

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY SOUTH WEST REGION**

**WESSEX REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE – 13 JANUARY 2014**

**PAPER BY: WESSEX AREA FLOOD & COASTAL RISK MANAGER**

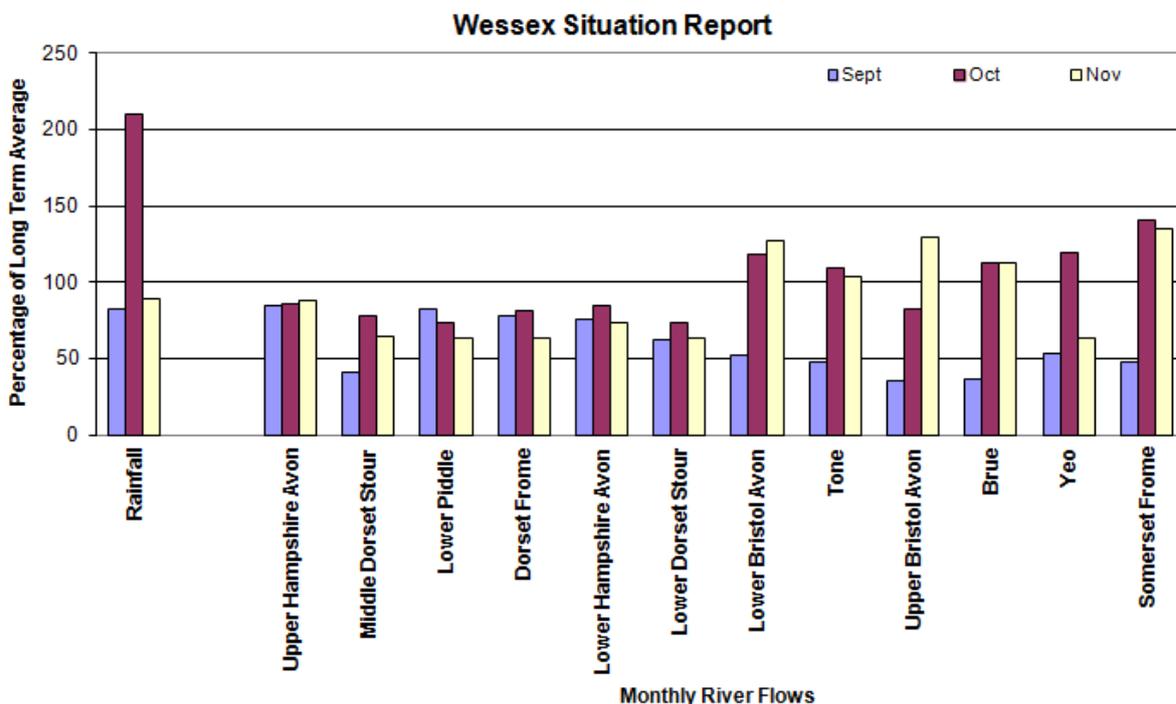
**SUBJECT: WESSEX AREA FLOOD & COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report and appendices and to approve the 2013/2014 Local Levy programmes in Appendix 3.

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Wessex Situation Report**

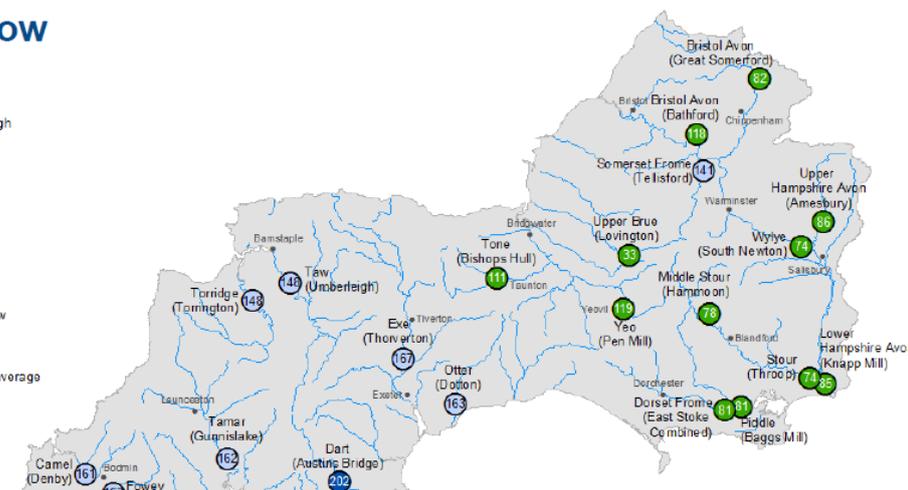


**1.1.1 Fluvial and Groundwater conditions**

Despite rainfall being 180% of the long term average during October, river levels across Wessex area have generally been within the normal band throughout the period. Groundwater levels on the Chalk have remained firmly in the safe zone.

**River Flow**

- Exceptionally high
- Notably high
- Above normal
- Normal
- Below normal
- Notably low
- Exceptionally low
- No data
- % of long term average



### 1.1.2 Tidal situation

High tides during mid-September led to a number of Flood Alerts being issued along the Somerset Coast at Porlock Weir, Severn Beach, Dunster and Pill and Shirehampton.

The St Jude storm on the 27 October led to Flood Alerts being issued for Christchurch Harbour. Large waves along the South Coast triggered the East and West Coast Flood Alerts to be triggered and Flood Warnings to be issued for Chiswell, Lyme Regis and West Bay.

### 1.2 Flood Warnings Issued

	September	October	November
<b>Flood Alert</b>			
Fluvial	13	22	12
Tidal	0	5	24
Groundwater S Wessex	0	0	0
<b>Flood Warning</b>			
Fluvial	0	4	0
Tidal	0	3	6
Groundwater S Wessex	0	0	0
<b>Severe Flood Warning</b>			
Fluvial	0	0	0
Tidal	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>42</b>

## 2.0 ASSET PERFORMANCE (AP) TEAM

### 2.1 Condition of flood assets – Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 962

Since the start of the financial year we have reduced the number of failing assets in all consequence categories. A number of flood recovery projects are being progressed across the region which will contribute to delivery of the regional target. These newly passing assets will balance against in-year failures. Data changes associated with the transfer to Asset Information Management System (AIMS) are still causing some fluctuation in the overall number of assets that are included in KPI targets. As we improve data quality the overall asset base will become more stable and this will aid our delivery of this KPI.

*See Appendix 1a - b for more information on the systems containing failing assets in Wessex.*

### 2.2 Asset Inspections

Asset inspections carried out in the last quarter:

Month	Bank defence inspected (km)	Total no. flood defence assets*
September 2013	187.52	1033
October 2013	198.20	1146
November 2013	132.27	746

\* Total number of flood defence assets inspected, including structures and linear defences.

### 2.3 Maintenance/Incident Response

Routine site checks continue to be conducted on a weekly, fortnightly and monthly basis. Scheduled in-channel weed cutting has been completed on main rivers; as has the majority of grass cutting. A slight delay to urban in-channel hand clearance of vegetation will be caught up weather permitting.

Repairs to Glastonbury Mill Stream bank, adjacent to the B3151 are now complete. The bank had extensive rodent/mole damage with severe seepage where tree roots had been disturbed. The repairs consisted of a trenched core with waterproof membrane backfilled with compacted material. The bank has been reinstated to its highest level with low spots repaired.

Repairs are about to commence on three boat ramps at locations on the Rivers Kenn and Banwell. This will allow us to carry out next year's routine maintenance more efficiently through the use of weed boats.

The last three months have produced some very wet spells. The incident room was opened for 24 hours on 26 October, Field teams were heavily involved with pre-site checks in the build-up to the event, and site debris clearance following. No properties were flooded.

A series of flapped outfalls in Bridport on the River Asker have been reinstated after the headwalls were washed out by prolonged high



flows. The outfalls allow the dryside of the defences to drain without allowing high flows to outflank the embankment and flood properties. On the River Asker, at Lee Lane Bridge an embankment that had been undercut and slumped has been repaired.

Maiden Newton Bypass channel was desilted to ensure it operates at its design level. An accumulation of silt and gravel on the off-take weir had prevented high flows from being siphoned off at the required level. The works ensure the channel provides the maximum level of protection.

Desilting works at Fisherbridge on the River Jordan have been completed to improve conveyance under a road bridge. The bridge was a pinch point within the recently constructed flood alleviation scheme and could not be modified as part of the scheme. Desilting has now optimised capacity beneath the bridge.

### 2.3.1 Withdrawal of maintenance

We continue to work closely with our partners to agree a way forward regarding assets which perform a limited flood risk management function.

We are currently re-negotiating the lease with Langport Town Council (LTC) on Environment Agency land at Cocklemoor. An independent valuation obtained from the Valuation Office Agency in September has been approved by the Agency. We are awaiting a reply from LTC.

**See Appendix 2 for the map showing our Working Locations and Incident Response from September to November 2013.**

## 2.4 Projects

### 2.4.1 Local Levy Programme

**See Appendix 3 for an update on the local levy programme.**

#### 2.4.1.1 Charminster

Agreement in principle has been reached with the church and key local stakeholders on a solution to provide improved flood protection. We are now developing the outline design in consultation with Dorset County Council bridges and highways departments. We plan to present the business case for approval next spring, followed by detailed design in 2014/15.

#### 2.4.1.2 East Beach Flood Wall Study

Further consultations on East Beach have now been delayed until next year, when it is hoped the preferred approach to the whole West Bay flood cell will have been established.

#### 2.4.1.3 Mechanical and Electrical (M&E) projects

<b>Asset Identification</b>	This project continues to provide liaison with the area AP and other Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) teams to produce M&E investigations, reviews, recommendations, technical support, design development and project delivery. Reviews and assessments are also being carried out to establish future withdrawal of maintenance plans for those assets for which there is no longer a future requirement.
<b>M&amp;E Update Programme</b>	This project provides minor works for updating existing plant with new equipment required by regulation, for emergency procedures or to improve efficiency. The 2013/14 programme of works is now complete. This consisted of in-situ generator equipment updates, programmable logic controller replacements and some updates required following recent flood incidents.
<b>Brigand's Creek M&amp;E</b>	The recommended works from the M&E review are underway with a programmed completion date of February 2014.
<b>Barlins Pumping Station</b>	The civil engineering site installation works have now been completed and the pump and switchgear installation will be completed during December, with final commissioning by February 2014.

#### 2.4.1.4 Parrett and Sowey Flood Management Improvements

Works on site are now complete, with the newly lowered Allermoor Spillway put into operation following heavy rain in October.

#### 2.4.1.5 Preston, River Jordan

Works to address a resident's flood risk concerns were completed in September and were well received.

#### 2.4.1.6 Property Level Protection (PLP)

As part of a five year programme, PLP measures are planned for 2013/14 for the following sites:

- Stoney Lane, near Christchurch in Dorset,
- Dauntsey in Wiltshire,
- Chew Stoke in Bath and North East Somerset,
- Horner, Allerford and Bossington in Somerset and

- Shipton Bellinger in Hampshire.

Preparations are now well underway. Specialist consultants have carried out the majority of the PLP property surveys, with the remaining surveys scheduled for December and January.

A contractor has been appointed for the 2013/14 installation works via competitive tender. They have already started to review the survey reports and are about to visit the first communities. We have also appointed independent site supervisors to quality control the works and to manage the contracts. Discussions are well underway with all interested parties and stakeholders regarding the potential PLP measures and funding.

We continue to work closely with lead local flood authorities (LLFAs) across the region. Some LLFAs are planning to make submissions and gain approvals for their own PLP schemes for local flooding issues.

#### **2.4.1.7 Wilton Wylve flood defence**

The preferred option is to construct 175 metres of embankment and a low level barrier. Initial consultation has started with affected residents and landowners to inform the business case and detailed design. Construction is expected to be completed in 2015/16 in line with funding allocation.

#### **2.4.1.8 French Weir, Taunton**

We are developing the design scope for repair of French Weir. We need to ensure erosion to upstream flood defences is minimised and as the landowner that the public right of way across the structure remains in a safe condition.

#### **2.4.1.9 Firepool Weir, Taunton**

The sections of the weir in poor repair are owned by a third party although we have operated the sluices in the past and built a fish pass on the structure. We are arranging meetings with landowners to establish and agree responsibilities and measures which will ensure the weir remains serviceable.

#### **2.4.1.10 Parrett Estuary Cannington Bends**

The business case is under review to develop the scope of works and programme. We will submit an application for funding approval in 2013/14.

#### **2.4.1.11 Wick (Christchurch)**

The existing flood defence scheme partially protects the community from the tidal waters of Christchurch Harbour and the River Stour. Plans are underway to improve these defences. This will consist of raising and extending the existing flood embankment and flood wall, along with raising of other areas to ensure there is a consistent standard of protection.

The business case for these improvements was approved by the Environment Agency's Project Appraisal Board at the end of August. A project manager has been appointed from national capital programme management service (ncpms). A commission for design was awarded in November and will be completed by April 2014 allowing our field delivery team to carry out construction works in 2014/15.

#### **2.4.1.12 Reservoir Projects**

The programme includes improvement works at Cribbs Causeway, Tubbs Bottom, Curry Moor, Westford and Bruton Dam reservoirs. The work has been packaged into a single contract to deliver efficiency savings. Tenders were invited before the end of the year and award is planned in early 2014.



#### **2.4.1.13 Brue Pilot**

We held our first stakeholder briefing in mid-October which was well attended and included landowners, conservation bodies, Local Authorities, the Axe Brue Drainage Board, the National Farmers Union and Country Landowners & Business Association.

We have been working closely with landowners interested in completing de-silting on the Decoy Rhyne and a section of the Brue between Westhay Bridge and North Drain Pumping Station. We anticipate work will commence on the Decoy Rhyne within the next few months.

We are organising a depot open day at Bradney for February 2014. We will showcase our maintenance machinery and explain our maintenance programme for the Brue Catchment. This will allow us to improve communications surrounding what we do and why.

The pilot will run for one year from October 2013 and will provide an opportunity for landowners to trial undertaking their own maintenance within a streamlined consenting framework. We will report progress back to our national team, who will collate the findings from all seven national pilots. This information will be used to inform government and potentially influence national policy on permitting and consenting.

## **2.4.2 Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA)**

### **2.4.2.1 Asset reconditioning project (REC Programme)**

The REC programme has been utilised to repair damage from the flooding last year. Good weather during the summer months allowed us to progress a number of raised bank repairs. Recent wet weather has delayed the completion of some schemes requiring earthworks, though these are still programmed to be delivered this financial year.

The elements of the REC programme being delivered by ncpms are shortly due to be tendered to the Minor Works Framework with delivery planned for early 2014.

Part of the Wessex REC is a programme of pinch point removal across the Somerset Levels and Moors. Working with the Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium locations have been identified on the Rivers Tone and Parrett as well as the North Drain in the Brue catchment where localised silt removal will increase channel capacity. We have carried out sampling to identify contaminant levels within the silt and undertaken vegetation control to improve access and mitigate for the potential presence of water voles. Field teams began work on these pinch points in October, but high river levels have forced suspension. We are planning to re-commence at five sites in late November. The remaining locations will be delivered by contractors working on the Environment Agency's Minor Works Framework, with award due at the beginning of December.

Indicative allocations for next financial year have been received. Schemes have been prioritised on health and safety grounds and a priority basis. The allocation is just over half of the bid made, but we are confident we can deliver the highest priority schemes within this programme.

#### **Midsomer Norton Tunnel inlet works**

The project to in-fill a scour hole in the approach to the Midsomer Norton Tunnel inlet has now been completed. The work was delivered by our field team with minimal disruption to local residents.

#### **St. Anne's Trash Screen**

The trash screen improvements at St. Anne's have been completed. We designed the solution with installation carried out by our field team.

#### **Severn House Farm Tidal Defence Scheme**

The repair works on the concrete wave return walls, stone revetments and expansion joints have been completed. These works were undertaken by our field team.

#### **Ablake Sluice and Frieze Hill**

Bank repair works to Ablake Sluice and wall and bank repairs to Frieze Hill Flood Wall are due to be constructed by the end of 2013/14. The two sites will be packaged into a single contract to deliver efficiencies.

#### **Broadway (Littlemead)**

Structural investigations and assessment has determined the scope of repairs which are being procured for construction before the end of the financial year.

#### **Blandford St Mary Pumping Station**

Repairs to the outfall apron and improved operator access arrangements have been designed. Works will be undertaken by our field delivery team by the end of the financial year.

### **2.4.2.2 Bath Flood Defence Scheme – Structural Assessment (local levy and FDGiA)**

Surveys and non-intrusive inspections have confirmed there is no immediate risk of structural failure to the existing defences. A monitoring regime has been developed including remedial action if deterioration is identified in the future.

### **2.4.2.3 Bridge Inspections**

The contract is due to be awarded in December 2013 however reduced funding will limit the number of inspections we can complete this financial year. Inspections that are not reliant on the lower winter pen levels will be delayed until next financial year.

### **2.4.2.4 Bridge Maintenance Programme**

Our field delivery teams are completing the 2013/14 programme of work which has been reduced due to funding restrictions. The programme has been reduced using a risk based approach together with a review of our ownership and maintenance responsibilities.

### **2.4.2.5 Cannington Flood Defence Scheme**

The Project Appraisal Report was approved in November. The preferred option is to construct a new flood relief channel to the south of Cannington with design planned to start later this financial year. Contributions promised during the appraisal will be formalised before the planned construction in early 2015. Discussions are ongoing with Somerset County Council with regard to their involvement with the scheme.



#### 2.4.2.6 Congresbury Yeo Tidal Banks

Further archaeological and ground investigations have now been undertaken. A design and build contract is due to be awarded in December 2013.

#### 2.4.2.7 Coombend Culvert and Trash Screen Improvements

We are developing the procurement strategy for the improvements. Negotiations are ongoing with Wessex Water to secure contributions and construction is planned for late 2013/14.

#### 2.4.2.8 Downton Pumping Station

Any further remedial works have been suspended until investigations of the wider drainage network have been completed and appraised.

#### 2.4.2.9 Gundry weir fish pass, Bridport

Works have started to construct the fish pass, replacement footbridge over the weir, and restoration of Allington pond. Works are due to be completed before the end of the financial year.



#### 2.4.2.10 Lyewater Culvert Remedial Improvements

The business case has been approved and we are developing the procurement strategy. Stakeholder consultation is proceeding and construction is due to be completed by the end of March 2014.

#### 2.4.2.11 Pill Pile Wall

We are investigating options to maintain and re-paint the existing sheet piles. We anticipate that the appraisal will be completed early next financial year.

#### 2.4.2.12 Poole and Wareham Strategy

The Strategy Appraisal Report has been reviewed by the Large Projects Review Group and Defra. There are a small number of queries outstanding, which the project team are answering. The environmental Statement of Case is to be submitted to Defra in December 2013 and Directors briefed. We anticipate receiving formal approval in early 2014.

##### Wareham Coastal Change Project

This project deals with the implementation of the Strategy's preferred options for the Wareham area for the first epoch, up to the year 2030. These preferred options are:

- a) 'Managed realignment' for the Arne Moors tidal embankment, and
- b) 'Maintain legal obligations' for the other tidal embankments along the Dorset Frome and River Piddle.

A strategic delivery group has been set up, consisting of senior managers from the four departments involved and key internal services suppliers, in order to co-ordinate outputs. Urgent works at Turners Cove Sluice on the Arne Moors are being project managed by ncpms and other projects are being shaped for commencement in 2014/15.

#### 2.4.2.13 Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management (FRM) Strategy

The formal review process for the draft Strategy has started involving the Large Projects Review Group, Defra and Welsh Government. We will shortly publish documents that summarise the responses to the Strategy consultation (20 May – 31 July 2013) and answer the many detailed questions received. We will then re-publish the strategy online with changes made to documentation as a result of the findings from the consultation, so that all can access a "working draft" whilst the formal approval process is underway.

#### 2.4.2.14 Steart Coastal Management Project

Construction work is due to be completed in early December and operational responsibility for the site will pass to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT). The Environment Agency and the Internal Drainage Board retain operational responsibility for key flood risk management assets such as tidal outfalls and viewed rhynes. We will return to site in summer 2014 to remove a section of the existing Parrett banks and allow the seawater to flood over the new inter-tidal area. WWT are making preparations to permit public access to the Reserve (named 'Steart Marshes' by the local community) from January 2014. The project has continued to enjoy the support and involvement of the community. The final monthly public meeting was well attended and Parish Council representatives recorded their appreciation of our approach to community liaison throughout the construction.



In September the project received national Exemplar Award for outstanding performance in health, safety and the environment.

#### **2.4.2.15 Stolford Flood Defence Scheme**

The appraisal has been awarded and the Project Appraisal Report is due to be submitted in autumn 2014.

#### **2.4.2.16 Cannington Outfalls (Framework for Action)**

Field drainage improvements were completed for an affected landowner in October.

#### **2.4.2.17 Swanage Flood Storage Reservoir (FSR)**

Repair works required to Swanage FSR No.1, following last year's floods, are being carried out by our field services team. Despite wet weather the bank slippage repairs were completed by the end of November. Work at the site will be suspended over winter, and the team will return in spring to install the improved drainage.

Similar works at FSR No.2 are programmed for 2015/16.



#### **2.4.2.18 River Brue Fish Pass Improvements**

Consultation through the appraisal has identified the preferred solution for weir maintenance and fish passage at Flights Hole Weir. A funding application will be submitted in spring 2014.

#### **2.4.2.19 Colliters Brook De-silt**

The New Colliters Brook was created as part of the 1977 Ashton Vale Flood Defence Scheme. Following a recent survey, it was discovered that the trapezoidal channel was operating at a reduced capacity. De-silting works were undertaken by our field team and the channel has been returned to its original design.

#### **2.4.2.20 Eastville Flood Defence Scheme**

We have undertaken modelling to estimate the number of properties at risk of flooding and the project's viability is being considered before undertaking the full scheme appraisal.

### **2.5 Enforcement issues**

There have been no cautions issued, prosecutions or notices served in the last quarter. Wessex had 120 operational National Incident Recording System (NIRS) incidents – of which 15 involved main river enforcement with three being referred to the relevant Lead Local Flood Authority for ordinary watercourses. The period saw a small number of localised flood events with seasonal increased activity from Asset Performance field teams in response to 27 incidents involving obstruction/debris on main rivers. There have been 12 flood reports generated within the last quarter concerning Flood Resilience response primarily from the late October storm event.

Some examples of enforcement and investigative work this quarter -

- Sydling St Nicholas, Dorchester, an unconsented revetment in the Sydling Brook was adapted and removed voluntarily.
- Heytesbury and Norton Bavant, River Wylde alleged damage to banks proved to be unsubstantiated in one case and limited in the other.
- Bowerswaine on the Gussage Stream, non-flood risk works were conducted without consent and potentially damaging to crayfish populations.
- Fideoak on the River Tone, tree removal has been undertaken by National Grid at an estimated cost of £5,040, after they were informed that otherwise notice would be served.

Concerns are still being raised about the condition of the Clockhouse Stream at Burley Road, Bransgore. A meeting was held to discuss maintenance with the riparian landowner who, along with many other farmers, is having problems coming to terms with our withdrawal of routine maintenance some years ago and refuses to engage in doing the work himself. The owner agreed to carry out works on his half of the stream in response. Further work with the Highway Authority may be required to ease problems to property adjacent to the highway that are vulnerable to vehicle wash and damage.

At Filton Culvert pumping provision appears to be working during high rainfall events. We continue to provide early warning telemetry alarms for this site. The Action Plan has been amended by Network Rail.

### **2.6 Reservoir items**

All Reservoirs in Wessex remain compliant with the requirements of the Reservoirs Act 1975. At Swanage, the repairs to slumping inside the reservoir have been completed and signed off by the Inspecting Engineer. The second phase of works, to improve drainage, are planned for 2013/14.

All six of our other Flood Study Reports (FSRs) that have matters in the interests of safety (MIIOS), are within compliance at present and function. All necessary works have been submitted to ncpsms for work plans to be delivered in an agreed programme. General maintenance items have been agreed and carried out appropriately this year.

A recent return to wet conditions led to the first impoundments at Cerne Abbas and Beaminster during late October.

Enforcement against Scottish & Southern Electricity is still in abeyance whilst the contractor responsible awaits our repair work to be completed; prior to his reinstatement of the grasscrete access ramp that had been excavated to lay cables toward the neighbouring Swanage Railway. It was important that their work did not compromise the urgency of reservoir compliance on the scheme at the same site.

### **3 FLOOD RESILIENCE (FR) TEAM**

#### **3.1 Incident Response**

High tides between the 15 and 21 September required tide watches to be initiated along the Somerset coast. A number of fluvial flood alerts were issued on the 24 September which required check rounds to be completed ahead of the rainfall to ensure watercourses were free from blockages at known pinch points.

On the 27 October, area incident duty teams were prepared for storm St Jude. Widespread flood alerts were issued across Wessex in response to the extensive rainfall forecast. Gratefully, the rainfall did not materialise and flood warnings were only required for the Char and Wriggle catchments.

At the beginning of November a flood report workshop was held in Wincanton to agree consistent data fields for future data collection. The outputs of the workshop will feed into a revised flood report form that the majority of Wessex local flood authorities have agreed to use. The use of common data fields will assist with the collection and sharing of flooded property data and will also feed into the National Environment Agency Project Easimap2 for Incidents.

#### **3.2 Public Awareness Activities**

FR have been working closely with the Asset Performance (South Somerset) team to deliver a series of awareness events aimed specifically at improving public understanding of river systems.

In September, we promoted the work of Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) at Wiltshire and Swindon Local Resilience Forum's Emergency Services day held at Hullavington airfield. A stall was also provided at the Crewkerne Emergency Services and Community Safety day.

We contributed to the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Flood Memories Conference, hosted by University of the West of England.

We are working closely with Somerset County Council to promote the updated flood warning service in Shepton Mallet and encourage the community to produce a flood plan.

By working with our partners including Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (DSFRS), and Somerset County Council, we have secured funding for community based resilience projects. This delivers equipment and resource to proactive communities who want to manage and take ownership of their flood risk. For example the funding has provided sand bag stores, hoppers and personal protective equipment. Those who have received funding include communities affected by flooding in 2012 and Rapid Response Catchments. The momentum and interest from these groups has led to the proposal to form a community led resilience website and forum.

Dorset County Council is producing its Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and has held a series of drop in sessions to learn about people's issues and concerns. We supported them with staff and the provision of our mobile exhibition trailer.

Wiltshire County Council has taken on the organisation of flood warden training due to the development of their community emergency volunteer scheme. Staff held two successful seminars at the Council's salt depots in Highpost and Royal Wootton Bassett with fifty parishes in attendance. We advertised the events through the flood warden network, presented and answered questions on the day. We have run two training sessions in Salisbury and Chippenham for flood wardens, focussing on the role of a warden and acting safely.

#### **September 2013**

- 3 Attended Somerset Village Agents showcase
- 5 Langport system walkover and Langport Flood Forum meeting
- 8 Wiltshire and Swindon Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Emergency Services day at Hullavington Airfield, Chippenham
- 9 Taunton Town Evacuation Meeting
- 9 Congresbury Flood Warden Scheme
- 13 Crewkerne Emergency Services and Community Safety day
- 16 C-catch meeting – joint meeting with the LiCCo (Living with a Changing Coast) team
- 17 Community resilience planning meeting with Bridport Town and West Dorset District Council
- 24 Williton Community Flood Plan meeting

## **October 2013**

- 2 Wiltshire Community Resilience Forum Meeting
- 3 ESRC Flood Memories conference, Gloucester
- 8 Chew Magna public meeting
- 9 Wiltshire Community Resilience Forum Meeting
- 11 Beaminstor – supporting town council and flood wardens to promote the flood plan
- 11 Moorland system walkover
- 16 Wiltshire Flood Warden Training – Salisbury
- 23 Wiltshire Flood Warden Training – Chippenham
- 25 Dorset Flood Warden Seminar
- 30 Ilminster Community Flood plan meeting

## **November 2013**

- 6 Blandford Camp Radio Station (BFBS) meeting to discuss future liaison
- 8 Langport system walkover
- 11 Martinstown – presentation about flood plan to Flood Action Group
- 12 Community Resilience website scoping meeting
- 26 Williton Community Flood plan public meeting
- 29 Sydling St Nicholas – meeting with new parish clerk and chair of parish council regarding flood plans and riparian management

### **3.3 Local Resilience Partner Working**

#### **3.3.1 Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole**

The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole flood plan is due to be revised in December to include all severe weather risks, not just flood risks. Discussions were had about the new Civil Contingencies Unit and sandbag policies.

#### **3.3.2 Wiltshire and Swindon (W&S)**

A meeting of the W&S Local Resilience Forum was held on 20 November. W&S members have been encouraged to take up the now free Targeted Flood Warnings and Extended Floodline services. A draft of the Severe Weather Guide was presented following some changes, this is due to be signed off in mid-December.

Swindon has successfully bid for funding from the Defra Pathfinder project looking at community resilience. East locality was chosen in Swindon with a population of 25,000. Local events will be held to raise awareness and to develop five flood action groups working across a number of agencies. The project has got off to a good start and local media is supportive.

#### **3.3.3 Avon and Somerset (A&S)**

Early warning from the Met Office and proactive involvement from LRF responder agencies ensured that the A&S Local Resilience Forum (LRF) were fully prepared in advance of the St Jude storm. Preparatory work was effectively achieved using the experiences gained during the 2012 floods.

A key theme from the LRF community was the identification of vulnerable people in communities. This is an action which has synergy with the Environment Agency's focus on community engagement and will help to shape the EA's future flood warning services.

### **3.4 Rapid Response Catchments (RRC)**

We continue to engage with those communities at risk of flash flooding. This is to assist with the development and revision of community flood plans and help communities refine what actions they need to take when triggers in their plans are met.

We are working closely with Cornwall Community Flood Forum and Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service to pilot flood warden/volunteer training in a number of rapid response communities prior to it being rolled out more widely.

We have informed 19 of the 20 very high or high priority RRC in Wessex of their flash flood risk. In the remaining community of Crewkerne we are seeking appropriate routes to communicate with "at risk" households.

Eleven communities in RRC have completed community flood plans/emergency plans and we are working with a further seven communities to help them complete their plans. In the two remaining communities, Uploders and Crewkerne, we are actively seeking appropriate routes to communicate with at risk households.

There is a full flood warning service for 18 of these 20 communities, with an additional service being developed in Cheddar. The remaining community is Crewkerne, where works to deal with a collapsed culvert is the primary requirement.

We have developed a new process to identify new RRC, especially those that are less than 3 km<sup>2</sup>, for inclusion in the RRC Register. We are working with our Corporate Information Services Team to

develop automated flood warnings, which can be used where the lead in time to the onset of flooding is very short.

### 3.5 Flood Warning areas

A new flood warning service has been launched for Chideock, a village in West Dorset on the River Winniford. Four of the 26 properties at risk were internally flooded in 2012 with several others affected.

### 3.6 Groundwater and Groundwater Flood Forecasting

Improvements to the groundwater flood warning service continue to be rolled out. Models have been developed that will allow six groundwater specific flood warning areas on the chalk in Wessex.

The service will be improved by the provision of a forecast service based on calculating expected levels five days ahead by adding latent potential and forecast rainfall to the existing groundwater level.

### 3.7 Projects

#### 3.7.1 Ford Signs

Installations continue with a new site identified at Chetnole, West Dorset, bringing the total number of sites to six. Once complete the trial will be concluded, and any future installations will be managed by Highway Authority teams. The Environment Agency will continue to provide access to and expertise with telemetry of river levels where required. A final report will be produced during 2015.



#### 3.7.2 Flood Reconnaissance Information System (FRIS) Replacement – Easimap2 - Incidents

FRIS failed to transfer to the Windows 7 platform and will therefore be replaced by a GIS based alternative. FRIS was the archive for all flood records in the South West. The project has been working with a national data management team to develop a web based GIS tool (Easimap2 - Incidents) which will enable Environment Agency staff and partners to record flood incidents onto a web based mapping tool in real time. The tool will also be able to display current flood warnings and river levels. Individuals could upload layers as required. The job of validating data post event could be shared amongst partners. The tool has recently undergone Beta testing, and was generally well received. New modules will be rolled out in the coming months, and partners should be able to register from 2014.

#### 3.7.3 Whiteboards

The web based interactive whiteboards in the Blandford and Bridgwater incident rooms are now operational. Getting the software installed has been challenging, but the two incident rooms are now able to communicate. This tool will allow us to support each other in the event of one office becoming overloaded, and will also allow us to provide visual support to LRF partners during incidents via the Flood Advisory Service telecoms (FASTCON) or in support of Tactical and Strategic control groups.

## 4.0 PARTNERSHIP AND STRATEGIC OVERVIEW (PSO) TEAM

### 4.1 Coastal matters

We have modelled the risks of breach and asset failure at 59 locations along the Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary coastline in order to understand the implications from an Incident Management, Asset Performance and strategic perspective. This work has provided us with data to compliment our defended and undefended flood zones and overtopping results from coastal flood warning work undertaken in 2012. We plan to combine these models and our other coastal risk data with System Asset Management Plan benefits, defence condition and potential funding opportunities to help understand how our risks may change when we increase the likelihood of breach formation through asset deterioration and sea-level rise. This work forms an integral part of the South West Coastal Flood Risk Review.

Sand Bay Beach Management Plan is now complete. Its purpose was to evaluate the success of the 1984 recharge with a view to understanding the timeline for intervention in the future. The original scheme was considered to need additional recharges every 10 years or so, however this report has quantified beach losses/gains and it is now clear that the scheme has been excellent over its lifetime and proved to be very cost effective due to the pocket beach nature of the local area. The report has discovered low spots in two locations that warrant future investigation, but the need for a major recharge has been estimated to be 20 years away. The wider strategic implications for defending this frontage is linked to the ability of the defences to the east at Woodspring Bay to provide the complete flood risk solution and this needs more work.

The Weston Bay Beach Management Plan is currently on consultation. The plan focuses on the beach recycling work undertaken by North Somerset Council and looks at the benefit that the dunes at Uphill offer and the need to monitor at this location as part of the Strategic Coastal Monitoring Programme. Appraisal of the Axe banks has also highlighted some low spots that require attention.

#### 4.1.1 Living with a Changing Coast (LiCCo) European Interreg Project

At Poole Harbour, we have been working with the North Swanage Landslide Co-ordination Group, local residents, businesses and beach hut owners to provide expert advice about the landslides and clear-up operation.

In Wareham, we have helped with the production of the local flood plan and identified ways to include community resilience and adaptation measures.

In Studland, we are working with a children's writer and local artist to produce a coastal change challenge. This will be a fun, educational, self-guided walk around Studland's beaches enabling children to learn about coastal change and adaptation.

#### 4.2 Development and Flood Risk issues

##### 4.2.1 Statistics

Total number of Flood Defence Consent (FDC) pre-applications and applications dealt with:

	<b>This period: Sept 2013 – Nov 2013</b>	<b>This Year: Mar 2013 – Nov 2013</b>	<b>Last Year: Mar 2012 – Feb 2013</b>
FDC Pre-application Enquiries Received	37	81	157
FDC Applications Received	146	492	568
FDC Applications Determined	161	413	548

Note: Figures are indicative only

##### 4.2.2 Workload streamlining

We have been working closely with the Sustainable Places (SP) team to help them develop Local Flood Risk Standing Advice (Local FRSA). Due to resource pressures the SP team aim to streamline how they deal with planning consultations, and as flood risk issues form a significant proportion of their workload these have been considered a priority. We will continue to work with SP as they refine their new Local FRSA, and will support the roll-out programme to Local Planning Authorities planned for early 2014. The intention is for Local Planning Authorities to start using the advice in April 2014. Potentially, Local FRSA could be applied to 20 to 25 percent of planning consultations.

##### 4.2.3 Notable development items and general policy overview

###### 4.2.3.1 Hinkley Point C new nuclear power station

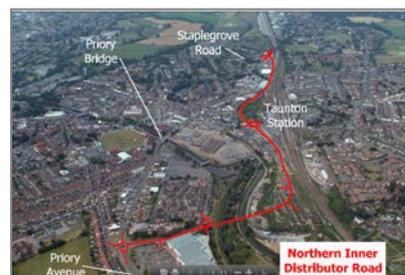
Whilst the main construction project remains in abeyance pending commercial investment decisions by EDF, we have continued technical discussions with their representatives about our requirements for tidal flood defence monitoring at Combrich Wharf. Due to significant proposed piling operations, we are working with Asset Performance colleagues to ensure that stringent controls and monitoring will be carried out by EDF contractors to safeguard the structural integrity of the various flood walls and revetments during the wharf construction phase, should the project proceed.

We have also been reviewing National Grid's pre-DCO submission documents, including their Flood Risk Assessments for the proposed 400Kv cable route corridor between Bridgwater and Avonmouth, sealing end compounds, sub-stations, and associated works, to ensure that our FCRM interests will not be adversely affected (crosses 13 main rivers). We also want to ensure that National Grid is mindful of flood resilience measures in certain high flood risk areas. Lately, we have been working closely with Asset Performance colleagues to define (and relay back to National Grid) our access and maintenance requirements for each of the 400Kv cable crossings, to ensure that safe working margins can be secured at each main river crossing point.

###### 4.2.3.2 Taunton Northern Inner Distributor Road (NIDR)

We are working closely with Somerset County Council and their main contractor Carillion to agree Flood Defence Consent for this important road network upgrade. The NIDR will cross the River Tone and canal a short distance downstream of Firepool weir on a new viaduct.

Whilst the permanent bridge will have negligible impact on flood levels and flows in the River Tone, the scheme requires a temporary pipe flume crossing to achieve construction access to the narrow strip of land between the river and the canal. We have been reviewing Carillion's design and checking hydraulic modelling work to ensure that this temporary structure will not lead to any unacceptable increases to flood risk for the duration of the 12 month construction phase.



###### 4.2.3.3 Weston Villages Strategic Flood Solution – Super Pond and River Banwell

We continue to work with North Somerset Council and Persimmon Homes to deliver the Super Pond and River Banwell schemes.

#### 4.2.3.4 South Bristol Link Rapid Transit development

Since the last paper we have provided a supportive flood risk response to North Somerset Council's planning application subject to a number of conditions on various technical matters.

When reviewing the site specific Flood Risk Assessment we reviewed detailed hydraulic modelling, which has proven that the highway embankment will not change existing flow paths or reduce floodplain volumes within the Ashton Vale valley. We have secured a new hard standing area at the entrance to the New Colliters tunnel and ensured that our maintenance access has been protected.

#### 4.2.3.5 Warminster

We continue to work with two consultants on proposals for residential development on land shown as partly at risk of flooding from the River Were. They have been working together to carry out a flood risk study to improve the published flood map, and since the last paper a planning application has been submitted for one parcel of land. The developer has submitted the results of their study in support of the planning application and we are at present appraising their work. We will provide comment to the Local Planning Authority in due course to allow them to make an informed planning decision.

### 4.3 Environment

#### 4.3.1 River Restoration

##### Keward Brook open-channel restoration

Through planning and Flood Defence Consent negotiations, a developer agreed to open up a 150 metre length of culverted watercourse, which conveys the Keward Brook, underneath a former factory site in Wells. The original twin culverts and trash screen, which regularly blocked causing a flood risk issue, have been removed. The watercourse is being temporarily diverted through an open channel. The permanent restored open channel will come online in January 2014.



**Left** - Original trash screen at entrance to twin culverts now removed.

**Right** - Restored Keward Brook open channel. Rip-rap yet to be laid and riffles formed.

##### Dorset Frome Rehabilitation Plan

Construction at all three sites, Louds Mill, Hurst Bridge and North Channel has now been completed by the operations delivery team. Significant river improvements were achieved at all sites including additional benefits to the environment and the tenant farmer.

A contract has been let through the WEM Framework to CH2M Hill to provide detailed design support for the Lower Woodsford project. The project is due to be delivered by operations delivery summer 2014. This is a significant project in terms of scale as it includes 11 hectares of habitat creation, more than the total target of the Dorset Frome Rehabilitation Plan. The majority of habitat created will be woodland and wet woodland, this part of the project is funded through the English Woodland Grant Scheme.

Further appraisals and designs are also progressing at Holme Bridge and Lower Woodsford.

Other projects including the Fish Pass at Sydling St Nicholas on the Upper Frome have been delivered through partnership with the West Country Rivers Trust using Water Framework Directive funding.

##### River Avon Restoration Project

Three projects on the Upper Avon (Hampshire), A9 France Farm, A8 Charlton St Peter and A91 Longstreet have now been completed using contractors on the Southern River Restoration Framework. These projects included a range of techniques such as riffle creation, bank reprofiling, bed raising, pond desilting and installation of Large Woody Debris (LWD).

The project at Daslett Farm Hatches on the River Nadder has been suspended due to October's wet weather. Landowners involved were concerned that use of heavy machinery would damage adjacent fields. LWD has been installed, leaving the major works to be completed in 2014.

Detailed designs are progressing at 12 sites which will be produced in packages and completed by May 2014. The first package is due December/January including N51 Wilton Pond Hatches, N36-38 Hurdcott House, A11 Upavon, and A95 Netheravon Bridge (downstream). Available funding will determine how many are delivered summer 2014. Part of the wider Avon Strategy has also been delivered through partnership with the Wessex Chalk Streams Project and using other sources of funding (including non Environment Agency sources) at sites such as Gunville Phase 2, Butts Sports Field, Parsonage Farm and the Severalls.

#### 4.4 Flood risk mapping and data issues

As part of the Wessex Priority Modelling Programme we have recently completed modelling studies in Bath (Bristol Avon), Bristol Frome asset failure at Eastville (tested in-house), Washford River catchment, Wessex Coast model and visuals and Wrington (Rye Brook). These will aid our understanding of flood risk, improve our flood warning areas and asset maintenance decisions.

The completed model for Wrington has been licensed to North Somerset Council.

We are currently undertaking the following hydrological and hydraulic (computer) modelling studies:

Location/Catchment	Local Authority (LLFA - if different)
Aller and Horner catchments	West Somerset (Somerset County)
Bridport (R Brit) Remodelling <b>FR</b>	West Dorset (Dorset County)
Bristol Frome (upper catchment)	South Gloucestershire Council
Castle Combe (By Bk)	Wiltshire Council
Chew (upper) catchment	Bath and North East Somerset
Christchurch ( <i>various</i> )	Christchurch District (Dorset County)
Congresbury (Yeo) <b>FR</b>	North Somerset Council
Dorset Frome catchment	<i>Various</i> (Dorset County)
Martock (Hinton Meads Brook) <b>FR</b>	South Somerset District (Somerset County)
Norton Fitzwarren (Halse & Norton Bks)	Taunton Deane (Somerset County)
Spring Gardens (Somerset Frome /Mells River) <b>FR</b>	Mendip District (Somerset County)
Stourpaine asset options (in-house re-run)	North Dorset (Dorset County)
Wey (catchment) <b>FR</b>	Weymouth and Portland (Dorset County)
Williton (Monksilver & Doniford) <b>FR</b>	West Somerset District (Somerset County)
Winterbourne catchment	West Dorset (Dorset County)

Those labelled **FR** are funded through the Flood Recovery budget provided by the Committee. Several of the projects are in partnership with the relevant LLFA.

Due to the Committee's additional support as part of Flood Recovery work we have accelerated several projects but also propose to improve our incident management through better data and information, and in particular access to said information during a flood event.

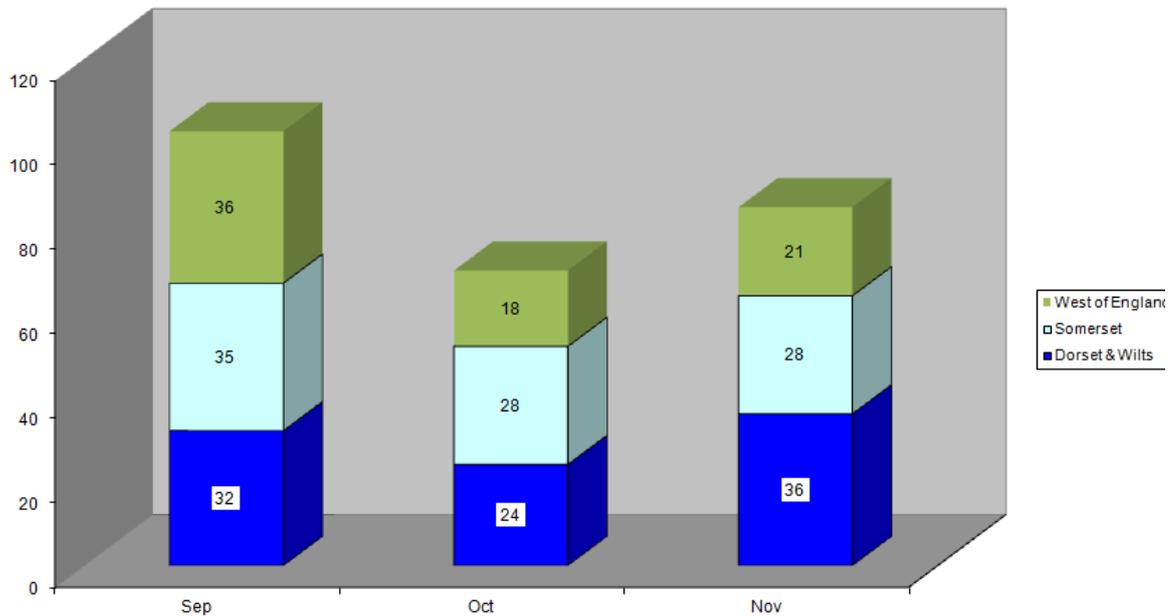
We have updated the Flood Map on our website with new modelled flood outlines at Winterborne Kingston, Lower Avon at Christchurch, the north coast of Wessex, Crewkerne, and a small amendment following a third party Flood Risk Assessment at Wincanton. Using up-to-date flood maps and levels that we are confident in is crucial for our work with developers, communities and for answering customer enquiries.

We are trying to progress our National Flood Risk Assessment (NaFRA) modelling through a revised program and estimation of resource required. This work will become increasingly important for long-term investment and funding, system asset management plans and *Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea* map.

##### 4.4.1 Customer requests

The following graph shows the number of data information requests received from our external customers this period for each of the Partnership and Strategic Overview (PSO) teams.

## Wessex FCRM External Customer Information Requests Received



### 4.5 Partnerships and Projects – Strategic overview

#### 4.5.1 Reporting on Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs)

We continue to build our partnership working arrangements with LLFAs during a busy period of Local Flood Risk Management Strategy development.

For the first time for this report, where possible, we have included reports from the LLFAs themselves.

We continue to work with Bath & North East Somerset Council to establish a partnership working structure. A proposed tiered approach is taking shape but progress has been limited by staff resources. The imminent appointment of a new Flood Risk Manager should enable progress in the intended establishment of an Operational Working Group tier to deliver outcomes.

#### 4.5.2 Improvements in LLFA New Duty Competency

We attended the Defra Capacity building workshop held in Bristol in November. This workshop focussed on Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and the formation of SuDS Approving Bodies (SABs). We facilitated afternoon workshop sessions relating to working protocols and efficient partnership working. The workshop was very well attended and useful. We will support the LLFAs in developing competency in this area wherever resources allow.

#### 4.5.3 Medium Term Plan Partnership Working

All LLFAs and Internal Drainage Boards that submitted bids for FDGiA funding summer 2012 have now been informed of the projects that have been provided indicative funding for the next financial year. This indicative funding is still to be confirmed by the Environment Agency Board early in the new year. As was anticipated, it was not possible to fund all projects seeking funding for year 2013/14 due to financial constraints. Such projects are retained in the programme but moved in to future years.

#### 4.5.4 Flood Risk Regulations

##### Communities at risk

We are reviewing how our communities are defined and gathering flood risk data for these areas. We will then use this information to highlight which communities are at the highest risk and if any further action is required.

##### Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs)

We will soon be holding internal workshops to review our flood risk places and Catchment Flood Management Plan actions and agree how we would like to take existing flood risk and plan information forward into the FRMPs. We have formally invited all LLFAs in the region to work with us to develop a FRMP that covers all sources of flood risk. LLFAs that have a Flood Risk Area (FRA) have a statutory duty to produce a FRMP for local flood risk. However, we would like to work together with all LLFAs to produce a FRMP that covers all sources of flood risk.

#### 4.5.5 Partnership Project Updates

##### 4.5.5.1 Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) Council

BANES have recently submitted a drainage technical report on the feasibility of building 300 houses at Weston as part of their evidence for the Council's Core Strategy. This potential allocation could work well to link with their LLFA intentions to resolve historic surface water drainage problems in the village.

Further progress has been made since the last committee paper on the Bath project, 'Bath Quays Waterside'. We now have an NCPMS officer working within BANES Council on a part time basis as part of the project delivery team. A joint Project Steering Group has now been constituted between the Environment Agency and BANES as part of the governance arrangements for Bath's Enterprise Area. This Steering Group has agreed to review the programme, implement a collaborative agreement, and increase resource to ensure successful project delivery. BANES Council has successfully secured £5m of Local Enterprise Partnership Revolving Infrastructure Fund finance to implement this project. The EA contribution to fund flood defence works allocates £1.1m towards this budget. This is made up of £500k Local Levy and £600k Flood Defence Grant in Aid.

#### **4.5.5.2 Bristol City Council (BCC)**

We have provided feedback on the draft feasibility study to determine strategic options for managing flood risk to Bristol City. This includes the consideration of a tidal barrier.

The Central Area Flood Risk Assessment is nearing formal sign off and work is progressing to enable the second phase of work to mitigate local flood risk arising from land run-off and insufficient drainage at Dundry Hill to the south of the City.

We have been closely involved in the formation of BCC's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, with a draft due to be ready for professional partner consultation by the end of 2013.

#### **4.5.5.3 Bournemouth Borough Council (BBC)**

BBC are progressing with approvals for the Beach Management Phase One scheme that will include replacement of life expired groynes along with a further programme of beach replenishment. Contributions have been confirmed by BBC, and an application is being made for FDGiA towards investigation and design costs. BBC is also preparing to implement its Seafront Strategy with Phase One priority schemes including public space improvements within Pier Approach; lighting schemes for Pier Approach and Durley Chine, and beach hut schemes.

BBC is a member of the Dorset Coast Forum and of SCOPAC (Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline) and help with the research and development of this programme.

#### **4.5.5.4 Dorset County Council (DCC)**

We have attended a number of Local Flood Risk Management Strategy steering group meetings and the Strategy is progressing in accordance to the programme. We have also attended a number of officer group meetings and board meetings where we have discussed in detail roles under the Flood and Water Management Act.

#### **4.5.5.5 Hampshire Council (HCC)**

We have been invited to submit written evidence to HCC's overview and scrutiny committee who are looking into flood risk management. We have continued to work with our colleagues in the south east region to provide the support required to promote flood risk management within Hampshire.

#### **4.5.5.6 Poole Borough Council (BoP)**

BoP are progressing with plans to trial a new beach renourishment method in 2013/14 in partnership with Poole Harbour Commissioners and Purbeck District Council. This has the potential to offer significant FDGiA savings and will not require machinery on the beach, improving public safety. The trial will act as a physical model with comprehensive monitoring undertaken through the Environment Agency's CoRDDi (Coastal Research Development and Dissemination) programme and the Strategic Regional Monitoring Programme. Trial sites are located in Poole and Swanage Bays subject to marine licenses being obtained.

BoP are undertaking environmental salt marsh regeneration trials in Whitley Lake. BoP attend the Dorset LLFA officers meeting group and SCOPAC as a full member. The Council is currently consulting the public and professional partners on its Sustaining Poole's Seafront draft supplementary planning document.

#### **4.5.5.7 Sedgemoor District Council (SDC)**

##### **Parrett Barrier Site Investigation**

We are currently reviewing the geotechnical appraisal report for the Phase One site works and considering options for further investigation or appraisal work.

#### **4.5.5.8 Somerset Levels and Moors**

##### **Parrett and Tone Dredging**

There is no change regarding the case for a major capital dredge of the 8km stretch of the lower Parrett and Tone rivers. The dredge remains dependent on the significant shortfall of funds being met through further contributions to a dredging partnership fund. The capital phase shortfall remains at £3.1m, although this could be less if methods are adopted such as recently proposed by the Dutch firm under the Drainage Board commission.

Major dredging works must also comply with statutory environmental requirements, such as Water Framework and Habitats Directives, Environmental Impact legislation, Marine Management

Organisation licensing and waste regulations. Any plans will have to be assessed and consulted upon to comply with such requirements.

Our programme of pinch point desilting on the lower Parrett and Tone rivers began in October and is progressing, as weather permits. Please see section **2.4.2.1 – Asset reconditioning project** – for more details. This work will also act as a trial of methods and processes from which lessons can be learnt.

#### **Somerset Levels and Moors Strategy: towards sustainable flood and asset management**

We are developing the scope of the first stage, which will confirm current and future flood risk and how this is addressed through our asset base (through its current and future needs) and how the current Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) funding supports this. This will enable us to see what our future financial requirements are to meet our priorities of i) protecting properties and lives ii) the designated environment iii) and land drainage requirements (in respect of the drainage precept), compared to the current funding arrangements.

This work will help us and others to understand the gap between what FCRM can fund and alternative future scenarios and strategic priorities. The first stage will provide an evidence base to inform the future land and water management vision for the Somerset Levels and Moors being developed by the Task Force and other stakeholders. In turn, stakeholder consensus over priorities and future needs could help inform the direction of a future flood risk and asset strategy, as a two-way partnered mechanism.

#### **4.5.5.9 West Dorset District Council (WDDC)**

Lyme Regis Environmental Improvements Phase Four is progressing well; construction works on site are running to programme and cost. WDDC are also progressing well with other FDGiA funded schemes, including Lyme Regis and West Bay Beach Management Plans.

#### **4.5.5.10 West of England Partnership (WoEP)**

We have provided the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) with flood risk information and are expecting to be consulted on the Strategic Economic Plan for the West of England in December.

Avonmouth/Sevenside has been identified as a key local enterprise zone for Bristol City and South Gloucestershire Council's, integral to the economic growth of the area. The LEP is leading on investigating a long term flood risk solution for the area which not only contains the local enterprise zone but the towns of Avonmouth and Severn Beach. An initial project (Environment Agency, Defra and LEP funded) has been undertaken to draw together the best available flood risk data (including the information from the Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy) so that climate change scenarios can be factored into an appraisal of risk which will provide an understanding of any phased interventions required to deal with sea level rise as it happens along the coastline. The next stages are to discuss the findings with key stakeholders to allow the partnership to work towards a deliverable set of options for the flood cell.

The WoEP flood risk working group, lead by SGC, have made good progress in preparing regional technical SuDS guidance which will be amended when National SuDS guidance is made available.

#### **4.5.5.11 Weymouth and Portland Borough Council (W&PBC)**

W&PBC are progressing well on a Coastal Process Study for Weymouth Bay that will underpin potential works at Preston Beach, Weymouth Esplanade and Weymouth Harbour. Good partnership arrangements between the EA and the Local Authority is enabling the project to jointly benefit both parties, providing large savings on GiA expenditure.

#### **4.5.5.12 Wiltshire Council**

We have attended Wiltshire's strategic board where good progress has been made in understanding the roles and responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act. We continue to provide support at north and south operational flood working group meetings.

## **5.0 WESSEX FLOOD RECOVERY PROGRAMME**

### **5.1 Progress against Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (WRFCC) local levy allocation**

Following their recruitment, the new post holders are bolstering our resources, and largely are in the process of shaping their programmes of work. Community engagement preparations continue and contracts for modelling are being put in place by the new project manager. This modelling represents the largest proportion of the additional funding work.

### **5.2 General flood recovery work**

Through developing a programme management approach to this work we were able to identify that a number of recovery work packages have now been completed or are on track to complete this financial year. Notable aspects for the committee to be aware of are:

- **Reservoir safety** – repairs to the failing slope of Swanage FSR No.1 were completed in November. Other remedial works should be complete by March 2014. ncpms has confirmed a

schedule of works for repairs to the other six reservoirs from 2014 to 2017, meeting legal deadlines under the Reservoirs Act.

- **Asset repairs** – approximately 16 asset reconditioning projects are reporting as completed. These range from work on Twerton gate, Bath, maintenance works at Lea Bridge, Dorset to raising low bank spots near Langport, Somerset.
- **Pinch point desilting** – works on the North Drain completed in October and works are currently taking place on the lower Tone.
- **Flood resilience work** – grant awarded for shed and equipment for communities at Roadwater and Washford. Improvements have been completed to our flood warning services covering Shepton Mallet and Croscombe.
- **Working with partners** – Many key actions with partners in BANES, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire are reporting as completed. These range from agreeing signage on the Chew Stoke ford, provision of modelling outputs and collaborating on procedural improvements, to supporting work ensuring the protection of the Blood Transfusion Service at Filton, Bristol.
- **Funding** – while committee members will be aware of the financial challenges facing the Environment Agency, it is pleasing to report at this time that few of our recovery related projects are being adversely impacted – indicating good prioritisation in our decision making.

**Nick Lyness**  
**Wessex Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager**