the drainage has been completely blocked. I don't know what caused the blockage but I asked one of the workmen to hold the metal cover of the drainage so I could take some pictures to show the scale of the problem. The first photo (below) shows that the drainage is completely blocked with a black soil, and the second photo (below) shows that the drainage has been simply covered with the metal cover through which you can still see the scale of the problem. It is obvious that the drainage doesn't let for any flow of rain water which is not helpful because in mind that

Generally speaking highway gullies in urban areas are cleaned once every two years and gullies in rural locations once a year.

If you believe a road gully is blocked and that this is creating a risk to road safety or property flooding this can now be reported via the Council's Fix My Street portal so that it can be reviewed by the Highway Maintenance team. Fix My Street makes it easy to report the precise location of a gully and include a photo to demonstrate the issue. It's probably the simplest way to report any highway issues.

<https://fix.bathnes.gov.uk>

Alternatively you can still report highway and drainage issues via Council Connect:

Email: councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk

Twitter: @ccbathnes

Telephone: 01225 39 40 41

Reduced risk for road users on the A368

In December the Drainage and Flooding team completed drainage improvements at a low point on the A368 Wick Road south of Bishop Sutton. The banked nature of the road combined with a failing ongoing culverted watercourse, were contributing factors to a large pond that would occasionally form on this 50mph section of main road.

In the summer, with the cooperation of local land owners, the ongoing culvert was replaced and upsized and in December improvements were made to the highway drainage system on the road itself.

Irrespective of these improvements, this location will inevitably attract a high level of silt, leaves and general muck from the road surface and as such the Council's

Highway Maintenance team have been asked to give the gullies here some special attention, including inspections following severe weather warnings.

During the improvement work it was found that there was significant root ingress in the highway drainage system further upstream. It was also apparent that a watercourse running behind some houses was discharging directly onto the highway verge and ultimately onto the road. Later this year we plan to return to this area in order to replace some pipe work and connect the watercourse to a system of drainage.

In addition, in the summer we intend to make some similar improvements

to a system north of Bishop Sutton on the A368 where a culverted watercourse has been compromised by limescale build up and is leading to surface water moving across the carriageway.



The downstream system has been enlarged in order to move more water.

Be aware: Culverting or filling-in a ditch without consent is illegal. If you intend to alter a ditch, stream or other watercourse get in touch with the Council first!

Drainage ditches, including those running along the perimeter of private fields or alongside hedgerow, are defined as 'watercourses' within the Land Drainage Act. As such, any proposal to modify, culvert or fill in a ditch or small stream, even if privately owned, requires the Consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority (Bath & North East Somerset Council) before any work can be carried out. In the majority of cases, culverting or filling-in would not be given Consent. If ditches are culverted or filled in without Consent, the landowner will be in breach of the Land Drainage Act and will be required to reinstate the watercourse.

Last year we had a few instances where landowners had not applied for Consent, leading to some difficult conversations!

Please make sure that anyone that has drainage ditches or small streams on their land is aware of the restrictions around modifying watercourses. There is some excellent information available online: and we have a poster that helps to explain watercourse ownership and responsibilities—see next page.

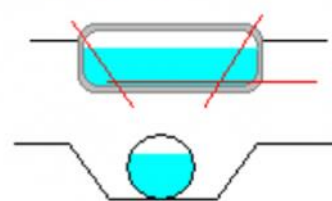


Culverting a watercourse requires consent from the Lead Local Flood Authority or the Environment Agency. In most cases, culverting is NOT permitted.

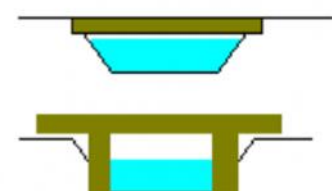
Works that require Land Drainage Consent:

If the structure is likely to impede the flow of a watercourse then Consent is normally required.

Culverting, including trash screens



Bridge structures within channel



Weirs and Dam like obstructions, this could include temporary works



Getting in touch with the Council's Drainage and Flooding team



Local Flood Reps are an important part of helping us identify what's important to local people. We are grateful for the time that Local Flood Reps have taken to flag up surface water flooding locations in your communities,

Like all Council departments, the Drainage and Flooding team has a limited budget so it's extremely useful for the team be informed of issues so that they can be prioritised as, unfortunately, we are unable to fix everything!

We would be delighted to get your feedback on this newsletter and our communications with you. Equally, if you would like to talk through a local drainage or flooding issue please get in touch initially by email: drainage&flooding@bathnes.gov.uk

This newsletter has been put together by the Drainage and Flooding Team at Bath & North East Somerset Council.

Resources for Local Flood Reps and communities

The Drainage and Flooding team can email or send to you any of the following items.

A map of your area highlighting flood risk

A map showing the highway drainage network in your area (in order to aid reporting of blocked gullies)

A poster explaining how to report flooding

A poster explaining watercourse responsibilities

If there is something you would like please email drainage&flooding@bathnes.gov.uk



How to report flooding

Report watercourse flooding

Watercourses are split into two categories: Ordinary Watercourses and Main Rivers.

Main Rivers tend to be the larger rivers or systems and in Bath and North East Somerset these include the Avon, the Chew, the Cam Brook and Wellow Brook.

To report Main River flooding contact the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60.

Any watercourse that is not a Main River is known as an Ordinary Watercourse and includes drainage ditches, small streams and pipes.

To report Ordinary Watercourse flooding contact the Council via Council Connect.

Report surface water flooding

To report surface water flooding including highway flooding and blocked road gullies contact the Council via Council Connect. Please note the Council does not provide sandbags.

Report sewer flooding and burst water mains

To report sewer flooding contact Wessex Water on 0345 600 4 600.

To report a burst water main in the Bath area contact Wessex Water on 0345 600 4 600.

To report a burst water main outside of the Bath area contact Bristol Water on 0800 801 011.

Information and resources available from
the Environment Agency...

Where to find further information

- For local weather information including weather warnings visit the Met Office at www.metoffice.gov.uk
- For river levels and to sign up for flood warnings, visit <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/river-and-sea-levels>
- Wessex Area Monthly Water Situation Reports are produced on Gov.uk at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-situation-local-area-reports>
- Flood Re has been set up to help those households who live in a flood risk area find affordable home insurance. For more information contact your insurer or visit www.floodre.co.uk
- The National Flood Forum provide further advice and support at www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk

Flood Plan Templates (click on the picture)



Personal flood plan



Would your business stay afloat?

A guide to preparing your business for flooding



Community Flood Plan

Helpful resources and guidance that you can access on-line and download (click on the picture)



What to do before, during and after a flood

Practical advice on what to do to protect you and your property from flooding



Prepare your property for flooding

A guide for householders and small businesses to prepare for floods.



Sandbags - How to use them properly for flood protection



Flooding from Groundwater

Practical advice to help you reduce the impact of flooding from groundwater.

Riverside Ownership

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

Useful contacts

Contact **Floodline** on **0345 988 11 88** for up to date flood warning information or advice.
Contact the Environment Agency **incident hotline** on **0800 80 70 60** to report flooding, blockages in rivers or any other environmental incident.

Flood warnings - know what to do?



**FLOOD
ALERT**

PREPARE

- Prepare a bag that includes medicines and insurance documents
- Visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk



**FLOOD
WARNING**

ACT

- Turn off gas, water and electricity
- Move things upstairs or to safety
- Move family, pets and car to safety



**SEVERE
FLOOD
WARNING**

SURVIVE

- Call 999 if in immediate danger
- Follow advice from emergency services
- Keep yourself and your family safe

floodsdestroy.campaign.gov.uk

**FLOODS
DESTROY
BE PREPARED**

Floodline on 0345 988 1188

#PrepareActSurvive

Help us to Help Your Community

If your community is affected by flooding please remember to share this information with us. Photos, times and description of flooding are vital in helping us understand how your community has been affected and what we can do going forwards, whether it be changes to flood warning thresholds or assessing your community for a scheme or property flood resilience measures.

If you have received training on SWIM (Severe Weather Information Management) system you can record information directly at <https://swim.geowessex.com>
Alternatively you can email us at floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk

Reporting Flood Risk and Riparian Responsibilities

If you are concerned about blockages, obstructions to flow in the river or know of cut vegetation being deposited in the watercourse, which can cause pollution, please remember to ring our Incident Hotline **0800 80 70 60** which is open and manned 24hrs a day. You will be given advice and guidance and the information you share will be recorded and passed to the relevant duty team who will be able to take any necessary actions.

Keeping in Touch

If you are a new flood warden or have received this newsletter from your Town or Parish Clerk, please contact the Wessex Flood Resilience Team at floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk and we will update our records and sign you up to receive the newsletter and invitations to future training opportunities.