

Flood Risk Management in North Wessex Area



ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY

EA South West Box 7

Be Prepared for flooding

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter to local community groups and flood warden schemes. We hope within this publication to keep you aware of new advances in flood protection, flood fairs and in the future to include local community information.

Is there anything you wish us to include in any future newsletters? We would be very happy to include information you wish to share. You can write to us or send an e-mail to the address overleaf. We may include your comments together with a response, where appropriate.

Community Groups and Flood Warden Afternoon

In September 2003 the first Community Group and Flood Warden Scheme afternoon was held at Rivers House in Bridgwater. Representatives attended from Congresbury Parish Council, Ham Village Flood Committee, Chew Magna Parish Council, Mill Lane Residents Association and Ruishton Parish Council.

The afternoon was an opportunity for Community groups to meet each other and share knowledge and experience of their Schemes. The representatives were also invited to visit the Area Incident Room to see how weather information is gathered and warnings are issued.

We are planning to hold a similar event this September and would welcome any suggestions for improvement.



The work of the Environment Agency touches the lives of almost everyone in England and Wales. We have a wide range of duties and powers relating to the management of the environment.

We are keen to make sustainable improvements to the local environment and to enhance people's lives in flood risk areas.



Don't wait for flooding to call Floodline

Floodline is continuing to build its reputation for providing reliable Environment Agency information on flooding from rivers and the sea, along with practical help and advice to people who are at risk of flooding.

There are around 90,000 homes and businesses that could be affected by flooding in the South West. Many local communities were forced to confront the devastating consequences flooding can bring during the autumn of 2000.

Flooding is a natural process and whilst it can't entirely be prevented there are simple steps everyone can take to prepare.

The Environment Agency has produced a series of special publications on things people can do before, during and after a flood, available on request from Floodline by calling 0845 988 1188.

Floodline can also help you to find your local quickdial number giving you fast access to flood warnings issued in your area.



We recognise that much of our work may be best achieved through partnerships, utilising external funds.

We are also keen to work with others to develop their proposals for environmental improvement.

If you wish to discuss any issues raised in this leaflet please contact the person listed above.

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0845 933 3111

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INCIDENT HOTLINE
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Flood Protection Products

The task of choosing a flood protection product from the hundreds available has been made a little easier with the launch of the BSI Kitemarked flood protection products. ~~These are products that have been independently tested and approved fit for purpose.~~

Although the Agency supports the scheme it does not endorse any individual product or manufacturer. It is the responsibility of the purchaser to ensure the products are appropriate for their property and correctly fitted.

Advice is also available from the National Flood Forum, an independent grassroots organisation which can offer support to those affected by flooding, possible sources of help and strategies for coping. The National Flood Forum holds a full list of manufacturers of flood products in England and Wales www.floodforum.org.uk (Telephone: 01299 403055)

Flood Protection Product companies and the National Flood Forum have been invited to attend the 'mini' flood fair in the Guildhall Bath on the 29th March 2004. If you require further information about the event please contact Sarah Bunney or Vanessa Dare on 01278 457333.



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