

Flood Wardens & Community Resilience

Devon County Council Flood Risk Management

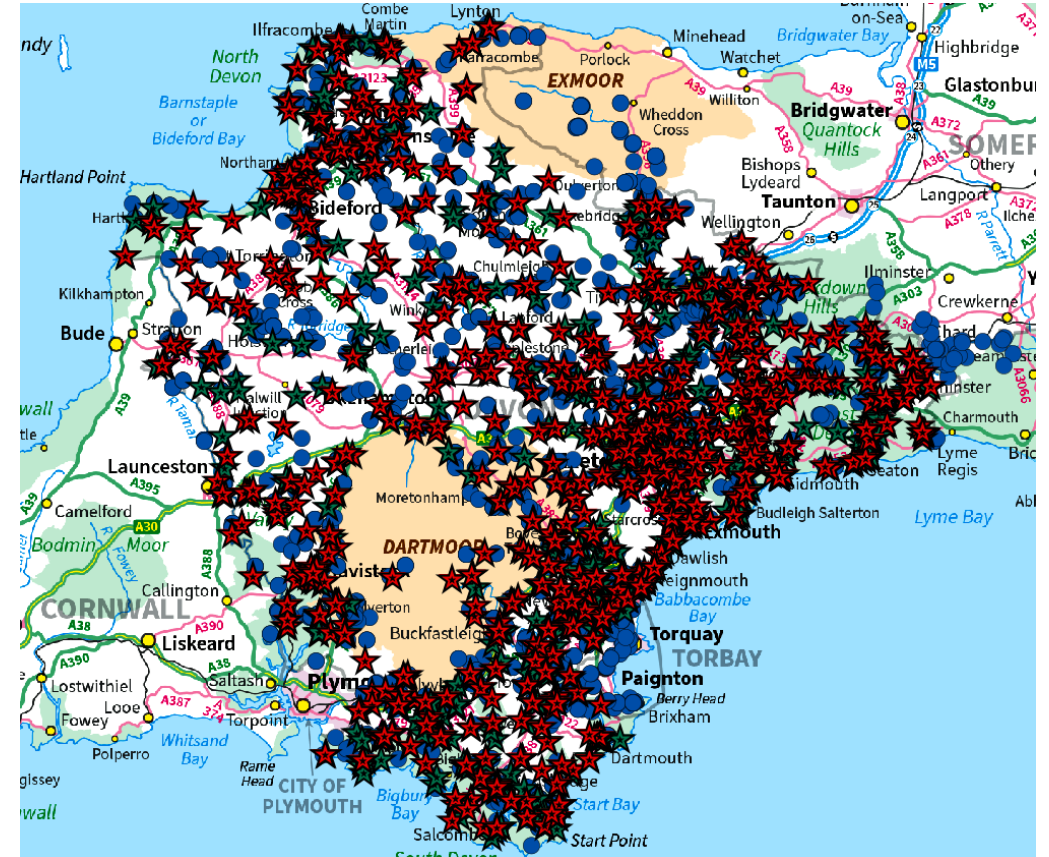
Jago Burris – Senior Flood & Coastal Risk Officer

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Flood Risk in Devon

- Devon has the most Rapid Response Catchments (RRCs) of any county in England. These are small, steep catchments which react quickly to rainfall meaning flooding can occur quickly.
- We experience surface water, Ordinary Watercourse, Main River, coastal, sewer, and groundwater flooding.
- Every year in Devon we can get dozens to hundreds of properties experiencing internal property flooding.
- Climate change will continue to make this worse as we see more frequent extreme weather. By 2070 we will have 4x more 20mm/hr events each year – Met Office.



Locations affected by flooding in Devon

Who is responsible for flood risk management?

Responsibility for managing flood risk is divided amongst various organisations and groups.

- Devon County Council
- Environment Agency
- South West Water
- District Councils
- Riparian landowners
- The community and individuals



DCC Flood Risk Management team

Planning/ SuDS team

- Statutory consultee on major planning applications
- Encouraging Sustainable Drainage Systems

DRIP

- Externally funded project
- Natural Flood Management and other innovative flood resilience pilots

Projects team

- Deliver Local Strategy
- Property Flood Resilience
- Flood Alleviation Schemes

Area team

- Land Drainage Consents
- Ordinary Watercourse Enforcement
- Flood Investigations
- Local flooding issues
- Flood Recovery

Website: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/>

Email: floodrisk@devon.gov.uk

Devon Community Resilience Forum

- Funded by DCC and the EA to improve community resilience.
- Tends to focus on flooding due to funding but covers whole society resilience.
- Works on helping communities to produce and update emergency plans.
- Community Emergency Hubs
<https://www.depp.org.uk/document/community-resilience-hubs-information-booklet/>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kl5h_bQF4c
- Grant funding for emergency plans and equipment.
- Members including DCC (Flood risk, climate, emergency planning, public health), Environment Agency, Devon Communities Together, DS Fire and Rescue, DALC.



Website: <https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/devon-community-resilience-forum>

Email: dcrf@devoncommunities.org.uk

Community Resilience

- There are lots of resources available on improving community resilience.
 - Government's prepare campaign: <https://prepare.campaign.gov.uk/>
 - Government flooding pages: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/environment-countryside/flooding-extreme-weather>
 - DCRF resources: <https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/resilience-forum-resources>
 - Communities Prepared handbooks: <https://www.communitiesprepared.org.uk/>
 - The flood hub - <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/>
 - DCIS LRF - <https://www.dcisprepared.org.uk/>

Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP)

- Working with 32 communities across Devon to increase resilience to flooding
 - Natural Flood Management
 - Smart technology
 - Emergency plans and flood group support



**Devon Resilience
Innovation Project
DRIP**



DCC Flood Warden Scheme

- DCC is developing a Flood Warden Scheme for volunteers to help make their community more resilient to flooding.
- Flood Wardens can carry out a wide range of activities which will make their community more resilient such as creating an emergency plan, sharing advice, and being a link between the community and the authorities.
- The Flood Warden role is entirely voluntary and there are no requirements to carry out any specific activities when performing the role. Each volunteer can carry out the role within their capabilities.

How to get involved

Email floodrisk@devon.gov.uk and say that you are interested in volunteering as a Flood Warden



We will send you details about the role and links to the training and sign-up form.



Complete free online training from Communities Prepared and attend a live session.



Complete the sign-up form on the DCC FRM website



We will receive the form and contact you to let you know you are signed up

Communities Prepared

- *“Communities Prepared is a national community resilience programme that equips Community Emergency Volunteers (CEV) and Flood Warden groups with the knowledge and confidence to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a range of emergencies, from flooding and severe weather incidents to pandemics.”**
- They have information and training on their website.
- Complete four of their online training courses
 - Flood Volunteer
 - What happens during an emergency?
 - What can a volunteer do to help?
 - Emergency Recovery

*<https://www.communitiesprepared.org.uk/>



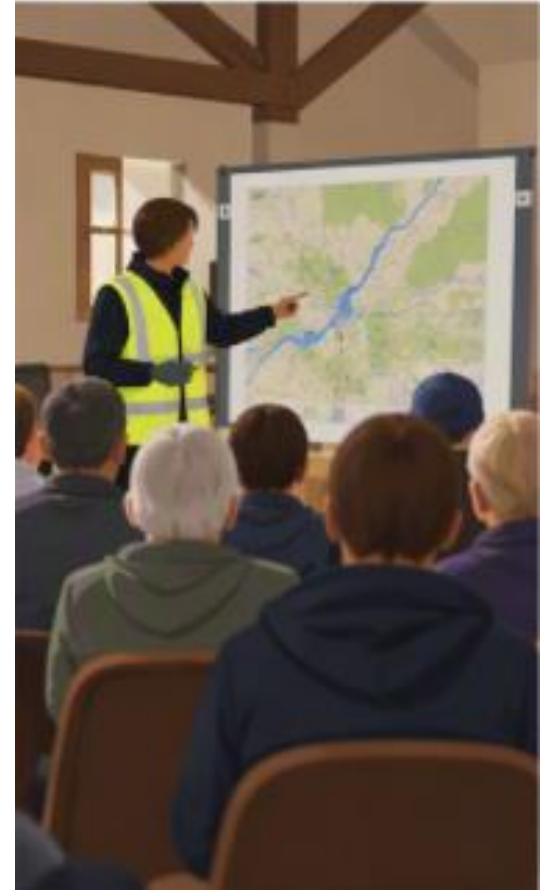
Insurance and responsibilities

- For the Flood Warden scheme, DCC does not provide public liability insurance for this voluntary work. The Flood Warden scheme is mostly based on communicating, gathering information, and carrying out an Emergency Plan. Any practical work that is needed on the highway should be carried out by a Road Warden rather than a Flood Warden. Public liability insurance is provided to the Road Warden scheme.
- The Flood Warden is a voluntary role and there are no explicit responsibilities that a Flood Warden must fulfil. They should work to help make their community more resilient to flooding but will not be held responsible for any flooding that occurs.
- [Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Act 2015](#)

What type of things can a Flood Warden do?

Before a flood

- Help their community to create an emergency plan.
- Sign up to receive flood alerts for their area.
- Identify sources of flood risk, properties and infrastructure at risk, and vulnerable people.
- Monitor watercourses, culverts, and drains.
- Raise awareness of the risk of flooding and help others prepare.
- Promote communication channels.
- Familiarise themselves with the roles of the relevant authorities and where to get the right information.



What type of things can a Flood Warden do?

During a flood

- Stay safe.
- Enact the community emergency plan.
- Provide warnings and information to the community.
- Encourage others to take action.
- Gather information about the flood.
- Relay information from and to authorities or emergency services.
- Check on vulnerable people and affected residents if safe to do so.



What type of things can a Flood Warden do?

After a flood

- Assist their community with clearing up.
- Collecting information.
- Provide information on recovery.
- Support affected individuals and their community.
- Review the community emergency plan.



What type of things should a Flood Warden not do?

- Put themselves at risk during the flood event.
- Disregard their own resilience.
- Put themselves in a difficult situation with other people.
- Carry out any activity with which they are not comfortable or not trained to do.
- Enter someone's private property or take responsibility for protecting someone else's property.
- Ignore advice from emergency services and local authorities.



Discussion: What else could a Flood Warden do?

- Discuss whether there are other actions that you think a Flood Warden could do before, during, or after a flood event.
- Are there any actions mentioned that you think a Flood Warden should not do?
- Are there actions specific to your community that Flood Warden could do?

Dangers of flood water and flooding

- Contaminated water
- Raised river levels – fast flow – strainers
- Submerged hazards
- Debris – mud
- Submersion/drowning/hypothermia/cold water shock
- Electrical/gas hazards
- Storm hazards – high wind and falling branches and debris
- Hostile people and animals
- Damaged structures – buildings, bridges, river banks

Staying safe during a flood

- Don't walk or drive through flood water.
- Only walk on surfaces which you can see.
- Be aware of your environment – the situation may change.
- Follow procedures set out in your emergency plan.
- Don't work alone
- Wear appropriate clothing – PPE/high visibility/boots/waterproofs.
- Wash hands and contaminated clothing/items.

Information gathering and sharing

- Take photographs and videos
- Record direction of the flow and water levels
- Record properties and roads that may have been affected.
- Share information with the Local Authority, EA, or emergency services.
- Whatsapp/social media groups can be used to share information with your community
- Responsible management of information related to properties and individuals.



What does DCC FRM team provide?

- A detailed role profile of the activities that you might carry out as part of the role.
- Ongoing advice on how to carry out the role and answer any questions.
- Assistance in creating a Community Emergency Plan through the Devon Community Resilience Forum grant funding and equipment required for the plan.
- Material such as leaflets on PFR, flood recovery, and riparian responsibilities

DCC's other community schemes

DCC has more community self-help schemes run by our Highways and Public Rights of Way teams.

- Snow Warden
- Parish Paths Partnership Scheme
- Highway Self Help scheme
- Road Warden Scheme

Find out more on their website:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/devonhighways/self-help/self-help-and-community-support-schemes>

Discussion: What are the barriers to getting involved?

- What support/resources might a Flood Warden need?
- Would you volunteer to be a Flood Warden?
- Do you think this would be beneficial to your community?
- How else could DCC FRM help your community be more resilient to flooding?

Thank you and any questions?

- Follow up questions:
 - Email: floodrisk@devon.gov.uk
 - Call: 0345 155 1015 ask for the flood risk team