

## October 2019 Newsletter

Devon's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was published in June 2014 and is supported by an annual Action Plan which prioritises improvements and investment for the relevant financial year. This newsletter update is intended to be issued twice a year to engage with and ensure that our Partners and local communities are fully aware of the work being undertaken in local flood risk management.

### Ottery St Mary Flooding, September 2019

On 9th September 2019 heavy rainfall in Ottery St Mary caused localised flooding of Strawberry lane, Cadhay Lane and Mill Street. Five properties were internally flooded, with Devon and Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service attending the scene to pump out water once the flood levels had subsided.

Devon County Council (DCC) has produced a Flood Investigation Report for this incident under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. As surface water flooding at this location is a longstanding problem DCC will be providing flooded properties with property flood resilience measures as part of the PFR Funding Scheme.

Past Section 19 reports are available to view on our website [here](#)<sup>1</sup>.

### National and Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Review 2020

Devon's Local Strategy is due to be updated in 2020 in line with the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. The current local strategy is now under review and we are working closely with our Partners and other Risk Management Authorities to bring this up to date and in line with the draft National Strategy's short-term measures, strategic objectives and 3 high level ambitions:

- Climate resilient places;
- Today's growth and infrastructure to be resilient in tomorrow's climate;
- A nation of climate champions, able to adapt to flooding and coastal change through innovation.

It is intended that the updated Local Strategy will be out for public consultation next year once the National Strategy has been finalised.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/flood-investigations-reports-and-studies/>

## Natural Flood Management

DCC's Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team is committed to the delivery of flood improvement works throughout the county and will continue to endorse Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures either as standalone projects or within larger flood improvement schemes to future proof against the effects of climate change. To progress this, DCC is currently working in partnership with the Environment Agency to deliver Natural Flood Management pilot studies in a few selected locations across Devon.

We always welcome suggestions for any new areas which could potentially be good candidates for future Natural Flood Management schemes. Additionally, DCC are currently building a database of NFM projects across Devon. If you are working on or know of an NFM project that you would like added to the database, please contact [floodrisk@devon.gov.uk](mailto:floodrisk@devon.gov.uk).

For more general information on best practice to reduce the flood risk on your land and where to go for advice, please see our leaflet on land management, which can be found [here](#)<sup>2</sup>. In addition to this, a detailed guidance document explaining the types and benefits of natural flood management as well as potential funding opportunities is currently being developed through consultation with relevant partners and is to be published early 2020.

### Ottery St Mary NFM

Devon Wildlife Trust alongside DCC is leading a Natural Flood Management project in Ottery St. Mary to reduce the risk of flooding to properties in the town and benefit wildlife in the catchment.

The project is working through the small catchment of the Furzebrook, just outside Ottery St Mary, starting at the East Hill Strips woodland and working with landowners down through the land towards the town. The project will implement a series of natural flood management measures to help reduce surface water movement and increase biodiversity.

The first phase of the NFM works at Cold Harbour Farm have now been completed. Working with the land owner a heavily silted pond in the area has been restored to give additional flood attenuation during significant rainfall events. Restoring the pond and creating a rich habitat has also enhanced the biodiversity of the area.

The next element of the scheme including works in the forest areas of the East Hill Strips and is due for completion this financial year.



*NFM example (Woods for Water Project)*

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<sup>2</sup> <https://new.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/local-flood-risk-management-strategy/>

## **Defra Six Year Programme 2015-2021**

We are now in the final 18 months of the 6-year capital investment programme and are on track nationally to deliver the target of 300,000 homes better protected from flooding and coastal erosion by March 2021. To date all Risk Management Authorities, including the Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authorities, have better protected 195,000 homes in England.

In addition to the £2.6 billion government funding for the 2015-21 capital programme a further £548 million of partnership funding contributions have been secured and a funding boost of £62 million has recently been released by the government to support 13 projects across England for communities that suffered flooding during the winter of 2015. Most of these however are located in Yorkshire, Cumbria and the North East of England.

Devon County Council are set to deliver a number of significant projects in the final stages of the 6-year programme, as detailed below and are now looking at 'pipeline' opportunities to be included in the next capital investment programme. The format and level of funding is yet to be determined.

### **Flood Studies**

We are continuing to work in partnership with South West Water and the Environment Agency in Kingsbridge to identify synergies and cost beneficial solutions to the multi sourced flood risk that is experienced in the town. The final report and initial long list of options will soon be produced to help identify those options to be further tested and costed to then be promoted as a solution(s) to bid for Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding to support construction.

### **Flood Improvement Projects**

DCCs Flood & Coastal Risk Management Team has continued to develop a number of high priority flood improvement schemes, as well as the delivery of minor works and local resilience measures. These have been progressed in accordance with the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and in line with the indicative funding allocations of the Defra 6 year programme. Where practical, a number of minor flood improvements and resilience measures have been delivered through local funding opportunities; however, the larger capital schemes have been included in Defra's 6 year programme to take advantage of national funding.

### **Stokeinteignhead**

The scheme to protect 45 properties in Stokeinteignhead, that takes the form of Property Level Flood Resilience (PFR) measures, improved highway drainage and Natural Flood Management improvements now has both DCC cabinet and Environment Agency business case approval. With these approvals in place we have been producing the tender documentation in order to engage with contractors.

In parallel to this we are also preparing the documentation required to obtain the planning permission and listed building consent that is essential for properties within the local conservation area.

The highway drainage improvements are programmed for delivery in February/March 2020 with the PFR and NFM installations occurring between February and June 2020, depending on the permissions required.

### Stibbs Lane Ivybridge

Following the successful business case submission, the design team at DCC have been finalising the details of the scheme, that consists of a 130m long 750mm diameter flood relief culvert, prior to getting the works out to tender.

Originally, we had hoped to get the work on site during the autumn months, however an initial tender exercise to our framework contractors only generated one return that did not represent value for money, we put this down to the short timeframe that had been set to commence the works on site, we therefore decided to put the work back out to tender and delay the start date until January. This strategy worked, as the retendered works offered a saving of approximately £250k, allowing us to progress to construction.

The works have a 15-week programme and are due to be completed by the end of April 2020.

### Exeter Northbrook

Construction of the phase 1 flood alleviation works in Beacon Heath have now been completed minus a small amount of snagging with the contractor. The project that installed significantly upsized drainage to capture surface water flows up to the 1 in 100 year flood event (1% chance of occurrence in any given year) was valued at £180k.

Phase 2 of the scheme that will include a bund in Hamlin Lane playing fields to temporarily store flood flows is due to have its planning application submitted by the end of October. If this is successful, we plan to commence the works in March 2020.

### Sidmouth

We are continuing to develop our proposals for Sidmouth in two phases. A proposal for drainage improvements in the town centre and one for upstream storage in the grounds of The Knowle.

Planning permission will be required for the upstream storage element of the scheme and the design team have, in consultation with the Town Council and East Devon District, produced plans for a dual use space that will act as an area that can be used as a public amenity during drier times and then work as a flood storage area when required in times of extreme weather. The higher probability flood events (up to the 1 in 30 year / 3.3% chance of occurrence in any given year) will be stored underground, maximising the opportunity for the area to be enjoyed by the community even in moderate rainfall events.



*Proposed flood alleviation scheme at The Knowle*

## The Devon Community Resilience Forum

The Forum are continuing to provide advice and support for communities in improving their resilience, through the development of Emergency Plans and facilitating community grants and public events.



Twitter: @DevComsTogether  
#devonresilience

### Grant Funding for Community Emergency Resilience

There are two schemes available under the Grant Funding:

#### Scheme 1 (up to £250)

Devon's communities can bid for this fund to help form their own Community Emergency Planning group. A Community Emergency Plan helps to guide a community to organise a response to a local emergency, from flooding and snow to the completely unexpected. The fund is open to existing community groups and parish / town councils. This fund is not available to individuals.

#### Scheme 2 (up to £1500)

This funding is available to communities to improve their own resilience with equipment and small-scale works. This may range from the provision of sandbag stores and other flood protection equipment, road signs, tools and personal protective equipment, to one off small scale works to reduce risk. The fund is open for existing community groups and parish / town councils with a Community Emergency Plan or Flood Plan already in place. Community Emergency Plans must specifically consider potential flood risk. (If you do not yet have a plan in place, you may still be eligible for a grant if you can show how the funding will support activity identified in a draft plan in development).

More information on the Grant Funding for Community Emergency Resilience can be found on the Devon Communities Together website [here](#)<sup>3</sup>.

### Upcoming Resilience Forum meeting

The next meeting of the Devon Community Resilience Forum will be 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at Rattery Village Hall. For more details, please see their website [here](#)<sup>4</sup>.

## Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Funding Scheme

The Property Flood Resilience Funding Scheme has previously been known as the Property Level Resilience Grant Scheme.

Devon County Council is committed to increasing community resilience in Devon and is supported by Defra to deliver property level resilience measures. Working closely with a number of partners, DCC aims to help individual property owners be better equipped with the tools and basic defence measures they need in order to deal with flood events. The PFR funding scheme is available for home owners to apply for up to £5,000. With this funding a property survey will be carried out and a list of recommended resilience measures produced, which will need to be purchased and then installed by a selected contractor. Any additional budget requirements over £5,000 are at the expense of the property owner.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/grant-funding-emergency-flood-resilience>

<sup>4</sup> <https://devoncommunities.org.uk/courses/devon-community-resilience-forum>

There is limited funding, with an allocation to be made available each year by Defra, Local Levy and DCC. Applications will therefore be prioritised based on the criteria set out in DCC's PFR Policy in order to maximize the number of properties benefitting from this opportunity and to ensure those properties with the greatest need will receive the funding. There can be no guarantee of funding for all applications. The PFR Policy and Application Form can be found on our website [here](#)<sup>5</sup>.

Since the last issue of this newsletter in April, various works have been carried out across the county to ensure an outstanding and resilient environment, with 14 properties currently involved in the scheme. The funding that DCC provides will not only assist property owners in protecting their homes from flooding, but it will also benefit them economically as, on average, the cost to recover a property from internal flooding at low level would be approximately £30,000.

## Severe Weather Information Management (SWIM)

The Flood and Coastal Risk Management team are now using a new tool for recording information on flood incidents, known as Severe Weather Information Management (SWIM). It is a straightforward, web-based system which allows members of the public, flood wardens and Flood Risk Management Authorities to enter details about property flooding in one place. The SWIM project has been developed by the GeoWessex partnership and Dorset County Council Geographical Information Team, with support from colleagues from the Environment Agencies and several Local Authorities.

If flooding has affected your property, you can fill in the details of the flooding using one of the following options:

- [Record current flooding](#)<sup>6</sup>
- [Record recent flooding](#)<sup>7</sup>
- [Update a record](#)<sup>8</sup> (you will need your SWIM ID and access code to access an existing record you created)



For more general information on SWIM, please visit <https://swim.geowessex.com/devon/>.

**Please note:** Any information submitted as part of a SWIM record will be used for **data collection purposes only**. If you require a direct response, please contact a member of the Flood and Coastal Risk Management team at [floodrisk@devon.gov.uk](mailto:floodrisk@devon.gov.uk).

The name SWIM is currently under review and is likely to be changed in the near future. The current proposal being considered is FORT (Flood Online Reporting Tool).

## Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) News

A SuDS workshop was organised on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019 for local consultants, developers and planners to provide an update on developments within the SuDS team, confirm our requirement for planning applications and promote sharing of best practice in Devon.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/flood-resilience/property-flood-resilience-funding-scheme/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://swim.geowessex.com/devon/Report/Splash>

<sup>7</sup> <https://swim.geowessex.com/devon/Report>

<sup>8</sup> <https://swim.geowessex.com/devon/Home/Update>

There was a range of speakers from various organisations such as South West Water, Environment Agency and other local authorities.

We are now a member of the Association of SuDS Authorities which is an organisation for local authorities to promote and provide consistency on SuDS standards at a national level.



*SuDS Workshop, Credit: Dave Black*

## Addendums to the Strategy

As reported earlier in this update the main Strategy document is to be updated every 6 years with the next publication to be released at the end of next year for the period 2021-2027. Over the next 12 months we will be reviewing the content of the strategy to ensure it is still fit for purpose, relevant and a valuable tool in flood risk management. Key stakeholders will be consulted throughout the process and we would welcome any comments or suggestions you may have that would improve the current document and further enhance its value.

Any updates before this new publication will be shown as addendums on the [Flood Risk Management website](https://new.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/local-flood-risk-management-strategy/action-plan/)<sup>9</sup>. When these addendums are updated, key partners will be consulted, including members of the Flood Risk Management Partnership and Project Board.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://new.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/local-flood-risk-management-strategy/action-plan/>

# What to do in the event of a flood

## Your guide on who to call

In the event of a flood, there are many authorities available to help. Below outlines who should be contacted for the various types of flooding incidents and emergencies that occur. The local authorities rely on information reported to them to inform any investigations and prioritisation of investment.

If it is an **emergency** and there is danger to life as a result of flooding you should not hesitate to call **999**

**To report flooding of the highway and blocked drains** contact Devon County Council's Highway Customer Service Centre on **0345 155 1004** or visit [www.devon.gov.uk/drainage](http://www.devon.gov.uk/drainage). Office hours are Monday to Friday 8am – 8pm and Saturdays 9am – 1pm. For emergencies outside of these hours call **01392 383329**

**For any flooding on major trunk roads** (the M5 A30, A38, A35 and A303) contact the Highways Agency on **0300 123 5000** (24 hour service)

**To report flooding from sewers and water pipes** contact South West Water on **0344 346 2020** (24 hour service)

**For enquiries about flood warnings** contact the Environment Agency's Floodline on **0345 988 1188** (24 hour service)

**For general enquiries about Main River or flooding from the sea** contact the Environment Agency on **03708 506 506**

**For all other flooding enquiries** contact the Devon County Council Flood Risk Management Team on **0345 155 1015** or email [floodrisk@devon.gov.uk](mailto:floodrisk@devon.gov.uk)

### Preparing for a flood

Please refer to Devon County Council and Environment Agency web pages for advice on what to do before, during and after a flood. In the first instance of flooding and sandbag requests contact your local District or Parish Council to be directed to any local sandbag supplies that may be available.



FLOOD ALERT

**Flood Alert:** Flooding is possible. Be prepared.



FLOOD WARNING

**Flood Warning:** Flooding is expected. Immediate action required.



SEVERE FLOOD WARNING

**Severe Flood Warning:** Severe flooding. Danger to life

**Warnings no longer in force:** No further flooding is currently expected in your area.

**Sign up to flood warnings:** <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>