

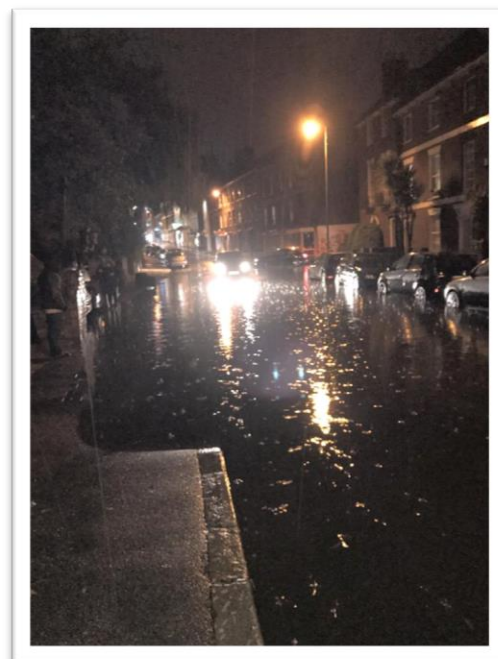
## April 2017 Newsletter

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.

### Flooding in November 2016, Storm Angus

In November 2016, Storm Angus resulted in the flooding of many roads and properties across Devon over a period of 3 days. In total, 93 properties were flooded. Internal property flooding was experienced in all districts except West Devon and Torridge. North Devon and East Devon had the greatest number of properties affected, with 40 and 27 respectively flooded internally. Further areas across Devon were also affected by external property flooding.

A flood investigation report under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 is currently being produced for this flood event, and once finalised will be available on [our website](#). The report will detail the extent of flooding and include recommendations for the relevant Risk Management Authorities to take forward. Where possible, quick win solutions have been identified, which can be easily implemented at relatively low cost. Any further investigations or detailed studies will then need to be prioritised in line with Devon's Action Plan for future investment.



Exeter, November 2016

### Devon's Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Role

Since April 2015, the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team has provided Local Planning Authorities across Devon with advice in relation to nearly 1430 planning consultations, with the aim of promoting the most sustainable solutions to managing surface water resulting from development. Aside from the desk-based work associated with this consultee role, the Team has also attended numerous site visits, meetings and Planning Committees across the county in order to provide advice to applicants, agents, engineers, Planning Case Officers and Members alike.

Devon's Sustainable Drainage Guidance is now available on our website [here](#), intended for use by the public, developers and Local Planning Authorities. This Guidance will place greater emphasis on the need for developers to provide truly sustainable means of surface water drainage, ensuring that above-ground SuDS features such as ponds are prioritised wherever possible, and that changes to industry best-practice are upheld.

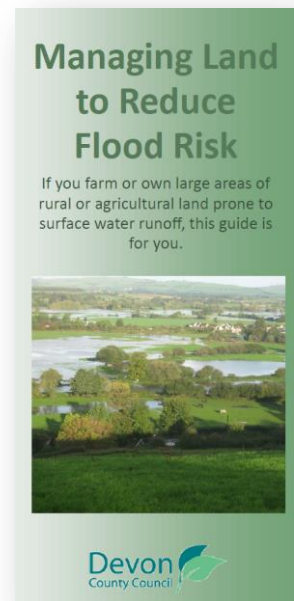


## Natural Flood Management

DCC Flood and Coastal Risk Management is committed to the delivery of flood improvement works throughout the county and will continue to endorse natural flood risk management measures as part of flood improvement schemes. As part of this, DCC is currently working in partnership with the Environment Agency (EA) to progress Natural Flood Management (NFM) pilot studies in a few selected locations across Devon.

One such example is the Acland Stream catchment in Braunton, North Devon. DCC, North Devon Biosphere and the EA are currently working with landowners to plan the implementation of measures such as leaky dams, new hedges and constructed wetlands. The outcomes of this study will be assessed through an ongoing monitoring programme, and thereafter used as an evidence base towards progressing future NFM schemes. The Flood and Coastal Risk Management team would always welcome suggestions for any new areas which could potentially be good candidates for future natural flood management schemes.

Additionally, a report on the benefits of good soil and water management has been put together by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), in association with DCC and the Devon Local Nature Partnership (LNP). For more information on best practices to reduce the flood risk of your land and where to go for advice, please see our leaflet on land management, which can be found [here](#).



## Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA)

The initial PFRA was produced in 2011 shortly after DCC became the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). This was the first review of flood risk in Devon from surface water, ordinary watercourses and ground water, which are the responsibility of DCC in an overview capacity. The original PFRA in 2011 provided LLFAs with much of the evidence base for LLFA Local Strategies. This review is therefore a logical point to reconsider how flood risk has been assessed within the Local Strategy and make sure that the quality of that assessment is also current and fit for purpose.

The PFRA must be reviewed after 6 years, so is due to be carried out in 2017. The review will consist of a self-assessment to be carried out by the LLFAs and an update in the form of an addendum to the original PFRA report and appendices.



The first PFRA cycle was a very high level assessment and identified Indicative Flood Risk Areas where more than 30,000 people were at risk of flooding within a settlement area. This method resulted in no Indicative Flood Risk Areas being identified in Devon.

On this second cycle, the level of risk will be slightly lower to identify more Indicative Flood Risk Areas. As a result of this, Exeter is likely to be identified as an Indicative Flood Risk Area after the completion of the self-assessment and update of the PFRA report.

LLFAs must complete and submit their reviews to the Environment Agency by 22nd June 2017. The Environment Agency must then review LLFA submissions by December 2017.

## **Flood Studies**

Following the completion of the Surface Water Management Plans and Drainage Assessments reported in previous newsletters, we are now, through the prioritising of high risk communities, considering flood studies for those areas. In accordance with the proposed 2017/18 Action Plan of the Local Strategy, a number of areas have been identified for detailed flood studies. Priority areas include Barnstaple, Beeson, Broadhempston, Buckfastleigh and Woodbury Salterton. These are to be progressed over the next 12 months, subject to available resources, as well as the ongoing investigations in Exmouth, Kingsbridge, Ottery St Mary, South Pool and Ugborough.

## **Partnership Working**

To ensure a joined up approach is maintained it is essential for all Risk Management Authorities to share their programmes and consider opportunities for working together. The multi-agency benefits will improve scheme justification and by joining forces will achieve the much needed budgets to deliver the essential flood improvements

## **Flood Improvement Projects**

Devon County Council's 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.

### **Ivybridge, Stibbs lane**

A catchment study has been completed by DCC using JBA consultants in Exeter. The results of this show that a flood relief culvert could be installed to reduce flooding to 20 residential properties in the area. This will now be taken forward to detailed design and a business case developed to justify funding required to deliver the scheme in the 2017/18 financial year. In addition to the culvert, NFM is proposed in the upper catchment in the form of tree planting. Subject to land owner agreements, planning and funding these NFM improvements have been modelled to give a significant reduction in surface water run-off.

### Axminster

Following a short delay in order to obtain additional funding and final Network Rail approvals, the phase 2 of the Axminster Millbrook Flood Improvement Scheme has started on site. The scheme, which involves enlarging and extending a culvert on the watercourse, will give over 160 residential properties a raised standard of protection up to the 100 year flood event. This will build on the already completed works consisting of a new flood wall, debris catcher and channel widening.

The works are due to be completed in September 2017.

### Modbury

The final scheme design has now been completed, which includes three large earthwork bunds to contain flood water, interception ditches and local drainage improvements. It will look to raise the standard of protection for 50 residential and 32 commercial properties up to the 100 year flood event. The works have been priced at £900k inclusive of contingency. The planning application has been submitted with a decision date expected in June 2017 and the Business Case is currently being refined prior to submission. The Partnership Funding Calculator is indicating that £500k of FDGiA money can be released for the scheme; this will be supplement by Local Levy, and Partnership Funding contributions from South Hams District Council and Devon County Council. The opportunity for South West Water to also contribute to the scheme is currently being explored, given the potential benefit to the sewerage system as a result of the works. Subject to permissions and funding the scheme will look to start on site in January 2018 with completion targeted by July 2018.



Flooding in Modbury, July 2012

### Uplyme

Minor works to improve culvert inlets and silt traps have been completed. Working with DCC highways and East Devon District Council, we hope that a proposal to upsize the existing watercourse culverts can be developed to be delivered in the 2017/18 financial year subject to a successful business case submission.

A separate proposal to install NFM measures in the form of woody debris dams on a second watercourse in Uplyme is also being developed in partnership with East Devon District Council (EDDC).



## Braunton

Phase 1 of the Braunton Flood Improvements to upgrade the drainage within Caen Street, has now been completed. The works have been plagued with underground services, which caused a challenging design and further issues on site with new services emerging during excavations. However, despite this the works have been completed on time and on budget. This element of the scheme will raise the standard of flood protection to the 1 in 20 year flood event.

Phase 2 of the scheme, incorporating a new pumping station will start on site after the busy summer months and raise the standard of protection to the 1 in 50 year flood event.



Works to Braunton Flood Defence Scheme – February 2017

## Legislation updates

1. The Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment is to be reviewed by the LLFA and an update provided to the EA by 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017. Guidance has been provided by Defra and the EA to be followed for the review.
2. A Review of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 has been undertaken by Defra and the results of this have been published in a report titled 'Post-legislative Scrutiny of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010', a copy of which can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-and-water-management-act-2010-post-legislative-scrutiny>

## DCC Action Plan and Defra 6 year programme

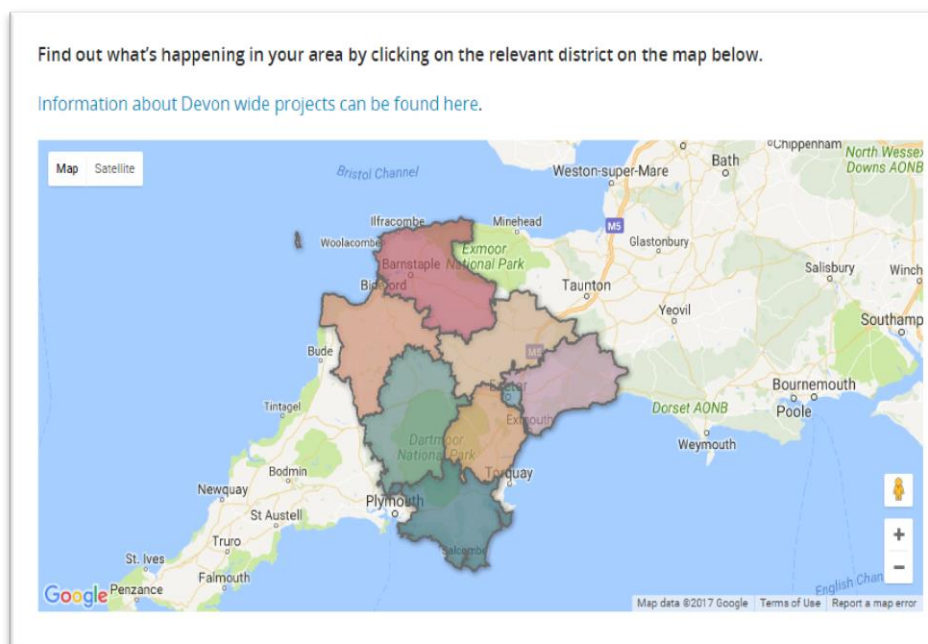
The Action Plan for 2016/17 was a significant programme of works targeted at some of the highest priority locations in need of flood improvements. These included major works requiring partnership funding from Defra, Local Levy and other Risk Management Authorities. A number of minor schemes or resilience measures have also been delivered and funded through the County Council's own flood risk management budgets. Once completed, these major schemes will provide protection to well over 250 properties. In addition, minor improvements at locations countywide will have reduced the risk of flooding to a further 30 properties.

The delivery of the major capital works at Braunton and Axminster has highlighted the practical challenges of implementing schemes of this type, such as justifying the capital investment in line with government funding criteria or gaining the necessary approvals for working on Network Rail property, as in Axminster. The management of public expectations is another key factor when delivering large flood improvement schemes and requires careful and ongoing communication with the Parish/Town Councils, Community Groups and representatives for the affected residents and businesses.

Over £1.6 million has been spent on the provision of flood risk management measures by DCC in its role as LLFA during 2016/17. This includes grants and contributions from Defra, Local Levy and other Risk Management Authorities.

The proposed Action Plan for 2017/18 includes the completion of existing major schemes started in 2016/17, as well as works at new locations requiring investment that have been prioritised through the criteria set out in the Devon Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. In line with the Local Strategy, there is also recognition that all new flood schemes should consider a catchment wide approach to include any Natural Flood Management measures that will have a lasting benefit and reduction in runoff to ease flood risk downstream.

This investment in 2017/18, along with that anticipated for the remainder of Defra's current 6 year programme, through to 2021, should provide a high level of flood protection for a further 300 properties.



Flood Risk Management Action Plan available on our website [here](#)

## The Devon Community Resilience Forum

The Forum held their latest *Becoming Resilient* event, in November 2016. This event was an opportunity for local communities to become better prepared for incidents such as severe floods, and learn how to protect themselves and their properties. Held near Exeter, 63 delegates and 22 speakers/co-ordinators were present.

The event was opened by Assistant Chief Constable at Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, Paul Netherton and the morning programme included the role of Community Rest Centres and the role of the Emergency services. In the afternoon workshop sessions, delegates could get involved and discuss testing emergency plans, assessing risk and writing a robust emergency plan.



Opening the event: Assistant Chief Constable Paul Netherton addressing the Forum, Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 2016.



Environment Agency and Devon County Council displays at the Forum event, Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 2016.

The next Forum event is to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at Whitstone Parish Hall. For more information on this upcoming event, please visit: [www.bit.ly/resilience-forum](http://www.bit.ly/resilience-forum)



Twitter: @DevComsTogether #devonresilience

## Property Level Resilience (PLR) 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 to be able to deal with flooding. As such a new PLR Grant Scheme has been established to enable home owners to apply for up to £5,000 to carry out a survey of the property, identifying the required resilience measures, and to purchase the recommended measures. Any additional budget requirements will be at the expense of the property owner.

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 PLR 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 PLR Policy and Application Form can be found on our website [here](#).



Property front door with slots either side, ready for flood boards to be slotted into place in the event of a flood warning –  
Umberleigh, North Devon

## Addendums to the Strategy

The main Strategy document will be updated every 6 years with the next review in 2020. Any updates before this new publication will be shown as addendums on the [Flood Risk Management website](#). When these addendums are updated, key partners will be consulted, including members of the Flood Risk Management Partnership and Project Board.



## Case Study: SuDS at Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Honiton

Thelma Hulbert Gallery is a public art gallery run by East Devon District Council (EDDC) hosting a programme of contemporary art & craft exhibitions, alongside a permanent collection of artist Thelma Hulbert's work.

The garden outside of the gallery was dull and uninspiring, until the team at THG were successful in obtaining funding to transform the area into a Pocket Park, one of 87 across the Country. This has been supplemented by donations from the charitable trusts, local community, EDDC staff time and funding from Devon County Council for the sustainable drainage element.

The sustainable drainage element is in the form of a raingarden incorporated into the wider gardens. A small road hump was installed diagonally across the driveway, and a break created in the kerb line to divert surface runoff into the raingarden, and away from the existing slot drain. When the capacity of the rain garden is exceeded, flows overtop into the existing drain but during normal flows, surface water is retained within the rain garden.

The raingarden has been designed to fit the available space and topography, as opposed to hydraulic or water treatment criteria. It is maintained alongside the remainder of the pocket park by community groups and volunteers. The conventional drainage to which it overflows continues to be maintained by EDDC.

The raingarden has enhanced the wider pocket park and improved the drainage at minimal additional cost.

This shows results of working in partnership with other Risk Management Authorities and how sustainable drainage can be incorporated into any project, whatever size, giving a range of benefits to flood risk, wildlife and adding amenity value.

***We have included a case study detailing a local project in this issue and intend to do so in future editions. If you would like us to include your local community in any future case studies, please contact us with further information.***

# 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.



Clyst St George, November 2016