



# CBC Flooding team update

## November 2024 flood wardens meeting

[flooding@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:flooding@cheltenham.gov.uk)



# Chloe Hopper

## *Flooding and Climate Supporting Officer*

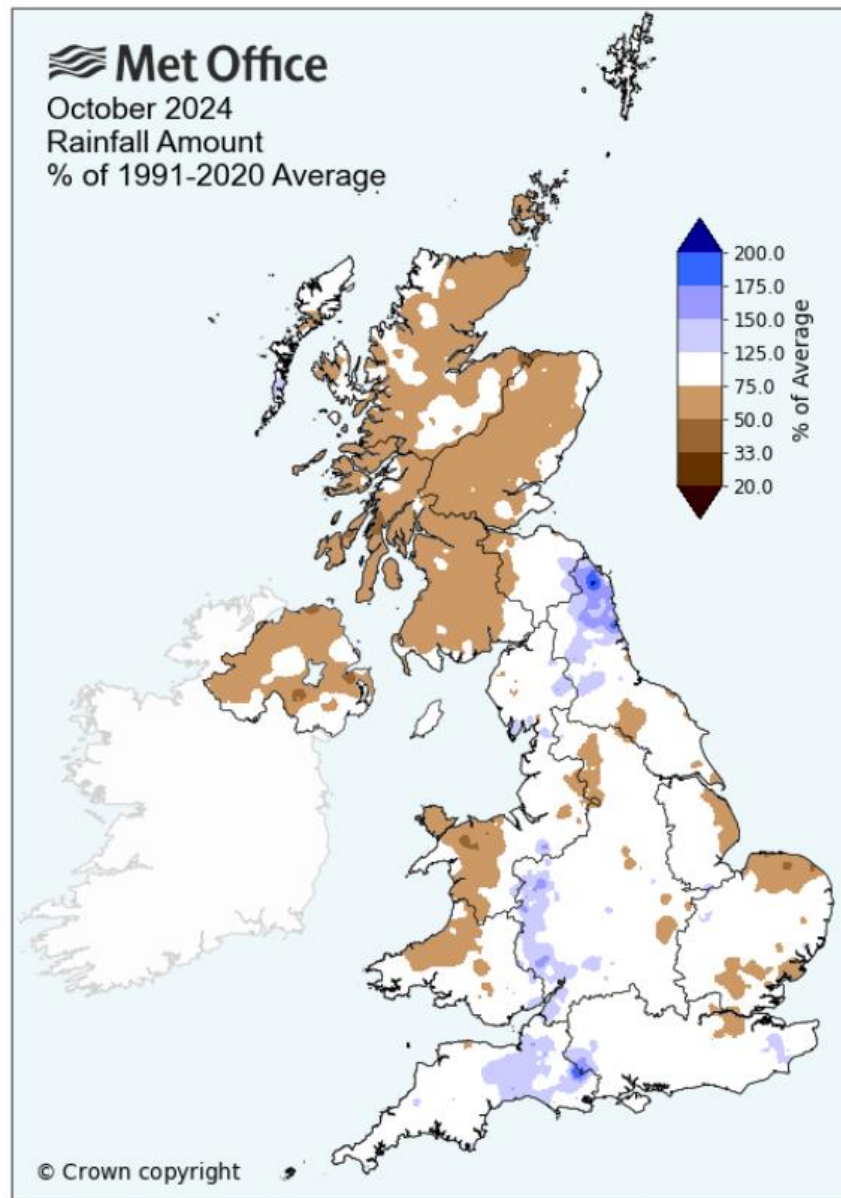
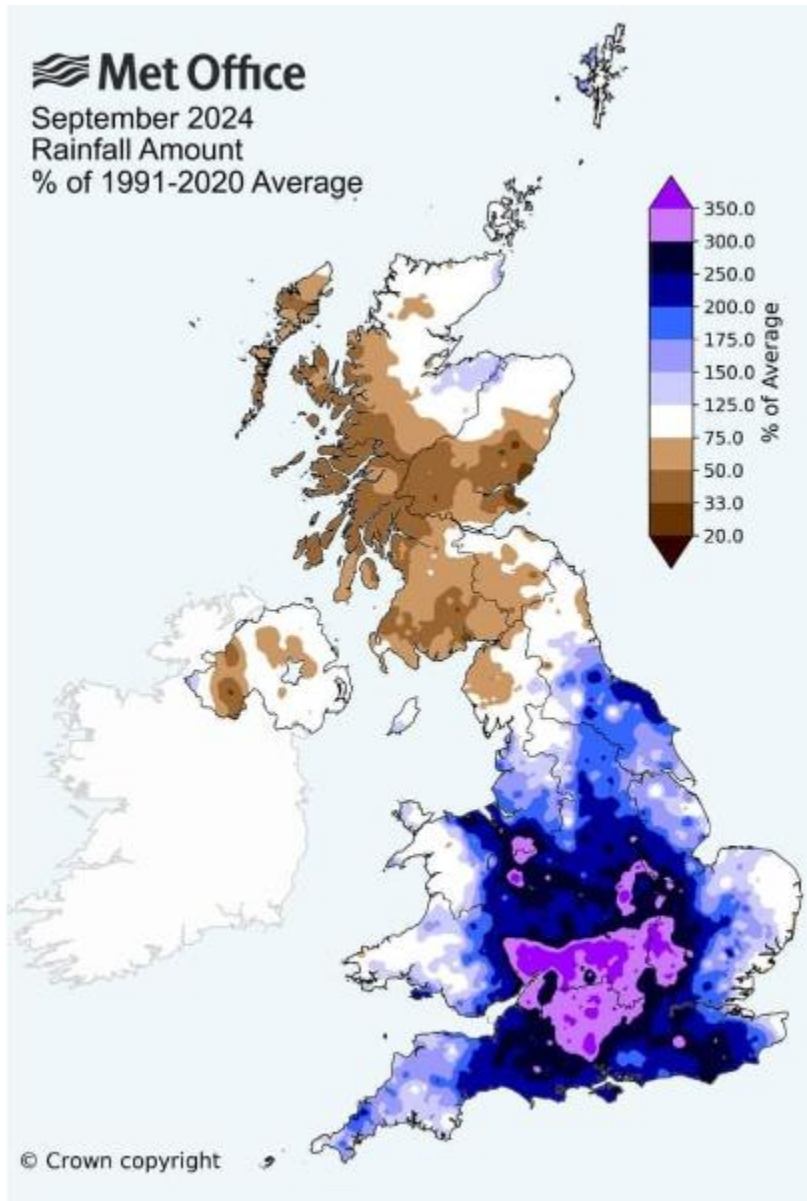
- Studied at Coventry University and holds a degree in Geography and Natural Hazards
- I started my working career in The British Red Cross as an Emergency Response Officer covering Somerset, Avon and Gloucestershire.
- I learned a great deal on adaptability, resilience and problem solving of which are useful transferable skills
- I'm passionate about flood risk reduction and of course the climate emergency of which we have seen a significant overlap in the last decade.
- I am driven by my desire to better our environment for future generations and the love of the area I live in.
- Outside of work you'll find me out walking, enjoying food (sweet tooth) and enjoying team sports such as netball.



Snowdonia  
National Park

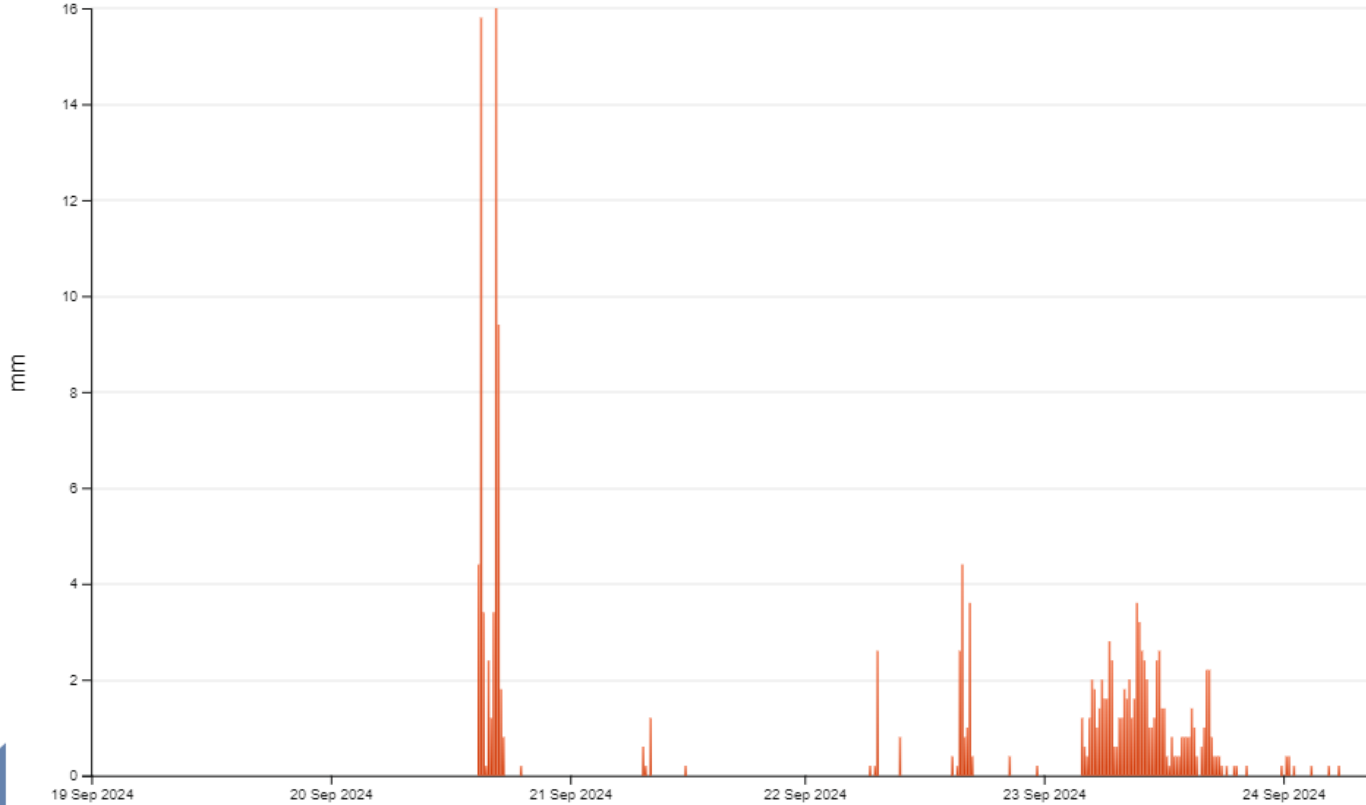


Isaac Hale Park  
- Big Island of  
Hawaii



- 350% of the average rainfall for September. This all occurred in 16 days.
- 125% of the average rainfall for October.
- 7 flood alerts or warnings issued across the 2 months.
- Our reactive maintenance (clearing of debris screens before and after heavy rainfall) has therefore been busier than usual!
- Our other functions such as consenting and enforcement and supporting flooding and drainage issues has also been busier than usual!

# September 2024 flood events



- 2 significant flood events occurred in Cheltenham on Friday the 20th and Monday the 24th of September.
- Flood warnings were issued by the Environment Agency in both events.
- 155mm of rainfall in total across the events. For context, the annual total annual rainfall for Cheltenham is 700mm so 20% of the average annual rainfall occurred in 3.5 days.
- The event on Friday was a very high-intensity rainfall (60mm in 1.5 hours) and resulted in surface water flooding to properties across Cheltenham.

# River Chelt level at Cox's Flume

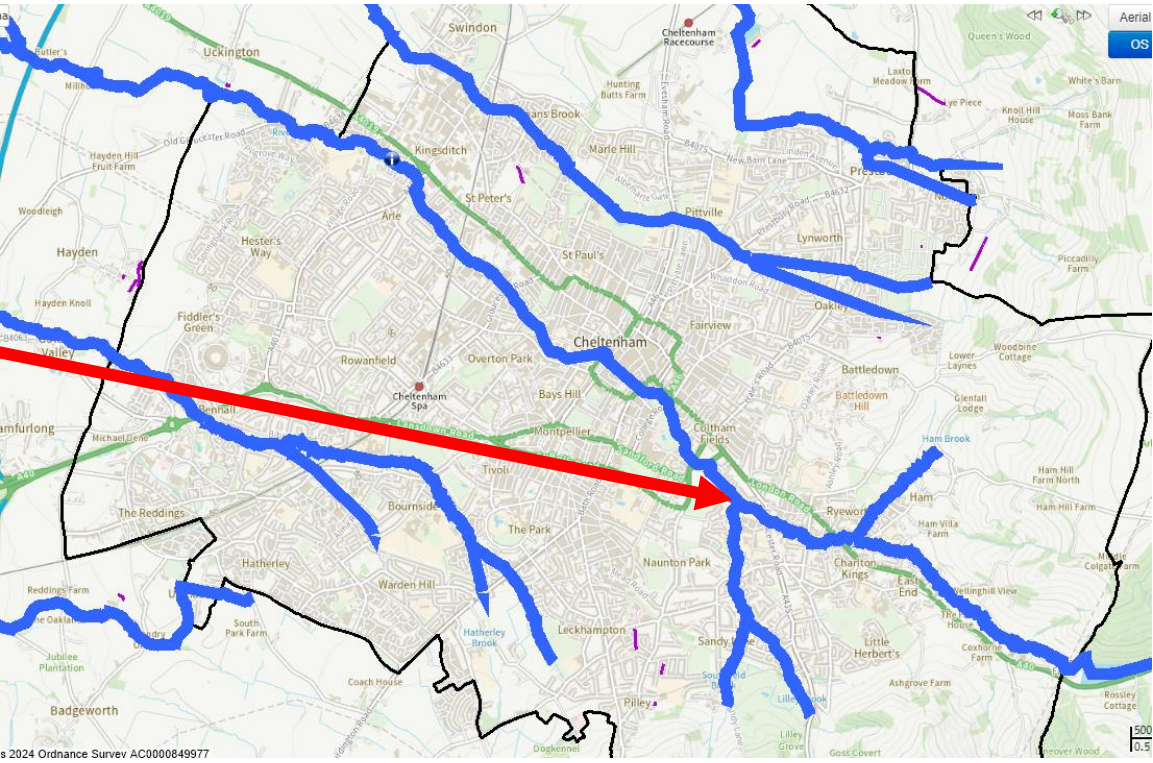
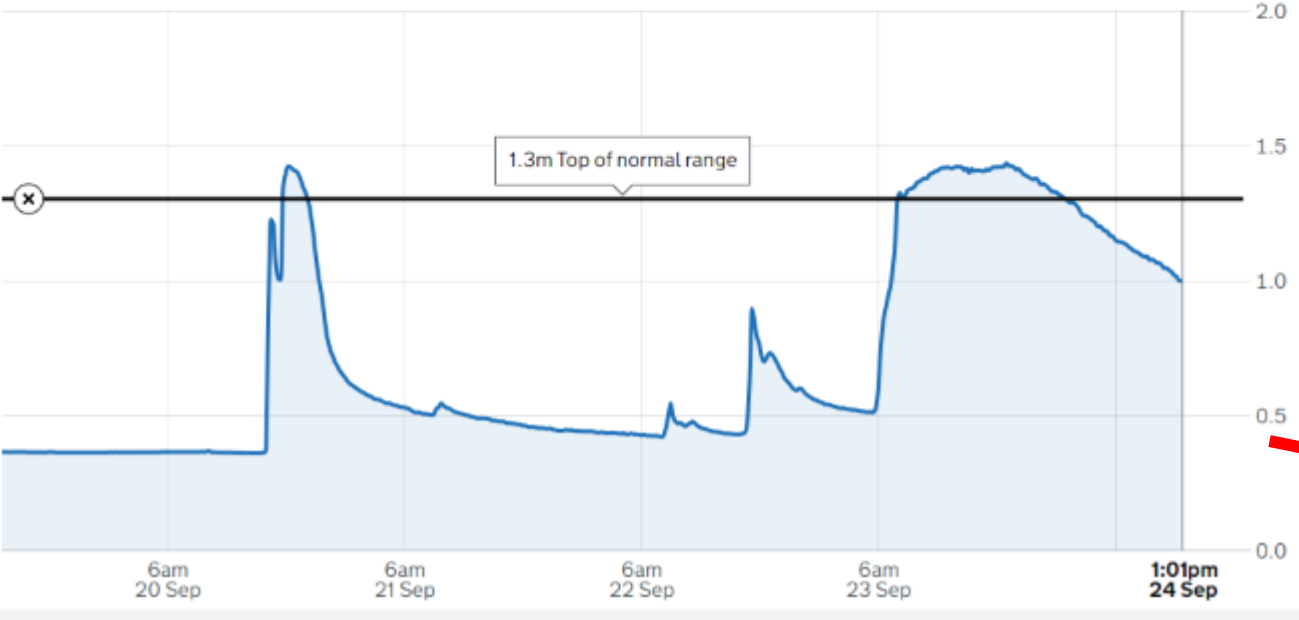
Map Upstream Downstream Nearby levels

Latest at 12:45pm on 24 September

Height 1.00m Trend Falling State Normal

Normal range 0.24m to 1.30m

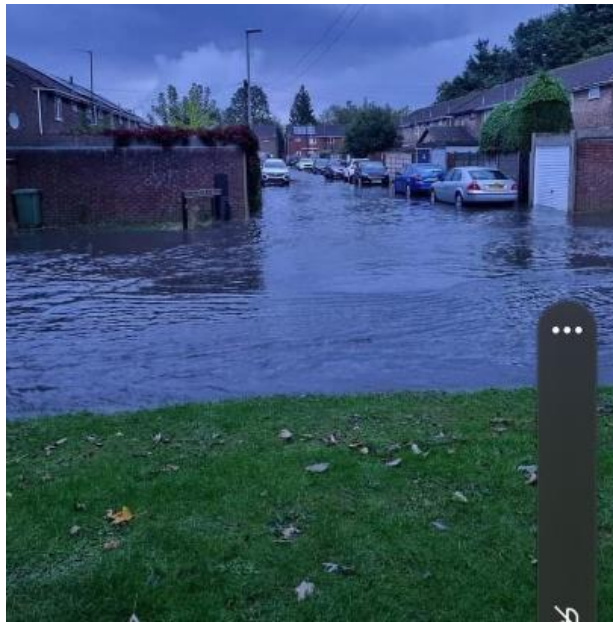
Height in metres over the last 5 days



Levels on the River Chelt upstream of town centre were higher on the 23<sup>rd</sup> compared to the 20<sup>th</sup>

Levels were comparable with what we get annually in this location and no property flooding occurred

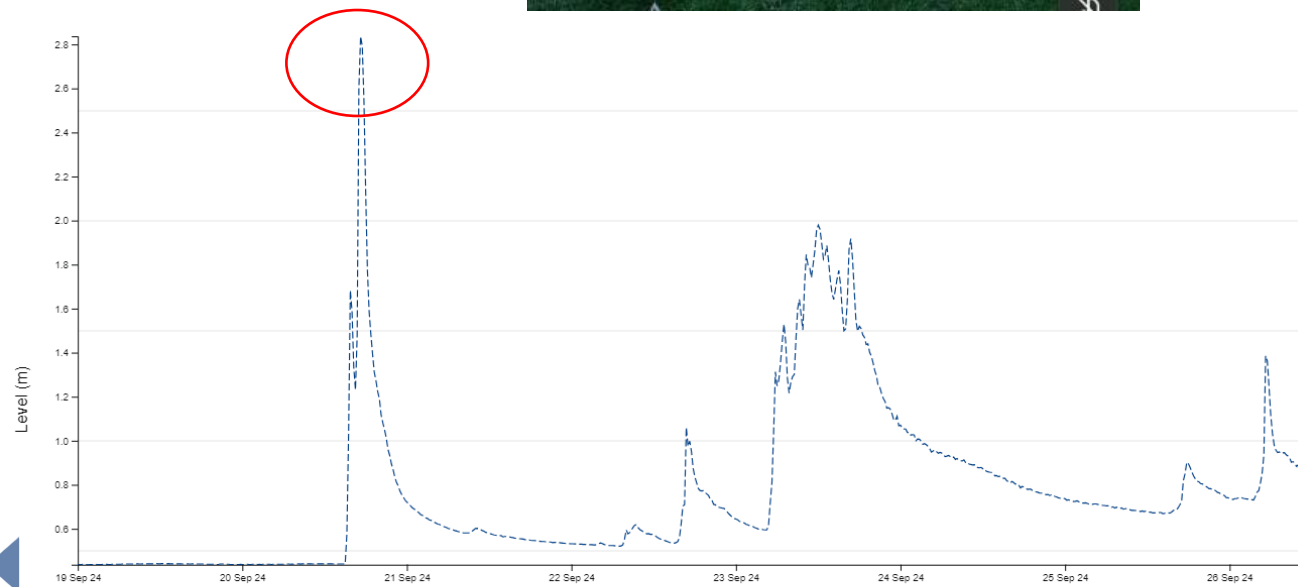
© 2024 Ordnance Survey AC0000849977



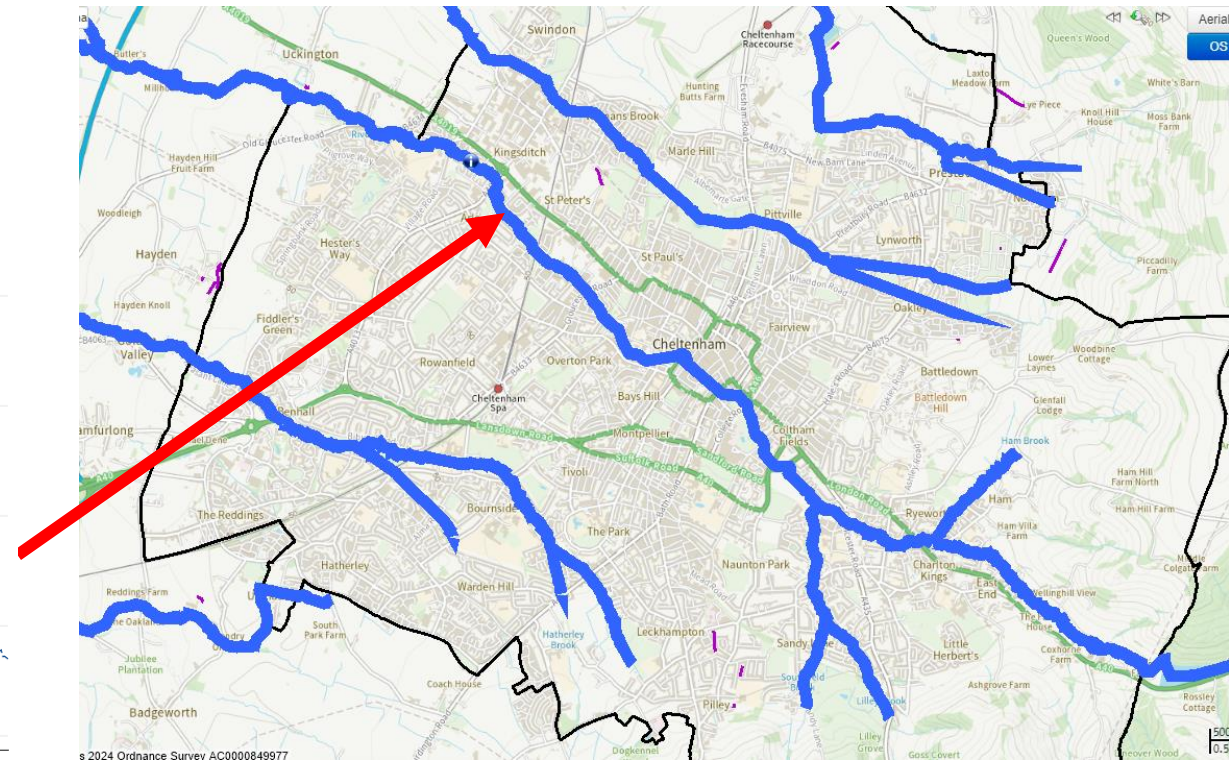
Levels on the River Chelt downstream of the town centre were the highest they had been since 2007 on the 20th

This highlights the impact urban drainage has on the Rivers.

Although properties didn't flood directly from the River it likely impacted adjacent drainage. Lots of bank erosion also occurred.



Data quality indicator for 15min level (m) (hover to reveal):



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The 20th was a surface water flooding event. The rainfall intensity exceeded the capacity of the drainage network in numerous locations.

15 properties with recorded flooding, but we suspect there were more.

- Brief summary

**Friday** – surface water flooding (sewers, drains – highway and property level). Property flooding occurred.

**Monday** – high river levels and flood warnings but no reports of property flooding received so far.

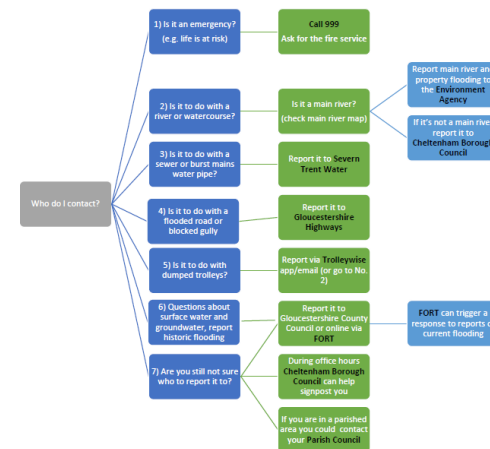
- EA and CBC flood assets and alleviation schemes performed well in both events.
- We are working closely with other Risk Management Authorities to gather data and reports of flooding from this event which are still coming through and these will be collated and used to support investigations and evidence for potential alleviation schemes.
- New flood scheme being developed by CBC in Charlton Kings due to property flooding adjacent to CBC land.
- Lessons learnt session held with Emergency Planning team to debrief and make improvements to our Flood plans.





# Reminder for flood wardens

1. Use reporting tree to report any issues to the relevant authority
2. Contact [Flooding@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:Flooding@cheltenham.gov.uk) if unsure or CBC related asset/watercourse.
  - Note this inbox is generally 9-5 only as we are not on-call responders. But we do our best to be available during flood events where possible.
3. Out-of-hours:
  1. [emergency.planning@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:emergency.planning@cheltenham.gov.uk) (and cc' flooding email) so out-of-hours staff can action or raise at Tactical Coordinating Group meetings held during emergency events (multi-authority).
  2. CBC out of hours contact number may be issued in proposed whatsapp group where necessary.



**Environment Agency** 0800 80 70 60  
[enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**Severn Trent Water** 0800 783 4444  
[www.stwater.co.uk](http://www.stwater.co.uk)

**Gloucestershire Highways** 0800 514 514  
[highways@Gloucestershire.gov.uk](http://highways@Gloucestershire.gov.uk)

**Cheltenham Borough Council** 01242 262626  
[flooding@Cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:flooding@Cheltenham.gov.uk)

**Gloucestershire County Council** 01452 425000  
[floodriskmanagement@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:floodriskmanagement@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

**Floodline (flood alerts)** 0345 988 1188

**Main River Map:**  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=17cd53dfc524433980cc333726a56386>

**Flooding Online Reporting Tool (FORT):**  
<https://swim.geowessex.com/plos/Report>



## Online Community Resilience Course Prospectus

2024

Remaining courses for this year  
Winter Weather Hazards –  
16<sup>th</sup> November  
3<sup>rd</sup> December

## Himalayan Balsam Project 2024

- For the year of 2024 we have had 6 volunteer sessions between June and August covering a 5 km stretch of the river.
- We have also delivered 146 letters this year to riverbank riparian owners. In total, letters have been delivered to 276 riparian owner properties in the last 2 years!

This is in addition to the installation of information boards displayed in 5 locations along the river Chelt to continue spreading awareness of Himalayan balsam and its effects on river health. This has resulted in an increase in reported sightings by the public, which have been mapped to guide future control efforts.





Join us for our  
**Big Litter Pick**  
on the river Chelt!

on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November**  
meet at **10.30 am on Cooks Lane**



**(off Tewkesbury Rd)**

What3Words: [///dusts.petition.childcare](https://www.what3words.com/#!/en-gb/:///dusts.petition.childcare)

For further details email:  
[theriverchelt@gmail.com](mailto:theriverchelt@gmail.com)

**River Chelt Calendar to raise funds for the group**

£6 at Planted Café in Charlton Kings, at Food Loose in Cheltenham town centre and, hopefully, at the Wilson and the Old Schoolhouse Café in St Paul's.