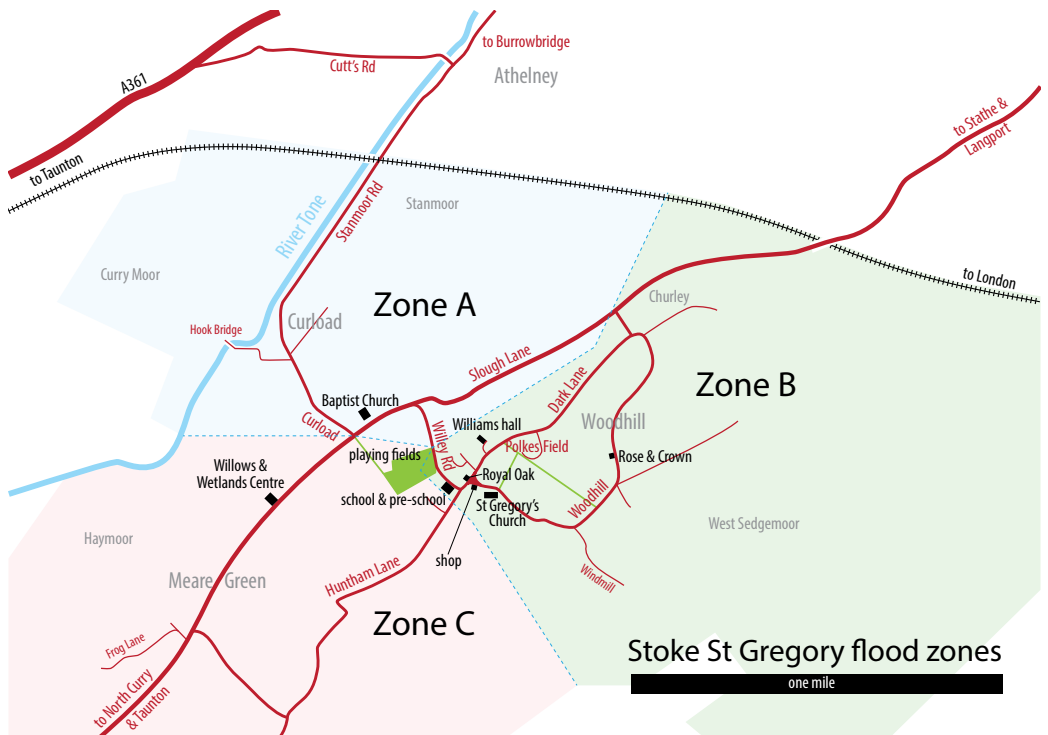


Stoke St Gregory Flood Plan

The purpose of this document, put out by the Parish Council Flood Group, is to inform residents in different parts of the village about the various risks from flooding, and to advise on solutions.

We have divided the village into three zones. Each has its own voluntary flood wardens who will be happy to help you or receive your support. Their role includes providing information and practical help to residents, ensuring proper maintenance of minor drainage channels, and liaising with the authorities.



Zone A—Curload and Stanmoor

Flood Wardens

Peter House 01823 490349, peter-house@btconnect.com

Nick Sloan nick@curloadfarm.co.uk, 01823 698283

Zone A differs from the other two zones in being subject to the threat of flooding from the River Tone. However, despite the recent flooding of neighbouring parishes, Curload has not suffered a major flood since 1929, and even in early 2014 there was no deep flooding of properties in Stoke. Where water has entered houses it has mostly been the result of seepage through the river bank.

Maintenance of the river and flood defences is currently the responsibility of the Environment Agency. It is to be hoped that the attention which is being given to renewed river maintenance and other aspects of flood prevention will continue to keep the threat at bay.

General advice

- ▶ If you live on the river bank, be aware of the drainage system that is designed to collect river seepage and carry it under or around your house to the road. Always try to keep drains clear of debris.
- ▶ Consider signing up for 24 hour Environment agency Floodline (see below) which will advise you of the flood threat level.

At times of high water

It is difficult to assess what constitutes a dangerous level in the Tone, since there are so many variables. Curry Moor and Haymoor act as buffers to absorb huge overflows of water from the river, and once they are full any further rise in level is normally gradual, so forecasts of future heavy and continuous rain are then the primary consideration.

- ▶ If you fear that there is a threat of flood water coming into your home, consider blocking openings with sandbags (either contact flood wardens or the District Council direct—see below), but also bear in mind that groundwater can sometimes come up internally. Have a plan in place to use sandbags effectively.
- ▶ If you have any animals, plan where they can go if you have to move out.

- ▶ Those adjacent to the river bank may consider sandbagging their stretch of the concrete capping, though this should be done by the EA if there is a real prospect of over-topping. In reality EA are likely to be very busy, and local volunteers might get this done quicker. The flood wardens will be happy to offer advice and information.
- ▶ If you fear that flooding may be imminent, it would be wise, where possible, to take important items upstairs or elsewhere.
- ▶ If a Severe Flood Warning is announced and there is a real danger of the bank overtopping, you will be contacted by the emergency services and may be advised to leave home. Contingency plans are in place for relocating residents to a place of safety in the village.

Zone B—Village centre & Dark Lane to West Sedgemoor

Flood wardens

Trevor Williams: 01823 490829, trevor201@btinternet.com

John Tipping: 01823 490301, john@tipping.totalserve.co.uk

There are various surface water hotspots in this zone, including the dip in Dark Lane near the village hall and Church Close, Polkes Field and parts of Woodhill. All are reliant on a system of channels to West Sedgemoor to keep them drained. There is also a risk of occasional mudslides in Dark Lane. If you see a problem arising, please contact flood wardens directly.

Zone C—Meare Green and Huntham

Flood wardens

Chris Coate: 01823 491301, christopher.coate@btinternet.com

Tony Yaskin 01823 490010, yloggie05@aol.com

The most challenging aspect of this zone is the brook which carries water from North Curry, across to Huntham Farm and drains east to West Sedgemoor. When its capacity is exceeded it can overflow at various points, and especially where it crosses under Huntham Lane. In addition there is a danger of local surface water flooding at both the western and eastern ends of Meare Green.

All Zones

We can all help in avoiding flooding or reducing the consequences of flooding.

- ▶ Please look out for blocked drains or ditches, and either clear them or report them to the flood wardens for the relevant area.
- ▶ Please be responsible for keeping drains and ditches clear on your own property.
- ▶ Acquaint yourself with the drainage arrangements surrounding your property, and consider contingency plans in the event of very high rainfall.
- ▶ If you feel that there is a danger of water coming into your home, speak to your flood warden, who will advise on sandbags. (These are provided free to domestic properties by Taunton Deane District Council.)
- ▶ Please look out for neighbours who may be less able to help themselves.
- ▶ Please volunteer to assist flood wardens for help with ditch clearances and other necessary work to help the community.

Contacts

If you have practical problems with local drainage or river flooding, contact the flood warden for your zone (see details above).

General support: Gill Slattery 01823 698714 gillmslattery@yahoo.co.uk

Info on road closures etc: BBC Somerset (95.5 FM, 1566 MW), or

The Somerset Levels Flood Help FaceBook page:

www.facebook.com/groups/5658606666763262/

Environment Agency Floodline 0845 988 1188 or 0345 988 1188 or

<https://fwd.environment-agency.gov.uk/app/olr/home>

TDBC (sandbags) 01823 356 356 (Refer to flood wardens in first instance.)

County Council (Highways) 0845 345 9155

Wessex Water 0845 600 4600

Police 101 (or 999 in emergency)