

Local Flood Rep News

How to report blocked highway gullies



The screenshot shows a Fix My Street report interface. On the left, there's a text box with a user's report about a blocked gully on Chamomile Road in Bath. The report includes two photos: one showing the blocked gully and another showing the gully covered with a metal grate. On the right, there's a map showing the location of the report with a red pin. Below the map, there's a smaller map of Bath showing the location of the report.

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 Chamomile 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 bearing in mind that

FixMyStreet

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



Can't get flood insurance? Ask your insurance company to get 'Flood Re'

Flood Re is a scheme that was created in 2016 to ensure homeowners in high-risk flood areas can access affordable home contents and buildings insurance.

How Flood Re works

If you live in a flood-risk area, your insurer can choose to pass the flood risk element on to Flood Re. If your home is flooded and you make a valid claim, your insurer would pay out, and Flood Re would reimburse your insurer the cost from a Flood Re fund.

This means your insurance premiums won't be expensive just because you live in a flood risk area, as the risk is covered by Flood Re.

How to benefit from Flood Re

If you are struggling to get affordable flood insurance please ask your insurance company if they are signed up to the Flood Re scheme.

Visit: www.floodre.co.uk to find out more about Flood Re and if your home is eligible (most are). The website carries a list of insurers that are part of the scheme. Shop around and ask for quotes from these insurers specifying that you want premiums based on the Flood Re scheme.

Drainage work continues



Drainage works continues to improve the safety of our roads. In partnership with Volker Highways we have been able to complete works at Windrush , Chelwood, Smithams Hill and Prospects place to name but a few. Further works are planed and have been scheduled across B&NES to further reduce flooding.

If there are areas which you know about you think we could help please contact the Drainage and Flooding Team

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 is to be started December while vegetation has died back making access possible. Work involves removing vegetation and 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 Somerset Council

If you see any areas which need our attention please let us know by contacting

drainage&flooding@bathnes.gov.uk

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

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

Want up-to-the minute rainfall forecasts? Get the Met Office weather app

As well as providing a really easy to use general weather forecast, the Met Office weather app provides fifteen minute rainfall forecasts that can be incredibly useful if you want short term rain information.

The app also alerts you to any severe weather warnings that might be in your area. Many Local Flood Reps use these weather warnings to go out and inspect flood prone areas prior to rainfall.

To get the app visit <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/mobile-digital-services/weather-app>



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.

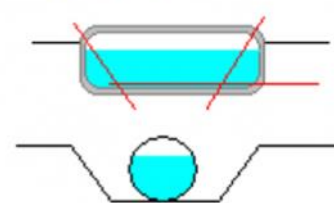
Last year we had a few instances where landowners had not applied for Consent, leading to some difficult conversations!

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.

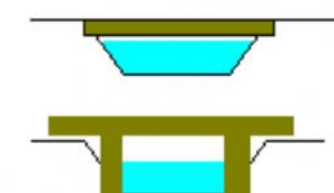
Works that require Land Drainage Consent:

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



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

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

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

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 prioritized 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.