

Flash Flood Management

Shepton Montague

John Sykes Aug 24

Flood Wardens

- All vulnerable parishes encouraged to produce an emergency plan for their village
- This includes flooding as a high risk and high probability event
- Designated Flood Wardens are listed by the local council and their contact details shared with emergency services.
- Currently, SM wardens as follows
 - Higher Shepton - Vanessa Stubbs, John Sykes
 - Lower Shepton - Susie Dowding

Current work-in-progress

- The overall strategy falls into two important areas:
 1. Retaining water on the land as long as possible
 2. Monitoring rainfall in real time and issuing warnings
- Retention of rain within the catchment can only be tackled by the relevant land-owners
 - Assistance may be available from the likes of FWAG - currently working with Godminster and Robert Dimond
- Rainfall monitoring traditionally the remit of the Environment Agency
 - Closest gauges are located at Wincanton and Bruton Dam

New initiatives

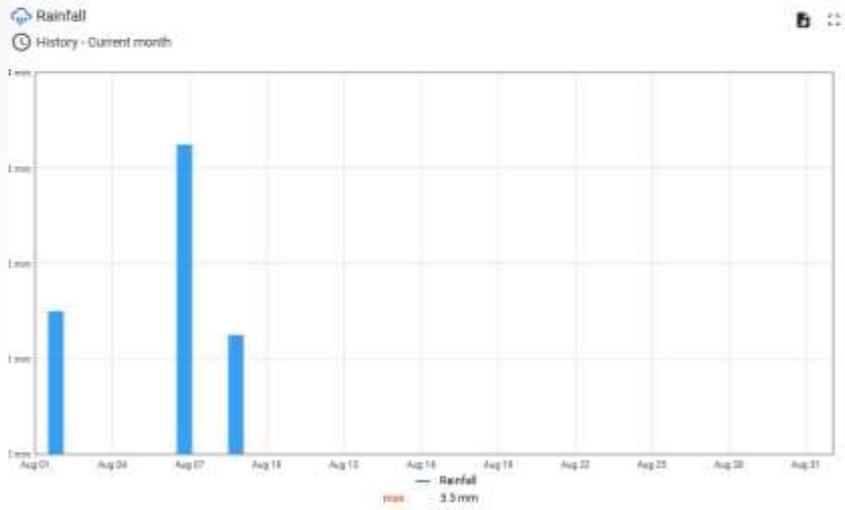
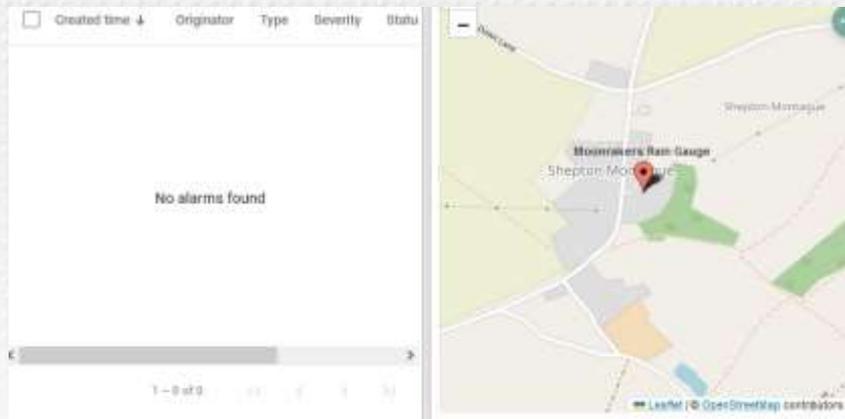
- In 2023 the EA and Somerset Rivers Authority launched a joint initiative
 - to install additional river level monitors in the higher reaches of smaller rivers
 - to develop a new web-based mapping system which pulls together both river level and rainfall data in one place
- In Shepton Montague, we now have two new level monitors up and running
 - At Knowle Bridge on the headwaters of the R Pitt
 - In a ditch on the side of Cattle Hill by Welham Farm
 - <https://vis.vega.com/?app=Visualization#maintab=GridPlaceholder&modelid=42638>

Meanwhile in Shepton Montague ...

- The EA / Gareth Varney have donated several professional rain gauges which have been replaced under recent upgrades.
- Chris Sykes has written software (running on Raspberry Pi) which uploads rain data onto a web cloud system called ThingsBoard: cost \$10 per month
- ThingsBoard has a public interface which can be accessed by anyone
- There has been one gauge in a prototype system since January, located in Higher Shepton

SM rain gauge project

- Data uploaded in real-time every 15 minutes



Latest developments

- As of 2 weeks ago, Chris managed to interface the SM 'Moonrakers' gauge to the prototype EA web system* –
 - * This may be rolled out in September this year
- So hopefully we will be able to track rainfall and river levels on one site.
- Further local gauges planned for Bratton Seymour (EA) and Stoney Stoke (our own) - + Hadspen interested.
 - currently looking for a third hosting site up west of Cattle Hill