

Preliminary flood risk assessment: Somerset County Council

This addendum by Somerset County Council (2017) updates the council's preliminary flood risk assessment report published in 2011. Read the addendum in conjunction with the [preliminary assessment report](#).

Addendum

The preliminary flood risk assessment (PFRA) and flood risk areas (FRAs) for Somerset County Council were reviewed during 2017, using all relevant current flood risk data and information.

Changes to the assessment of risk since the preliminary assessment report was published in 2011 are described in the statements in this addendum.

Past flood risk

The information on past flood risk in the original PFRA has been reviewed and updated to include new significant flood events that have occurred since 2011. For the preparation of the first PFRA, it was agreed locally to define "significant" flooding as 20 or more properties affected in one event.

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 the County Council has a duty to investigate significant instances of flooding, as it deems necessary, to establish responsibility. Since the publication of the PFRA in 2011, Somerset County Council has undertaken 6 flood investigations. For the review of the PFRA, sites affected by flooding and subject to a Section 19 investigation have been deemed to be significant and reported in this update.

Somerset was profoundly affected by extensive and prolonged flooding of the Somerset Levels and Moors in 2012 and 2013/2014. This flooding resulted in significant attention and investment in the affected areas and led to the formation of the Somerset Rivers Authority. This flood event is now the most significant in terms of properties affected and has been included in this update.

Table 1 overleaf summarises the significant flood events that have occurred in Somerset since the publication of the original PFRA document. Their locations are shown in Figure 1.

Table 1: Summary table of Somerset's significant events since 2011 for reporting in Annex 1

Date	Town/ Village	Properties Flooded	Details	Source
2013 - 2014	Various	165	Prolonged flooding of the Somerset Levels and Moors caused by high fluvial flows, related to exceptionally high rainfall on the River Parrett and River Tone catchment over an extended period of time.	River
04-11-2011	Bruton	15	Flooding of properties in new development and adjacent housing site and highway due to storm	Surface
11-07-2012	Croscombe	8	Flooding of properties and highway due to storm	Surface
06-02-2016	Norton Sub Hamdon	8	Flooding of properties and highway due to storm	River/Surface
06-02-2016	Misterton	6	Flooding of properties and highway due to storm	Surface
17-06-2016	Wraxall	4	Flooding of properties and highway due to storm	Surface
17-06-2016	Chilcompton	4	Flooding of properties and highway due to storm	Surface

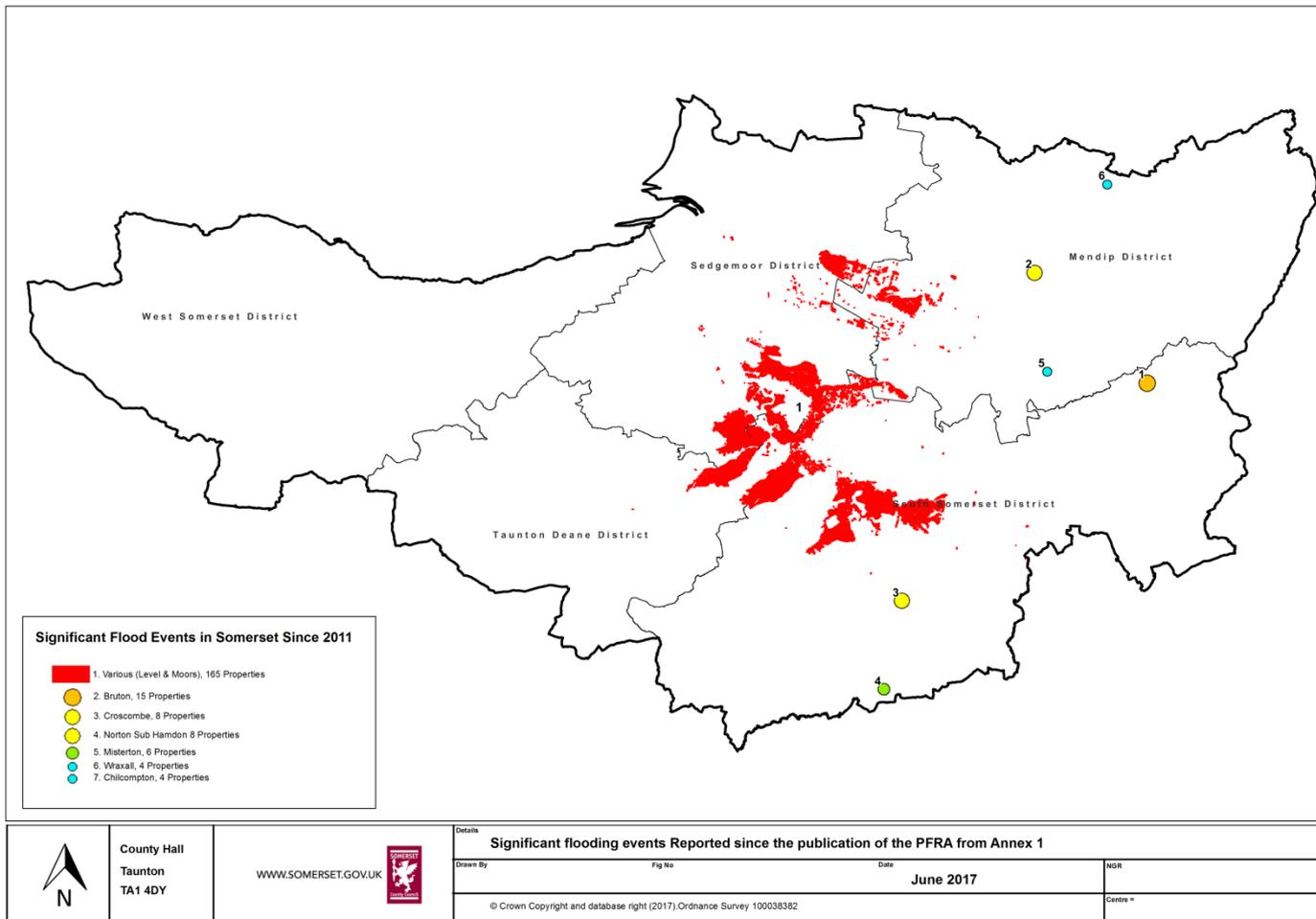


Figure 1: Locally Significant Past Flood Events from Annex 1 Spreadsheet

Future flood risk

Somerset County Council has led the production of Surface Water Management Plans for Taunton and Minehead in collaboration with other risk management authorities. The project partners have worked together to better understand the causes and effects of surface water flooding and agree the most cost effective way of managing surface water flood risk for the long term in these towns. The documents also establish action plans to manage surface water to influence future capital investment, maintenance, public engagement and understanding, land-use planning, emergency planning and future developments.

Flood risk areas (FRAs)

No FRAs have been identified in Somerset for the purposes of the Flood Risk Regulations (2009) 2nd planning cycle.

Other changes

Within Somerset a new entity has been created to provide an enhanced level of flood risk management.

The Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) is not a risk management authority; it is a partnership made up of the existing risk management authorities in Somerset along with representatives of other relevant organisations with a role in flood risk management. It is governed by a Board of partners with elected members from the five District Councils, Somerset County Council, the Parrett and Axe Brue Internal Drainage Boards, the Wessex Regional Flood & Coastal Committee and officers the Environment Agency and Natural England.

The SRA's purpose is to deliver a higher standard of flood protection in Somerset than can be funded from traditional/existing routes, and to create better flood protection and resilience against further flooding by joint planning and delivery wherever possible.

The existence of the SRA does not lessen partners' and land owners' existing duties, responsibilities or accountabilities. The work of the existing Flood Risk Management Authorities is unchanged, but with increased opportunities to link activities and make use of additional locally generated funding for the existing flood risk management authorities and others to deliver projects that have a benefit to flood risk resilience in the county.

Work is underway with government to establish the SRA as a precepting authority in its own right.

**Somerset County Council
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