

# Cam Valley

## Floods Update

### May 2024 (Issue 2)

Welcome to the second Floods Update, focusing on property and news of the Section 19 report process. If there's a topic you'd like covered in a future issue or would like to give us feedback, please email: [somersetprepared@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:somersetprepared@somerset.gov.uk)

### Insurance

The stress of flooding can be intensified when home or contents insurance isn't in place, or where claims prove difficult. If you have relevant insurance, then follow your insurers advice about actions to take. The Association of British Insurers (ABI) provides information about the claims process.

The British Insurance Brokers' Association, The ABI and Flood Re have worked together to create an [online directory](#) designed to help flood risk properties find insurance. If you are struggling to access insurance, contact the [National Flood Forum](#) for support and advice. They can also help if you experienced flooding and were not insured.

### Property Flood Resilience (PFR)

PFR refers to property maintenance (such as repointing to prevent water coming through walls) and temporary or permanent measures that can be put on or in a property to help keep out as much water as possible. Examples include non-return valves for waste pipes, airbrick covers, flood resistant coatings on walls and flood barriers for doorways. Some measures help cleaning up after a flood easier and safer, so that the property becomes habitable sooner.

Different properties require different measures, but look out for British Standards Kitemark tested products. More information on PFR is available at [www.somersetprepared.org.uk/get-support/property-level-flood-protection](http://www.somersetprepared.org.uk/get-support/property-level-flood-protection), the National Flood Forum and the Blue Pages.

Once installed, it's vital to keep PFR products maintained in good working order, for example, checking seals on doors and servicing pumps. Make sure you know how to install your temporary products, including these steps in a Household Emergency Plan (see below). Also consider who will do this if you are away.

Build Back Better is a relatively new scheme that offers householders the chance to install PFR measures up to the value of £10,000 when repairing after a flood. A growing number of insurance companies offer Build Back Better policies, with an updated list available here: [www.floodre.co.uk/buildbackbetter](http://www.floodre.co.uk/buildbackbetter)

## Tips for Property Repair and Improved Readiness

We've collected these tips from those who've had to rebuild and repair after flooding. If you have any of your own to add, then please email [somersetprepared@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:somersetprepared@somerset.gov.uk)

- Consider tiling floors downstairs and using removable rugs instead of fitted carpets.
- Lay any plasterboard sheets horizontally on walls downstairs, so less needs replacement should they get wet again.
- Use a water-resistant plaster on walls.
- Install electrical sockets 3 feet up the walls.
- Consider having white goods upstairs or fitted with long leads so that they can be lifted quickly.
- Use quick release hinges on kitchen cabinet doors. Carcasses can be sacrificed as they are fairly cheap. Alternatively, install stainless steel or bespoke hardwood cabinets.
- Use quick release hinges on internal doors downstairs.
- Keep higher value garden equipment stored in an elevated position if possible, using wall brackets or bars suspended from a roof.
- Consider where radiator thermostats are placed.
- Keep personal effects, important documents and valuables upstairs.
- Have multiple trestle tables or workmates to support lifted furniture.
- Have multiple plastic boxes to fill with items, removing them to safety.
- Know how to quickly remove the internal fire bricks from any log burner (and remove any ash).
- Keep good wellies, torch and medical supplies to hand in an Emergency Bag. There are tips of what else to include and a Household Emergency Plan template [www.somersetprepared.org.uk/creating-a-home-emergency-plan/](http://www.somersetprepared.org.uk/creating-a-home-emergency-plan/).

More tips and case studies can be found on Mary Long-Dhonau's website: <https://floodmary.com/>

## Update on Section 19 Investigations

Since February's newsletter, Blackford and Compton Pauncefoot Parish has now been added to the East Cam Valley investigation. It was not previously considered because Somerset Council had received so few reports of water inside homes there. It's a reminder to report flooding, preferably using the FORT reporting tool or emailing [flooding@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:flooding@somerset.gov.uk), so it can be investigated and issues identified and addressed.

The timetable for the Investigations is now clearer. Having collected many emails, photos, videos, reports and other information, the next few weeks is being spent analysing this data and mapping flows. Starting in July, there will be a series of community events where the Council's Section 19 Officer will present the gathered data and draft flow maps. This will give you a chance to spot anything that has been missed before technical analysis starts to identify any factors that compounded the flooding. Full published reports with recommendations for each area are expected by December.

## Don't Wait to Get Flood Safe

There is no need to wait before protecting yourselves and your property. Consider PFR measures and having an Emergency Bag (see above), but also:

- **Sign up for Met Office alerts.**
- Be aware of your Community Emergency Plan and develop your own Household one (see above) for you, your family, your pets and animals and, if relevant, your business. For support with this, email [somersetprepared@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:somersetprepared@somerset.gov.uk).
- Through your Parish Council, make yourself aware of any local Flood Action Groups and Flood Wardens (community volunteers working to reduce local flood risk) and nearby Places of Safety if you needed to leave your home.
- If you own property or land bordering a watercourse, keep on top of maintenance to reduce flooding risk. More on this in a future Issue.

## Diary Dates

### 10<sup>th</sup> July

10:30-12:30 Advice and support for Flood Wardens and anyone interested in becoming one

1:00-3:00 1:1 Support and workshops to help build community and household resilience

At Queen Camel Memorial Hall, High Street, BA22 7LJ

### Section 19 community meetings (see above for more information) all at 6:30-8:30pm:

Date	Location	Parishes
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Galhampton Village Hall, Long Street, BA22 7AY	Yarlington, North Cadbury, Compton Pauncefoot & Blackford, South Cadbury & Sutton Montis
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	The Davis Hall, Howell Hill, BA22 7QX	West Camel
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	St Peter's Church, Podimore	Yeovilton & District
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> August	Queen Camel Memorial Hall, High Street, BA22 7NX	Sparkford, Queen Camel