

Parish Information Sheet



Ref: 04/2026

Date: 27th January 2026

To: All Parishes

Storm Chandra: Major incident declared to support communities across Somerset

Introduction

A major incident has been called in Somerset as agencies step up their response to Storm Chandra.

Somerset Council, the Environment Agency and emergency services are working together to support communities following heavy rain and extensive flooding overnight. Although the weather looks drier tomorrow, the risk of flooding on the Levels and Moors remains high as rainwater moves through the system.

With further flood warnings expected to be issued in areas such as Moorland, the major incident has been declared as a precaution to allow resources to be shared should the response need to be stepped up. Residents are encouraged to sign up for the latest flood warnings here [Check for flooding in England - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/check-for-flooding-in-england). Further updates will be provided on Wednesday 28 January.

Last night brought significant rain – water levels are continuing to rise and the weather continues to be wet across the next few days with heavy showers at times, and a further Met Office warning in place for Thursday. There is no opportunity at this point for ground to recover, it remains saturated.

It is estimated around 50 properties have been affected by flooding across the county. An incident room has been set up in County Hall Taunton, welfare teams are being organised to support the most vulnerable residents.

The situation on the County's road network continues to be extremely challenging this evening. Many roads remain closed due to flooding and there is a significant amount of work needed in terms of clear-up and repairs.

Emergency Response and Recovery Team

Around 50 properties affected by flooding so far across Ilminster, West Coker, Taunton, Mudford and West Camel and we are anticipating more. Please encourage anyone impacted by property flooding to report this to us via this link [Flood report - Self Service](#).

In an emergency residents should always call 999 immediately.

For information and guidance visit here [Flooding information and advice](#)

- Work is underway to identify vulnerable people across the county, working with services.
- Preparation underway for developing situation.

Highways updates

- Teams dealt with reports across the county throughout last night and today using existing resource - extra resource remains available and will be on standby tonight and into tomorrow.
- Teams across the county have been operating jetting units, clearing debris and flooded roads where possible.

Key road closures/disruption:

Remaining road closures – please be aware this is a developing situation, some may reopen during the evening:

- A358 - between Horton Cross and Church Street (Donyatt).
- A303 - Both directions between Buckland St Mary and Chard turn off
- A361 - (East Lyng to Burrowbridge)
- Cutts Road (East Lyng to Athelney)
- Langport Road (Muchelney to Langport)
- New Road (West Lyng to North Curry)
- Stoke Road, Martock
- Henlade/Ruishton to Creech St Michael
- Sampford Moor Road closed due to landslip
- B3153 at Clanville
- A38 Wellington Road (West Buckland)
- Godminster Lane, Bruton - closed due to a tree down
- A38 Taunton to Bridgwater - Monkton Elm and Walford
- A359 from Mudford to Marston Magna.
- Camel St, Queen Camel

We may also be undertaking winter treatments overnight, subject to the forecast.

Environment Agency update 27 January

Following the arrival of Storm Chandra overnight water levels are rising across the Somerset Levels and Moors. Up to 50mm+ fell on already saturated ground, and impacts have been felt across Somerset, and flood storage areas are filling as water moves down the catchment. There are currently 20 flood warnings and

13 alerts are currently in force for Somerset.

Athelney Spillway is running and will continue to run for the time being. All flood storage moor spillways are running, and all moors are continuing to fill.

Our pumping stations are running whenever possible. However, pumps can only operate when there is space in the rivers to receive the water. On the Parrett / Tone catchment, all pumps upstream of Burrowbridge cannot run as the rivers are completely full. We will operate pumps as soon as river levels allow. Northmoor and Saltmoor pumping stations are running all station pumps at full capacity, discharging into the River Parrett.

Our staff installing pumps have experienced threats and abuse from members of the public; we are requesting the public to avoid the pumping stations during this time to allow our staff to operate in a timely and safe manner.

Pump installations: The crane is on site at Northmoor and is putting the extra pumps in situ, with pipework due to be connected next. Installation is progressing well. Pumps are being installed at Saltmoor. Brief road closures / traffic management will be in place to enable the installation of equipment.

Water still needs to work its way through the network of rhynes and channels to the pumping stations – the enhanced pumps at Northmoor and Saltmoor will only be able to run when there is enough water in the drains.

We have isolated reports of property flooding. We would encourage members of the public to report flooding to the incident hotline or to Somerset Council.

We are meeting with Local Resilience Forum partners and coordinating closely with Somerset Council and the emergency services. The incident room in Bridgwater is open, and staff are on duty 24 hours a day.

Flooding of some properties close to rivers in the flood warning areas is possible. **Check your risk and the latest warnings and alerts here at <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and-warnings>**

Forecast

Although the weather warnings have now ended there are continued showers of varying intensity forecast over the coming days, with a fresh Yellow warning for rain on Thursday. More rain is forecast into the weekend falling on already saturated ground.

Further spells of wet weather are forecast throughout next week.

Advice for residents

Our Communications Team is sharing information about where to find useful information for what to do to prepare for flooding.

Anyone worried about flooding or impacted by flooding can find advice and guidance at [Flooding information and advice](#) .

If there is serious risk to life due to flooding always call 999.

Anyone needing to leave their home due to flooding is reminded to take any medication they may need with them.

Do not drive through flood water. More information about safety during floods on the road can be found here: [Adverse weather conditions](#)

Schools

There were at least 30 closures today due to the weather. For information on school closures please visit [School closures](#)

Reporting problems

To report flooding on a road or blocked drains on a road use [our report a problem on a road form](#)

If your property is owned by us and has been affected by flooding, please visit [our Housing repairs page](#) or you can phone us on 0300 123 2224.

For urgent housing needs please contact Somerset Council housing team on 0800 123 2224. Further information can be found on our website www.somerset.gov.uk/housing-support/homelessness-guidance/

Waste collections

Due to the high number of inaccessible properties and the impact of road and travel disruption, crews will not be able to reach everyone.

- Recycling collections missed on Tuesday: residents should bring their boxes and bag in, and re-present their recycling on their next scheduled collection day.
- Rubbish collections missed on Tuesday: crews will attempt to return later in the week, which could include collection on Saturday 31 January.
- Garden Waste collections missed on Tuesday: crews will attempt to return later in the week, which could include collection on Saturday 31 January.

Residents should leave their rubbish and garden bins out for a return collection. Keep an eye on social media for updates as the position may change quickly. Residents can also report a missed collection online, where details of recollection will be available: [www.somerset.gov.uk/missed-collection](#)

Stay up to date

For the latest travel updates visit our [Travel Somerset Facebook page](#) or our [Roadworks and travel information page](#)

Find out the current status of roads that have [Emergency road closure gates](#)