

## Flash flood history Severn and Welsh Borders

| Hydrometric area | Rivers | Tributaries | Towns and Cities |
|------------------|--------|-------------|------------------|
| 54               | Severn |             |                  |
|                  |        |             |                  |
|                  |        |             |                  |
|                  |        |             |                  |

| Date and sources  | Rainfall   | Description  |
|---|--|--|
| 13-15 Jul 1640<br>Townshend's Diary Jones et al 1984            |  | <Worcs>: Thunderstorm with heavy rain and hail caused flooding in Worcestershire.  |
| 6 Jun 1697<br>Webb and Elsom 2016                               | This followed even more devastating storms in Cheshire and Herts | <Westhide> (Hereford): In a hailstorm the hailstones were more than 70 mm across. There was no reference to flooding.  |
| 5 Jul 1726<br>Ipswich Jour 9 Jul<br>Stanley's Newsletter Jul 14 |  | <Ledbury>, <Herefordshire>: There happened such a sudden shower of rain accompanied by thunder and lightning that in <b>the space of half an hour the town was almost drowned</b> , several of the houses being six foot deep in water so that had they not opened the doors and windows to let it out they would have been carried away with the torrent. Several farmers had their litter carried away and many persons their goods and in rooms thereof some had fish brought into their lower rooms that was driven out of adjacent ponds.   |
| 19 Jun 1728<br>Caledonian Mercury 4 Jul                         |  | <Gloucester>: We hear from <Arlington> in the parish of <Bibury> that there happened such a prodigious storm of rain that the like has not been seen for more than thirty years which in the space of half an hour caused a dreadful flood that it carried away more than 50 cartloads of stones some of which were judged to be more than '300 Weight' and fixed in the road which the violence of the flood tore up and drove down the highway and in our common field the mould of several acres was carried off. About a mile distant on each side of the town there was very little rain. |

**10 Jul 1728**  
**Stamford**  
**mercury 18**  
**Jul**  
**16 Jul 1733**  
**Derby**  
**Mercury 9**  
**Aug**  
**7 Sep 1735**  
**Caledonian**  
**Mercury 22**  
**Sep, Harrison**  
**Diary 1795**

<Worcester>: Two corn mills, a paper mill and a hop yard were swept down Astley (?) Brook near <Bewdley> into the river (Severn?) by a sudden inundation and a violent thunderstorm. Some persons are missing or drowned in their houses. A child was drowned in the river at Knightsford Bridge (*Text Difficult to read*).

<Besford>, <Worcestershire>: About 12 at night a violent storm of rain with thunder and lightning caused the death of a girl and injury to 3 others who were sheltering under an oak tree. Trees were split asunder.

<Worcester> and area: A tempestuous wind with so fierce rains as if the clouds had bursted (*sic*) made the water run like rivers through the streets of several neighbouring towns including <Droitwich> where they were driven up into their high apartments and much damage was done to the salt and other effects in their cellars. A man on horseback coming from <Bromsgrove> was carried down by the torrent but saved his life by catching hold of a twig, yet his horse perished. The gates about <Ombersley> were borne down. And at <Stratford upon Avon> a man and a horse were drowned. The town of <Alcaster> suffered much. At <Pershore> the wooden bridges were carried down. At <Tewkesbury> the place where horse racing is due is under several feet of water. <Coventry>: A flood occurred there greater than for 40 years

1735 5 Sept

This was referred to in a 1795 diary account of Wm Harrison of Warwick as 7 inches higher on the Avon at Warwick than the flood of 1795 [A February flood so not a flash flood].

**25/28 Jun**  
**1736**  
**Caledonian**  
**Mercury 13**  
**Jul**  
**Derby**  
**Mercury 15**  
**Jul**  
**18 Aug 1743**  
**Gentlemans**  
**Mag**

<Gloucester>: At Little Dean and Blaize Bailey there was a most terrible storm of rain and hail or rather a cloud of ice. The **hailstones resembled pieces of broken ice and did considerable damage to corn and fruit.**

Worcs, Staffs etc: Melancholy accounts of damages done by floods by the overflowing of the Severn and other rivers; vast quantities of hay and corn are spoiled. A man was drowned crossing a bridge near Coventry. A bridge over the Avon at <Pershore> was driven down

<Tewkesbury>: A thunderstorm with hail broke windows. **Hail as big as hen's eggs broke windows** to the value of £1000 struck the ears off corn and killed pigeons.

(The storm also extended as far as Chester – but no further information.

**22 Aug 1749**

**Gentlemans**

**Mag**

**21 Jun 1754**

**Manchester**

**Mercury 25**

**Jun**

**Gentleman's**

**Mag.**

<Wolverhampton>: A thunderstorm lasted 3 hours made an inundation of the lower town- the like of which was never known before. It also affected <Bridgnorth> and <Shrewsbury>.

<Saintbury>, Gloucestershire had the most violent storm of hail in the memory of man. Hailstones which were entirely round were measured an inch and a half and did great damage by the breaking of windows and breaking down corn which was in ear. After the hail fell a shower of rain which occasioned such a flood that most of the houses were filled four feet deep. Such was the violence of its force that it carried stones of very great weight twenty yards from the place where they were fixed. Much larger hailstones fell on <Stratford upon Avon> causing injuries. Also at <Newent> in Gloucestershire hailstones measured above 4 inches round; many fowls were killed thereby. Besides damage to fruit trees and corn, damage was done to the church and houses. At <Monmouth> and <Colford> hailstones were said to be six inches round with great damage to crops and windows especially at <Mitchel-Deane> where hardly one house escaped. Such was the flood that in an hour's time the river overflowed its banks and cast out several fish.

<Coventry>: floods also occurred

**23 Apr 1765**

**Gentleman's**

**mag.**

**21 Nov 1766**

**Oxford Jour**

**29 Nov**

**9 Jun 1768**

**Stamford**

**mercury 23**

**Jun**

**23 Jul 1768**

**Manchester**

**mercury 2**

**Aug**

<Shipton on Stour>: After a 4 hour storm the roads became impassable.

<Brecon> and <Hereford>: Great damage was done by a violent thunderstorm especially in <Brecknock>. Several people were carried away by the sudden flood and drowned. The <<River Wye>> rose several feet higher than was ever known; many lives and large quantities of goods have been lost.

<Hereford>: A thunderstorm with very large hailstones destroyed gardens and broke windows and caused havoc to fruit trees. A very large barn was set alight.

See also South Yorkshire Chronology etc..

<Bromsgrove>: Severe lightning with hail damaged grain and fruit.

**Aug 1770**  
**Gentleman's**  
**Mag**  
**22 Jun 1781**  
**Oxford Jour**  
**30 Jun**  
**Stamford**  
**Mercury 5 Jul**  
**Bath**  
**Chronicle 5**  
**Jul**

Floods occurred at several places during August including the Severn, Trent and Bedford levels. Houses, mills and bridges were borne down. 70 people were drowned in <Coventry> and others elsewhere. Some poor houses were filled from top to bottom. (This did not show up on BNA possibly because there was no thunder). <Worcester>: In consequence of the very heavy rains there was a sudden and rapid rise in the river which rose upwards of 15 feet.

Welsh Borders: In Montgomeryshire in the parish of Caron (<Carno>) five people were drowned by the overflowing of a small brook. The house was washed away and people carried away on a bed. In the Parish of <Kerry> in the same County near <Newtown> a brook overflowed and carried away a blacksmith's shop and drowned a tethered horse. A boy was saved by climbing up on a wall where he stayed for 15 hours. All the bridges and flood gates have been swept away. Gardens at <Blackhall> have been swept away. Brooks and rivulets have left their usual courses and beds are filled up with stones and took new directions. Brooks in a few minutes rose 2 yards perpendicular; a supposed waterspout broke on high mountains (Pen-Ayrton) nearby and carried away the whole of the plantations and left nothing but stones and gravel behind. Several farmhouses were destroyed. It destroyed innumerable flocks of sheep. It is said the storm fell in four different Welsh counties. The <<Severn>> carried all before it as far as <Shrewsbury>. Many hundred farmers are ruined or undone. [See also Wales chronology]

The damage done on the banks of the Severn is immense with a great number of sheep and cattle swept away along with hay and grain. The damage done on the banks of the <<Wye>> are reported to be even greater <Kington>: A thunderstorm lasted for several hours with hailstones of enormous size and square form; many measured upwards of 5 inches in circumference. Streets in <Kington> were deeply flooded. Great damage was done to gardens by the hail. At a distance of a mile from the town there was no hail or rain. (Not sure this was at exactly the same date as the above).

<Carno>: Several houses were thrown down and five persons crushed to death by the ruins. The roads are scooped out to a depth of 10 or 12 feet for considerable distances.

At <Bromsgrove> a sudden and violent inundation occurred. A waterspout fell on that part of the Lickey which is nearest the town. The cataract was heard at a great distance and the body of water approaching <Bromsgrove> laid down the hedges, washed quantities of grain from malshouses and barns, destroyed tan yards. Almost in an instant cellars and lower kitchens were filled to the top. In a few minutes it entered parlour windows, covered the counters of shops and in the principal street it rose five feet perpendicular from the

**13 Apr 1792**  
**Manchester**  
**Mercury 24**  
**Apr The**  
**Observer 22**

Apr

pavement. Pigs, dogs, furniture and timber were carried by the impetuous current through the houses. A house was thrown down on the banks of the <<Lickey>>. Several water mills were materially injured and their dams washed away. At <Bromsgrove> and the upper part of the Lickey, no more than a common fall of rain was experienced. A very severe storm of rain and hail was also experienced at <Stourbridge>.

9 Feb 1795

Snowmelt with rain

Kentish

Weekly Post

24 Feb

<Gloucester>: The sudden thaw attended by rainfall caused the highest flood since 1770; it rose to within 6 inches of this mark. The lower parts of the city were under water and in St Mary's Square people could pass only in boats. The county prison was entirely surrounded. Boats came into Westgate Street higher than the foreign bridge. Houses in the Island were flooded.

25 Jun 1797

Hereford Jour

28 Jun 1797

<Shrewsbury>: Owing to the sudden dissolution of the snow the flood rose several inches above the great flood of 1770 in the neighbourhood. Many bridges in this part of the county were thrown down.

<Hereford>: thunderstorm continued for nearly half an hour; one man was killed by lightning. The storm was very localised within 3 miles of the city.

2 Jul 1797

Chester

Chronicle 7

Jul Staffs Adv

8 Jul

25 Aug 1799

the Observer

<Gloucester>: The River <<Leddon>> was raised above its banks and flooded the meadows. Meadows were also overflowed at <Tewkesbury>.

A violent storm of rain and hail fell at <Rushbury> (S of Shrewsbury), <Cardington> and <Stone Acton> in Shropshire which was succeeded by a sudden flood which carried away bridges and floodgates between <Cardington> and <Eaton> (Gt Ouse Bedford?) and overflowed the country for eight miles. Several sheep were drowned and the miller of Stone Acton was confined to the upper loft of his mill for some time.

Rainfall was persistent over three weeks but thunder and lightning was also reported. Flooding was reported in the <Birmingham> area with roads flooded. In the Worcester area, the <<Severn>>, <<Team>> (Teme?) and many other rivulets overflowed with great losses of hay corn and sheep. A millpond on the Ludlow Road gave way and seven horses were drowned in the ensuing wave. Severe flooding was also reported in <Warwick>, <Oxford> and <Gloucester>. The aqueduct bridge for the Duke of Bridgewater's canal has given way as has the aqueduct for the Ashton Canal near <Ashton>. The rise of the <<Trent>> was almost instantaneous; in the morning people were making hay and in the evening thousands of acres were inundated. A 12 year old boy was drowned at <Catton>. The lower part of the town of <Ashbourne> was flooded.

Severe flooding was also reported in Lancashire and Yorkshire (see their chronologies)

27 May 1811

<Hereford>: A thunderstorm approached from the east and proceeded towards the Northwest. It started at 3

**Hereford jour**  
**29 May**  
**Worcester**  
**Jour 30 May**  
**Shrewsbury**  
**Chronicle;**  
**Manchester**  
**mercury 11**  
**Jun ; Oxford**  
**Uni & city**  
**Herald 8 Jun**

o'clock and continued until 8 o'clock with only one hour intermission. At <Mordiford> (R <<Lugg>>) the water collected from neighbouring hills at <Backbury>, <Fownthorpe> and swept away a cider mill, a cottage and a barn. Some of the heavier contents of the mill were carried many hundred yards. Much injury has been done to several other houses. The miller, a maid servant another woman and her daughter were lost in the flood. A number of pigs were drowned and several carried across the <<Lugg>>. Trees were torn from their roots. The water in the brook across from the Moon pub was more than 8 feet high. At <Littlehope> and <Fownhope> soil was eroded from fields and hedges carried away; a tan yard was flooded, the water rushing from a woody hill across the road. At <Tarrington> sheep and cattle were carried over hedges. At <Mordiford> and <Tarrington> were the effects were most felt, the deluge did not exceed 4 or 5 minutes.

<Worcester>: The thunderstorm was accompanied by hailstones or pieces of ice, some 5 to 6 inches in length. Scarcely a window in the city exposed to the SE has escaped being broken and then exposed to the rain which followed. At the House of Industry 500 panes were broken and 150 at the Infirmary. At Barr's China Manufactory 1500 panes were broken. 150 rooks were killed in a rookery. The <<Severn>> rose nearly 20 feet in 24 hours. **In one hour it rose 6 feet.** The extent of the storm was limited to the city. Gardens and fields with growing crops were laid waste.

<Gloucester>: Effects here not so bad as in neighbouring towns but most of the low grounds in the neighbourhood were flooded; sheep and cattle were killed and trees destroyed by lightning.

<Shrewsbury>: A violent storm of hail with thunder and lightning on a ridge of hills called the (Stipperstones) caused a flood sweeping away houses cottages and beasts. Nine persons lost their lives in the village of <Pontesford> and three at <Minsterley>. At <Pontesford> several peopled climbed onto the roof of a house as some walls gave way; some were carried away and some others eventually saved. At <Minsterley> the water was 6 to 8 feet deep in some houses; the house and mill at Plott's Green were carried away. At <Hanwood> much damage was done to the linen mills. Such was the force of the great water rushing into the Severn from <<Meole Brook>> that it turned the current of the river <<Severn>> **which rose four feet in 10 minutes.** Three thousand acres of land were deluged in three villages alone. A farmer at <Cruckmeole> had 26 cattle and other beasts swept away. (<<Meole Brook>>, (not named on Google Maps) flows into the Severn in <Shrewsbury> town. Heavy rain was accompanied by congregated hailstones in a variety of shapes and magnitude, **some with a circumference of 7 inches.** Some skylights were broken.

<Birmingham>: Aston Bridge was swept away and Saltley bridge. On the <<River Rea>> at Newnham Bridge a

cart was carried over a hedge. <Bromyard> suffered unprecedented flooding. Severe flooding occurred at <Feckenham> (<<Bow Brook>> near <Reddich>). So much rain fell on <Bromsgrove> Lickey that reservoirs of the Worcester Canal overflowed by which the river <<Rea>> was prodigiously swollen, carrying away Deakin's Mill.

<Tenbury>: The <<Kyre Brook>> (<<R Teme>>) overflowed and inundated cellars and gardens.

<Warwick>: Heavy rain made roads impassable

<<Towy>> Valley: 2000 acres were observed to be flooded.

Storms were also reported at Carlisle as well as in southern Scotland.

<Worcester>: Another thunderstorm with heavy rain but without hail occurred flooding the streets in five minutes so that many houses were flooded a foot deep. At <Persore> and <Norton> a great deal of glass was broken by hail.

In a thunderstorm following a period of intense heat, at <Lyneham> near <Chippenham> a waterspout inundated a considerable area of land and occasioned a rapid rise in the <<Avon>>. Hail broke windows at <Tewkesbury> and <Gloucester>.

<Worcester>: A thunderstorm at <Hanley>, <William>, <Upper Sapey>, <Stockton>, and <Worcester> itself caused the River <<Teme>> to rise 15 feet in a very short time. The rain and enormous hailstones caused devastation. Cellars at Hanley Court were flooded in a few minutes and ultimately rose 3 inches in the apartments of the house; glass house were almost totally destroyed.

<Shrewsbury>: Lightning continued for two hours without intermission and affected the county generally. At <Acton> Reynald Hall the water in offices and cellars was 9 feet deep. Immense chasms were made in roads which became impassable.

<Hereford>: At Wellington 6 miles north of Hereford the storm was destructive of agriculture. A cloudburst near Westhope Hill and also near the Grange rushed down the Vale of Wellington sweeping fences and trees and all impediments before it till it reached the Lugg where it rose suddenly to nearly overflow. The water extended nearly two miles on the road from Wellington to Leominster in some places 10 feet deep and impassable. The water carried away sheep and cattle and flooded many houses in Wellington and all on The Marsh. Workmen described it as a volume of water thundering towards them in one immense body of considerable depth. Corn was completely swept from surfaces and immense bodies of stones and mud were deposited. A wagon and cart were carried away. Trees were struck by lightning. The water was 6 feet deep opposite the Bridge Inn on the

**8 Jun 1811**

**Nottingham**

**Jour 15 Jun**

**21 Jun 1817**

**Public Ledger  
and Daily**

**Advertiser 27**

**Jun Hereford**

**Jour 2 Jul**

**24 Jul 1817**

**Hereford Jour**

**2 Jul**

Leominster Road. The steeple of St Peter's Church Hereford was struck and damaged.

<Montgomery>: A severe hailstorm occurred with hailstones like gravel, one weighing 4 oz and 6 ½ inches in circumference.

<Oswestry>: a house was nearly unroofed by the force of the rain.

<Telford>, <Shiffnal>: Gardens and crop land are much damaged by the thunderstorm especially at Harmer Hill. Near Lea Hall the road was furrowed half a yard deep and banks and fences are demolished. A tornado was sighted at <Neen Savage> which unroofed houses and tore up trees.

<Hereford>: A thunderstorm commenced at 6.00 pm and continued with little intermission during the night. (They report a similar storm at Bristol Bath and Gloucester). Cattle were killed but no flooding was reported.

<Hereford>: At <Bodenham> situated on a bend in the River <<Lugg>>, about seven miles south of Leominster there was a thunderstorm with hail – also at Hay where it continued for an hour without intermission. The hail was as big as blackbirds eggs. The streets in the lower part of town were inundated and residents had to retreat to upper floors. Several bridges were damaged. At <Grendon> the hail killed a whole flock of turkeys. At Kington the roads were flooded from 'the sudden rise in the waters'.

<Hay>: The thunderstorm filled cellars in King Street and Bridge Street. (Severe flooding occurred in Wales especially the Vale of Glamorgan)

<Willenhall>, <Walsall>: Following a very hot day when the temperature reached 89 in the shade, hail and solid pieces of ice fell measuring more than 3 inches in circumference. Sewers were choked up and streets were flooded. Scarcely a building escaped without broken windows from the hail.

<Worcester>: A thunderstorm occurred about midday; buildings were struck and damaged by lightning and sheep were killed. No flooding was reported.

**24 Jul 1820**  
**Northampton**  
**Mercury 5**  
**Aug**  
**26 Apr 1821**  
**Hereford**  
**Journal 2 May**

**19 May 1822**  
**Hereford**  
**Jour 22 May**

**30 Aug 1824**  
**London**  
**courier 7 Sep**

**2 Sep 1824**  
**Caledonian**  
**mercury 13**  
**Sep**

**26 Jul 1828**  
**Oxford Uni &**



**City Herald 2**

**Aug**

**25 Jun 1830**

**Cheltenham**

**News 1 Jul**

**Nottingham**

**Jour 10 Jul,**

**Cheltenham**

**chronicle 28**

**Jun 1930**

<Cheltenham>: The thunderstorm commenced 9.00 and continued till nearly 11.00 pm. The rain fell with such fury that every brook was turned into a raging torrent and the High Street was impassable for more than an hour. The <<Chelt>> overflowed its banks and destroyed crops in gardens and so high that the inhabitants of Workhouse row had difficulty in escaping with their lives. One man was awakened from his bed with the water rapidly covering it. Several pigs were drowned in their stys. At <Charlton Kings> two bridges were blown up by the force of the water. At <Crompton Abdale> the water was higher than remembered for 40 years and great damage was done. At <Shipton>, two outhouses, hay and other stock were washed away. At <Andoversford> the water rose several feet in the houses.

<Winchcombe>: The brook rose suddenly in the middle of the night and washed down several walls and gained so great a height in the houses that some of the inhabitants narrowly escaped with their lives. Several sheep and pigs were drowned and a tannery was flooded.

<Tewkesbury>: By the late overflow of the Stour the damage done to crops of hay is estimated at upwards of £20000.

**21 May 1831**

**Hereford Jour**

**25 May**

<Hereford>: The thunderstorm in the city was accompanied by hail as large as swan shots [whatever they are]. The storm continued for two hours with little intermission. The rain flooded the streets and filled the cellars of many houses. The lightning shattered trees and killed cattle. At <Lower Lyde> the floods swept away a field of barley and another field of swedes as if it had been ploughed from top to bottom. Fences and stone walls were torn up and scattered. **The hail there was as large as pigeon's eggs** and covered the ground 2 inches deep.

Ross: Thirty sheep sheltering under a tree were killed when struck.

**29 Jul 1831**

**Hereford**

**Journal 3 Aug**

Referred to in a 1848 flood report as a flood which rose with unexampled rapidity and did serious injury to the lower part of Leamington

<Hay>< Clifford> and vicinity: A thunderstorm at Hay forced down a wall and injured a man when struck by lightning. At <Clifford> and <Hardwick> a stream which crosses the road rose 6 to 8 feet in 2 hours flooding the houses and in some of the fields the soil was carried off in furrows 3 feet deep.

<Lydyadyway>: The crops of the garden with the soil were carried off. Pieces of ice fell with tremendous force. Storms were also reported at Ross and Monmouth.

**29 Jul 1834**

**Oxford Jour 2**

**Aug**

<Rowlington> (7 miles from <Warwick>): The canal bank gave way over an extended distance

At <Saltisford> houses were flooded and furniture floating in the street from water which rushed over that banks of the canal. Some of the warehouses and wharfs were more or less flooded. The brooks which bound

**Leamington  
spa Courier 2  
Aug**

the Lammas Grounds where the water is normally 2 feet deep rose to 10 or 11 feet and rushed with such force as to break its banks. Part of the wall adjoining the Public Brewery was washed down. The torrent rushed down Linen Street. The culvert at the bottom of Friar Street was nearly blown up

<Longbridge>: The meadows and many of the pastures were covered with water to a depth of 2 to 3 feet.

<Kenilworth>: Near the bridge the water rose to the second floor windows of houses. The storm lasted from 2 to 7 and various gauges and reservoirs in various parts of the village indicated that 8 inches of rain fell between 4 and 7 o'clock. The town brook which runs between the Abbeys rose 5 feet higher than it was ever known to flow. Most of the culverts and bridges are more or less damaged. The large bridge adjoining the Tilt Yard near the castle is blown up from the foundation and some stones weighing 5 hundredweight were driven into the meadow, a distance of more than 100 yards.

<Leamington Spa>: Hailstones of immense size fell during the storm and the torrents of rain soon rendered the streets impassable. In the vicinity of <Binswood> where it joins with <Milverton> the water rose to a height of 8 feet and occupants of several cottages were obliged to leave their homes. Children were rescued from the top of a house by a boat. In the cellar of Binswood Tavern the water was 8 to 9 feet deep. Cottages were inundated at the back of Stamford Arms and the water in some places was 10 feet deep.

<Warwick>: Large hailstones fell with the rain. The cellars were partly filled with water.

[Flooding also occurred at Birmingham; see Trent chronology]

<Hereford>: A thunderstorm visited this city and area. At <Credenhill> and some other places heavy showers of hail or large pieces of ice fell and the heavy rain caused floods of roads and fields to a considerable depth. Sheep and cattle were killed by lightning and trees struck and shattered.

<Hay>: The rain fell in torrents and the lower part of the town was completely flooded. [Thunderstorms were also reported in Wales with lightning deaths but no flooding reported]

< There were numerous reports of horses and cattle being killed. There was little reference to flooding (except Hay).

In Herefordshire we hear of a cottage being carried away by the flood

<Grosmont> (Herefordshire): It was the most tremendous flood remembered by the oldest inhabitant. The brooks in a few minutes were swollen to tremendous heights and destroyed several bridges, uprooted many large trees. One house was washed away but the inhabitant escaped just in time. Much damage is done to gardens and crops. Similar effects were stated to have occurred at Longtown.

**3 Aug 1834  
Hereford Jour  
6 Aug  
6 Jun 1835  
Hereford  
Journal 17  
Jun  
18 Jun 1838  
Silurian etc  
Mercury**

Thunderstorms reported in  
Wales on several days during  
the week 3 to 8th.

**20 Jun 1839**  
**Leeds Times**  
**29 Jun (from**  
**Worcester**  
**Journal)**

A thunderstorm lasted 2 hours and was accompanied by hailstones of immense size, several inches in circumference. Greenhouses were badly damaged; one farmer had 2000 panes broken. Poultry and small birds were killed. Crops of wheat and barley were destroyed to the extent of several hundred acres at <Stone>, <Chaddersley Corbett>, <Belbroughton>, <Harvington>, <Shenstone>, and <Elmsley> (mainly Trent catchment). Lambs were washed down to the bottom of a field in 4 feet of water. Houses in Hartlebury were flooded, some to 5 feet deep. At Powick, lightning struck the church causing damage. A man on a pony was struck and killed (and the pony) near <Worcester>.

**31 Jul 1839**  
**Worcestershir**  
**e Chronicle 7**  
**Aug**

<Stourbridge>: All the streets presented the appearance of a rapid river carrying planks and timber. Cellars in the lower part of town were filled. A wall was washed down and every greenhouse and hot hose suffered from the hail. Recently sown barley and turnips have been completely with the soil washed into the valley leaving bare the sterile rock. At White Hall the hail was found in places 18 inches deep. Poultry and small birds were killed by the storm. {Elsewhere in England a woman was killed by lightning in Leeds and a man in Croydon].  
River <<Teme>>: Persistent rainfall with some thunderstorms caused the river to rise to cause the valley to be one long sheet of muddy water causing great damage to agricultural land and washing away the parapets of Newnham bridge. At <Tenbury> the flood rose to a great height in many of the houses and with such rapidity that residents had little time to save their property. The great snowmelt flood of 1795 was 24 ½ inches higher than this at Stanford Mill (but partly dammed up in 1795 by ice). On the Teme the river has never risen so high as in this event; it was 2 feet higher than in the hay harvest of 1799, six to seven inches higher than in the great flood of 1809, 18 inches higher than in the flood of 7 September 1821, 14 to 15 inches higher than in February 1831 and 8 inches higher than in the flood of 30 November 1836 and 12 inches higher than in 27 January 1837. Much land around <Tewkesbury> was flooded from the <<Severn>> and such a flood in summer is scarcely remembered. The <<Severn>> came down with astonishing rapidity and cattle and sheep were saved with difficulty. At <Gloucester> the river was never seen at this level in summer.

**15 Jul 1841**  
**Bells Weekly**  
**Messenger 25**  
**Jul**

The <Worcester> area was also affected by thunderstorms and hail fell at some places for an hour and a half. There was no reference to flooding.

**21 Aug 1841**  
**Globe 30 Aug**

<Worcester>: in some parts of the county the thunderstorm was accompanied by hail and floods. At Spetchley there was severe damage to glass from hailstones. The severn rose 6 feet perpendicularly in a few hours

**23 May 1843**  
**Wolverhampt**  
**on Chronicle**  
**31 May**

<Shrewsbury>: The rain fell in torrents between Shiffnal and <Birmingham> inundating the roads and adjacent grain fields.

<Wednesbury>: A waterspout laid the country under water and water entered a coalpit and drowned two men.

<Malverley>: Tthe whole grain lands are laid under water.

<Baschurch>: The hail and thunder were terrific and lightning killed two cows.

From <Pontesbury> to <Church Stretton> the thunder and hail raged for several hours

<Worcester>: The city and district were hit by a severe thunderstorm and six sheep were killed at <Tapenhall> and 2 horses at <Hallow>.

<Malvern>: Hail did much damage to gardens with an immense quantity of glass broken. No flooding was reported

**5 Aug 1843**  
**Coventry**  
**Herald 14 Aug**

Thunderstorms were widespread in East Anglia and elsewhere but with general rain from 9 in the morning till 10 at night.

**9 Aug 1843**  
**Yorkshire**  
**Gazette**  
**19Aug, Webb**  
**et al 2001**

<Cheltenham>: the High Street was nearly impassable for the torrents which poured down the carriageway.

<Gloucester>: The storm lasted two hours and killed a ram and 12 ducks on a pond.

<Upton St Leonards>: Every brook and ditch began to overflow and in a short time every meadow and low field was completely inundated. The road from <Painswick> to <Gloucester> was for two miles a stream of water that flowed as majestically as a river.

At <Stow in the Wold> the ice fell in large lumps; pieces of ice were picked up weighing 2 to 3 pounds(!), pointed and jagged.

<Worcester>: the storm was also severe with animals killed but the only reference was to road flooding on the road to <Spetchley>.

**14 Aug 1843**  
**Morning Post**  
**19 aug**

<Worcester>: The rain descended in torrents and the lower parts of the city were flooded as badly as on the previous week. The <<Severn>> rose 6 to 8 feet in the course of the night.

**4 Sep 1844**  
**Bristol**  
**Mercury 14**  
**Sep**  
**6 Jul 1845**

<Gloucester>: At <Newnham>, <Broadoak> and other places great damage was done by hail which measured 4 inches in circumference. Similar damage by hail was caused in Herefordshire notably at <Mynde Park> and <Much Dewchurch>.

Severe thunderstorms were reported between <Birmingham> and Bristol. At <Evesham> and <Persore> great

**Bradford**  
**Observer 10**  
**Jul Bristol**  
**Mercury 12**  
**Jul**  
**Hereford**  
**Journal 9 Jul**  
**London Evg**  
**Standard 10**  
**Jul**

damage was done to crops by hail and large lumps of ice which have damaged greenhouses etc. In <Prestbury> near <Cheltenham> a horse was struck dead by lightning. In the surrounding area much glass was broken by hail. In Worcestershire the storm was accompanied by a whirlwind that tore down 40-50 fruit trees on one far; at <Little Comberton> the hail was as large as pigeons eggs and one piece of ice was found which was 4 ½ inches in circumference. Similar conditions were reported at Monmouth and <Hereford>. Two men were killed by lightning at <Hungerford> in Berkshire and another near <Andover> along with three horses he was leading.

<Bromyard>: the storm continued for nearly two hours accompanied by hail and a gale of wind. The flood from the high lands on the western side of the town was so great and rapid that it rushed into houses with so much force as to carry away chairs and other articles of furniture and passed into the street like mill streams. The cellar of the Queens Arms was nearly filled with water. Jenk's tan yard was flooded. Such a flood has not been known here for upwards of 20 years. The storm was even more severe in the parish of <Whitborne> and especially the Gaines estate where upwards of 50 trees were blown down in his avenue.

<Wolverhampton>: A house was almost destroyed by a lightning strike. The houses at the bottom of Canal Street were completely inundated; in some houses it was up to the chins of occupants trying to save their possessions. A door and door case were forced in by the flood.

<Walsall>: The water rushing down the hilly streets rendered the lower part of the town impassable to pedestrians and prevented ingress and egress from houses. The storm lasted about a quarter of an hour.

<Martley> (NW of <Worcester>): Serious damage is done to crops and hop yards. A tree was torn up and carried away. Windows were broken in the Court House and elsewhere.

<Bewdley>: The area was visited by a destructive hurricane and thunderstorm. It approached from the southwest. The streets were strewn with bricks and tiles and many chimneys were blown down. Many trees were uprooted; in one farm 47 apple trees, in another 122 trees – and hundreds more elsewhere in the area.

<Hereford>: A thunderstorm lasting one hour with pelting rain and gusts of wind caused in a very short time the streets to be deluged and many cellars almost filled with water. Sparrows were killed (more than 150 by being blow up against a wall. The storm started in the neighbourhood of <Monmouth> and passing <Ross> completely smashed everything in its route. Crops of wheat and barley are laid level with the ground with the heads knocked off. Hailstones picked up varied in circumference from 2 ¾ to 3 ¼ inch circumference and lay in drifts 6 to 18 inches deep. Many windows and hot house glasses broken

**25 Jun 1846**  
**Cheltenham**  
**Gaz 29 Jun,**  
**Cheltenham**  
**Journal 29**  
**Jun**

**1 Aug 1846**  
**Morning Post**  
**3 Aug**

**7 Aug 1846**  
**Staffordshire**  
**Advertiser 15**  
**Aug, Leeds**  
**Times 22 Aug**

**2 Apr 1848**  
**Hereford**  
**journal 5 Apr**  
**Hereford**  
**Times 8 Apr**  
**Monmouthsh**  
**ire Merlin 8**  
**Apr**

<Gloucester>: In a severe thunderstorm, a house was severely damaged by lightning and several people severely injured and burnt.

<Peterchurch> (between Hereford and Hay): The storm was 3 or 4 miles in width. The rain fell in torrents tearing up the hardest roads and even stone walls bringing stones and timber in its precipitous course down the north side of the valley. **Some hailstones were 3 inches in circumference.** Serious damage was done to crops.

<Worcester>: The storm seemed to approach from the northern part of Gloucestershire and raged intermittently for 3 hours but there was no reference to flooding.

<Birmingham>: Very heavy rain was reported for two hours. There was no reference to flooding [This was the day of the great hailstorm in London]

<Shropshire>: This town (which?) was visited by another and more terrible thunderstorm. The rain descended in sheets and all the bridges in numerous places have been swept away. The damage done to crops is extensive. The wooden bridge which spans the brook at <Longden> was carried away. A brick bridge which crosses the towing path at <Cound> was totally swept away. The wooden bridge near Cantlop Mill was removed from its foundations. The loss of livestock has been great; one farmer lost 15 sheep washed away and drowned. Nearer the town the turnpike road leading from Wenlock at the Fox Farm was choked by earth from the adjoining fields. Trees were uprooted. A boy was drowned in a flooded brook in the neighbourhood of <Beachcott>.

<Ludlow>: the rain poured down in such torrents as to wash away embankments. At <Seifton> 6 miles from Ludlow a cart road was completely blocked up with water from neighbouring hills and a man was killed by the rush of water. The River <<Teme>> is swollen to an unusual height and carrying gates and hurdles etc.

<Hereford>: The city was visited by a tempest of thunder rain and hail, longer in duration and more severe in character than the storm which affected Ross on 6 Jul 1845. The weather was unusually sultry for this time in the spring. The storm began at 2.00 coming from the southeast and continued with slight intermission until six. Considerable flood damage was experienced, in St Owen's Street, Bye Street, the Commercial Road, Widemarsh street, High town and Square, King Street Bridge Street and Blackmarston and almost every quarter of the city the water was in cellars from 1 to 3 feet deep. Many houses in Holmer and Burcot Row were flooded the water running through from back to front entrance. The torrent also burst the banks of the canal basin. The stream from the Castle Mill to the Wye was backed up. At Eign the water in the Whalebone public house was high and inmates had to mount tables and chairs. At Aylstone Hill orchards and fields were quickly covered with water,

forcing its way across hedges and across allotment gardens near Barr's Court. A woman making her way up the hill was swept away by the water and carried for some distance before she recovered her feet. At Barr's Court pigs had to be saved from drowning. At <Withington> and along the Hereford and Gloucester canal much damage was done; some of the cottages had water up to their ceilings.

The storm had its greatest fury in the <Aconbury> (Hereford) and Dinedor Hills where the hailstones were as large as horsebeans. A number of lambs were killed and sheep and lambs were washed from one end of a field to another. Torrents of water from the hills descended into the roads turning them into rivers 9 or 10 feet deep. Debris was swept into the << Wye>> three quarter of the way across. At <Putson> a hole many feet in depth was scooped out in the road.

<Bullingham> (a mile and a half from Hereford): The stone bridge crossing a brook running into the Wye was washed away and the wooden bridge lower down. The deep banks of the brook have been carried away and the stream is now broad. Several named people were badly affected. One farmer lost 8 pigs and another both sheep and pigs.

Great ravages were caused by the flood at <Shelwick> with many fences and young plantations swept away. At <Hoarwithy> too the destruction included damage to the mill.

<Presteign> (20 km NW of Hereford): The thunderstorm with hail lasted from 3 till 5 o'clock. The hills were all white after the storm.

The storm was experienced at <Cheltenham> and <Swindon> but flooding was not reported. At <South Kilworth> the hailstorm was such that scarcely a window in an easterly direction remained unbroken. There some hailstones measured 2  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in circumference.

<Hereford>: The storm visited the county and its southwestern borders. The rain has caused considerable floods in this and neighbouring counties. The water on the turnpike roads at <Wormbirdge> and near the Three Horse shoes in the parish of <Allensmore> was 3 feet deep. The towing path bridge at <Bullingham> was destroyed; its predecessor had been washed away in 1848 and in its place a stone bridge was built. The new bridge was carried away by the force of the water and not a vestige of it remains. The <<Wye>> and <<Lugg>>

**3 May 1849**  
**Hereford**  
**Times 5 May**  
**Hull**  
**Advertiser 11**  
**May**

rose rapidly. It was remarkably warm for the time of year.

**10 May 1849**  
**Manchester**  
**Courier 30**  
**May Bells**  
**Weekly**  
**Messenger 26**  
**May**  
**4 Jun 1849**  
**Reading**  
**mercury 16**  
**Jun**  
**20 Jun 1851**  
**Yorkshire Gaz**  
**28 Jun**  
**Worcestershir**  
**e chronicle 2**  
**Jul, Webb et**  
**al 2009**  
**30 Apr 1852**  
**Cheltenham**  
**Journal 2 May**  
**13-16 Jul**  
**1852**  
**Worcestershir**  
**e Chronicle 21**  
**Jul**

A Waterspout burst on the (Bredon Hills) in <Worcestershire>. Stone walls were washed away, gardens were destroyed and furniture carried out of the windows of Kemerton Priory. Half the houses in the village of <Kemerton> were flooded by the waterspout and all the stone walls on its course from the hill were washed away. From marks on trees it is evident that the water was at one time 16 feet deep. The railway in the neighbourhood was so deeply flooded as to delay the express train by extinguishing the fires in the engine.

<Ledbury>: In a widespread thunderstorm premises at <Donnington> were affected with water in the fold yard rising so rapidly as to force away the walls of some buildings so that poultry perished and 14 pigs were washed out of their shed but recovered alive later.

<Shipston on Stour>: The storm extended from <Willington> to <Tredington> with **hailstones 4 to 6 inches in circumference**. The hailstones had a white nucleus about the size of a large pea enveloped in clear ice and many were irregular in form. Many pigeons, partridges and blackbirds were killed. Many hailstones lay unmelted the following day. The streets were flooded and many of the houses were deluged and gardens were damaged and windows broken. Hail came pouring into houses from the broken casements.

**Six severe (H3+) hail events, the most severe (H5) affecting a 50 km swath across Gloucestershire and Warwickshire (N Cotswolds to Rugby), said to be on 21<sup>st</sup>.**

<Winchcombe> (NE of <Cheltenham>): The rain and hail fell in torrents and completely flooded the streets in the lower part of town rendering them almost impassable. A storm such as this at such an early time of the year has hardly been witnessed.

Worcestershire: Thunderstorms occurred on three separate days.

<Malvern>: On 13<sup>th</sup> there was a heavy fall of hail and pieces of **ice which measured 2 to 5 inches in circumference**. Most skylights having a south aspect were broken and many panes of glass destroyed. This storm was confined to the Malvern area. Sheep were killed by lightning.

<Evesham>: On 14<sup>th</sup> evening the storm was accompanied by a violent wind and much damage was done to



market gardeners. Trees were split and branches sent off in all directions.

<Leigh> and North Malvern: On 16<sup>th</sup> the storm was even more severe and with hurricane winds caused much damage. It took an easterly direction towards <Alcester> and <Inkberrow> having Upton for its southern boundary and <Stourport> and <Kidderminster> to the north. Cottages were unroofed and trees blown down. At Hopton Court nearly all the windows were destroyed. At <Broadwas> a brook rose onto the road to a depth of 3 feet. The main effects of this storm were from the wind with many trees blown down.

<Ombersley>: Here the hailstones measured 2 inches in circumference and the road was inundated to a depth of several inches and low lying houses flooded.

<Liscombe>: A man and his horse were struck dead by lightning. The hail and rain were so severe that several houses were filled with mud and water to some depth.

<Hartlebury>: The sluices and drains became suddenly choked up and setting furniture afloat in houses by the roadside. The flood carried away a stone wall.

<Chaddesley Corbett>: the tempest came on from the west about 6 o'clock and a fearful storm of hail continued for 20 minutes during the storm. The hailstones had the appearance of broken ice and varied from 4 to 6 inches in circumference. All the windows facing the storm are gutted including those in the church and the school; with an estimated 10000 panes in the village gone. Whole fields of wheat and barley were laid with only the odd grain remaining

<Stroud>: a man was struck dead by lightning.

<Hereford>: The rise on the <<Wye>> at Hereford was the most rapid ever noticed. At 12.15 the river was showing signs of a freshet and it then rose 10 feet in less than 3 hours. Enquiries to old bargemen some over 60 years old note that none can remember the river to have risen to such a height in so short a time. Sheep pigs and a calf were seen floating down the river.

<Dymock> (Gloucs): The village was passed on the north side by the Hereford and Gloucester canal on an embankment above the village. The thunderstorm immediately flooded houses and fields but the level of the canal was simultaneously raised and the water topping the banks spread over the adjoining country from a breach 15 to 20 yards in length draining 5 miles of the canal to its bed. Serious damage was caused to boats in the canal. Great damage was done in Dymock. On the south side of the canal several cottages were submerged, some reaching to the upper windows.

**9 Aug 1852**  
**The Silurian**  
**16 Jul**  
**Cheltenham**  
**Examiner 31**  
**Aug**

**17 Aug 1852**  
**Westmorland**  
**Gazette 4 Sep**

[See more extensive details in Wales chronology]

A severe thunderstorm occurred over <Worcester> <Gloucester> and <Hereford>. It was a thunderstorm of long duration from five in the evening till daybreak the next morning with incessant rainfall and the occasional water spout. The Severn at <Worcester> was at low summer level in the evening but by dawn it had overflowed and the surface was covered with trees, crops, furniture and drowned animals. Houses fields and gardens were flooded at <Worcester> but destruction has been more severe on the <<Teme>> and its tributaries the <<Leigh>> and <<Laughern>> Brooks, destroying all the bridges. The rise of water on the <<Teme>> was the most rapid and the highest on record. At <Powick> the water rose six inches above the second floor of the grist mill. It is reckoned 2000 sheep were washed away in Powick parish. A man and a child were drowned on the <<Teme>> at <Knightwick>. At <Stone bridge> on the <Leigh> Brook a cottage was swept away and a woman drowned. The water came down the <<Teme>> with a 'head' similar to the tidal phenomenon on the Severn. At <Hennick> (?) Mill 11 pigs were washed away with their pigsty. At this point two men were overtaken by the flood and ran for their lives. They reached a tree where they took refuge and remained overnight.

**28 Aug 1852**  
**Hereford**  
**Journal**

Rivers and brooks have suddenly overflowed their banks, washing off the land hay corn and sheep. The <<Lugg>> (tributary of <<Wye>>), the <<Dore>> the <<Worm>> and <<Froome>> are all unusually increased and have been proportionately injurious along their courses. <Hereford> <Ledbury> and <Bromyard> have all suffered. Houses were flooded and much damage done at <Malvern Wells>. At <Great Malvern> the water filled cellars and stables and pouring into the churchyard it carried silt into the Abbey entering at the north door and flowing through to the chancel.

[Note. Widespread thunderstorms sometimes without floods were experienced throughout the summer of 1852]

**29 Aug 1852**  
**Gloucs**  
**Chronicle 4**  
**Sep**  
**4 Sep 1852**  
**London Evg**  
**Standard 7**

Note the same entries for 17 Aug above; 4 Sep seems more correct

<Gloucester>: Two heavy showers completely deluged the city. From the high ground near the India House in lower Barton Street the flood poured down towards the turnpike like a mountain river and on the lower side of the road the water was a foot deep. In the middle of Barton Street houses were flooded, some more than horse-knee deep.

<Worcestershire>: The storm also affected <Hereford> and <Gloucestershire>. The headline says 2000 sheep were drowned. The rain poured down for nearly 12 hours and the thunder roared without intermission during this period. On Saturday evening the <<Severn>> at <Worcester> was at low summer level but by daylight it had

**Sep, Hereford**  
**Journal 8 Sep**  
**Worcs Journal**  
**9 Sep**

overflowed its banks and the surface was covered with uprooted trees, crops furniture and drowned and living animals. Houses fields and gardens were flooded in <Worcester>. The <<Severn>> rose 8 or 9 feet in the course of the night and <Pitchcroft> was partially flooded and several boats were sunk. The Journal reports that a great storm occurred in the county on 13 April 1792 which is recorded in Nash's History of Worcestershire (See 1792).

<Upton>: The flood swept away part of the works for a new bridge

<<Teme>>, <<Laughern>> and <<Leigh>>: The great majority of bridges on these streams have been blown up. Laughern Bridge, erected in 1821, of brick and stone copings was seriously damaged and the parapets swept away. The adjoining road was flooded to a depth of 4 or 5 feet. A bridge at Boughton House was also damaged but the arch remained intact. At <Bransford> the bridge escaped unscathed; the Fox Inn nearby was flooded to a depth of nearly five feet and was left with mud 6 inches deep. The rise of water in the <<Teme>> was the most rapid and the highest on record. At <Powick> the water rose 6 inches above the second floor of Hadley's grist mill. Fields of crops along the rivers were swept away and at Powick Ham alone 2000 sheep were estimated drowned. At Henwick Mill 11 pigs were drowned and the pigsty swept away. There two men were overcome by the flood and took refuge in a tree and three men on horseback were drowned. A waterspout was said to have fallen at Knightswick and a man and a child were drowned. At Stone Bridge on the Leigh Brook a cottage was swept away and a woman drowned. The water came down the Teme with a head similar to the tidal phenomenon on the Severn.

<Leigh>: With the sudden overflowing of <<Leigh>> Brook the roads became impassable; the houses in the village were inundated in one case nearly up to the first floor. The fields and gardens were strewn with dead sheep. <Leigh Sinton> generally escaped uninjured. The bridge there was completely dismantled, only a small portion of the brickwork remaining.

<Hopton>: the bridge here on the <<Leigh>> Brook was completely swept away. The water swept into Hopton court and filled the house to a depth of several feet. Garden walls of brick were overturned. In the courtyard at the back of the house the water was 5 feet deep.

<Alfrick>: The village has been laid waste by the violence of the storm. The tiny brook which flows through the village overflowed its banks causing immense destruction to property. Upstream a ruined paper mill was flooded but alongside a cottage was swept away and a woman drowned. The stone bridge was carried away entirely. Cottages and mills were flooded to a great depth. Moseall Bridge was also swept away.

<Suckley>: At <Tundridge> Mill the water was ascertained to be more than 20 feet above the ordinary level and

reached the second floor. Adlington's Mill was surrounded by water and the inmates narrowly escaped. Landslips have occurred.

<<Upper Sapey>>: The coping stones and parapets were thrown down and two others were entirely destroyed. Large stones weighing 7 cwt were rolled down the stream. One farmer lost 25 sheep.

<Martley>: At Stoney Bridge 50 yards of road were swept away into an adjoining field. At Laughern House a new bridge an embankment was carried away and the bridge rendered impassable. One side of the Pig Bridge was thrown down. A cottage at 'The Devil's Leap a mile and a half from Martley was swept away.

<Holt> and <Witley>: The walls of the bridge between <Shawley> and <Astley> were washed away.

<Duckbrook> Bridge was washed away. Great injury was sustained at Roger's Mill.

<Grimley>: At Ball Mill the pigs were lost and at <Hallow> both sides of the bridge were washed down.

<Henwick Mill>: Both sides of the bridge were washed down and the coping stones washed away. 14 pigs and a large quantity of flour were lost. At a cottage near the mill the water rose 2 feet in 10 minutes causing great damage. At 'The Old Snuff Mill' the water was several feet deep in the dwelling; the mill itself was unscathed. Bubble Bridge was entirely demolished and two sides of the Mud-wall Bridge on the road to <Bromyard> were also swept away. At <Doddenham> the back of a cottage was washed down but the family escaped. More than 50 sheep were lost.

<Whitbourne>: At <Gaines> a carriage drive was swept into the turnpike road together with the intervening bridges. The water poured down the hills breaking down hedges and embankments.

<Malvern Link>: A horse and gig were overturned but the occupants not seriously hurt.

<Mathon>: The road leading to Mr Hill's of the Bank on solid rock was ripped to a depth of 1 or 2 feet and borne down into a hop yard across the rows of hops and sweeping the soil down 200 yards to the bottom and rendering the road impassable. A potato field was swept down three meadows; the hedges disappeared and styles and gates were broken. A bridge to Stockton farm was destroyed and the stream converted to a mill pond. The bridge at Brook House Farm was blown up. Thirtyone years ago in 1821 one arch was swept away and a wooden one erected. The water there in his barn was 4 feet deep and the cellar of his house was flooded up to the parlour floor.

<Ledbury>: the river <<Leadon>> overflowed its banks and aided by pouring streams from the surrounding hills soon laid the adjacent lands under water.[No reference here to flooding of houses]. At <Bosbury> however, the church vicarage and every house in the village was flooded to a depth of many feet and the surrounding fields

were one sheet of water.

<Tenbury>: A man was killed by lightning. Cattle and sheep were also killed

<Bromyard>: the rain and thunder continued without intermission for 6 hours and the streets were completely inundated. Several bridges and fences were torn up and damaged.

<Bewdley>: The Severn rose a yard or more in a very short time from the tributary brooks overflowing. Potatoes, turnips and other crops were torn up by the roots and lying about in the fields. Crops were destroyed but animals rescued from deep water. The bridge at <Dowles> sustained damage to its foundations. A weir near the bridge was also forced down. Such a storm has not been witnessed for more than 40 years.

<Evesham>: Villages in the vicinity were flooded including <Hinton>, <Ashton>, <Dumbleton> and <Sedgeborough> where houses were flooded that had never been flooded before.

<Winchcomb>: The town was visited by the greatest storm since 26 June 1830. Water rushed from the adjoining hills and several walls were knocked down and much damage done to all the mills along the stream. The water in Castle Street was upwards of 5 feet deep being one inch of the depth in 1830. Five cows were killed by lightning at Farmcott.

<Hereford>: The city was affected by a most fearful deluge of rain and hail. The streets and roads assumed the appearance of rivers to a depth of 6 to 8 inches, with many cellars flooded.

The storm affected <Ledbury>, <Bromyard>, <Malvern> and <Worcester>. The <<Teme>> rose suddenly a height of 15 feet, it is said. On the turnpike at Chances Pitch the water rose so quickly and reached the third bar of the turnpike gate. At New Mills near <Ledbury> the water rose suddenly and overflowed the banks. The River <<Frome>>, though at its usual level when the storm commenced was in less than an hour overflowing its banks. A man in a horse and cart at <Mathon> were washed away but both survived; the man was rescued from the top of a hedge.

<Malvern>: A great deal of damage has been done by the flooding of houses.

<Upper Wick>: At daylight it was discovered that 130 acres were covered with water and cattle and sheep marooned – some rescued and some drowned.

<Hereford> and <Worcester>: Violent and destructive storms passed over Malvern Hills, <Ledbury>, <Bromyard>, <Bishop's Froome> and <Marcle>. The hailstones remained on the ground to a considerable extent. Much damage was done to crops and vegetables especially at <Ross>. A barn on a farm at <Hildersley> was completely flooded.

**20 Jun 1853**  
**Hereford Jour**  
**29 Jun**

**24 Jun 1853**  
**Saunders**  
**newsletter 29**  
**Jun**  
**8 Jul 1853**  
**Eddowes**  
**Journal 13 Jul**  
  
**30 Jul 1854**  
**Yorkshire**  
**Gazette,**  
**Sheffield**  
**Independent**  
**5 Aug**  
**25/26 Jul**  
**1855 Aris'**  
**Birmingham**  
**Gaz.**  
**20 Jun 1856**  
**Hereford Jour**  
**2 Jul**  
**14 May 1857**  
**Worcester**  
**Chronicle**  
**Shrewsbury**  
**Chronicle 22**

Said to be the worst in living memory! But reference was made to a storm in April 1823 with hail affecting Much Wenlock

<Dymock>: A bank on the <Hereford> and Gloucester canal gave way and flooded much surrounding countryside.

<Cheltenham>: A thunderstorm commenced at 12.30 and continued until 3.00 accompanied for part of the time by hail as large as small marbles. In a few minutes the streets were flooded to a depth of 4 or 5 inches. [No property flooding was mentioned].

<Welshpool>: A heavy thunderstorm caused 'one of those sudden rises in the Severn that usually follow the mountain storms'.

<Montgomery>: At <Castlewright> an outbuilding was entirely washed away by the force of the water. A great portion of the soil was also washed off a turnip field at <Churchstoke>. The whole of the brooks and rivers in the neighbourhood are overflowed and much damage is done to hay crops.

South Wales and Monmouthshire were affected by thunderstorms. Rivers and brooks overflowed their banks and laid valleys under water to the tops of hedges.

Church spires were struck at <Withington> and <Hereford> causing damage. The storm was felt with great severity in <Ludlow>, <Leominster>, <Ledbury>, <Ross>, <Kington>, and <Abergavenny>. The <<Wye>>, <<Lugg>> and <<Teme>> were considerably flooded. At <Brecon> bridges and canal banks have been swept away. Several people were killed by lightning in Southwest England.

<Cheltenham>: The fall of rain was so great as to cause a flood and consequent destruction of a large amount of property. Many tons of hay have been washed away and nursery gardens are much damaged.

<Tewkesbury>: In a thunderstorm the streets were partially flooded and hail come down with tremendous force. Some damage occurred by lightning to trees and buildings.

<Kidderminster>, <Stourbridge>, <Chaddesley>, <Bellbroughton>: A thunderstorm affected this neighbourhood. At Chaddesley large hailstones fell. Two horses were killed by lightning. The high lands have suffered much damage with crops and soil carried away.

<Stourbridge>: The hail fell in lumps the size of marbles and a great deal of glass was broken. The town was flooded and walls were carried away. The embankment of the road to the railway station gave way. On the

**May**

(Clee hills)the rain ran down declivities in torrents so as to roll large stones considerable distances.  
<Bridgnorth>: Rain and hail descended and in a few minutes the streets were deluged with the water rushing down them in perfect torrents. The storm lasted three quarters of an hour. In the Low Town many of the houses were inundated and the roads were completely flooded. In the neighbouring country the roads between the hedges were filled with water and mud from the fields and banks especially the road leading to <Shiffnal>. The water was up to the bellies of horses. The Severn rose to a considerable height. The mud on the hill leading to <Allscott> was very deep. Crops have been torn up and washed away. At <Rindleford> the <<Worfe>> rose above the rustic bridge and was impassable and many of the houses inundated. The road to <Bromley> is fissured and furrowed a foot deep to the rock. At <Fenn Gate> the flood lifted a roller more than a ton in weight and carried it 100 yards. Trees have been washed up by the roots.  
<Aldenham>: The house and corn mill were flooded and all the surrounding land making access impossible. Mud was washed from the fields on to the road and the water was a yard deep in places.

**13/14 Aug  
1857**

Thunderstorm embedded in longer rainstorm

**Wolverhampt  
on Chronicle  
19 Aug**

<Worcestershire>: The storm raged especially on the western borders of the county flooding the River Teme and smaller tributaries.  
<Hereford>: the storm was accompanied by large hail, some 1 ½ inches in length.  
In <Cheltenham> and <Gloucestershire> the storm was also accompanied by much hail.

**12 Jun 1858  
Aris  
Birmingham  
Gaz 14 Jun,  
Worcester  
chronicle 14  
Jun**

<Worcester>: The storm was also reported there without flooding – also at Stratford and <Evesham> with hail damage to crops but no reports of flooding.  
Thunderstorms were also reported in the Cotswolds and Gloucestershire and a man was killed by lightning at Stroud.  
<Hereford>: At <Kingsland> the thunderstorm lasting 2 hours was accompanied by hailstones which measured 2 inches round. A farmer lost 14 sheep by one lightning strike.  
[See also Trent chronology with reference to flooding in Birmingham]

**,Gloucester  
Jour 19 Jun  
8 Jul 1858  
Coventry  
Herald 9 Jul  
11 Aug 1858**

<Coventry>: A thunderstorm lasted about an hour and a half. Rushing water flooded some parts of the city and did considerable damage to tradesmen's premises.

<Ross>: In a thunderstorm the rainfall was remarkable with 3.41 inches in four hours and more than 2.75 inches

**Man of Ross**  
**19 Aug**  
**23 Jun 1861**  
**Wolverhampt**  
**on chronicle**  
**26 Jun**  
**Shrewsbury**  
**Chronicle 28**  
**Jun, Aris's**  
**Birmingham**  
**Gazette 29**  
**Jun**  
**21 Jul 1861**  
**Leicester**  
**Guardian 27**  
**Jul**  
**8 Oct 1863**  
**Worcester**  
**journal 10 Oct**  
  
**20 May 1864**  
**Aris's**  
**Birmingham**  
**Gazette 21**  
**May,**  
**Leamington**  
**Adv 26 may**  
**2 Sep 1864**

in 50 minutes. Considerable damage was done by the rain overflowing spouts and drains filling cellars. The Brookend was completely under water causing considerable loss to shopkeepers.

<Dudley>: The streets were flooded and water rushed down the Birmingham Road to the entrance to the railway station where a large pond was formed.

<Ludlow>(22<sup>nd</sup>) thunderstorms have in places done much damage. The River <<Teme>> and its tributaries which have for weeks been at very low ebb suddenly became flooded.

[See also Trent chronology for Birmingham flooding]

<Hinckley>: Hail and rain descended in torrents and many houses were quite inundated and inhabitants obliged to take shelter in the upper parts of their houses. The vicinities of the borough and market Place were flooded to a great depth; culverts sewers and causeways were torn up and the rapid streams flowing down the streets made them impassable. Hay was washed away or damaged. The water descended from Upper Bond Street, Castle Street and Stockwell Head Hill to the Market place.

<Bromyard>: The Frome overflowed its banks to a considerable extent and caused one of the greatest floods for some time. Foot passengers had to cross over the Wrocester bridge before they could enter or leave the town.

<Pershore>: The thunderstorm continued from 3 until 5 am. The fall of water was so great the drains were choked and roads and houses were flooded.

North Warwickshire: A thunderstorm lasted nearly 2 hours and rain and hail fell in torrents. Information mainly relates to effects of lightning on trees and buildings. At Sutton Coldfield a cow was killed by lightning.

<Malvern>: Rain and hail descended for about an hour and on the lower North Road there was a flood nearly 2 feet deep but the worst effects were up St Ann's Hill. The drain or gutter was torn up and bricks comprising it



**Worcestershire Chronicle 7 Sep**

**8 Jul 1865**

**Preston**

**Herald 15 Jul**

**24 Aug 1865**

**Alcester chronicle 26 Aug**

**31 May 1866 BR**

**20 May 1867 Birmingham Daily Gaz 21 May**

**20 Aug 1867 Birmingham Daily Post 21 Aug**

**3 Sep 1867 Manchester courier 5 Sep; Leeds mercury 5 Sep, Hereford Times 7 Sep,**

Orleton (Hereford) 1.00" in 1 h

Kings Caple (Hereford) 2.40" in 45 m  
Rugby 1.50" in 2 h 30 m

along with stones and dead rats were carried downhill. The Unicorn and a neighbouring shop were flooded. Holes upwards of 3 feet deep near Kensington cottage were cut in the road. At the railway station some of the pipes burst and flooded the passage between the platforms.

<Knowle>, Warwickshire: There was a heavy fall of hail which covered the roads [more severe in <Birmingham>]

<Alcester> (W of Stratford): In a thunderstorm with rain and hail the High Street was completely flooded – in one unbroken stream from one side of the street to the other. The hailstones were large and very irregular in shape, some being half an inch in diameter and a few windows were broken. Considerable damage was done at Cookhill where the storm raged with great violence and nearly all the windows in the ancient chapel were broken and some of the hailstones were an inch and a half in length. Damage was done to crops. Some nearby localities received little rain.

<Dudley>: The thunderstorm lasted 40 minutes and houses in Flood Street were flooded to a depth of a few inches (not as badly as in the past due to improvements in the sewers).

<Worcester>: The rain fell in immense quantities and penetrated some apartments.

<Kidderminster>: buildings were struck by lightning and 3 sheep killed.

<Malvern>: The thunderstorm was said to be the most violent for 15 years. A large quantity of hail and transparent ice fell, the latter being flat and upwards of an inch across. The streets afterwards had the appearance of a gravel pit. Near the Unicorn Hotel large blocks of stone upwards of 2 cwt were accumulated with the water rushing down from the hills created holes in the road up to four feet deep. The flood burst open a drain in The Valley between North Hill and The Beacon and the torrent poured down Red Lion Bank into the town bearing stones, sand and other debris, flooding shops and cellars in its course. A raingauge registered upwards of one inch in half an hour

BR

At <Worcester> the storm was very destructive; there was a great fall of hail and several people were injured by lightning. **With the rain came pieces of ice an inch long.**

Two small girls were killed by lightning at School in Norfolk. A boy was struck and killed at Mansfield.

<Ross>: The rain was mingled with large hailstones. The streets were completely inundated. The wind too was very high and did damage to roofs. Nearby in the neighbourhood of <Llangarren> and <Hoarwithy> hedges were almost completely washed away and the sand left in the roads is many yards in depth.

<Ledbury>: The main intense storm lasted one hour but thunder continued all day. The streets were one sheet of water and many of the houses were flooded. **Immense pieces of ice fell, many of them being at least as large as a hen's egg.** Skylights and glasshouses were shattered.

The storm was widely reported in the Welsh borders but mainly with respect to lightning damage to trees and buildings but only in a few cases to flooding

<Bromsgrove>: Violent thunderstorm, re-commencing at 3.45 p.m. (there having been a slight one in the morning). In half an hour the water ran in the streets like small rivers; the baskets, buckets, &c., of the market people (it being market day) were floating about, the houses flooded, cellars filled, &c. 1.65" of rain fell during the storm, and 0.23" of rain fell during the previous one.

<Rugby>: At about 7 the storm commenced; and, from that time till 9.30 the thunder and lightning was almost continuous, accompanied by a tropical fall of rain, 1.50" cattle and sheep were killed by the lightning.

<Newport> (Staffs): Rain and hail come down in torrents for half an hour and several houses were completely flooded.

**14 Apr 1869**

**Staffordshire**

**Advertiser 17**

**Apr**

**25 May 1869**

**Bolton Evg**

**News 28 May,**

**Shrewsbury**

**Chronicle 28**

**May,**

**Bridgnorth**

**Jour 29 May,**

**BR**

Wolverhampton 1.50" in 2 h  
There was a remarkable absence of really heavy falls during 1869. The amounts on this day were heaviest, both absolutely (1.88") and relatively (7%), in Shropshire, and the fall extended across the country to the neighbourhood of Hull.

<Leighton> (<Shrewsbury>): Hail and rain poured down in torrents causing the brooks to overflow. A mill dam burst carrying away part of the embankment of the upper dam and coming down with force carried away the archway under the turnpike road leading from <Shrewsbury> to <Ironbridge> and part of the road to <Garniston> close to Leighton Gate. Several houses were flooded and some trees were torn up and carried away. Dingle mill was also damaged by flooding.

<Wellington>: The deluge of hail and rain flooded the streets and several houses.

<Bridgnorth>: On Aldenham estate a quantity of timber was carried away by the floods from the saw mill near to Muckley Cross by the bursting of the pool dam and consequent rushing of the water through the house and mill.

<Llangedwyn>: The roads from there to <Oswestry> were impassable to foot passengers for miles; the

**9 Jul 1870 BR**  
**13 Aug 1871**  
**Cheltenham**  
**Examiner 16**  
**Aug,**  
**Worcester**  
**herald 19 Aug**  
**18 Jun 1872**  
**Birmingham**  
**Daily Post 19**  
**Jun,**  
**Shrewsbury**  
**chronicle 21**  
**Jun,**  
**Gloucester**  
**Journal 22**  
**Jun, BR**

Ludlow (Shropshire) 2.15" in  
105 m  
Sambourne (Warwick) 1.81"  
in 70 m  
Studley, Redditch 2.55" in 2 h  
10 m  
Crewkerne (Somerset) 0.60"  
in 30 m

Henley in Arden Ts gave 2.56"  
BR notes: Warwickshire  
storm, occurring about 2  
p.m., and giving 2 ½ in. over  
part of Birmingham, and even  
more at Henley-in-Arden;

mountain brooks overflowed and the roads turned into rivers. Hail lay in heaps and many fields were flooded.  
<Oswestry>: Many cellars in the Cross and other parts of the town were flooded

<Cheltenham>: Rain fell in torrents from 7 to 9 in the evening. Sewers here and there burst and underground rooms were flooded and skylights were broken.

<Tarrington> (between <Hereford> and <Ledbury>): It was with difficulty that a number of sheep were saved from the rapid rising of the flood. Wheat was much damaged and soil carried away by the flood.

<Dinsmore>: Farm buildings were totally destroyed whilst the farmer was trying to rescue poultry from being swept away.

<Leamington> area: Only a few spots of rain fell at <Leamington> and <Warwick>. However, the storm was severe towards <Hatton> and <Stratford> where the brooks were flooded and fields covered to several inches – also at <Henley in Arden>. In several roads the water rose several feet flooding the lower kitchens of cottages. Large hailstones fell at intervals and broke many windows around Hatton. One horse was washed away and drowned.

<Nuneaton>: The Coventry canal overflowed its banks and an immense body of water made its way down Wash Lane with great rapidity in the direction of the town. In many instances the water poured into houses and cellars. Businesses were entirely suspended.

<Henley in Arden>: The street was deluged and shops flooded. At the village of <Binton> the water ran down the road 18 inches deep.

<Wem> (N of <Shrewsbury>): Many roads were rendered impassable especially High Street opposite the Gas Works, Everall's Tanyard, New Street and the Horton Road. Much damage was done by the brook which flows through Everall's tanyard. A mare and foal were killed at Tilley park. The Baptist Church spire was struck by lightning and damaged.

<Whitchurch>: The storm lasted just over an hour. At the bottom of Bargates the road for 40 yards was half a yard deep in water. Tarporley road was deluged and Chester Road and several other parts of the town, the sewers being unable to carry off so large a volume of water.

<Cinderford>: the rain fell in torrents and the floods ran down the streets inundating some of the dwellings.

<Henley-in-Arden> Thunderstorm, with fall of 2.56" of rain, and causing such a flood that it swept like a

**19 Jun 1872**

**Leamington**

**Spa Journal**

**22 Jun**

**24 Jun 1872**

**Birmingham**

**Daily Post 26**

**Jun,**

**Worcestershir**

**e Chronicle 26**

**Jun**

**26 Jun 1872**

**Worcester**

**Chronicle 29**

**Jun**

**6 Jul 1872 BR**

**7 Jul 1872**

**Birmingham**

**Daily Post 9**

**Jul,**

**Worcester**

**Journal 13 Jul,**

**BR**

Berkeley (Gloucs) 1.77" in 2 h

Widespread thunderstorms in England and Wales 6th/7th, especially along the Welsh border on 7th. Over the two days: Hereford 78.0 mm, Knowbury (near Tenbury Wells) 73.2 mm, Stokesay 62.0 mm, More 67.1 mm (both Craven Arms area).

mountain torrent through the town.

<Leamington>: The storm on 19<sup>th</sup> last two hours. However we had no inundations or streets rendered impassable.

<Evesham>: The thunderstorm was accompanied by large hailstones, some measuring an inch and a half long and one 2 ½ inches long. Many windows were broken at Badsey and at Church Lench.

<Kidderminster>: Hail of enormous size fell and the lower part of the streets of the town were turned into lakes and the cellars of a large number of tradesmen were flooded including in Blackwell Street.

<Henley in Arden>: The thunderstorm was accompanied by the heaviest hailstones and of the most extraordinary shapes he has ever witnessed, which caused great destruction of glass.

<Shrewsbury>: In a thunderstorm (reported in angler column) the Severn rose 6 feet in an hour or two and was highly discoloured from storms higher up the river.

<Hereford>: A thunderstorm with great violence lasted three hours but the rain did not begin to fall until the tempest was at its height. Low lying portions of the town were speedily flooded. The River Wye began to rise with great rapidity; the water rose 5 feet in the space of two hours – an almost unprecedented occurrence even in winter. The water was covered with debris showing that the tempest was felt all along the valley of the Wye. Sheep pigs and smaller animals were washed by. The hedge and bank protecting the Castle Green on the riverside was clean washed away for several yards – showing the force of the rain.

<Evesham>: A thunderstorm lasted for 2 hours accompanied by a heavy fall of rain and hail. The High Street presented the aspect of a river, the drains being insufficient to carry off the water. A temporary theatre was blown down on the Merstowe Green. The crops have suffered badly from the hail and the wind.

<Worcester>: At <Diglis> the River <<Severn>> rose 12 feet in the same number of hours – an extraordinary circumstance at this time of year. The River <<Teme>> rose even more rapidly. [No flooding in the city was reported].

<Persnore>: The water ran though the thoroughfare known as 'The Duckbath' and forced its way into houses at the lower level.

<Bromsgrove>: Many houses and cellar of the town were flooded and has done great damage to hay and other

**25 Jul 1872**  
**Birmingham**  
**Daily Post 26**  
**Jul,**  
**Cheltenham**  
**Examiner 31**  
**Jul**

A met record for Birmingham notes the unusually high minimum temperature of 65F (18.3C) on the 24<sup>th</sup> night. The maximum was 84F but 87F on 22<sup>nd</sup> and over 80F max for 6 days.  
Wolverhampton 1.37" in 1 h

crops.

<Tenbury Wells>: Water backed up from a choked culvert and flowed down into the Rose and Crown Inn where the water was 2 feet deep on the ground floor. The <<Kyre Brook>>, initially very low was within an hour level with the road (It runs parallel with Cross and Market Streets and at the top of Teme Street by the side of the Spa Gardens). In another hour it was running down Teme Street to a depth of 2 to 3 feet; most of the houses were flooded and all the cellars were filled. The rapid rise in level did not enable remedial action to be taken. It affected innkeepers, clothiers, grocers and drapers. It was reported that the rain was even heavier between Tenbury and Clee Hills with damage to water rushing down undulating ground.

<Worcester>: Streets in low lying parts of the city were flooded in a thunderstorm lasting about 2 hours. A man was seriously injured by lightning.

<Evesham>: The rain flooded the High Street which for a time resembled a river, the drains be unable to carry of the immense volume of water. The lower parts of the town were also flooded. Crops are badly damaged and vegetable washed up by the roots and wheat is laid flat. The Merstowe green presented the appearance of a large lake.

<Tewkesbury>: Two thunderstorms broke over the town and flooded the streets and cellars and many of the houses. The drains were overcharged and two sewers forced up manhole covers with water rising several feet. All the low lying meadows around <Tewkesbury> and Ashchurch were covered by the flood.

<Kidderminster>: Two thunderstorms occurred, morning afternoon, the second being the more severe. Basements and cellars in many parts of the town were flooded and the roads were a sheet of water. In the vicinity of the canal bridge in Mill Street the water stood 3 feet deep inundating cellars. In Oxford Road the water was nearly 2 feet deep and at the bottom of Comberton Hill several houses were flooded. The road from Stourport to Kidderminster was flooded for about a mile. At Hartlebury station the station yard was a complete pool of water and the metals were in some places covered. The crops in many places have been beaten flat to the ground.

<Dudley>, <Pensnett>: A man was killed by lightning in his home and several others injured. Some cellars were filled at Brierley Hill and some kitchens were inundated in the lower parts of Rock's Hill and New Street which became channels of large and swift streams leaving them like the beds of mountain torrents. Heavy stones have been washed out and material washed out of an old pit mound. Collis Street, Dennis Park is so cut up and with immense holes as to render it impassable for vehicles.

<Stourbridge>: The river <<Stour>> rose considerably. Kidderminster Street was flooded by streams which came down from Hanbury Hill, inundating several cottages. At the <<Lye>>, there was considerable flooding in the neighbourhood of the Police Station and the water on the road was 2 ½ to 3 feet deep.

<Cheltenham>: Rain and hail fell quickly flooding the streets and leading to serious overflow of the cellars and

**29 Jul 1872**  
**Worcester**  
**Chronicle 31**  
**Jul**

**7 Aug 1872**  
**Worcester**  
**Journal 10**  
**Aug**

**3 Jan 1873**  
**Pall Mall**  
**Gazette 3 Jan**

**24 Aug 1873** Orleton (N Hereford) 1.40" in  
**BR** 2 h

**25 May 1874** Stanton Long (Shrops) 1.95"  
**BR** in 3 h

**29 Jul 1874**  
**Hull Packet**  
**31 Jul**

**8 Jun 1875 BR** Staunton (Gloucs) 1.05" in 1 h  
**18 Jul 1875** Mainly Initial persistent  
**Nuneaton** frontal rainfall followed by  
**Advertiser 24** thunderstorms  
**Jul**

**20 Jul 1875** Wolverhampton 1.40" in 30  
**BR** m

**21 Jul 1875** Said to be caused by heavy  
**Nuneaton** and continuous rainfall  
**Advertiser 24**  
**Jul**

houses along the line of the <<Chelt>>. The hailstones were extraordinarily large.

<Pershore>: A very heavy fall of rain near <<Piddle Brook>> left all the meadows under water.

'A portion of Gloucestershire has been put under water by the sudden rising of a stream called <<Sudbrook>> which rises in the Cotswolds [I cant find it]. For more than a mile it overflowed its banks and hundreds of houses were flooded so that inhabitants had to move to upstairs rooms

<Cheltenham>: Great damage was done from floods on the River <<Chelt>>, the worst since a great flood 17 years ago.

<Birmingham>: A terrific storm of hail and thunder burst over the city and was very severe in the southern suburbs. In a few minutes the streets were flooded.

<Bromsgrove>: A hailstorm did considerable damage to glass, crops and gardens. Large pieces of ice fell in abundance and where they drifted especially in the lower part of town they lay to a depth of 30 to 40 inches. Hundreds of panes of glass were broken at houses and factories.

<Birmingham>: In a thunderstorm for 5 hours flooding occurred mainly at Aston where water was so high in some houses that beds were floating. Boundary walls of the Primitive Methodist Church were washed away and the school and chapel house were flooded.

<West Haddon>: The principal streets were speedily flooded and The Green was 2 or 3 feet deep in a short time. Several houses were completely flooded.

<Winwick>: The street presented the appearance of a swift river carrying everything before it. One of the houses nearest to the water was flooded nearly to the ceiling.

<Nuneaton>: The principal streets of the town were completely inundated, all the approaches to which with one exception were several feet deep in water. Leading places of business were closed including cotton, ribbon and corn mills and the wool factory where there was considerable damage. Boats were used to convey people from one part of the town to another. The principal hotel, shops and banks were closed being surrounded by

water. Shops in the Market Place suffered severe losses. Fowls have been drowned pig styes inundated, flowers and fruit trees uprooted. 'There has been no flood in the town within memory that was so deep and disastrous in effect'.

<Hereford>: The banks of the <<Wye>> for a distance of some miles are overtopped and the meadows covered. The water level at <Hereford> bridge was 10 feet above what has been known for many years. The body of a man was washed ashore near there.

<Stratford>: No such flood has been experienced on the <<Avon>> here and at <Evesham> since 1848.

<Leamington>: A wooden bridge was demolished and the Jephson Gardens and Pump Rooms are partially submerged.

<Evesham>: Rank 10 in flood peak on the Avon at Evesham 1848-1935

<Coventry>: Inhabitants of Spon end and other parts were awakened by floods arising from the overflow of the <<Sherbourne>> a small river taking a winding course through the town. Houses were flooded to a depth of 2 feet. Furniture was washed down the river and outbuildings were carried away by the force of the flood.

<Rugby>: Low lying land and roads were flooded to a depth of several feet alongside the <<River Avon>>. The occupants of Avon Mill were obliged to live upstairs; the bridge leading to the house fell in. A boy and two horses were drowned.

<Yelvertoft>: An old house occupied by an old man disappeared and its occupant with it.

<Bishop's Castle> (Shrops): Terrific thunderstorm, **large lumps of ice fell**, which I heard falling while two miles distant, before the storm reached here.

**9 Aug 1875**

**BR**

**12 Aug 1875**

Lynhales, Kington 2.00" in 2 h

**BR**

**19 Sep 1875**

**Morning Post**

**21 Sep,**

**Worcestershir**

**e chronicle 25**

**Sep**

<West Bromwich>: In a thunderstorm the hail beat with such violence against the windows that some window panes were broken. The houses in low lying localities particularly in Paradise Street, the Lyng, Mayer's Green and the vicinity of Church Vale suffered considerably. The rain ran into many kitchens causing furniture to float about. In High Street the cellars of publicans and shops were filled with water. The Great Western line is partly flooded from Roebuck Lane to Spon Lane bridges. At the lower end of Bromford Lane foot traffic was impossible and it was like a small lake near the railway station.

<Birmingham> and <Wolverhampton>: The storm was also reported but without mention of flooding. The windows in a large number of houses in Harborne, Moseley and Small Heath were broken by the hail

<Worcester>: The heavy rain flooded some houses in the lower parts of the city.

<Eastnor>: 11 Sheep and a horse were killed by lightning.

<Bromesberrow>: Considerable injury was done to glass by a heavy hailstorm.

**16 Jul 1876**

The storm was said to be

<Corvedale>: The rain ran through the vicar's house like a brook and the post office was flooded. **The hailstones**

**Wellington  
Journal 22 Jul,  
BR**

general, in some places  
lasting 4 hours but some  
places including Birmingham  
and Shrewsbury missed it  
Staunton (Gloucs) 2.65\2 in  
105 m

were as large as eggs and hardly a window escaped. Two cattle, one bullock and five lambs were killed by lightning. Acres of crops were destroyed, waggons washed from sheds, and hardly an apple left on trees. Scores of rabbits were found dead and fish were picked up in the meadows. Millichope Hall had windows broken and water rushing through the windows from higher ground. Some ruts in the walks were two feet deep. More than half the pheasants and partridges on a farm were killed by the hail. At <Tugford> two bridges were washed away. The Lodge Farm was completely inundated and fowls swept into the River <<Corve>>. Meadows of hay were swept away.

<Cressage>: The hailstones were as large as an ordinary sized marble and the lower part of the village was completely inundated.

<Bridgnorth>: Hailstones were of an unusual size and window glass was broken in farm houses and 5 sheep were killed by lightning. No flooding was reported.

<Church Stretton>: Hailstones were measured 4 or 5 inches in circumference.

<Staunton Long> the observer at the Vicarage notes that heavy rain began at 3.45 p.m. and hailstones as large as pigeons' eggs fell with great force, breaking 21 panes of glass in the greenhouse. Some of these hailstones were not melted on the third day, and lay some inches thick. Two cows and some pigs were killed, and trees and flowers cut. Storm over at 5.30 p.m.; 2-65 in. of rain fell in one hour and forty-five minutes; area of storm about six square miles; £10,000 damage done.

<Birmingham>: Rain fell in torrents for half an hour and several warehouses were flooded.

**15 Aug 1876  
Staffordshire  
Sentinel 19  
Aug  
14 Aug 1877  
BR**

Kidderminster (VI). " GREAT RAINFALL.—An extraordinary storm of rain occurred, and there appears to have been no recent experience of anything at all comparing with what befell the borough. Soon after six o'clock a dark cloud approached from the direction of the Clee Hills, and, travelling against the lower current of air, settled down very determinedly over Kidderminster. There were one or two flashes of lightning, and a few large spots of rain, followed up by a brisk shower. This was just the prelude to the main business, for there was suddenly a transition from an ordinary shower to a descent of sheets of water, and the whole town was roused and excited by the tropical downpour which set in. The heavy downpour was, the streets where there was any considerable slope, while in the low-lying parts the water collected in lakelets, till the streets were knee-deep in water. The pedestrians were blocked up in entries and wherever any shelter was afforded, and if they were resolute to steer right onward it was at a cost of an almost instantaneous drenching. Private houses and places of business were flooded, and men were kept at the mills to guard against damage. Notwithstanding all precautions, a good deal of damage has been done, and innkeepers and other tradesmen have suffered much



**15 Aug 1877**  
**Bedfordshire**  
**mercury 18**  
**Aug**  
**18 May 1878**  
**Rugby**  
**Advertiser 22**  
**May**

Widespread thunderstorms in Midlands, Tames and East Anglia but with only a few referring to flooding

**29 Jun 1878**  
**Bristol**  
**Mercury 2 Jul**

loss by the water getting into their cellars. The storm, with slight breaks, continued for three or four hours, though not with the severity which characterised it in the first hour or so. Amongst other inconveniences caused by it was the cutting off of the gas supply for nearly two hours. The gasworks were flooded, and owing to the water getting into the syphons, it was not till about nine o' clock that the inhabitants were able to get any gaslight. Yesterday, when daylight enabled an examination of the neighbourhood to be made, the effects of the storm were found to be very remarkable. In some places walls had been washed down ; but the centre of mischief is the new cemetery. The laying-out of the ground has just been completed, but by the ravages of the storm damage has been done which some estimates say it will take several hundreds of pounds to make good. Deep gullies have been worn in the walks, like those cut by a mountain torrent. The soil has been completely carried away to depths of one to two, to seven, eight, and nine feet. This is not just in one spot, but in several, and the channels thus scooped have in places a width of 10 or 12 feet. Paving bricks of 20 or 30 pounds weight have been swilled away, as if they were matchboxes, and the amount of soil which has been eroded must amount to several hundred tons. The damage which has been done is comparable to what would have been caused if a reservoir had burst its banks, and the waters had worked havoc down the slopes below it. The peculiarly heavy fall of rain in the first part of the evening seems to have been entirely confined to Kidderminster itself, and at different points in the surrounding district there was none whatever. During the night, however, rain fell heavily, and the grain crops are in some places flat on the ground."

<Kidderminster>: In heavy rainfall gullies were cut deep enough for tall men to stand upright in. Some streets were impassable and there was inconvenience when the gas works was flooded.

<Coventry>: Heavy rainfall continued for half an hour. In the low lying parts the river rose into the basements of houses on the banks. The storm water added to the high rainfall in the last month caused the Sherbourne to be swollen from a normal sluggish stream to be a turbulent river. At Bubbenhall and several other points along the Avon and other rivers the roads were submerged to a depth of several feet and mills were flooded causing them to stop working.

<Dudley> and Black Country: It was the most violent thunderstorm known there for many years and the heavy rainfall was accompanied by hailstones of enormous size which did great damage to glass and vegetation. Many macadamised roads suffered much damage and were left strewn with loose stones. Lightning damaged a few buildings.

<Wolverhampton>: the very heavy thunderstorm lasted nearly half an hour. The estimated rainfall was 2  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Houses were struck by lightning and flooded.

<Lichfield>: The thunderstorm lasted an hour and a half and soon flooded the streets. Hailstones were as large

**10 Aug 1878**  
**Gloucestershire Chronicle**  
**17 Aug, BR**  
**8 Sep 1878**  
**Cheltenham Chronicle**  
**10 Sep**  
**7 Jun 1879**  
**Wiltshire and Trowbridge Advertiser**  
**14 Jun**

Hereford and Monmouth were also affected by the thunderstorm but without reference to flooding. Cheltenham 1.18" in 55 m Stretton (Hereford) 1.84" in 1 h

No thunder reported but a very severe flood

**11 Jun 1879**  
**BR**  
**13 Jul 1879**  
**BR**

Bishops Castle (SW Shrops) 1.10" in 25 m

as marbles.

<Evesham>: The rain was very heavy and at the railway station the downrush of water from the neighbouring hill flooded the booking office ankle deep.

<Cheltenham>: A man was killed by lightning

<Cheltenham>: the rain fell heavily from 2 o'clock until nearly 7 and caused the sewer gratings to be choked and the roadways flooded. In a few cases the water found its way into cellars and ground floors. Three horses and a cow were reported killed by lightning.

<Coventry>: The rain fell almost incessantly causing one of the greatest floods ever known. The watercourses in various parts overflowed their banks. At <Foleshill> the turnpike road was flooded several feet deep and the water poured into houses. Cellars were quickly filled and in some houses occupants had to retire to upper floors.

<Ludlow>: The River Teme rose to its highest point and the River Corve at Ludlow overflowed and invaded the streets.

<Bredwardine> (Hereford): Although there was not an inch of rain recorded at any English station on this day, not even at the nearest station to the village of which we are going to write, yet at this spot the fall must have been enormous. We are indebted to our correspondent at Staunton-on-Wye (Hereford), the Rev. H. W. Phillott, for the facts whence the following epitome has been drawn up. Bredwardine Church is about 2 ½ miles W. of Staunton-on-Wye, on the banks of the Wye and 210 feet above mean sea level. Due West from Bredwardine the ground rises, for half-a-mile gently, and then rapidly for a mile, the highest point being about 600 feet above the sea. A brook starts from part way up the hill and flows eastward through a culvert and into the river Wye, and about 300 yards before reaching the culvert it is joined by another very small brook. These two brooks jointly drain the eastern slope of the hill, perhaps altogether about 500 acres. About 2 p.m. on July 13th a cloud settled on the hill, or, according to another account, two clouds met on the hill; there was a flash of lightning, a peal of thunder, and then, during 10 minutes, such a fall of hail and rain that the fall was heard in two villages, respectively distant 1 ½ and 2 1/2 miles. But at these villages, and at Bredwardine, which was within a mile, the rainfall was quite moderate. The greatest fall was on an 11 acre turnip field on the top of the hill; there was no hole indicative of a waterspout, but the whole field was scoured by the rush of water. Some of the effluent water rushed into a cottage garden and washed away eight or ten inches of the soil (even potatoes and onions were picked up at the bottom of the hill). Then the water flooded the road from two to

**14 Jul 1879**  
**Eddowe's**  
**Journal 16 Jul**  
**3 Aug 1879**  
**Western Mail**  
**4 Aug**

After a hot day on 2<sup>nd</sup>, the storm broke on early 3<sup>rd</sup>

**13 Aug 1879**  
**Leamington**  
**Spa Courier**  
**16 Aug**  
**16/17 Aug**  
**1879 Dundee**  
**courier 18**  
**Aug, Sheffield**  
**Daily**  
**telegraph 19**  
**Aug, BR**

Whitchurch (N Shrops) 2.60" in 3 h  
Orleton (near Tenbury Wells) – rain from 10 am on 16th to 8 pm on 17th – 36 hours – 70.1 mm. Estimated 178 mm at Hartlebury. In 48 hours – Stoke Bliss (near Tenbury Wells) 97.0 mm – Worcester 78.2 mm – Kidderminster 119.1 mm.

three feet deep, and finally got into the brook above mentioned. At the widest part this brook is 7 feet 6 in. broad; it is deeply cut in the soil, but has seldom more than 4 in. of water in it. We have no information as to the depth to which this brook was filled, but as above mentioned, the water from the (estimated) 500 acres all passes through a culvert into the river Wye. This culvert was 2 feet 4 in. wide and 1 foot 6 in high, and it was blown up for about the space of a square yard by the pressure of the effluent water.

<Bridgnorth>: Heavy rain mingled with hail lasted about half an hour, the streets and gutters being like rivers and quite impassable for pedestrians. Serious damage has been done to crops and several animals were killed by lightning.

<Forest of Dean>: Old people do not remember weather of an equally terrifying character or such a downpour of rain. Dwellings were flooded.

<Warwickshire>: owing to the heavy fall of rain, some of the turnpike roads were rendered impassable and hay in fields was submerged. Houses in Coventry were damaged by lightning.

<Henley in Arden>: A thunderstorm occurred between 9 and 11 in the morning with hail and rain doing great damage to gardens. Several houses were flooded and the water was several feet deep at the entrance to the town. A cow was killed by lightning.

<Gloucester>: In a thunderstorm with heavy rain the Severn rose from eight to ten feet and the meadow land is flooded. The rain began with a thunderstorm on 16 but heavy rain continued until 21<sup>st</sup>. The Severn continued to rise until 20<sup>th</sup> when it reached a level of 19 feet 6 inches at the dock gates, a very unusual level for August. The city on approach from the west appears like an island in the midst of an inland sea. The warehouses seem to have their foundations in the water. Farms and cottages were flooded. The Maisemore Road is impassable to foot passengers. The fires at brick kilns along the river have been extinguished. In the yards near Westgate bridge men in boats were trying to retrieve timber.

<Over>: The Severn overflows here and the water runs through the entire parish of <Minsterworth> and empties back into the river at <Naight>.

<Tewkesbury>: the heavy thunderstorm on 16<sup>th</sup> caused the most rapid flood that anyone could remember and on 17<sup>th</sup> morning people were rescuing cattle and sheep from flooded meadows. 'So rapid was the rise that no one foresaw the necessity of relieving them'.

<Cheltenham>: Considerable damage was caused by the overflow of the little River <<Chelt>>. From Bath Road to the Upper Alston mill, the water was out the whole way and at the Promenade it formed a lake a hundred yards across and several inches in depth in the middle.

<Campden>: Houses in the lower part of the town were flooded and many of the cottagers had difficulty getting their pigs out of the styes to a place of safety.

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|  |  | <p>&lt;Forest of Dean&gt;: Thunderstorms were followed by floods.<br/>         &lt;Alcester&gt;: A number of houses has been flooded and considerable damage done. The Midland line between Alcester and Wixford is seriously damaged and traffic suspended.<br/>         &lt;Kidderminster&gt;: The damage done throughout the district is very great with great damage at Wilden Ironworks. Mill Street was flooded out. BR observer reports: the raingauge overflowed on 2 occasions but investigations suggested a total rainfall of 7 inches between 15th, 9 a.m., and 18th, 9 a.m. The parish has been wrecked. An impromptu meeting of ratepayers was called at 9 a.m. Monday, and more fully attended than known for years. Pools have burst, and only one road was open for traffic. The turnpike road from Worcester to Kidderminster, two miles from the latter place, was a lake from the 16th to the 24th. This can never have happened before, as no outlet has ever been provided. The water forming this pool all came from off the land in the neighbourhood; not a pool or a stream to assist; entirely surface. This is the main road from Shropshire and Staffordshire, through Kidderminster to Worcester, and has always been a most important road.<br/>         &lt;Bewdley&gt;: Several buildings were struck by lightning including the church and station.<br/>         &lt;Hartlebury&gt;: A cider mill and other buildings were swept away.</p> |
| <p><b>25 Jun 1880</b><br/> <b>BR</b></p>   | <p>Chirbury (Shrops) 0.88" in 1 h<br/>         and 0.97" in 75 m</p> |  |
| <p><b>1 Jul 1880</b><br/> <b>Nottinghams</b><br/> <b>hire Guardian</b></p>                               |  | <p>&lt;Claverley&gt;: A heavy hailstorm occurred with hailstones as large as marbles. 'The Severn rose very rapidly'.</p>  |
| <p><b>2 Jul</b><br/> <b>10 Jul 1880</b><br/> <b>Gloucestershire Chronicle</b><br/> <b>17 Jul, BR</b></p> | <p>Ross 0.67" in 15 m</p>  | <p>&lt;Ross&gt;: Many shops were flooded for a time in a thunderstorm; the streets were flooded so as to resemble rivers. A horse was killed by lightning.</p>   |
| <p><b>13 Jul 1880</b><br/> <b>Portsmouth</b><br/> <b>Evening News</b><br/> <b>14 Jul, BR</b></p>         |  | <p>&lt;Wolverhampton&gt;: In a thunderstorm hail fell the size of marbles. The volume of water was so great that two sewers burst and completely flooded the adjacent roadways. Men were engaged afterwards in carting away debris that had accumulated to a depth of 2 feet.<br/>         &lt;Stockton&gt; (Warwickshire): Rain fell in torrents from 4.30 till 6 p.m., with violent hail, which lay thick on the ground, the village children snowballing till dark. The gauge read 1.72" at 6 p.m., but the hail choking the tube probably made the register inadequate. The storm began again at 3 a.m. on the 14th, the rain being not less heavy, with no hail, and little thunder. The first fall was preceded by an unusual current of air, which lowered the temperature from between 70° and 80° to 37°.</p>   |
| <p><b>14 Jul 1880</b></p>  |  | <p>&lt;Leamington&gt;: the deluge of rain in the thunderstorm has caused the rivers Avon and Leam to overflow causing</p>  |

**London daily  
News 15 Jul,  
Oxfordshire  
Weekly News  
21 Jul  
17 Jul 1880  
Eddowes  
Journal 21 Jul**

**7 Aug 1880  
Birmingham  
daily Post 9  
Aug  
19 Sep 1880  
Shipping and  
Mercantile  
Gazette 20  
Sep  
28 May 1881  
Bristol  
Mercury 31  
May,  
Worcester  
Journal 4 Jun**

**16 Aug 1881  
BR  
23 Aug 1881  
Epworth Bells**

Bishops Castle (Shrops) 1.20"  
in 90 m

Ross 1.02" in 30 m and 1.42"  
in 90 m

the destruction of cut hay and standing crops. Several landslips have occurred on neighbouring railways including one at Harbury on the great Western Line.

Shipston on Stour: Some parts of the town were flooded and the River Stour overflowed its banks. Serious damage has been done to the seeds and grass crops.

<Ironbridge>: the thunderstorm lasted upwards of an hour and a half. The town lying on the side of a hill a number of houses were inundated and one publican in Waterloo Street losing rather heavily. A number of houses were struck by lightning.

<Welshpool>: For about half an hour the rain descended in torrents. Each little brook was swollen to the size of a moderate sized river and the drains were choked. The water rushed down Salop Road and flooded many cellars and houses in its course and flooded the road opposite the limekilns to a considerable depth. In the Buck Road the brook overflowed and most of the houses there were inundated. The brook that runs through Bull Dingle made another course and washed down a new stone wall in the Gungrog road.

<Oswestry>: there was a continuous downpour from one to six accompanied by thunder. Several streets were inundated.

<Wolverhampton>: In a heavy downpour of hail and rain the hailstones were unusually large and did great damage to fruit trees and roofs of glasshouses.

<Bromsgrove>: The thunderstorm occasioned considerable damage to the railway station where the roads were flooded and ploughed up. Much damage was done to garden produce.

<Leominster>: The storm was accompanied by a great downpour of rain and hail. Many houses were flooded and the streets were filled with water. A man and a horse were killed by lightning at <Shobdon>.

<Worcester>: There was a heavy hail at St John's which stripped the leaves off trees and destroyed blossoms etc. The fall of water was so great that the subway at Henwick Station was flooded to a depth of 4 feet. Sand and gravel was carried into Henwick Road. A horse a cow and sheep were killed by lightning.

<Wolverhampton>: the thunderstorm broke about noon and several low lying parts of the town were flooded. [no reference to property flooding].

**27 Aug**

**3 May 1882**

**Daily**

**Telegraph 4**

**May,**

**Eddowe's**

**Journal 10**

**May, BR**

Stoke Bliss (Worcs) 0.86" in  
27 m

<Tenbury>: During a thunderstorm there was a whirlwind which stripped the roof of the railway station.

<Herefordshire>: The thunder and hail equalled the worst that has been experienced. The hailstones were as large as walnuts, many measuring an inch across. It cut fruit, leaves and branches off fruit trees and smashed greenhouses and conservatories.

<Wolverhampton>: The thunderstorm lasted an hour and a half and the hail did great damage to fruit trees and conservatories.

<Church Stretton>: In a thunderstorm the streets became sheets of water. There were blinding showers of hail and rain

<Hereford>: At the commencement of the shower transparent ragged hail rattled down for a few seconds but was quickly followed by a heavy fall of rain. The storm lasted about an hour and a half and was general over the whole county.

<Ledbury>: Two cattle were killed by lightning.

<Ludlow>: A quantity of very large hailstones fell and a heifer was killed by lightning.

<Dudley>: A boy was killed by lightning.

<Atherstone>: A horse was killed by lightning.

<Sedgeley>: A 14 year old boy was killed by lightning.

[No flooding was reported anywhere]

**22/23/24**

**May 1882**

**Hereford**

**Times 27 May**

**4 Jun 1882 BR**

Coventry 2.01" in 3 h

**30 Jun 1882**

Bridsgnorth (Shrops) 1.30" in  
2 h30 m

**BR**

**27 Sep 1882**

**Bradford**

**Daily**

**Telegraph 28**

**Sep**

**10 Jun 1883**

**Stroud News**

**15 Aug**

<Nuneaton>: In a thunderstorm the approaches to the town were for a time rendered impassable. A house was set alight. Hailstones of extraordinary size fell during the storm.

<Stroud>: In a very severe thunderstorm lasting half an hour much damage was done by lightning including the destruction of the spire of <Painswick> church and several other buildings were damaged. However no flooding was reported either in the Stroud area or in other locations in southern England where the thunderstorm struck.

**29/30 Jun**

**1883**

**Birmingham**

<Shipston on Stour>: A thunderstorm was accompanied by hailstones of immense size which devastated growing crops and gardens and smashed greenhouses. The hailstones and ragged pieces of ice measured 5 to 6 inches in circumference. Rooks and jackdaws were killed

daily Post 2

Jul

13 Jul 1883

Kenilworth 0.52" in 14 m

BR

13 Jun 1884

Redditch 0.77" in 12 m

BR

28 Jun 1884

Cheltenham 1.62" in 4 h 15 m

BR

8 Jul 1884

Leeds

Mercury 10

Jul,

Tamworth

Herald 12 Jul

9 Aug 1884

Derby Daily

Telegraph 10

Jul

7 Aug 1885

Birmingham

daily post 8

Aug,

Worcester

chronicle 15

Aug

11-13 May

1886 Schol

(pers comm.),

Shropshire

Magazine,

July 2011

There was no mention of thunder so perhaps this was not a flash flood.

Probably not a flash flood but included because of its severity

<Coventry>: Houses and buildings were flooded by the heavy rain. A man was seriously injured by lightning.

<Warwickshire>: Rain fell in torrents and quantities of new mown hay have been swept away. Twelve sheep were killed by lightning at <Kersley>and two sheep at <Heather>.

<Leamington>: the rain was heavy and in many instances the basements of houses were flooded.

<Stratford>: the drains being too small to carry off the great flow of water, the streets quickly presented the appearance of small rivers. Succeeding the rain was a heavy hailstorm. Most of the hailstones were as large as walnuts and lay on the pavements 2 to 3 inches deep. The hailstones broke a great quantity of glass. The storm confined itself to Stratford for less than a mile away not a drop of rain fell.

<Malvern>: In a thunderstorm there was a rush of water from the hills which brought down a large amount of debris which filled up the culverts and flooded the roads and many cellars and underground rooms. At Winds Point a few miles from Malvern 17 sheep were killed by lightning. There were heavy hail falls at Alfrick and Leigh where stones were picked up an inch in circumference. The disturbance was 7 or 8 miles wide and some 4 or 5 miles long.

<<River Teme>>: This is undoubtedly the most severe rainfall event on record in the Teme Valley and the flooding would have been a couple of days earlier here than on the Severn and Wye. Although the rainfall affected a large area of the country (and other parts of the Severn and Wye catchments), the heaviest falls were in the Teme Valley catchment of south Shropshire.

<Ludlow> (Bromfield Vicarage):— rain began on the afternoon of the 11th, and continued to the morning of the 14th, causing heavy floods, breaking the railway in two places and washing away several bridges – 128.3 mm. The <<Teme>> was about 2 m higher than ever known before in Ludlow.

SM 2011 notes: The "Bread Walk" is the local name for a well-known path running alongside the river Teme

**15 May 1886**  
**Aberdeen**  
**press and**  
**Journal 17**  
**May, BR**

Flooding was widespread in England and Scotland. Not a flash flood. No thunder was reported  
Rainfall for 60 h giving totals of 6" in some places with widespread flooding said to be worst at Gloucester since 1852 (8" higher)

**2 Jun 1886**  
**Gloucestershire**  
**Echo 3 Jun,**  
**BR**

Ross 0.95" in 1 h  
Glasbury (Hereford) 1.27" in 2 h

**19 Jun 1886**  
**Birmingham**  
**Daily post 21**

downstream of Dinham Bridge in Ludlow. But the origin of the name is not so well known. At an early hour somebody was going from door to door rousing the inhabitants with the report that the River Teme was rising alarmingly fast. Some ground floor rooms were flooded to a depth of 5 feet. In Holgate Fee [near the bottom of Old Street] the water was by now 8-10 feet deep and egress from any of these cottages in these areas was out of the question; the only thing to do was to construct a raft to go to them. This was at the end of a wild period of rain and snow, and more rain to follow. The rain kept falling. Up and up the Whitecliff it rose to an unprecedented height, almost to the top of the hill. The railway bridge spanning the Corve [at Onibury] fell with a crash at 6.30 a.m. Dead cattle and sheep floated everywhere, and many a small farmer was utterly ruined. Of course the flood swept away the lovely walk alongside the Teme, and it was essential to rebuild it. Lord Clive paid the workmen who were glad of the work of remaking the famous walk in bread and blankets and food. They named it amongst themselves "The Bread and Blanket Walk"; time has shortened it to "The Bread Walk" <Tenbury Wells>: A severe flood; there is a plaque in the church showing the height of the flood.

<Tewkesbury>: Not in living memory has such a spring flood occurred on the <<Severn>> between Tewkesbury and <Gloucester> where the quays and the lower parts of the city were inundated. The water at Tewkesbury was as high as in 1852 when the highest flood of the century occurred.

<Bewdley>: The floods carried away a portion of the Teme bridge. One man was drowned.

<Upton-on-Severn>: The highest flood on record here [at the time], reached its maximum on the morning of 15th, the Severn having risen 18 ½ ft. in 58 hours.

<Gloucester>: the drains were entirely inadequate to carry off the rain and the streets became like rivers. Many houses in high parts and scores of houses in low lying parts of the city were flooded some to a depth of 2 to 3 feet. St Mary's Square and St Catherine Street suffered severely and it would have been worse apart from the fact that a large culvert burst in St Catherine's Meadow causing a large quantity of water to be drained off the streets. The storm lasted about an hour. Several buildings were struck and damaged by lightning.

<Ross>: Thunderstorm with very heavy rain (0.95") flooding the streets from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

<Glasbury>: Heavy E commenced about 5.30 p.m., and by 7.30 p.m. 1.27" had fallen; a bridge was washed away on the road between here and Hay, and the railway was blocked.

<St Arvans>: BR observer at Shirenewton (Monmouth) reports: The weight of the storm was between <Tintern> and <St. Arvans> along the Wye. At St. Arvans, in the valley, the high road was flooded more than 2 ft. deep for nearly 100 yards.

<Stratford>: Hail of large size fell for ten minutes during the thunderstorm and did considerable damage to fruit trees and crops and also to conservatories and greenhouses



**Jun**

**4 Sep 1886**  
**Cheltenham**  
**Examiner 8**  
**Sep**

<Cheltenham>: Rain and hail deluged the streets and flooded the basements of many houses. Considerable inconvenience was caused to residents of the Promenade and its vicinity. Some of the hailstones measured nearly half an inch in diameter with opaque ice at the centre and transparent ice surrounding. Cows were killed by lightning and trees struck. Pittsville and St Paul's District suffered severely  
<Belbroughton>: the roads were a s surging stream, impassable in places. Several houses were flooded. The neighbouring hamlet of Hill Pool felt the full force, 4 elm trees were blown down and cottages in the upper part of Hill Pool had windows broken by the hail. The water rose very high at the bridge.  
<Stroud>: Considerable damage has been done in out districts by the flood including garden produce.

**17 Aug 1887**      Tewkesbury 1.28" in 75 m  
**BR**

**15 Aug 1888**  
**Lamb 1964**

<Gloucester>: Hailstones 2.8 inches (7 cm) in diameter

**28 Aug 1888**      Worcester 1.76" in 105 m  
**BR**

<Hereford>: Heavy rain fell throughout Herefordshire and upon the upper reaches of the <<Wye>>, and on the morning of 29th the old gauge at Wye-bridge, Hereford, registered a rise of 13 ft., and by two o'clock the flood had reached 14 ft., the highest recorded since December 10th, 1886. The bridges over the <<Yrfon>> at <Llangammarch> and <Llanynis> were carried away, and more or less damage occurred all along the <<Wye>> and its tributaries.

**29 Aug 1888**  
**BR**

<Ross>: Thunderstorm with hail, and great flood on the Wye, 11 ft. 6 in.

**5 May 1889**  
**Birmingham**  
**Daily Post 6**  
**May**

<Shrewsbury>: Rain and hail fell in a thunderstorm and many of the street drains were stopped and the roads were in places perfect pools and many houses were flooded.

**7 May 1889**  
**BR**

<Cheltenham> Thunderstorm with heavy rain at noon, and again from 4 to 5 p.m., with a perfect deluge, quite one inch falling in the hour. The surface-water poured down the roads and flooded many streets and some houses, though the streams did not rise very high.

**23/24 May**      Kidderminster Rf only 0.63"  
**1889**              and out of town 0.88"  
**Birmingham**

<Kidderminster>: A hailstorm of exceptional violence moved across Worcestershire from southwest to northeast and wrought havoc in field and garden crops and destroyed much window glass with a southwest aspect. The top soil has been greatly denuded in some exposed places, notably in the village of <Chaddesley

Daily Post 27  
May, BR

2 Jun 1889  
The Scotsman  
3 Jun,  
Birmingham  
Daily post 3  
Jun,  
Bridgnorth  
Journal 8 Jun

Corbett>. Hailstones were 1 ½ inch in diameter. Only the stems of broad beans are left standing. Ducks and chickens were killed. There has been no such hailstorm in Worcestershire since 1852 Prior to that there were great hailstorms in 1830 and 1811 when the <<Severn>> rose 20 feet in the course of the storm.

<Leigh>: Hailstones were jagged pieces of ice varying in size from a bean to a walnut.

<Martley>: Hail measured 4 inches long and in 10 minutes 80 panes of glass were destroyed. A sheep and chickens were killed by the hail.

<Knightsford Bridge>: Hailstones were as big as pigeon's eggs.

<Holt>: The hailstones varied in size from peas to walnuts breaking a quantity of glass with much damage to the crops and death of chickens.

<Great Witley>: A great many of the hailstones were as large as walnuts and some were bigger. One stone found in the Apperley gardens was found to be 7 inches in circumference.

<Belbroughton>: The hailstorm was said to be only second in severity to the great hailstorm of 1852. The hail was generally as large as marbles but some large oblong pieces of ice fell causing breakage of glass.

<Ombersley>: In a short time the roads were flooded and impassable. Crops were damaged and greenhouse glass broken.

<Stourbridge>: Rain and hail lasted half an hour and the streets were soon in flood and some sewers were burst. Garden plants and trees were damage by the hail.

<Droitwich>: Houses were flooded and inmates had to spend the day in their upper rooms. The floods reached almost up to the fires in the retorts at the Gas Works. The hail was said to vary from the size of marbles but up to 3 and even 5 inches. Some of the hail weighed 3 ounces. Many greenhouses have been reduced to complete wrecks. In High Street shops and dwelling houses were flooded causing great damage to stock. In Hanbury Street, the main drain became blocked and the street presented the appearance of a pool. The water rushed through the houses and into stables and fowl houses.

<Woolaston>: (N of Severn estuary): A prodigious quantity of hail fell and where swilled by the flood after the storm lay 2 to 3 feet deep. Some were an inch and a half in diameter and have cut trees and garden crops to pieces. The fall of hail was local. A vast amount of soil has been removed by the scour of the water and there was hail nearly 3 feet deep on some fields. There has been serious breakage of glass in windows and greenhouses. A number of houses were flooded. The flood water carrying hail dammed up in the lower part of the main road not far from the Barley Mow Inn. It rose in one place to a height of 3 feet until it wound an outlet to Woolaston Fields.

<Lye> nr Stourbridge>: A good deal of damage was done by the storm. The exceptional rainfall caused a rapid rise in the <<Stour>>.

<Kidderminster>: There was a tremendous downpour of rain and some hail. Potatoes on the hillsides have been

washed out of the earth. Vegetables and fruit trees are badly damaged. The River <<Stour>> rose 2 feet in 20 minutes and has continued rising.

<Black Country>: The storm broke over <Rowley> and adjacent places. Thousands of panes of glass have been broken by hailstones some of which were as large as small eggs. Three pigeons on a roof were killed. The storm was also severe at Old Hill where the roads were flooded. Houses and yards were flooded some of them a yard deep.

<Halesowen>: The storm caused great destruction of glass in houses. Whole rows of houses had the appearance of being peppered with rifle shot. At Shut Cross a 16 year old girl was drowned being carried away by the water which overflowed from a brook. The streets were flooded in some places 4 feet deep. Some of the hailstones measured 4 ½ inches in circumference.

Dudley: some of the hailstones were as large as walnuts and they stripped the trees. Low lying parts of the town Like Flood Street and Bath Street and the Trindle were a yard deep in water. Much damage was done to glass in houses and conservatories. Near the railway station the lines were flooded.

<Tipton>: Aston Street and Toll road were flooded.

<Coventry>: In several points in the city there were floods.

<Bromsgrove>: In the second storm of the day hail or large pieces of ice some of which were as large as walnuts fell and some were jagged pieces measuring 2 to 3 inches in length. They did great damage to trees gardens and windows.

<Evesham>: It was the early morning storm which caused most damage here. High Street and Market Square and other level places were one sheet of water which was several inches deep. Streams ran down Bridge Street and Cowl Street in a foaming torrent. Port Street presented a similar appearance and the houses at the bottom of each of these inclines were flooded, the water lying many inches deep. The drains and sewers were useless to carry off this large volume of water; manholes were forced up causing fountains at least 2 feet high. Even in higher areas like High Street some houses were flooded. The second thunderstorm was not so severe here.

<Ross>, Severe thunderstorm, 1.25 to 1.50 p.m., with hailstones 2 3/8" by 2 in. in circumference

**12 Jul 1889**

W Bromwich 0.87" in 75 m

**BR**

**13 Jul 1889**

Henley in Arden (Warwicks)  
3.64" in 65 m  
Stroud 1.48" in 3 h

**BR**

**5 Jun 1891 BR**

<Cheltenham>: Slight rain in early morning, thunderstorm at 5 p.m., from 5 to 5.20 0.40" fell; from 6.45 to 6.55 0.25" fell, and during the night (or early morning of the 14th), 0.446 in. fell. Many streets were flooded as the sewers could not carry off the surface water.

<Ross> (The Graig ): Thunderstorm in afternoon. About 3 miles NW of Ross a tremendous downpour occurred, the soil was washed off fields, a wall carried away, &c.; probably 3 or 4 inches of rain fell in two hours.

**24 Jun 1891**

Wyastone Leys (Monmouth)

<Shrewsbury>: A thunderstorm occurred for a couple of hours and several of the streets houses and

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|--|---|--|
| <b>Birmingham Daily Post 25 Jun, BR</b>  | 1.38" in 2 h 30 m   | warehouses were speedily flooded. The downfall of hail was also severe and it is feared fruit crops will have suffered.  |
| <b>25 Jun 1891 BR</b>  | Worcester 0.83" in 65 m   |  |
| <b>17 Jul 1891 Birmingham Daily Post 18 Jul</b>                                      |   | <Coventry>: The streets were filled with a drenching blinding mixture of heavy rain and thick dust soon mingled with hail some of which were of large size. There were serious floods including at the corner of Union Street where traffic was impeded and houses and shops flooded. Water flowed down from Friar's green to Union Street carrying cobbles and gravel.  |
| <b>23 Aug 1892 Evesham Journal 27 Aug</b>  | Thunderstorms were reported at many surrounding villages but without reference to flooding. | <Evesham>: the storm lasted less than an hour. In High Street the drains were inadequate to carry off the flow while in the lower part of <Bengeworth> it stood inches deep and the basements of several houses were inundated. The water rose so rapidly that it was impossible to make any attempt to keep it out of the houses and in the course of a few minutes carpets and furniture were covered. In many houses it ran in a stream through the front door and out the back. Rainfall was gauged at 0.69 inch.  |
| <b>15 May 1893 BR</b>  | Stroud (Gloucs) 0.89" in 1 h  | <Droitwich> A man was killed by lightning.   |
| <b>14 Jun 1893 Birmingham daily Post 15 Jun, Worcestershire Chronicle 17 Jun, BR</b> | Bridgnorth 1.53" in 3 h<br>Bewdley 1.50" in 3 h   | <Bridgnorth>: Rain fell in torrents for several hours and the drains being blocked the streets were flooded. In many houses the water flooded the cellars to a depth of 2 to 3 feet. Considerable damage has been done to fruit trees and gardens.<br><Shrewsbury>: The streets were flooded in many places. The downpour however was greeted with delight by agriculturists who had suffered from a very prolonged drought (here as elsewhere in the country).<br><Clifton on Teme>: Little rain had fallen here for a month when the thunderstorm occurred. It affected Harpley, Sapey common and Stanford and the roads there were converted into rivers and the metalling laid bare. Houses were flooded to a depth of several inches, the drains being quite inadequate to carry off such a sudden and tremendous rainfall. Hail lay for some hours after the storm had passed. Gardens have suffered severely from the hail. |
| <b>2 Jul 1893 Leicester chronicle 8 Jul</b>  |   | <Westbury on Severn>: A 16 year old shepherd boy was killed by lightning.<br><Rugby>: In a thunderstorm the streets quickly presented the appearance of a river and the Royal Oak Inn was flooded and the water stood 18 inches deep in the taproom. In cottages at the rear the water reached a depth of 4 feet.<br><Dudley>: A large quantity of hailstones of an unusual size fell . In many houses the water flooded cellars to a depth of several feet and the low lying roads were impassable in places.   |

**3 Jul 1893 BR**

<Tipton> (W Midlands): Rain commenced with distant thunder, at 5.45 p.m.—wind S.W.—and in 20 minutes it placed 4 inches of water on the Wolverhampton Level of canal (the length of this level is about 60 miles). At 6.15 p.m. the canal was overflowing its banks, the level having risen about 7 ½ inches in the space of half-an-hour. From about 6.30 p.m. the storm was most furious, and about this time the thunder was over the works, the rain continuing in dense volumes, and did not cease till 7.10 p.m. Many of the loaded boats were kept from sinking by our men scooping the water out of them during the storm. From the following information received from various persons, I am of opinion that the rainfall for the above-stated time—viz., one hour and twenty-five minutes was not less than 4 ½ inches. Observers report that the water in one of our empty wood boats, which measures internally 67 ft. 2 in. by 6ft. 7 in., by 3 ft. 4 in. deep, the water was 1 inch over the keelson, which is 3 in. thick above floor of boat, showing the depth of water in boat = 4 inches. Another observer took particular notice of a tank we have for dipping hurdles. When he left work at 5 p.m. the previous day the tank was empty ; the next morning he measured the water in the tank and found it was 4 ¼ inches. Size of tank, 9 ft. 6 in. by 6 ft. 5 in. Mr. Fisher, of Wednesbury Oak Iron Works, Tipton, stated to me that he placed an ordinary tub, about 21 inches across the bottom and 26 inches across the top, and fully 4 inches of rain was in the tub when the storm was over. The area of the rainfall extended to <Willenhall>, <Darlaston>, <Bilston>, <Wednesbury>, <Great Bridge>, <Dudley> and <Tipton>

**12 Jul 1893**

Redditch 0.70" in 12 m

**BR**

**26 May 1894**

**BR**

From these and other records it appears that the storm originated in the Clee Hills in the South of Shropshire, and passed at least 20 miles in a narrow track almost precisely due S. to Hereford, beyond which city we are unable to trace it.

<Bodenham> (Hereford): Two dense thunder clouds were seen approaching with their separate storms at about 1.30 p.m., the one from the north-west the other from the north-east. These appeared to meet in the centre of this village, which is in one of the Lugg valleys, eight miles north of Hereford. Within a radius of about 300 yards there was so were cut off at the stem, huge branches off the elm trees were carried 50 yards or more, and tiling was lifted off the buildings. At the same time sheets of hailstones were hurled against the windows from all points of the compass. Beyond the radius of the storm vortex the weather was calm and bright, so that our friends three quarters of a mile off to the west, who witnessed us enveloped in an inky darkness, suffered nothing. A pond in the village is almost entirely choked with fallen timber, the trees having fallen against each other. Some wind and a great deal of hail were experienced to the east of us, but not wind sufficient to break a branch off a tree.

<Ludlow> and <Leominster>: About 1 p.m. on Saturday, the 26th May a very heavy storm broke over the Clees (whose highest point rises to 1,805 ft. above the sea), accompanied by incessant thunder and lightning. In five minutes, or less, these hills were quite white and completely covered with snow down to about 1,000ft. high, while the lightning all the time was most vivid and the thunder very loud. A few minutes afterwards a sort of secondary storm appeared to be forming in the north about a mile and a half away, One could see sheets of hail

sweeping out of the dark clouds, while clouds of dust were swept across the fields, which evidently indicated a tremendous wind, as indeed proved to be the case. The path of the cyclone, for such indeed it was, seemed about 300 yards wide, and it advanced towards us with tremendous rapidity, and even as it came we could trace its passage by the trees and branches which could be seen falling in the distance as the cyclone approached. Suddenly it reached us, together with a downpour of huge hailstones and lumps of ice. The centre or vortex of the whirlwind seemed to pass directly over our house, and swept everything before it. We saw three trees fall in the garden—including a magnificent fir, 80 ft. in height—at the same moment and within 60 yards of each other, while others were bent double ; a roof was lifted bodily off a French barn, and carried over fields and hedges a distance of 200 yards ; big, heavy glass lights were blown off cucumber frames ; a large garden bench was whirled through the air, and deposited upside down; hens were caught off their feet and sent literally flying through the air, and the air was filled with branches and debris to such a degree that, coupled with blinding snow, which had succeeded the hail, and was whistling round and round, one could not see more than 80 yards. The wind and storm had all passed in a very few minutes, the extreme height of the cyclone being limited to about 30 sec. In every field could be seen oaks or chestnuts or other trees prostrate, and in places, also, the snow still lay where it had drifted. The whirlwind seemed to go up into the air about half-a-mile beyond us, coming down to the ground again about 1 ½ mile to our south, where it again wrought enormous destruction, though outside its narrow path not a tree was touched.

**10 Jul 1894  
BR**

Tenbury 0.73" in 40 m

**29 Jul 1894  
BR**

Ludlow 0.96" in 90 m

**26 Jun 1895  
Derby Daily  
telegraph 27  
Jun,  
Worcester  
journal 29  
Jun, BR**

Worcester Waterworks 1.61 in little over an hour  
High St Worcester 2.30" in 2 hrs (more than double the fall in the last 60 days) Max temp 85F  
Church Stoke Mellington Hall (nr Shrewsbury) daily 4.83"  
Weobley (Hereford) 0.86" in 20 m and 1.77" in 4 h  
Knighton (Powys) 1.01" in 50 m and 2.38" in 110 m and 3.39" in 4 h  
Diglis Lock (Worcs) 2.75" in 1 h

<Worcester>: Rain fell in torrents accompanied by great hailstones and low lying streets and cellars were quickly flooded. Walls were blown out by the force of water. Soon after the storm began Pitchcrofte was flooded inches deep and there were floods on a smaller scale in many streets of the city and many cellars were flooded doing damage at business premises. The Stanley road was almost impassable. In Park Street several houses and cellars were flooded. St Martin's Boys School was flooded and the water also penetrated St George's Day School. At the bottom of Fort Royal Hill and Cele Hill heaps of mud and stones collected to a depth of 2 feet.

<Droitwich>: Some **hailstones measured 2 inches in circumference**. High Street was flooded and inhabitants were confined to upper rooms. Houses in higher levels opposite steep streets had a foot of water in them. Hanbury Street and part of Friar Street are left as sludge pits. About 60 yards of Ombersley Street was flooded. Four pigs were killed by lightning.

<Bromsgrove>: Some lower portions of the town were flooded.

Worcester 2.26" in 90 m  
Wickwar (Gloucs) 1.71" in 2 h  
Dilwyn: 45.0 mm in ~ 4 h

<Knighton>: Between 2pm and 6pm one of the heaviest thunderstorms remembered. The storm was divided into two parts, from 2 pm to 3.50pm and from 5.10 pm to 6pm. In the first half no less than 60.5 mm of hail and rain fell; in the second, 25.6 mm, making a total of 86.1 mm in 4 hours.

<Churchstoke> (Mellington Hall): Torrential rain with thunder and hail. The storm began at 2pm and ceased at 4pm, 122.7 mm of rain having fallen in 2 hours. Two horses were killed and trees struck in the Home Park.

<Ross>: Sudden rise of 3 ft. in the river Wye

**25 Aug 1896**

**BR**

**12 Sep 1896**

Welshpool 1.00" in 105 m

**BR**

**26 Jun 1897**

St martins (Hereford) 2.01" in  
3 h 30 m

**BR**

**20 Jul 1897**

Stroud (Gloucs) 2.00" in 1 h

**BR, Stroud**

**News and**

**Journal**

<Stroud>: Tremendous fall of rain, commencing at 4.30 p.m.; by 5.30 p.m. two inches had fallen. Total fall, 2.73". The town was partially flooded, and roads and paths were much washed. The Great Western Railway Station at Downfield had the line flooded for more than 1200 yards. Several mills were flooded including Lodgemore Mills where quantities of cloth and wool were damaged, works of Messrs Humpidge, Holborow and Co., and Apperley, Curtis and Co of Dudbridge. At Dudbridge a 7 foot high wall 158 feet long was thrown over into a garden. At Wallbridge, houses were flooded to a considerable depth and at <Ebley> and <Cainscross> many residences were flooded. Vale House and Court House at Ebley were amongst those affected as well as the lower sheds at Ebley Mill. The drawing room at Stanley Park was flooded 2 feet deep due to the bursting of a culvert just upstream from the house.

**21 Jul 1897**

**BR**

Bodenham (Hereford) 1.61" in 2 h 30 m

**7 Aug 1897**

**BR**

Redditch (Worcs) 1.09" in 35 m

**20 Aug 1897**

**BR**

Harpree court (Mendips) 1.08" in 1 h

**23 May 1898**

**BR**

Woolstaston (Shrops) 1.38" in 80 m

**6 Aug 1898**

**BR**

Coventry 1.09" in 2 h 20 m

**21 Aug 1898**

**Gloucester**

**Citizen 22**

Ross 0.90" in 40 m

<Newent>: There was a heavy downpour of rain and hail with hailstones as big as marbles. The sewers were unable to take the water away and in a very few minutes there was flooding in the lower part of Broad Street. Several tradesmen living there had water in their houses knee deep.

**Aug,  
Wellington  
Journal 27  
Aug, BR**

**28 Jun 1899  
Sheffield  
Daily  
Telegraph 30  
Jun**

Thunderstorms widespread throughout the country  
Tenbury (Worcs) 1.17" in 55 m  
West Bromwich 1.01" in 75 m  
Newport (Shrops) 1.50" in 2 h  
Bewdley (Worcs) 2.00" in 3 h  
Oswestry (Shrops) 1.40" in 90 m

**29 Jun 1899  
BR**

**7 Jul 1899 BR**

Pool Quay (near Welshpool)  
0.72" in 15 m

**6 Aug 1899  
Gloucestershire Echo 7  
Aug, BR**

Gloucester 1.00" in 15 m and  
1.43" in 30 m

**15 Aug 1899  
Gloucestershire Echo 19  
Aug, BR**

Tenbury 1.08" in 2 h

**6 Sep 1899 BR**

W Bromwich 1.02" in 2h  
Shifnal (Shrops) 2.14" in 3 h  
30 m

**12 Jun 1900  
BR**

Cranham (Gloucs) 1.12" in 40 m

**12 Jul 1900  
BR**

Ross 0.96" in 1 h

**28 Jul 1901  
BR**

Dursley (Gloucs) 1.50" in 1 h

**10 Sep 1902  
Gloucester**

<Bridgnorth>: The thunderstorm commenced at 11.30 pm and at 12.30 a heavy downpour of hail fell causing considerable damage to houses. Several cellars were flooded. On mansion was reported to have water in the main rooms of the house. A few trees were uprooted in the neighbourhood.

WJ reports the occurrence of the storm at more than a dozen locations in Shropshire with deaths of horses and cattle caused by lightning but without reference to flooding.

<Wellington>: In a thunderstorm considerable damage was caused to fruit trees and crops. At the railway station the water was 18 inches deep.

<Ludlow>: Near Downton Castle 21 sheep were struck by lightning under an oak and killed outright. The sheep were found in every conceivable position, some on their backs; many starlings in the tree were also killed, and fell to the ground. A thin line marks where the tree was struck.

<Gloucester>: The storm lasted upwards of an hour. The drains were choked in many streets and flooded streets in low lying areas some to a depth of a couple of feet. Northgate Street resembled a river. Along Suffolk Street the water rushed from the roadway into several houses to a depth of several inches.

<Gloucester>: the storm lasted over half an hour. The drains in many places were insufficient to carry the water and the roadways were flooded. The tunnel under the Midland railway at Parkend Road was completely flooded. At <Maisemore> sheep were killed by lightning.

<Oddington> (Gloucs): Rain 1.15" falling in 65 m from 5.30 p.m. Many houses flooded.

<Upton-on-Severn> (Worcs): In a remarkable hail storm, the stones were said to have been as large as a shilling.

<Gloucester>: Streets were flooded in several parts of the city and in Bristol Road at the corner of Linden Road the water was several inches deep. Water collected in large pools in Lower Westgate Street, Honyatt road,



**citizen 11 Sep  
5 May 1903  
Yorkshire  
evening Post  
6 May,  
Gloucester  
Citizen 6 May,  
Wilts  
&Gloucester  
Standard 9  
May, BR**

Gloucester 4" in the last 11 days  
Perrystone (N of Ross) 1.12" in 45 m

**9 May 1903  
Hereford  
journal 16  
May,  
Tewkesbury  
register 9  
May**

**28 May 1903  
Banbury  
Advertiser 4  
Jun, Alcester  
Chronicle 6  
Jun,**

Thunderstorms widespread especially Upper Thames and adjacent Stour  
Worcester 1.80" in 105 m

**11 Jul 1903  
Coventry**

Henry Road etc. Several cellars were flooded to a depth of a foot or two.

<Pershore>: There were several feet of water in the main street of Pershore. Many of the houses were flooded. Old inhabitants cannot recall such an experience.

<Lawley Bank><Wellington>: A boy was killed by lightning on the way home from school.

<Tewkesbury>: The thunderstorm occurred late on 4<sup>th</sup> and many of the low lying meadows are flooded. Early on 5<sup>th</sup> the Severn and Avon rose rapidly

<Evesham>: The Avon rose rapidly and many low lying meadows were flooded.

<Gloucester>: In a deluge of rain the watercourses quickly overflowed and road and houses in low lying districts were flooded. The <<Sudbrook>> overflowed the Spa tennis courts and cricket field.

<Hereford>: The streets presented the appearance of canals and many thoroughfares were flooded. Worst affected was Scutmill Road and neighbourhood. The rain falling on the hill on which Tupsley stands flowed down Ledbury Road hill and flooded the Rose and Crown. A row of cottages below the junction of Bodenham Road and Haford Road in Scutmill Road were invaded by the rushing stream with water in the front and out the back with floating furniture. The cellars of hundreds of houses in the city were flooded in some cases to several feet deep including Harding's in Commercial Street. The main road from Hereford to Dinedor was in places several feet deep in water.

<Tewkesbury>: there was an unprecedented May flood. There was first a terrific downpour of rain followed by a remarkable fall of hail both for the size of the hailstones and its duration. The hail lasted a quarter of an hour and caused much damage to fruit trees . In the afternoon the Avon broke its banks

<Shipston on Stour>: A hailstorm occurred with hailstones the size of large nuts. Berries and currants were stripped off bushes.

<Halford>and <Whatcote>: These villages were visited by a similar storm with hailstones the size of pigeons' eggs, breaking garden glass and causing damage to crops.

<Tadmarton>: Great damage was done by the hail to windows and skylights. Several houses were flooded. Three cows were killed by lightning.

<Alcester>: A heavy downpour of rain and hail lasted half an hour and several low lying houses in the town were flooded. Cattle an horses were killed by lightning.

<Rugby>: The town was visited by a very severe hailstorm with very large stones continuing for more than a quarter of an hour. The sewers were blocked and the manholes lifted off by the force of the water. The streets

Evening  
Telegraph 13  
Jul, BR  
18 Jul 1903  
Shrewsbury  
Chronicle 24  
Jul,  
Wellington  
Journal 25 Jul,  
BR

2 Sep 1903  
Sheffield  
daily  
Telegraph 3  
Sep Sheffield  
Independent  
3 Sep

25 Jul 1904  
Birmingham  
Daily gazette,  
Wellington  
Journal 30 Jul

9 Jul 1905  
Edinburgh  
Evening News  
10 Jul

Earls Croome (Worcs) 1.71" in  
1 h  
Tenbury 1.15" in 1 h

Bromsgrove 0.81" in 25 m  
and 2.50" in 2 h  
Kington 0.83" in 27 m  
Church Stretton (Shrops)  
1.26" in 1 h

were flooded. Observer notes: In a very violent storm, mostly of hail some of the stones approximating to the size of pigeons' eggs. In 12 minutes 0.40" of rain fell

<Ludlow>: In a thunderstorm starting at 12.45 heavy rain was followed by hailstones as large as marbles and some as large as walnuts. In half an hour the ground everywhere was white. In the low parts of the town many houses were flooded through the hail stopping the drains and local pubs had their cellars knee deep in water with barrels floating. Vegetables in gardens were badly cut by the hail.

<Welshpool>: The rain flooded several of the streets and in the low lying quarter of the town many houses were flooded. Five cattle were killed by lightning.

<Prees>: the rain was accompanied by hailstones of immense size. The roads in the higher part of the village were flooded to a depth of 6 to 9 inches while in the centre of town houses and cellars were flooded. The rush of water down Church Street prevented the gutters from taking the flow.

<Leominster>: Rain and hail fell in torrents and many places were slightly flooded

<Wolverhampton>: Hail and rain caused the drains to be surcharged and the streets and roads were quickly flooded some to 2 to 3 feet deep. Hotels, shops and houses were flooded.

<Wednesfield> 3 miles from Wolverhampton hailstones half an inch long by three quarters of an inch thick broke hundreds of windows. Board schools were almost unroofed and a number of frontages were blow in.

<Ironbridge>: Several houses were flooded by the thunderstorm and furniture was floating about in rooms.

<Worcester>: A heavy thunderstorm broke over the area and a farmer was killed at Holt fleet whilst ploughing.

<Broseley>: In a few minutes after the storm broke more than one street was flooded and people were knee deep in their houses .

<Shifnal>: The streets were flooded and water penetrated shop cellars.

<Worcester>: A ploughman ploughing with three horses was struck by lightning and all were killed. A boy walking alongside the horses a few yards distant was not touched.

<Warwick>: 24 sheep were killed together by lightning.

<Dursley>: The storm caused considerable inconvenience to householders in the lower levels of the town. The offices of Lister Company were flooded.

<Longhope>: Lumps of jagged ice fell being over an inch broad and half an inch thick.

**10 Jun 1906**

Bromyard 0.87" in 30 m

**BR**

**7 Aug 1906**

Ludlow 1.06" in 1 h

**BR**

**21 Jul 1907**

Gloucester daily rainfall 1.91"

**Gloucester**

Gloucester Denmark Road

**Citizen 22 Jul,**

2.09" in 3.25 hrs

**Cheltenham**

Cheltenham 1.0" in 30  
minutes

**Chronicle 27**

Tenbury 1.61" in 30 m

**Jul, BR**

Bromyard 1.10" in 1 h

<Foxcote> and <Andoversford>: A great downpour of rain and hail was experienced and the hailstones were of a very large size. At both places low lying cottages were flooded.

<Gloucester>: As a result of the heavy rainfall houses in several low lying localities were flooded. St Catherine's Church was struck and damaged.

<Stroud>: Cellars were flooded and much damage was done to the stock of paper in two large printing works.

<Cheltenham>: Many places were flooded. Cheltenham owes its immunity to the current flood to improvements to the bed of the <<Chelt>> carried out by the Town council. However the drains were inadequate for carrying off the surface water in the low lying parts of the town and the roadways became ankle deep and adjoining houses had several inches of water in their basements. In the past the centre of distress was along the <<Chelt>> in the Promenade but on this occasion it was the High Street trades people who suffered most through the half forgotten bed of a disused tributary of the <<Chelt>>. The houses on the Pittville side were most affected where the water was waist high in some cellars. Much damage was done to stock. Basement flooding was most severe from North Street to Winchcombe Street. On the other side of the street depth in the cellars was up to 1 foot. Through the choking of a drain in High Street a large shop was flooded and much damage done to contents. Along the Chelt the weakest points were at the College Road and Rodney Terrace bridges and in the former case the water swept over the adjoining road and in the latter case the water was almost licking the top of the arch.

<Whittington> <Cotswold district>: Hails were as large as marbles and in some cases as large as walnuts. In Whittington the water ran down the streets with such a force that in some places a foot to three feet of the roadway was carried away. The fields and graveyard were flooded. The water passed through the lodge entrance to Sandywell Park and was then responsible for flooding the GW Railway and the consequent delay of trains.

<Bishop's Cleeve>: The midland railway was flooded for more than a mile, the water reaching nearly the top of the rails.

<Chedworth>: Heavy rains from the hills flooded several cottages at the church end of the village.

<Hopton> (nr <Shrewsbury>): Hopton Bank for over a quarter of a mile suffered severely; the road was washed up and resembled being ploughed and houses were flooded.

<Winchcombe> (NE Cheltenham): Three severe thunderstorms occurred within 24 hours, with continuous vivid lightning; 2.73 in. of rain fell in 24 hours causing destructive floods.

**22 Jul 1907  
BR**

Stonehouse (Gloucs) 1.50" in 45 m  
Stroud 1.00" in 1 h and 2.16" in 2 h 30 m  
Norbury (Staffs) 1.65" in 2 h  
Stroud: Intense thunderstorms occurred in the Stroud area preceded by a duststorm and a less severe thunderstorm the previous day. Of the preceding months May had below average rainfall at Stroud and June had 120% of normal

<Kentchurch> (Hereford) In a heavy thunderstorm 1.77" rain fell . The <<Monnow>> rose tremendously, and at 6 p.m. all sorts of things were being borne along by the current.

<Stroud>: Drains were choked with debris and water invaded shops in the town. Streets became 'mountain torrents' including Rowcroft, Bisley Road, The Leazes, Uplands Pitch. At Wallbridge the road became a lake with houses flooded to a depth of several feet. Steel and Co's printing works were flooded as were the works of James and Co. At <Ryeford> the saw mills were closed down owing to water entering the premises. In Slad Road, inhabitants in low-lying cottages took refuge in the top stories, the water rising several feet. At <Stonehouse>, streets resembled rivers and water collected at the bottom of Regent Street. AT the top of High Street, water flowed through Mr King's shop and house, carrying with it carpets and light articles. The Great Western premises and the Police Station and other buildings suffered considerably. Woodcock Lane was under water and the flow of water down Oldends Lane was so great, a barrel was carried from High Street down to the level crossing. At <Eastington> the roads between the canal bridge and the Workhouse were flooded to 6 inches.

**14 Aug 1907  
Rugby  
Advertiser 17  
Aug**

Rugby: 1.5" between 20.00 and 00.00

<Rugby>: so heavy was the downpour that the drains were unable to take the flow and streets were flooded. The part of Mill road that passes under the L and NW Station was inundated to a depth of 2 to 3 feet. Lawford Road, New Bilton from the Royal Oak inn to the club premises was under water and the Upper Hillmorton road was similarly affected. The flooding of cellars was general throughout the town.

**2 Jun 1908 BR**

Martley (Worcs) 1.45" in 20 m

**3 Jun 1908 BR**

Gregynog Hall 2.90" occurred in 2 hours: probably the bulk in less than 30 minutes.

<Newtown> : The <<Pyllybydron brook>> rose 17 feet in 30 minutes

<Birmingham>: The Grand Theatre was flooded.

<Walsall>: Severe flooding occurred at Walsall Railway station where the water was over the platform and various businesses in the town.

<Cinderford><Forest of Dean>: A collier was killed by lightning.

<Broadway><Worcs>: A woman was killed by lightning whilst sitting in her cottage.

**5 Jun 1909 BR  
7 Jun 1910  
Gloucestershire Echo 7 Jun,  
Gloucester  
citizen 8 Jun,  
Cheltenham**

Stow on the Wold 2.27" in 2 h

<Leominster>: In a heavy hail storm drains were choked and houses were flooded in consequence.

<Tewkesbury>: the storm lasted over half an hour. The rain and hail was exceptionally heavy and many places and buildings were flooded. A cow was struck and killed by lightning. The hailstones were as large as marbles.

<Little Badminton>: A farm worker was struck by lightning whilst ploughing.

<Blakeney><Gloucs>: Rain soon became a torrent and water flowing from the main road flooded Brook House.

<Berkeley vale>: the rain fell in torrents for two hours flooding many houses in the low lying parts of the Vale.

<Stow on the Wold>: Heavy storm in evening, the total rain being 3.55", most of which fell in two hours. Low

**Chronicle 11  
Jun, BR,  
Stroud news  
and Journal**

**8 Jun 1910  
Shepton  
Mallet  
Journal 10  
Jun**

Kentchurch (Hertfordshire)  
0.90" in 30 m

**12 Jun 1910  
BR**

Sparkhill (Birmingham) 0.96"  
in 30 m

**2 Jul 1910  
Coventry  
evening  
telegraph 2  
Jul**

**28 Aug 1910  
BR**

Weston Under Penyard  
(Hertfordshire) 1.50" in 3 h

**26 May 1911  
BR**

Tenbury DR 3.06"

**23 Jun 1911  
County  
express 24  
Jun**

lying districts around were flooded to the tops of doors on the ground floors of houses. Crops were washed out of the ground, and livestock was drowned. The storm was said to have been the worst for 52 years.

<Stroud>: A severe thunderstorm occurred in the Stroud area. At <Nailsworth> a number of shops and houses were swamped. Premises of Messrs Walker, Hart, Saunders, Morris and Albino were almost washed out. The heaviest rain however appears to have been in the Painswick and Burdlip Hills area and hillside gardens there were badly damaged. The principal concern in the description of this event was the fatalities and other damage caused by lightning.

<Shipston on Stour>: The thunderstorm lasted 2 and a half hours. Nine sheep were killed at Whichford and the spire of Great Walford church was seriously damaged. Rain turned the streets into rivers making them impassable. The river rose 8 feet in a short time and the low lying parts of the town were flooded

<Coventry>: In several parts of the city the gutters overflowed and there was a considerable pool of water near St Thomas' church, the water reaching up to the railings of the churchyard. In earlsdon Lane the water lay 3 or 4 inches deep across the road. The downpour continued scarcely without interval from 2 to 5.00.

BR notes: On the 26th the whole of England and Wales was traversed by north and south-running bands of rain produced by thunderstorms. More than an inch fell in half-a-dozen small isolated patches along a line from Portland to Ludlow in the west, the two rainy tracts being separated by a narrow rainless belt. In the hearts of the wet patches near Ludlow and Portsmouth rain fell with great intensity, several falls of more than 2.00" and some of more than 3.00" being recorded.

<Kingswinford> nr <Dudley>: Heavy rain fell first then hail as big as marbles. The junction of the streets near the Cross was transformed into a lake. Water poured down Market street over the whole width. For some minutes it was over a foot deep and flooded a number of cottages.

<Kinver>: the storm only lasted about an hour but in a very few minutes the water was pouring off The Edge along the roads which converge in the High Street. At Bellman's Buildings a stream of water ran straight through the houses and out the back door into the <<Stour>>, leaving 8 inches of debris on the floors. The bar at The Plough was under water and at the white Hart the water rushed through with alarming velocity. At

**21 Aug 1911  
Hereford  
times 26 Aug**

Severe drought from 29 Jun with record sunshine in Jul and Aug. The rain was generally welcomed. DR Hereford 2.24" and 2.03" Bridgnorth 2.38"

**30 Aug 1911  
BR**

Mickleton (Gloucs) 0.88 in 15 m and 1.02" in 30 m

**27/28 Jul  
1912**

**Gloucester  
citizen 29 Jul**

**4 Aug 1912  
BR**

Reddich 1.00" in 20 m

**21 Aug 1912  
Warwick  
Advertiser 24  
Aug**

Persistent heavy rainfall during the month may have caused this flood rather than intense rainfall

**29 Apr 1913  
Lincolnshire  
Chronicle 2  
May**

Thunderstorms were reported elsewhere but not in Warwickshire.

**26 May 1913  
BR**

Bishops Castle(Shrops) 0.95" in 20 m

**2 Oct 1913 BR**

Blockley (Gloucs) 2.00" in 2 h

**6 Oct 1913 BR**

Kington (Hereford) 1.08" in 25 m

**1 Jul 1914  
Gloucestershire Echo 2 Jul,  
Coventry  
Evening**

Very high temperatures experienced before the storm 84F at Gloucester. There were several deaths from heat stroke and 3 deaths near London from lightning and

Blakeshall Lane a rut 3 feet deep and 200 yards long was cut. Foster Street, Stone Lane and Mill Lane were also on the track of the storm and tons of stuff were swilled on and off the roads. Hailstones were the size of good sized cob nuts.

<Hereford>: The downpour of rain was very heavy and many of the streets were promptly flooded, the gullies and sewers being taxed to their capacity. A rain gauge at Whitecross Street registered 2.35", about 2/3 of which fell in an hour and a half.

<Gloucester>: There was a series of thunderstorms over two days. Street gullies could not carry the flood so that in low lying districts roads and some basements were flooded.

<Wotton under Edge>: The storm lasted about 25 minutes and the streets were flooded and in the low lying parts houses were badly filled with water and mud

<Alcester>: The worst floods for several years occurred and hundreds of acres were covered with water. The roads were impassable and in low lying parts houses were flooded .

<Aston Cantlow>: The village was practically cut off by the surrounding flood.

<Alcester>: Hundreds of acres were submerged in the Alcester and Bidford districts and villages in south Warwickshire were entirely cut off and houses and other buildings invaded.

<Bishops Castle> (Shropshire): Much damage was done by violent rain and hail.

<Winchcombe>: the storm was preceded by a whirlwind of dust and then the hailstones left hardly a whole pane of glass on one side of the main street. **The hailstones were said to be up to 6 inches long. Hailstones weighed 1 ½ oz.**

<Tewkesbury>: There was a hurricane of wind and rain and a number of large trees were blown down. Houses and shops were flooded and sub blinds torn to ribbons.

**telegraph 2  
Jul, Philip  
Eden Great  
British  
Weather  
Disasters  
2008,  
Leamington  
Spa courier 3  
Jul, BR**

several elsewhere. By far the most serious effects were from the lightning rather than the floods.

More than 3 inches fell very locally in the centre of the Gloucestershire and Worcestershire areas, where the intensity of the storm appears to have reached its maximum.

Tibberton Court in Gloucestershire recorded 99 mm mostly in 2 hours. Coton Hall (Bridgnorth) 3.10" in 2 h

Church Stretton 1.08" in 1 h Stratford on Avon 1.25" in 75 m

Sollihull 1.48" in 90 m

Thunderstorms followed a long drought.

**7 May 1915  
BR**

**30 Jun 1915  
Rugby  
advertiser 3  
Jul**

**4 Jul 1915 BR**

Clun (Shropshire) 1.00" in 17 m

Kentchurch (Hereford) 0.80" in 20 m

**14 Aug 1915  
Cheltenham  
Chronicle 21  
Aug  
12 Jun 1917**

<Gloucester>: Rain fell in torrents for nearly an hour and the drains were inadequate to carry the flow and water in several places notably near the railway bridge in London Road was flooded to 4 or 5 inches.

<Andoversford>: There was much damage to crops and acres of corn were swept level with the ground.

Hailstones the size of half crowns fell.

<Stourport>: A man was killed by lightning.

<Bedworth>: A gale of wind uprooted trees and windows of houses and shops were blown in and roads were flooded. It is 42 years since Bedworth experienced such a storm.

<Nuneaton>: Some roads were flooded to a considerable depth and made its way into some factories including a factory at <Attleborough>. In an incredibly short period the <<River Anker>> at Nuneaton rose 4 feet. The hailstones were as big as good sized marbles.

<Gaydon>: The hailstones were as large as marbles and lay 6 inches deep in places. Windows were broken, trees blown down and the streets flooded.

<Rugby>: The rain came down so heavily that the gutters were unable to deal with the water that rushed along carrying stones and debris with it. It particularly affected the districts of <Kilsby>, <Hillmorton>, <Dunchurch>, <Bilton> and the London road side. Roads were flooded and some impassable.

<Bilton>: the Main Street between the Black Horse and the Working Men's club was flooded to a depth of 2 feet. Several buildings were struck and damaged including a new church.

<Dunchurch>: The flood here was said to be the worst for more than 60 years. Mill Street was flooded for most of its length at its worst at 2 feet deep and 3 houses were flooded. Two owls were killed by lightning.

<Cheltenham>: Rain and hail fell with great violence and in many houses water got through the roofs and drains were choked with the rush of water, cellars and low lying rooms were flooded whilst there were huge pools of water in the streets.

<Coventry>: Before the rain a hurricane of wind of some vi

**Coventry  
Evening  
telegraph 13  
Jun  
17 Jun 1917  
Coventry  
Evening  
Telegraph 18  
Jun, BR**

Maximum temperature in  
advance of the storm was 85F  
Droitwich 1.62" in 1 h  
Tenbury 1.16" in 1 h  
Perrystone (Hereford) 1.07"  
in 30 m

olence was experienced. The rainfall caused flooding in low lying parts of the town. It was accompanied by hail though no damage was reported.

<Coventry>: A thunderstorm lasted about 5 hours but no flooding or other damage was reported.

<Rugby>: Hail did much damage to fruit and growing crops.

<Draycott>: Some of the **hailstones were very large and one was 2 ¼ inch across**. Windows in the Babtist church and glass in greenhouses was broken.

<Bedworth>: Various roads were quickly flooded and water made its way into numerous houses and cellars.

<Leominster>: A remarkable hailstorm caused much damage to fruit and garden produce. **The hailstones weighed about half an ounce**.

<Tenbury>: Hail of a very remarkable nature, some stones said to have been 2 inches in diameter, did great damage at Tenbury.

**20 Jul 1918  
BR**

Coventry 1.15" in 1 h

**15 Jun 1920  
Coventry  
herald 19 Jun**

<Coventry>: A thunderstorm lasted over an hour. Earlsdon felt the effect of the violent storm. The storm water came rushing down the Albany Road rendering it impassable. The force of the water was sufficient to lift manhole covers from which the water rose in miniature fountains. Across The Butts towards Spon End the thoroughfares became a sheet of water and similar conditions were experienced in other parts of the locality. The rainfall for the day was 1.08".

**5 Oct 1920 BR  
5 May 1923  
Coventry  
evening  
telegraph 7  
May**

Stow on the Wold 1.33" in 1 h  
Coventry 1D 0.54"

<Coventry>:Walsgrave road and Albany Road resembled millraces and Gosford Green was also affected. Peel Conor telephone Works were flooded in the factory and canteen. Allotment holders suffered from the hailstones.

<Brandon>: The hailstones were as lagre as horse chestnuts and played great havoc in gardens with fruit bushes and trees stripped. Cattle were running about the fields with fright. Many windows were broken. The roads became impassable especially near The Oak and a boat was used in the street. The Royal Oak was flooded. A culvert was lifted bodily out of the ground due to the pressure of water.

<Ryton on Dunsmore>: Extensive damage was done by hailstones as large as bantam's eggs.

<Whitmore>: Many houses had panes smashed by the hailstones which were as large as walnuts in the majority of cases but some were measured 2 inches in length.

<Ledbury>: Many **windows were smashed by hailstones** and crops were damaged.

<Cheltenham>: Just outside the borough at Prestbury and Bishop's Cleeve the full force of the rain and hail was

**12 Jul 1923  
Gloucester**

Preceding the storm in  
Gloucester the temperature  
reached 90F whilst the



**citizen 13 Jul,  
Cheltenham  
chronicle 14  
Jul,  
Gloucester  
Journal 14 Jul,  
BR**

minimum temperature was 67F. Cheltenham temperature reached 93F A great number of heat deaths were reported.  
Ledbury 0.75" in 30 m (12<sup>th</sup>)  
Ledbury 1.52" in 45 m (13<sup>th</sup>)  
St Briavels (Gloucs) 0.70 in 30 m

**19 May 1924  
Gloucestershire Echo 20  
May**

The storm originated over the bay of Biscay and then affected southwest England

felt, continuing for more than half an hour. The hailstones varied in size from that of marbles to golf balls and a good deal of damage was done to hothouses. A flood over a foot in depth occurred at the town side of <<Wyman's Brook>>. At <Weighbridge> Prestbury the water was nearly a foot deep across the Cemetery Road and Oaklands road was completely covered.

<Cleeve Hill>: The storm burst suddenly and almost immediately the road was a mountain torrent to a depth of 2 feet and leaving holes 1 ½ feet deep. There is a landslide on Cleeve Hill below the Rising Sun. Water poured down the walk at the back of the Rising Sun over a foot deep and into the back of the Sun. Conservatory glass was broken.

<Bourton on the Water>: An inch of water fell in the first 15 minutes and although no flooding was reported there was extensive damage from hurricane winds which uprooted trees and overturned sheds. Ealing had 2.14" in 9 ½ hours

<Ironbridge>: Houses were flooded and two horses were killed by lightning.

<Cheltenham>: The thunderstorm lasted more than 2 hours causing the gutters at the side of the roads to overflow into wide streams and where drains were choked the roads were flooded. Cellars all over the town were flooded in some cases to a considerable depth. The <<Chelt>>, ordinarily an insignificant stream, became a roaring torrent and overflowed its banks in various places. The speed of the turbid current was striking and the big archways under College Road, Old Bath Road, Keynsham road were all more than filled by the stream. The allotments oppose the College Swimming baths were under water and flooded a neighbouring house. The fields round Sandford Mill were deeply flooded and Charlton house was flooded from a tributary. The inmates at Mill House were imprisoned. The fall of water in the <<Chelt>> was as rapid as its rise. The water streamed down the slope of the Promenade towards the town and flooded the road at the New Club. All parts of the town had flooded basements and cellars. In some cases potatoes were washed out of the ground. The road between Cheltenham and Croome Hill was flooded. Hewlett road from Pitville Circus road towards Harp Hill was well flooded and basements were flooded in neighbouring Jersey Place. The brook at the bottom of Wooton Pitch was flooded to cover the road to a considerable depth. <Insworth> was impassable. And at the bridge at Barnwood Road the water was six to eight feet deep. Stones and large boulders were hurled across Stroud Road.

<Cleeve Hill>: Lye Lane was like a little Niagara and the main road was soon a river which blocked the tram line. Soon the whole vale was converted into ditches and pools of water. The railway was in island and the water covered Kayte Farm over to Hyde Farm, Swindon road, Over Elmestone, Hardwicke and Stoke Orchard. Scores of people were stranded at the Oaklands Prestbury and Southam.

<Gloucester>: Streams and brooks quickly became in flood including the <<Sudbrook>>, a previous source of trouble. The flood rose at a terrific rate and soon the Spa Cricket Ground and the Spa itself were covered to a

**20 May 1924**  
**Birmingham**  
**Daily Gazette**  
**21 May,**  
**Western**  
**Gazette 23**  
**May,**  
**Gloucestershi**  
**re Chronicle**  
**24 May**

Cheltenham 1.65" from 3.45  
to 5 pm (and 1.37" in 1 h)

depth of 2 to 3 feet.

<Gloucester>: Owing to a terrific cloudburst the main road to <Barnwood> was quickly flooded and houses along the route were inundated gardens devastated and cattle and poultry drowned. In one bungalow at <Hucclecote> the water rose so rapidly that the owner sought refuge on top of the piano and the water reached almost to the level of the keyboard. There was a terrific cloudburst in the vicinity of Cooper's Hill with water flowing into <<Barnwood Brook>>. Roads were rendered impassable and extensive damage was done to private property, trees were uprooted and poultry drowned. A photograph shows a flood road at the City boundary at Wotton. In one house the water rose at the rate of a foot in 2 minutes until it reached 3 feet. The floor of the garage was lifted up. In the upper reaches of the <<Sudbrook>> at <Saintsbridge> pigs and cattle were drowned in a flood originating from the <<Twyver>>.

<Upton St Leonards>: A torrent poured through the village and flooded houses and tore up the road. A parapet on a road bridge over the <<Twyver>> was destroyed.

<Cheltenham>: The basements of several houses in various parts of the town were quickly filled with water and at Prestbury where the rainfall appeared to be heaviest the roads were covered to a depth of 2 to 3 feet.

<Churchdown>: An embankment on the Cheltenham side of the station slipped on to the rails and blocked traffic for some hours.

<Ledbury>: A man was killed by lightning.

**29 May 1924**  
**BR**

Nailsworth (Gloucs) 0.62" in  
12 m

**31 May 1924**  
**Philip Eden**  
**Great British**  
**Weather**  
**Disasters**  
**2008,**  
**Sheffield**  
**Daily**  
**Telegraph 3**  
**Jun , BR**

There was a 24 hour down  
pour over many parts of the  
country followed by a  
thunderstorm with hail on 2  
Jun. The initial flooding was  
caused by persistent rather  
than intense rainfall. It was  
the third wettest May in 50  
years.  
Ludlow 123 mm  
Gloucester 3" in 36 hours  
Malvern Nearly 4"  
Cirencester 0.50" in 10 m  
Church Stretton 1.01" in 55 m  
Humber rectory (Hereford)  
2.99" in 105 m

Heavy rain caused serious flooding in northwest Midlands, Cheshire and northeast Wales. <Hanmer> Flintshire recorded 135 mm.

<<River Tame>>: Three farmers were drowned, one a farmer at Tamworth and two at Erdington, Birmingham  
<Worcester>: The river rose 22 feet over 3 days. The water got into the electricity works and the water works making both inoperative. The Three counties Show had to be abandoned because the land was flooded; prize cattle and exhibits had to be rescued from one of the fastest rising floods known. Smaller bridges on the <<River Teme>> have been damaged. The Teme and the Corve were probably between 0.5 and 1.0 m higher than in 2007 (and 2020) (according to Alan Schol (Pers comm.).

<Bransford>: Two bridges were swept away in the village.

<<River Frome>>: Floods in the valley of the Frome are said to be the worst since 1866. Houses were inundated with furniture floating about in rooms. Twenty five sheep were drowned.

Ludlow 2.68 in 150 m  
 Daily rainfall  
 Upton-on-Severn 2.84.  
 Malvern 3.94  
 West Malvern 3.63  
 Knightwick . 3.16  
 Worcester 2.50  
 Hartley Rectory. 3.35  
 Kidderminster 3.08  
 Bewdley (Elan Aqueduct) 3.04  
 Halesowen 2.90  
 Pedmore 3.26  
 Stourbridge 3.73  
 Ludlow 4.34  
 Shrewsbury 3.71  
 Myddle (Shrops) 4.10

<Evesham> The flood was the biggest on the Avon since 1 Jan 1900 and the biggest summer flood on record. The Hampton Road was four feet under water. All the shops and houses along the waterside were flooded and a hotel had its lower rooms washed out. <Bengeworth> was cut off from Evesham by water nearly a foot deep. Bungalow dwellers had to be rescued by horses and drays. Ground crops on market gardens are in many cases ruined

<Atherstone>: Many people were compelled to live upstairs. Further details are not included.

<Ludlow>: The following measurements were noted: 0.61 in. in 10 minutes, 0.65 in 12 minutes, 1.28 in 29 minutes, 2.19 in 49 minutes, 2.31 in 60 minutes, and 2.59 in 120 minutes.

<Stroud>: On the evening of 30 May there was a heavy thunderstorm in the Stroud area with great damage to gardens and roads. Houses were flooded in Slad Road and Wallbridge. In the latter place, a 2.5 cwt manhole cover was forced up and the workshop of a tin/copper smith was flooded. The canal bank was damaged at <Ryeford>.

<Warwick>: Houses in Stratford road were flooded in one house up to the second stair. The flood originated from St Mary's Common on the stretch nearest the Hampton road. Gardens in St Lawrence Avenue facing the Eagle Sports Ground were covered in water and houses of dairymen were flooded.

<Kenilworth>: It was the biggest flood ince 1 January 1901. No house property was reported flooded.

<Droitwich>: Parts of the town were under 8 feet of water.

**13 Jul 1925**  
**BR**

Long Compton (Nr Shipston on Stour) 1.57" in > 1 h

**22 Jul 1925**  
**BR**

Sollihull 2.17" DR in thunderstorms  
 Olton (Warwicks)DR 2.35"  
 Mickleton (Gloucs)1.00" in 45 m  
 (Thunder not mentioned)

**19 Sep 1925**  
**Taunton**  
**Courier 23**  
**Sep**  
**26 May 1926**  
**Birmingham**

High temperatures and sunshine over most of the country but also storms in

<Birmingham>: the downpour there lasted more than 6 hours. <<Hockley Brook>> which had already been the scene of two large floods in recent years overflowed and 50 policemen and others had to wade waist deep to rescue civilians. Burbury Park resembled a large lake and in many homes people were confined to upper bedrooms.

<Coventry>: A downfall of rain was followed by a hailstorm. Albany Road where manholes were dislodged had the appearance of a broad river. Ladders and timber floated down to the low lying Spon End and found its way

**Daily Gazette**  
**27 May,**  
**Evesham**  
**Standard 29**  
**May,**  
**Tewkesbury**  
**Register 29**  
**May**

Cheshire.

into shops and houses. The works of Coventry Chain Company were flooded. The tram service on the Earlsdon and Allesley Old Roads was suspended.

<Evesham>: Within a few minutes the streets were flooded, the drains being unable to carry away the deluge. There were large tracts of water in High Street and Burford Road, Bengeworth.

<Charlton>: Heavy hail cut down broad beans and cabbages were cut up by large hailstones. Plums and apples were cut from trees. (Other places a mile or so distant had no hail).

<Tewkesbury>: A heavy downpour of rain and hail occurred between 13.30 and 14.00. Drains and gutters could not carry away the flow. In most houses there was some trouble from the inrush of water with flooding of lower rooms.

**11 Jul 1927**  
**Yorkshire**  
**Post 12 Jul,**  
**Philip Eden**  
**Great British**  
**Weather**  
**Disasters**  
**2008,**  
**Gloucestershire**  
**Echo 12**  
**Jul,**  
**Staffordshire**  
**Advertiser 16**  
**Jul**  
**27 Aug 1928**  
**the Scotsman**  
**28 Aug,**  
**Rugby**  
**Advertiser 31**  
**Aug, Warwick**  
**Advertiser 1**  
**Sep**

Walsall: 0.75" in 30 mins  
Kinver (Stafford) 2.94" in 100  
m

<Smethwick>: The storm caused the bursting of a pool in a recreation ground and in the lower parts of the town the water was 5 feet deep. Boats were requisitioned to rescue householders where the water was up to the ceilings in downstairs rooms. Trains were halted by the floods outside Smethwick on the line from Wolverhampton to Birmingham when the embankment began to crumble under the train. Various other section of railway in the district were closed due to flooding. A child was drowned in Smethwick. In the streets the water was from 10 to 12 feet deep submerging tall motor vans.

<Wolverhampton>: The electricity station was flooded and the town supply of electricity cut off. A portion of the gas plant was put out of action. In Cannock road the water was up to the radiators of motors while traffic was suspended on Stafford Road. At the Darlington Arms, Darlington Street water rushed in and floated the table and its contents.

<Walsall>: Many streets of the borough were flooded. Hailstones accompanied the rain and in some places the drifts were more than a foot deep. The stream which flows through the centre of the town, a tributary of the Tame overflowed its banks on to the railway line between Rushall and Walsall disorganising railway traffic.

<Alcester>: The thunderstorm was accompanied by hail of remarkable size causing considerable damage to fruit and gardens. The hail reached a depth of several inches. A furnishing factory was flooded.

<Pailton>: The streets and footpaths were inundated and several houses were flooded. In one house the window was wrenched off its hinges.

<Halton>: Water found its way into houses and hail accompanied by a strong wind caused drifting to over 6 inches. Some of the hailstones were the size of a pea.

<Leek Wootton>: The drains could not cope with the deluge and soon caused flooding in the lower part of the village. Water found its way into the Anchor Inn and one house was flooded to a depth of 1 foot. A very deep stretch of water formed in the hollow roadway near the schools.

<Warwick>: Half an inch of rain was registered and many houses in the lower part of the town were invaded.

**28 Aug 1928**

**Rugby**

**Advertiser 31**

**Aug**

**14 Jun 1929**

**Nottingham**

**evening Post**

**29 Jun**

**26 May 1930**

**Gloucester**

**Journal 31**

**May,**

**Cheltenham**

**Chronicle 31**

**May**

**30 Jul 1930**

**Rugby**

**Advertiser 1**

**Aug**

**27 May 1931**

**BR**

**14 Jun 1931**

**Gloucester**

**Citizen,**

**Tewkesbury**

**Register 20**

**Jun, BR**

Storms were experienced in North Shropshire, North Staffs and South Cheshire.

Very heavy rain in S Wales to Abergavenny

Gloucester <0.5"  
Cheltenham 1.5"  
Worcester 0.75"  
Tewkesbury: 0.58" between 1.15 and 3.45  
Bidford: 1.25"  
Cookhill: 1.21" in 2 hours  
Northfield (Warwick) 1.61 in 45 m  
Blockley ((Gloucs) 1.16" in 45

<Rugby>: Very heavy rain occurred for half an hour and was accompanied by hail the size of cherries. Glasshouses were damaged.

<Market Drayton>: So great was the deluge that all the main streets were flooded

<Gloucester>: Effects of lightning were most noted including death of sheep and damage to crops by heavy rain and hail.

<Sandhurst><Gloucs>: The Sandhurst Road became flooded in less than a quarter of an hour and a number of houses were flooded. Crops were levelled to the ground and blossoms were stripped from trees.

<Cheltenham>: 0.86" fell between 2 and 3 hours. The roads including The Promenade became flooded.

The LMS line was flooded in Kilsby Tunnel 6 miles from Rugby and the loop line via Northampton was blocked owing to a landslide.

<Rugby>: Under the LMS railway bridge in Mill road the roadway was transformed into a lake 2 feet deep. The entrance to Wood Street from the Railway Terrace was in flood. Houses in Craven Road suffered from the drains overflowing. Damage was also caused in the lower part of Murray Road and in Wood Street. The hollow on vicarage Hill by the Golf Course formed a flooded spot. Rainfall for the day was 21.6 mm. Houses were flooded in Old Station Square on the left hand side of Newbold Road

<Hereford>: The thunderstorm was also severe in parts of Herefordshire, Breconshire and Shropshire. At Hereford the Wye rose rapidly on the morning of the 28th, about 8 ft. in 4 hours, reaching a maximum height of 12 ft. 10 in. but little flooding occurred.

<Ross on Wye>: The observer reported a prolonged and awe-inspiring display of forked and sheet lightning, and the fact that the Wye rose 11 ½ feet and overflowed.

<Gloucester>: The greatest effect of the storm was in the flooding of basements and roads. It was more severe in neighbouring villages of <Hardwicke>, <Upton St Leonards> and <Churchdown>. Roads under nearly every bridge in Gloucester were flooded and traffic had difficulty fording miniature rivers. At the end of Sweetbriar Street near Kingsholm Road the water was knee deep. The basements of the New Inn and Denton's had 3 to 6 inches of water. Houses near The Park including on Midland Road were flooded.

<Cheltenham>: The thunderstorm lasted 3 hours. And the River <<Chelt>> rose 6 or 7 feet. It overflowed its banks flooding a park and recreation ground and also inundating many hundreds of houses and business premises. Wooden blocks on the roads were shifted out of position and basements were inundated. The river

m

overflowed its banks and a wall on Bath Road gave way. Hailstones of enormous size fell. Land at the foot of Cleeve Hill was under water and the Prestbury and Evesham roads were impassable.

<Coleford>: Many houses were flooded and many of the streets looked like miniature rivers as water rushed down from the hillsides.

<H...brook>: The storm was very serious and the Jolly Sailors was inundated to a couple of feet in the bar and a piano had to be lifted.

<Langley>: The rain caused the overflowing of a large pool and many houses were flooded

<Birmingham>: A tornado raged over the city; a woman was killed and many people were injured by falling masonry; scores of houses had their roofs torn off. Many windows were blown out and some houses the walls and gables have been blown out. The Birmingham tornado made its appearance at 14.40 and travelled rapidly from the south to the north-east of Birmingham, and caused a very great amount of material damage along a track varying in width from 800 to 200 yards. Altogether the length of the path was from 10 to 12 miles, passing through Greet, Small Heath and Bordesley in a north-easterly direction to the Erdington boundary of the city. The storm ceased about 15.15.

<Tewkesbury>: The storm flooded roads and impeded traffic. The drains were quite inadequate to carry the flow and the streets were overflowed with several inches of water. The Swilgate became a raging torrent and flooded the cricket field and sports ground. Both the Avon and the Severn rose with amazing rapidity and observers declared that they had never before seen the river rise so quickly.

<Conderton>: The deluge tore up the main road.

<Bredon>: The water poured from the hillside and rushed through the back doors and out the front. A manhole was forced up at the Chains corner before being carried away. Poultry were drowned.

<Twyning>: Serious flooding occurred in the village and at the church. Roads were impassable for several hours.

<Upton on Severn>: The town was flooded.

<Evesham>: The rainfall was sufficient to flood the High Street and most of the roads and byways resembled miniature rivers.

<Astwood Bank>: Rain and hail poured in torrents for nearly an hour and the streets resembled rivers; many houses were flooded. Water boiled out from manholes and flooded streets a foot deep. The moat at Astwood court overflowed.

<Broadway>: A deluge of rain was accompanied by large hailstones and roads and footpaths in the lower part of the village were flooded. The sewers gushed up like fountains and houses were flooded by the overflow.

<Blockley>: There was torrential rain and hail the size of small walnuts. Day's Lane was like a mill stream and swept across the road into a house where it washed a pudding out of the oven(!) Court Flats were flooded. Glass in glasshouses in Station Road was smashed by hail. Many other houses were flooded. The storm

continued with violence for 20 minutes.

<Elmley Castle>: Within a few minutes of the start of the storm the roads were converted into rivers while the lane leading to the Mill Inn and Mill Pond was like a mountain torrent. Several houses were flooded to a depth where furniture was floating and in some houses to 18 inches. A cow was killed by lightning. Water rushed into the church during the baptism of a baby.

<Ilmington>: Several houses in the village were flooded. A cow was killed by lightning.

<The Littletons>: Houses were flooded both ant North and south Littleton.

<Pinvin>: Several council houses in the village had several inches of water in them and some up to 1 foot. The cellar of New Inn was almost filled. The road leading to Pinvin Church was quite impassable.

<Reddich>: A number of houses were flooded and Plymouth Road, Birmingham Road, Windsor Road and Hewell Road were like rivers. Damage was done to the Garden of Remembrance on Plymouth road. The River Arrow overflowed and flooded adjoining fields. Owing to a landslide the railway line was closed.

<Pershore>: The High Street was flooded to a depth of approximately 3 feet. The main volume of water rushed down Allesborough Hill and Station Road, uniting at the junction to sweep through the town. Houses were flooded and residents sought refuge upstairs. So quickly did the torrent swell that people were taken completely by surprise. The Chequers Inn was flooded early in the storm to a depth of 6 inches with muddy water. Most of the cellars at that end of town were flooded and every house from the New Inn to the Church Street corner was flooded. Every house in Engine Terrace suffered in a similar manner. Other parts of the town seriously affected were Defford Road Church Row, Broad Street and parts of Bridge Street. County council bungalows on Allesborough Hill were also under water. The water in church Row was deeper than in High Street. Residents recalled the last major flood 30 years ago when water rose a good deal higher than on this occasion. One mark on a wall showed the former flood depth of 2 and a half feet whilst this time it was nine inches. It was the first large flood in the town since two large culverts were put in many years ago.

<Ross on Wye>: 0.71 inch fell in 30 minutes, of which 0.43 inch occurred in 6 minutes, and the rain is described as being the worst since July 13th, 1923 ; the lower part of the town was flooded, water reaching nearly up to the window-sills of houses at the foot of Broad Street, and manhole covers being forced up by pressure of the storm-water. The entries for Ross rank as "remarkable".

<Wolverhampton>: Cottages were flooded on Willenhall road and also on First Avenue on Low Hill where the road was impassable.

<Coleford>: The Forest of Dean had what was described as a cloudburst. Rain was running down the streets of Coleford like rivers for 2 hours.

**19 Jun 1931**  
**Birmingham**  
**Daily Gazette**  
**20 Jun**  
**14 Jun 1931**  
**Taunton**

Shrewsbury: 36 mm  
Persistent rain; probably not  
a flash flood

**Courier 19  
Jun**

**7 Jul 1931 BR**

Burwarton (Shrops) 3.04" in 2 h

**14 Jul 1931  
BR**

Ellesmere coll (Shrops) 2.19" in 3 ½ hours

**Aug 1931 JBA  
Report**

**4 Aug 1931  
JBA Frome  
flood history  
report**

The 24 hour rainfall at Nailsworth was reported as 3.03". Other totals were Avening (Gatecombe) 3.13", Minchampton (The Shard) 2.91", Minchampton (Rectory Cottage) 2.90" and Minchampton (Camp Field) 2.91".

<Lydbrook>: Barrels of beer were washed out of the Jovial Colliers Inn. Many residents found parts of their furniture washed against the ceiling of lower rooms.

<Elton>: Many cars were marooned in 4 feet of water.

<Ellesmere>: Flooding was reported.

<Nailsworth> (Gloucs): Intense summer thunderstorms have mainly affected the <<Nailsworth Stream>> and the <<River Slad>> tributaries of the River <<Frome>> in Gloucester, with the most severe events in October 1882, July 1907 and August 1931. In the last of these the water was reported to have risen 10 feet in 15 minutes at Nailsworth. In all these events water level receded rapidly and, with lower flood volumes, effects diminished downstream.

<Stroud><Nailsworth> (Gloucs): Torrential rain was concentrated at Nailsworth and although rainfall was also heavy in Stroud the damage there was comparatively light; at Nailsworth few houses and business premises escaped. Rain there commenced around 9 p.m. and continued with only one brief pause until 2.30 a.m. The storm was most intense ('a cloudburst') at 11.00 p.m. The storm was accompanied by heavy thunder and lightning. The storm followed a period of 5 weeks of unusually wet weather. At King's works 'the water rose 10 feet in 15 minutes at around 01.30. British Rainfall reports that for England and Wales the summer total of 23.6 inches was exceeded in the previous 50 years only by 1927 and 1924. In the Stroud area rainfalls in relation to monthly averages in the months preceding the flood were:

|       |             |
|-------|-------------|
| April | 100 to 125% |
| May   | 225 to 250% |
| June  | 150%        |
| July  | 125 to 150% |

On the three main tributary valleys feeding into the Nailsworth stream at Nailsworth, similar conditions prevailed. Drains and culverts were surcharged or blocked so water backed up, flowed over steep banks, over threw walls and forced up through culverts into roads which became raging rivers. For example, on the Newmarket tributary the pondhead at The Nodes was breached and 50 yards downstream water backed up from a small bridge which was blocked with debris. This disintegrated releasing water into King's Pond and inundating the mill. The water rose 10 feet in 15 minutes, then filled Price's pond and mill and so to Britannia Square. A letter written in August 1981 to the Stroud News and Journal (50 years on) notes that mill ponds



were drawn down on weekends (and this was a long holiday weekend) and hence the initial rush of water was somewhat contained as each pond in turn filled.

The parts of Nailsworth most severely affected were Britannia Square (now Cossack Square), Market Street and the vicinity of Fountain Street.

In Britannia Square water approached from two directions, the culvert under the Inn and road surcharged, water rose up 20 feet behind and over a retaining wall at the back of the Inn and through the premises reaching 5 feet 8 inches in the living rooms and skittle alley. The culvert underneath the road burst and more water spilled into the square. Bruton's shop (round the corner from its present 1998 site) was flooded to 3 to 4 feet. In Brewery Lane a bedridden woman was rescued as the water began to lap over her bed. In Market Street, Taylor's butcher was flooded and sheep and cattle drowned, and in Freshwater's shop the water reached several feet depth.

In Fountain Street, water passing through the Cotswold Stores forced counters and goods against the windows, smashing them. A retaining wall at the back collapsed. The Postmaster was rescued when he was trapped in the Post Office. Another culvert collapsed near the fountain. It flooded Smith's toy shop, the Midland Bank, the George Hotel, a drapers shop and on the other side of the road a number of small houses were flooded to a depth of several feet. Past Fountain Street towards Stroud, Wixey's Chemists and Malin's tailors were flooded to over 3 feet. Davis' silk mills behind the Post Office suffered severe damage and machinery was twisted out of shape.

Other mills affected included Chamberlain and Co., leather board manufacturers, Grist's flock mill and further downstream at Woodchester the Newman and Henders engineering works were flooded.

Damage in the town was estimated at £25,000 to £30,000, a flood relief fund was set up and brought in £1180 before the end of August, subsequently disbursed in 217 grants.

Mills (1985) reports that subsequently the Nailsworth Bridge, damaged in 1931 was replaced in 1932, and road and bridge lay out near the clock was altered as part of a flood protection scheme.

It would appear that although part of the culverted channel has been opened up at the Mortimer Gardens,

culverts downstream and upstream remain with limited capacity and potential for blockage.

An obvious feature of the flood was the rapid rate of rise as exemplified at King's Mill. A Women's Institute History of Nailsworth reports one woman who left her house and found one foot of water outside, then turning round found that the water had already risen 3 feet in her shop.

There were also reports of severe erosion damage at Brimscombe, but none of property flooding.

Low-lying land from Ryeford Pitch to Bridgend was flooded, including 4 feet of water on Bath Road and many houses were flooded in The Stanleys. The Fleece Inn at Stanley Downton was flooded. At Willow Cottages (King's Stanley?), water was higher than the gas stove. Houses in the Barracks and Brookside had water pouring in the front door and out the back.

**1 May 1932  
Tewkesbury  
Register 7  
May, BR**

Eden (2008)  
Thunderstorms caused flooding in Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire to Shropshire. In Wilts the worst hit were Chippenham and Calne where 100 mm is estimated to have fallen. The thunderstorm was embedded in a longer period of rain

<Evesham>: Abbey Park, the Crown Meadow and Workman Pleasure Grounds quickly became inundated, then Hampton road was flooded from the corner of Cooper's Lane to the Evesham Cemetery. The flood was the highest in Evesham since June 1 1924 (10 feet 11 inches compared with 12 feet 9 inches in 1924).

<Pershore>: The main road near Pershore bridge was impassable as was the Defford road near the Racecourse. The river Avon flooded and as a consequence the racecourse at Pershore was under water to a depth of more than two feet causing the abandonment of racing there on the 2nd and 3rd.

<Binton>: Ballast on the railway line was washed away and the rails and sleepers were left suspended.

<Alcester>: The rivers <<Arrow>> and <<Alne>> overflowed and hundreds of acres of low lying land were submerged. The water rose with exceptional rapidity. The main road from Alcester to Stratford was flooded to a depth of 2 or 3 feet. Houses in the Stratford Road and Gas House Lane were flooded so quickly that the occupants had no time to remove their furniture. School road was also flooded

<Bidford on Avon>: In a thunderstorm the streets quickly became miniature rivers. Much damage was done to garden crops. Many houses were flooded and a number of roads were impassable to motor traffic. The river in a short time was in full flood.

<Eckington>: The water at Eckington Bridge rose to its highest level since 1924. Horses and cattle had to be rescued from surrounding meadows.

<Ettington>: The street was flooded in several places and the water entered several houses in some cases reaching a depth of 2 feet. On the road to <Halford> the water reached a depth of between 4 and 5 feet and at Halford bridge the road was impassable.

<Fladbury>: The roads were flooded and resembled rivers. The jubilee road was impassable and between Jubille

**21 May 1932  
JBA flood  
report**

Unlikely this was a flash flood but no doubt influenced by the flash flood earlier in the month.  
Heavy rainfall and high river levels on the River Leam

Bridge and Fladbury Mill the water in many places was 4 feet deep.

<Halford>: The village experienced one of the worst floods known in its history. **In less than an hour the river overflowed its banks and rose to a depth of 4 feet in places.** The main road was impassable for 24 hours. In the adjoining village of <Armscott> several houses were flooded and the Pool House suffered the most where the water reached several feet in house, stables and garage.

<Hampton>: There was serious damage to garden and field crops. The gardens and grounds of Brook Cottage were under water and the level reached 18 inches in the house. The new bridge over the <<River Isbourne>> had no trace of an opening under the bridge.

<Ilmington>: Houses were flooded in the lower part of the village. Campden Hill and Foxcote present the appearance of a river and seeds and potatoes were washed out of the ground. In the neighbouring village of <Darlingscott> houses were flooded and on the Shipston road the water reached a depth of 5 feet.

<Long Marston>: Flooding occurred in houses that had previously been immune to a depth of 12 to 18 inches. The main roads were under water to a depth of 6 inches.

<Kington>: Water entered a number of houses in the vicinity. The main road was converted into a stream and dwelling houses below the level of the road were flooded. Cattle pigs and lambs were rescued from the floods with the help of neighbours.

<Peopleton>: <<Bow Brook>> son overflowed and the water ran through the house at the Mill. The water was between one and 2 feet deep on the main Worcester Road by Stone Bow bridge.

<Radford>: A number of houses were flooded to a considerable depth. Water was deep on the main road to Flyford Flavel and the single storied Toll House was flooded to a depth of about 2 feet.

<Quinton>: the main street resembled a river in flood, the water rising to a depth of 3 feet. Many houses were inundated and in several cases rose above the fireplace. The Council houses were surrounded. Several hundred poultry were drowned. The lawn at The Brake was flooded to a depth of 4 feet. In Upper Quinton the water entered the Wesleyan Chapel and rose half way up the pews causing the service to be abruptly terminated. Many cottages were flooded and in some cases chairs and table were washed out of the houses.

<Sedgeberrow>: The brook overflowed its banks and the Winchcombe Road lay several feet in water.

<Snitterfield>: the little stream which flows through the village rose rapidly and the roads were flooded. Householders at the top of The Green were met by floating utensils at the foot of the stairs.

<Leamington>: A map report shows that the peak level reached in this event was 0.67 metres higher than 1968 upstream from the ancient mill weir in Leamington and 0.85 metres higher at Portobello Bridge on the Avon just upstream from the <<Leam>> confluence and influenced by the Leam. That this event was of much greater magnitude than 1968 is strongly supported by the reported extent of flooding and levels on roads and in properties.

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | earlier in May saturated the catchment before the rains of 21 May when 1 to 2 inches of rain fell over the Leam catchment, a small amount indicating the role of initial catchment wetness. | <Nailsworth> (Gloucs): In spite of heavy rains, there was no repeat of flooding at Nailsworth, though water levels rose and gardens down the valley near Dunkirk and Woodchester were under water. Some houses also in Ryeford Pitch and at Woodcock Lane, Stonehouse had several inches of water in living rooms from the neighbouring stream.   |
| <b>13 Jul 1932</b><br><b>Kington</b><br><b>Times 16 Jul,</b><br><b>BR</b>    | Ryton on Dunsmore (Warwick) 2.36" in 90 m (12 <sup>th</sup> )   | <Welshpool>: Within three hours 3.3 inches of rain fell. Many houses and business premises were flooded. Soil was washed from gardens, roads flooded.<br><Oswestry>: Rainfall of 2 ¼ inches occurred in 2 hours. Harvested hay has been carried down from the Welsh Uplands. At Brynfa Farm 7 sheep and several heifers were killed by lightning.<br><Coedylade>: On the main street leading to Shrewsbury the flood was 3 feet deep and left a deposit of mud. Two cows were killed and many poultry.  |
| <b>20 Aug 1932</b><br><b>BR (Dudley</b><br><b>Herald)</b>                    | Malvern 1.86" in 20 m   | <Malvern> (Public Library) The heavy rain occurred during a violent thunderstorm and did considerable damage. The observer reports that it was the heaviest fall in so short a space of time ever recorded there.<br><Netherton><Blackheath> and <Halesowen>: The Dudley Herald refers to the storm of the night as one of the worst in living memory in the Black Country. Considerable damage was caused by lightning, e.g., at Tipton, a lecture room of the Princes End Baptist Church was set on fire, while considerable flooding occurred in the low-lying districts at Netherton, Blackheath and Halesowen. |
| <b>21 Jun 1933</b><br><b>Western Mail</b><br><b>22 Jun</b>                   |   | <Welshpool>: Torrential rain and hail swept over mid Wales especially <Welshpool> and <Montgomery> where streets were flooded and great damage done to farms and garden crops   |
| <b>26 Jun 1933</b><br><b>Gloucestershire</b><br><b>Echo 27</b><br><b>Jun</b> | Malvern 1.01" in 20 m<br>Barnard's green (Malvern) 1.25 in 30 m<br>Persnore 0.77" in 30 m   | <Cheltenham>: A thunderstorm did much damage to fruit plantations and flooded several houses in Engine Terrace at the end of Plough Lane.<br><Tewkesbury>: Large hailstones accompanied torrential rain. [Flooding was not mentioned].  |
| <b>11 Jul 1934</b><br><b>BR</b>  | Sarnesfield court 2.04 in 90 m  |   |
| <b>12 Jul 1934</b><br><b>BR</b>  | Kimbolton (Hereford) 1.50" in 45 m  |   |
| <b>13 Jul 1934</b><br><b>BR</b>  | Stonehouse (Gloucs) 1.50 in 2 h   |   |
| <b>18 Jul 1934</b><br><b>BR</b>  | Stratford on Avon 2.25 in 25 m<br>Stratford 2 2.03 in 45 m  | <Stratford on Avon>: The two stations at Stratford-on-Avon, which reported intense falls, are about a mile apart. The storm was local, the total for the day at Snitterfield 3 miles to the north, being only 0.16 inch.  |

Rugby 2.95 in 70 m  
Dunchurch Hall (Warwick)  
2.92" in 105 m

**23 Apr 1935**  
**Kington**  
**Times 27 Apr**

**5 Jun 1935**  
**Gloucestershire Echo 6 Jun,**  
**BR**

**25 Jun 1935**  
**Central Somerset**  
**Gazette 28**  
**Jun, Warwick**  
**Advertiser 29**  
**Jun, BR**

A large part of southern Britain was affected by intense rain with thunder and lightning. BR reports intense rains qualifying for inclusion have been received from London, Berkshire, Hampshire, Oxford, Wiltshire, Gloucester, Hereford, Northampton, Leicester, Rutland, Warwick, Monmouth and Carmarthen Frampton (Gloucs) 1.29" in 2 h  
Ashwicke (gloucs) DR 4.50"

**22 Sep 1935**  
**Western Daily**  
**Press 23 Sep,**  
**Daily Herald**  
**23 Sep,**  
**Cheltenham**

The two stations at Bilton Grange and Dunchurch Hall are only about f mile apart. At Bilton Grange the thunderstorm was from 15.30 to 16.40 although at Dunchurch Hall a longer duration of rainfall is reported.

<Ludlow>: There was a deluge of rain and hail lasting for 2 and a half hours. The water ran down the streets 6 inches deep and the lower parts of the town the streets were flooded and Steventon road and Mill Lane were impassable. In Steventon New Road the water ran down from the railway embankment and swept sand and materials away. Some of the houses in Steventon Crescent were flooded. Overton road resembled a river. The storm was very local with no rain at villages nearby.

<Birdlip>: Houses were flooded and a horse struck dead by lightning. The storm raged for more than half an hour with hailstones as large as pebbles! The hail was followed by rain which overflowed the gutters. In many houses the water an in one door and out the other. Blockage of drains was aided by the accumulation of hail.

<Broadway>: The severe storm was accompanied by huge hailstones. Crops were beaten down and roads flooded.

<Leominster>: At Starnesfield Court 1.35" fell in half an hour.

<Pershore>: A man (a pea picker) was killed by lightning.

<Wick>: The <<Dog Brook>> burst its banks and carried away the bridge. The water swept down in a torrent 30 feet wide and 5 feet deep into cottages near Wick Ochre Works. Children were marooned in a school.

<Warwick>: The torrential rain was accompanied by hailstones as large as damsons. The storm continued for quite an hour and the daily rainfall was 1.45". The roads were flooded and the drains were quite incapable of taking the flow.

<Gloucester>: dozens of houses in the streets of low lying Westgate area were affected and furniture was floating about in many living rooms.

<Lydney>: The water rose over two feet in places and houses and businesses in Newerne Street were invaded.

<Blakeney>: Businesses suffered heavy losses from the destruction of their stock.

<Tintern>: A cloudburst caused devastation. A small stream burst its banks and flooded a hotel to a depth of several feet.

**Chronicle 28  
Sep**

**20 Jun 1936  
Gloucester  
citizen 22 Jun  
21 Jun 1936  
Sheffield  
Independent  
22 Jun, Webb  
et al 2009,  
Birmingham  
Daily gazette  
22 Jun,  
Coventry  
Herald 26 Jun,  
BR**

Ross: Over 0.50" in 20  
minutes

12 severe hailstorms were  
reported on these two days  
which were the peak of a 5-  
day thundery spell. Observers  
at two official Met Office  
Climatological stations  
witnessed hail of,  
respectively, 32 mm diameter  
at Malvern and 38 mm  
diameter at Bristol. (Meteorol  
Mag 1936)

**15 Jul 1937**

There was a belt of heavy

<Chedworth>: Many houses although being on the hills were flooded.

<Bourton on the Water>: In the low lying districts of High Street, Sherborne Street and Rectory Road houses were flooded to a depth of 2 feet with furniture afloat.

<Lower Slaughter>: Several houses were flooded to a depth of 1 foot.

<Northleach>: Hailstones about the size of marbles and to a depth of about 3 inches fell near Hangman's Stone.

< Cirencester>: Roads were flooded to a depth of several inches and water entered houses in low lying districts.

<Naunton>: The rush of water down Summer Hill carried surface soil and stones into the village where a huge drift was formed that held up traffic.

<Notgrove>: Extensive damage was caused to greenhouses by mammoth hailstones the smallest of which measured 3 ½ inches in circumference. Vegetables were cut in half.

<Ross on Wye>: Houses and businesses in low lying parts of the town were flooded.

<Malvern>: 32 mm diameter hail was observed.

<Ledbury>: Hops were severely damaged by the hail.

<Coventry>: Flooding from the thunderstorm was particularly severe in the Foleshill district. There the road by the Wheatsheaf Inn was flooded and the inn itself and houses were invaded. Cellars including those of the Rialto and Brookville Cinemas were flooded. The roadway and a number of houses in Genner Street, Albany Road, the Butts and Windmill road were also flooded. A newly opened school at Hen Lane Foleshill was flooded.

<Nuneaton><Bedworth>: In a hailstorm scores of windows were broken and many houses were flooded.

<Stockingford>: The Birmingham to Leicester main line was flooded to a depth of several inches. A row of cottages near the station was flooded to a depth of 2 to 3 feet. Manholes were blown up and all together scores of houses were flooded.

<Fillongley>: The drains were unable to cope with the sudden torrential downpour and the Post Office which lies at the lowest point of the village was soon flooded to a depth of 3 feet; children were rescued from an upstairs window. Several other residents had water in their houses. One unfortunate man at Little London had his garage and car swept through the hedge to the opposite side of the road. Gardens were inundated and poultry drowned.

<Keresley>: The hailstones were very large. The drains were inadequate to cope with the volume of water and extensive flooding took place.

<Market Bosworth>: Market Bosworth Senior School reported 2.47 inches in just over two hours.

<Nuneaton> The fall of 4.00" for this day at Nuneaton was due to two thunderstorms which occurred between 13.15 15.30 and also between 17.30 and 21.00. The total was as much as 11.5 per cent, of that for the whole year.

<Tewkesbury>: The town was struck by a severe hail storm which lasted a quarter of an hour. The streets were

**Gloucestershire Echo 15 Jul, BR (Birmingham Daily Mail 15 Jul)**

rain, exceeding two inches stretching almost continuously from Somersetshire to Lincolnshire. Tewkesbury 1.64" in 45 m Bromsberrow (Gloucs) 1.90" in 90 m Ross on Wye 0.83 in 30 m Bidford on Avon 2.00" in 75 m

**12 Aug 1937 Gloucester Citizen 13 Aug**

**13 Aug 1937 Birmingham Daily gazette 14 Aug 20 Jul 1939 BR**

**21 Jul 1939 BR**

flooded, some to a depth of 6 inches and many houses were flooded. Fruit trees were damaged.

<Broadway>: Streets and houses were flooded. The main Cheltenham road just outside the village was flooded to 18 inches to 2 feet. Manholes were forced up in the High Street which was flooded to 18 inches in places and the Broadway Garage and numerous houses were flooded. At the Swan Hotel the water was 5 feet deep in the cellars. Yew Tree House Antique shop was flooded causing considerable loss.

<Evesham>: Houses in many parts of the town were flooded while classrooms were flooded at one school at Merstow Green and children had to be carried out by teachers and lessons suspended for the day. The storm lasted about half an hour. In some parts the water reached the hubs of motor cars. In Merstow Green a number of houses were flooded to a depth of several inches and stock was ruined at a shop there. Littleworth Street also suffered severely. At the Gardener's Arms the water reached a height of 18 inches and the cellars were flooded to 4 feet.

<Birmingham>: " This morning soon after 10.00 a violent thunderstorm broke over Birmingham accompanied by heavy rain which caused the gutters to become miniature torrents. The rain continued to fall far into the afternoon but was not so intense as that experienced in other districts.

<Stratford-on-Avon>: At noon after heavy thunder and lightning there was a deluge of rain which temporarily flooded streets and pavements. There was a small area near Stratford on Avon with a rainfall total of over 4.00 inches.

<Stroud>: The torrential rain was accompanied by large hailstones for 20 minutes followed by rain. Drains were unable to cope with the downpour and many houses were flooded. Paths on the hillsides and slopes suffered badly.

<Whitminster>: It was said to be the worst storm for 17 years with torrential rain and large hailstones and lasted for a quarter of an hour and caused the gutters to be flooded.

<Hereford>: In the outlying parts of the city some streets and houses were flooded

<Stourbridge>: Rain fell with such severity for over half an hour that the streets were flooded to a depth of several inches.

<Chipping Campden> <Leysbourne>: 2 inches fell between 17h. and 19h. The drains became blocked by silt and many houses flooded; in some cases the water ran in one door and out of another. The storm was local, the Director of the Research Station, one mile from Campden reports only 0.82 inch for the day.

<Hoarwithy on Wye>: 4 miles north-west of <Ross>, the observer recorded 2.34 inches in 90 minutes. The storm lasted from 16h. to 17h. 30m. and was regarded as the worst in living memory. A sluggish brook rose above its banks and flooded the immediate surroundings to a depth of some feet. A farmer had to wade up to

**1 Aug 1939**  
**Birmingham**  
**Mail 2 Aug**  
**17 Oct 1939**  
**Warwick**  
**Advertiser 20**  
**Oct**

his breast when driving his frightened cattle to drier ground or sheds.  
<Coventry>: A heavy storm was accompanied by hail. Bowling green Hotel was flooded.

<Warwick>: Roads were widely flooded and in the vicinity of Portobello Bridge there was damage to property in the Emscote district. A number of houses were inundated some up to 4 feet in depth and at the emscote foundry all work was suspended; the foundry fires had been put out. St Nicholas park did not escape though the water did not nearly approach the level in 1932.

<Leamington>: The <<Leam>> rose 10 feet in 2 hours and overflowed into the Pump Room Gardens. The road at Dormer Place became impassable. A large part of Jephson's Gardens was under water.

<Stratford>: Waterside and Tiddington road were quickly flooded and many families awoke to find themselves trapped in their bedrooms. People in Tiddington Road were rescued by boat from bungalows. The water level in Waterside was only a little below the mark of the big flood in 1922 (*sic*) (presumably 1932). The roads at Welford on Avon were covered to a depth of 2 feet

<Alcester>: BR notes that in spite of the rainfall amount and intensity, no floods were reported.

**27 April 1940**  
**BR**

Alcester: 1.93" in 90 m  
Ross on Wye (28<sup>th</sup>): 1.20 in 80 m

**12/13 Jun**  
**1941, Eden**  
**(2008)**

Upton Warren in  
Worcestershire had 117 mm  
in 25 hours

<Birmingham>: Two people were killed by lightning at Selly Oak.

<Droitwich>: BR notes: Towards the end of a severe thunderstorm at Droitwich, large hailstones, many of which were angular in shape, fell. Several properties were struck by lightning. The observer of Upton Warren, 4 miles north of Droitwich reports "86 mm. (3.39 inches) was measured in 1 ½ hours and was accompanied by a local tornado and violent hail . . . which devastated field and garden crops and tore off branches of trees. On the 13th there followed another thunderstorm. The rainfall recorded was 1.21 inch of which 0.80 inch fell in 20 minutes. Thus we had 4.60 inches of rain in 25 hours."

**13 Jul 1941**  
**BR 1941**

Storms occurred at locations  
in Brighton, Worcester and  
Northampton.

Astley: 1.31 in 45 m  
Stratford: 0.92 in 45 m  
Stourport: 2.04 in 60 m  
Nuneaton 1.15 in 80 m

<Nuneaton> (Bedworth W.W.), 1.15 inch fell between 13.30 and 14.50. At Astley Vicarage, near Nuneaton, the observer reported a fall of 1.31 inch in about 35 minutes.

<Coventry>: There was flooding and interruptions in the electricity supply.

**6 Jun 1942 BR**  
**1942**

Bridgnorth: 0.87" in 30 m

<Bridgnorth>: Heavy rain was followed by a fall of hailstones 1 inch in diameter lasting for about 10 minutes. Owing to the hail, the total fall of 0.87 inch is an under-estimate.



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|--|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>29 Aug 1942<br/>BR 1942</b>   | Frampton Cotterell: 2.31" in 2 h | <p>&lt;Stroud&gt; and &lt;Stonehouse&gt;: There was a severe hailstorm in these districts of Gloucestershire. <b>Some of the hailstones were 1 ½ inch by ¾ inch in size.</b></p> <p>&lt;Stonehouse&gt; (Gloucs): An illustration of local variation in the intensity of thunderstorm rainfall comes from this village, where at one end 2.50" was recorded and at the other end 1.67"</p> <p>&lt;Cheltenham&gt;: In a thunderstorm at Cheltenham 1.59 inch was recorded for the day.</p>   |
| <b>11 Jun 1943<br/>BR 1943</b>   | Rugby: 1.68 in 2 h               |  |
| <b>5 Aug 1945<br/>Manchester Guardian 6 Aug, Derby Daily Telegraph 6 Aug</b> |                                  | <p>&lt;Stratford on Avon&gt;: Streets were flooded to a depth of two feet in a thunderstorm. Cellars were flooded and beer barrels afloat. Cars were stranded. In some places large hailstones fell, stripping the trees of foliage. In the cellars of the ancient White Swan Hotel water was waist deep. Many campers along the River Avon washed out by the storm spent the night in hotels and private houses. (Thunderstorms were also reported in Bury St Edmonds and &lt;Ayr&gt;).</p>   |
| <b>14 Jul 1947<br/>BR</b>  | Tewkesbury PS: 1.88 in 45m       | Storms were mostly reported in the Thames valley but this was one site outside the Thames catchment.   |
| <b>19 Jul 1947<br/>BR</b>  | Pedmore: 1.65 in 60 m            | Thunderstorms were reported widely through the period from 16 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> .  |
| <b>26 Jul 1947<br/>Gloucester citizen 27 Jul</b>                             |                                  | <p>&lt;Lydney&gt;: Streets were turned into rivers and many shops and houses were flooded. Water rose rapidly in the more level main streets; in Newverne Street which resembled a lake the floods broke over the pavements and entered shops which were quickly covered to a depth of a few inches . Hill street was transformed into a torrent whipped up by the wind which sprang up at the height of the storm. The rush of water was fierce in the Tufnalls area of the town and a manhole was forced up. Many houses were flooded and at the end of the storm large hailstones fell.</p> <p>&lt;Kineton&gt;: The storm was accompanied by a squally wind which blew over a windmill. The storm had not been raging many minutes before water rushed in at the back door of houses and out the front, in some cases where flooding had never been know before</p> |
| <b>19 May 1949<br/>Gloucestershire Echo 20 May</b>                           |                                  | <p>&lt;Cheltenham&gt;: Flood water invaded many houses during the thunderstorm. A basement apartment on St George's Terrace was flooded to a depth of 2 feet. Floods entered the basement floor of Woolworth's on High Street and a basement flat beneath the Cheltenham Public Library was swamped. Flooding also occurred at Prestbury Road</p>  |

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|---|--|---|
| <b>15/16 Jul<br/>1949 BR</b>                                | Kempsey (15 <sup>th</sup> ): 1.00 in 30 m<br>Worcester (16 <sup>th</sup> ): 1.39 in 36 m   |   |
| <b>22 Sep 1949<br/>BR</b>                                   | Tenbury: 1.50 in 60 m  |   |
| <b>7 Jun 1950 BR</b>  | Dudley: 1.75 in 46 m   | <Dudley>: The storm was very local, places around the whole perimeter of Dudley within two miles reporting no rain for that afternoon and evening.<br><Cleobury Mortimer>: A thunderstorm caused flooding at Cleobury Mortimer, near Kidderminster.   |
| <b>13 Jun 1950<br/>BR</b>                                   |  |   |
| <b>18 May 1952<br/>Birmingham<br/>Daily gazette</b>         |  | <Weston under Edge> and <Aston under Edge>: At the former the main street was impassable for 2 hours and at both the storms were said to be the worst in living memory.   |
| <b>19 May<br/>15 Aug 1952<br/>BR</b>                        | On the date of the disastrous flood at Lynmouth isolated storms occurred elsewhere.<br>Willenhall: 0.90 in 24 m<br>Tenbury: 1.00 in 60 m |   |
| <b>25 Jun 1953<br/>BR</b>                                   | Thunderstorm were widespread from Wales to Scotland from 25 to 30 Jun<br>Stroud 1.54 in 79 m<br>Kidderminster: 0.98 in 45 m              | <Stroud>: The observer said that a feature of the storm at Stroud was the terrific hailstorm accompanied by very strong winds which caused the hail to sweep over garden crops and cut them as with a scythe.   |
| <b>18 Jul 1953<br/>BR</b>                                   | Persnore 1.26 in 45 m  | <Persnore>: A violent thunderstorm swept the Vale of Evesham, damaging crops and homes and flooding roads.  |
| <b>5 Jun 1954 BR</b>  |  | <Long Newnton (Gloucestershire): the observer recorded 3.46 inches in three and a half hours.   |
| <b>12 Aug 1954<br/>Birmingham<br/>daily Post 13<br/>Aug</b> |  | <Stratford>: A woman was killed by lightning and two youths seriously injured. Torrential rain flooded the whole of the Bancroft Gardens. Buildings at Bridgefoot were flooded. Hailstones were reported to be as big as pigeon's eggs.<br><Walsall>: The basement of a factory in Cecil Street was flooded to a depth of several feet. The main road between Walsall and Aldridge was flooded to a depth of 15 inches near Walsall airport. Lawns of houses fronting Walsall Road, <Aldridge> were flooded to a depth of 6 inches. |
| <b>13 Jul 1955<br/>BR</b>                                   | Wotton under edge 1.20 in 40 m<br>Malvern 1.20 in 60 m<br>Bromsberrow Heath 1.98 in  | <Malvern>: Hailstones the size of walnuts fell during the thunderstorm<br><Wotton under-Edge>: Also reported large hailstones in a storm on the same day.   |

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| <b>17 Aug 1955<br/>BR</b>  | 75 m<br>Dudley 0.56 in 5 m  |  |
| <b>30 Aug 1956<br/>BR</b>  | Wotton under Edge 1.25 in 60 m  |  |
| <b>3/4 Jul 1957<br/>The Guardian</b>                                   | Severe storms spread over Britain having moved north from France.   | <Evesham>: There was damage by lightning, wind, hail and flood water when a "remarkable" fall was accompanied by gusts of wind exceeding gale force. Low lying parts of the town were temporarily under 5 ft. of flood water at the height of the storm.   |
| <b>28 Jul 1993<br/>(Bob Prichard)<br/>Lancs Evg<br/>post 3 Jul. BR</b> | Birmingham 0.81 in 20 m<br>Evesham 1 1.27 in 27 m<br>Evesham 2 1.19 in 30 m<br>Dudley 0.96 in 40 m  |  |
| <b>5 Aug 1957<br/>Eden (2008),<br/>BR</b>                              | Hereford 4.11 in 90 m   | <Hereford>: A very rare fall was recorded at Clifford School, Herefordshire, when 4.11" fell in 90 min., a new record fall in Herefordshire in a rainfall day and the second heaviest fall in 90 min recorded in the United Kingdom. The Headmaster reported that hail and strong winds stripped fruit from trees, crops were damaged and animals killed by lightning. The main road to Hereford was blocked by landslides, and a motorcyclist swept from his machine by flood water and drowned at <Middlewood> <Dorstone>. Barley and wheat were flattened and root-crops damaged. |
| <b>11/12 Aug<br/>1957 BR Alan<br/>Schol (Pers<br/>comm..)</b>          | Tytherington 0.95 in 50 m<br>Alcester 1.52 in 90 m<br>Worcester 1.50 in 90 m<br>Bidford 1.40 in 2 h 30 m<br>Daily rainfalls<br>90.2 mm at Downton Castle<br>52.1 mm at Monkland Cottage<br>66.3 mm at Bucknell<br>65.3 mm at Ludlow Castle Weir<br>67.3 mm at Craven Arms<br>65.5 mm at Acton Scott<br>72.4 mm at Church Stretton STW )<br>64.0 mm at Worcester Redhill | Falls reaching the "noteworthy" category at Alcester, Warwickshire, and Keele, Staffordshire.<br><Worcester>: The <<Severn>> was 8 ft above normal on the morning of the 12th and 10 ft. above normal at <Shrewsbury>, largely due to the heavy thunderstorms over Wales and the west Midlands in the previous seven days.<br>38.1 mm in 90 minutes at Worcester (Redhill) starting 1630h. 38.1 mm in approximately 2 hours at Ludlow (Castle Weir). About 55.9 mm in 3 hours at Worcester (Water Works).  |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>3 Jul 1958 BR,<br/>Warwickshire<br/>Advertiser 4<br/>Jul</b></p> | <p>59.7 mm at Worcester (Water Works)<br/>Shrewsbury 1.49 in 45 m</p>   | <p>&lt;Warwick&gt;: The water level marker by the boat house at Castle bridge was kept under constant watch and when the water reached its peak it was only 9 inches below the danger mark. Fields were flooded but no houses in either Leamington or Warwick. However, further upstream on the &lt;&lt;Avon&gt;&gt; at Guys Cliffe the Saxon Mill ground floor bar was flooded</p>   |
| <p><b>15 Jul 1958<br/>Evesham<br/>Standard 18<br/>Jul</b></p>          |   | <p>&lt;Evesham&gt;: A thunderstorm for 3 hours gave 1.5 inches of rain. The storm left a trail of damage to farm and market gardens crops. Several vale villages lost their electricity supply. Abbey Road garage of the Midland Red bus company and Brights Garage in Cheltenham road were flooded, the latter to a depth of 3 inches. Several streets in the town were flooded. Floodwater swirled across the road at the New Bridge.</p> |
| <p><b>22 Aug 1958<br/>BR</b></p>                                       | <p>The Midlands did not escape the widespread thunderstorms and heavy rain which, commencing in the afternoon, continued late into the night.<br/>Minworth Greaves 3.15 in 2 h<br/>Badminton (Petty France) 1.02 in 30 m<br/>Kentchurch Court 2.86 in 2 h<br/>Lyonshall 1.75 in 2 h</p> | <p>&lt;Kenilworth&gt;: At one time all roads leading to Kenilworth were under water. In the Stechford area of Birmingham many houses were damaged by lightning and the main Birmingham to Coventry road was flooded, seriously delaying traffic</p>   |
| <p><b>12 May 1959<br/>BR</b></p>                                       |   | <p>&lt;Kentchurch&gt; (Herefordshire): Very rare" falls were recorded. At Kentchurch Court, one of England's oldest family homes in Herefordshire, priceless antique furniture was left broken and battered by torrential rain which caused record local flooding, and what was described as appalling devastation, to Kentchurch and its environs.</p>   |
| <p><b>11 Aug 1959<br/>Daily Mail 12<br/>aug</b></p>                    | <p>Birmingham Edgbaston<br/>Nearly 2 inches of rain fell in 5 hours</p>   | <p>&lt;Birmingham&gt;: 4000 cycle workers were sent home after a nearby canal burst its banks flooding the factory to a depth of 4 feet and cutting off the electricity supply</p>  |
| <p><b>7 Aug 1960<br/>BR</b></p>  | <p>Shrewsbury 2.85 in 50 m<br/>Vowchurch 1.17 in 25 m<br/>Ruscombe 2.27 in 2 h 55 m</p>   | <p>Thunderstorms were widespread. Very rare falls were recorded in Shropshire.</p>  |
| <p><b>27 Aug 1960<br/>The Observer<br/>28 Aug</b></p>                  | <p>Heavy rainfall in the southwest</p>  | <p>&lt;Cheltenham&gt;: A 100 mph wind was reported in a tornado and the electricity supply was cut off for half an hour. The village of &lt;Southam&gt; got the worst of it with chicken houses carried away and oaks stripped of their branches.</p>   |
| <p><b>10 Jul 1962</b></p>  | <p>Tenbury 0.78 in 25 m</p>   | <p>&lt;West Dursley&gt; (Gloucs): A tornado struck and uprooted massive elms and struck a large housing estate dislodging slates and guttering and demolishing chimneys.</p>  |

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|---|--|--|
| <b>BR</b>   | Much Dewchurch 0.95 in 45 m  |  |
| <b>6 Aug 1962<br/>Eden (2008)</b>                   | Chipping Campden had 102 mm and Blockley 100 mm, both in Gloucestershire (Not mentioned in BR)   | Heavy rainfall occurred from Dorset to the Black Country.  |
| <b>17 Jul 1964<br/>BR</b>                           | Warren Hill 40.1 in 50 m<br>Brithdir Hall 54.9 in 60 m<br>Powis Castle 53.8 in 65 m<br>Llansantffraid 42.4 in 90 m                       |  |
| <b>18 Jul 1964<br/>BR</b>                           | Welshpool 61.5 in 60 m<br>Four Crosses 48.5 in 60 m<br>Oswestry 48.5 in 70 m<br>Garthmyl Hall 69.9 in 90 m<br>Llanyblodwell 36.3 in 60 m |  |
| <b>14 Jul 1965<br/>BR</b>                           | Shawbury 20.0 in 25 m<br>Ross on Wye 30.0 in 42 m  |  |
| <b>20/21 Jul<br/>1965 BR</b>                        | 20 <sup>th</sup> Dudbridge 29.0 in 40 m  |  |
| <b>20 Aug 1966<br/>Eden (2008),<br/>BR</b>          | Harescombe grange 83.8 in 90 m<br>Dudbridge 63.5 in 75 m   | Thunderstorms triggered flooding in Gloucestershire and Staffordshire.   |
| <b>29 Aug 1966<br/>Eden (2008)</b>                  |  | <Wroxhall>: Heavy rainfall fell in a belt from Hampshire to Birmingham with a fall off 105 mm at Wroxhall in Warwickshire.   |
| <b>24 Jun 1967<br/>BR</b>                           | Hawkstone Park 36.0 in 90 m  |  |
| <b>13/14 Jul<br/>1967 BR</b>                        | Weston Park 34.3 in 30 m   |  |
| <b>10 Aug 1967<br/>BR Lancs Evg<br/>Post 10 Aug</b> | Evesham 18.2 in 18 m   | <Birmingham>: Severe flooding was reported in the <Erdington>, <Aston> and <Bordesley Green> areas where the Fire Brigade pumped out houses flooded up to a depth of 1 ½ feet. Water was 1 foot deep in Saltley High Street. In Summer Road Erdington people had to be rescued from their cars. Houses were struck by lightning which felled chimney pots. |

**25 May 1968** Stoke Lacy 34.5 in 70 m  
**BR**

**3 Jun 1968 BR** Hawkstone Park 35.0 in 30 m

**28 Jun 1968** Onslow 40.6 in 20 m  
**BR** Llanfair Caereinion STW 48.3 in 105 m

**1/2 Jul 1968** Severe hailstorms from  
**BR, Webb and** Devon to NE England. W and  
**Elsom (2016)** E report on hail but not  
flooding.  
Tredegar 22.9 in 12 m  
Oswestry 21.3 in 25 m  
Evancoyd 31.7 in 75 m  
2<sup>nd</sup>  
Evancoyd 18.3 in 14 m  
Glasbury 31.7 in 20 m  
Acton Scott 25.4 in 30 m  
3<sup>rd</sup>  
Sidway hall Farm 22.9 in 30 m

**9/10 Jul 1968** Gloucester 40.8 in 77 m  
**BR, Stroud** 10<sup>th</sup>  
Hempsted 21.8 in 30 m  
**News and** Stroud DR 2.40" (mostly in 9  
**journal,** h)  
**Leamington** More than 3.5" fell in 24  
**Morning** hours over much of  
**News,** Warwickshire  
**Warwick**  
**advertiser 12**  
**Jul**

<Newport> (Shrops): A large number of car windows were smashed by hailstones.

<Telford.<Wellington>: Golf ball sized hailstones totally demolished glasshouses, dented cars and broke windows.

<Stroud>: The Stroud News and Journal headlined 'Worst July flood for 45 years'. In this event the Nailsworth valley largely escaped, the only report being of flooding of the A46 at Woodchester. The main sources of trouble were at Slad Road and Stratford Road Stroud. At the Vatch on the <<Slad Brook>>, it was several feet deep adjacent to Spring Cottages but little entered the houses. 'Within about an hour it was gone'. Balbeck Systems in Libbys Drive had 5 feet of water in their cellars; it had been flooded in 1965 but not so badly. Eight houses were flooded in Slad Road one with 2.5 feet of water in the kitchen and sitting room. Part of the problem was said to be caused by a blockage of the channel at Stroud Creamery Buildings. River culverting works at Stratford Road were almost washed away by the rapid flow in the <<Painswick Stream>>. The council reported that a long-standing trouble spot in Summer Street had not flooded where a flood relief works had been done in recent years. At <Stonehouse> a police van was stranded under the railway bridge at Hoffmans's factory. Stroud News and Journal has a photograph of floodwater covering the field in front of the paper bag mill at Bridgend, Stonehouse. At <Eastington>, several houses in Middle Street were flooded and at Millend, water came up to the doorsteps of elderly people's houses but did not enter them. A few houses in Alkerton Cross and Bath Road were also flooded. An NFU statement said that there had been comparatively little

flooding around Stroud except in the Saul area.

<Leamington>: Jephsons Gardens were flooded with the park benches floating in 4 to 5 feet of water. The Pump Rooms had 5 feet of water in the boiler room. Dormer Place was flooded. At the Regal Cinema 200 people were evacuated whilst viewing South Pacific. The water was ankle deep in the foyer. Victoria Terrace had water in basements including United Counties Supermarket and Melville's Shoe Shop. The Reiver Leam at Eathorpe had its highest peak flow in the record up to that date and was even an outlier but was overtaken several times in the record since then.

<Long itchington>: A British legion home (Galanos House) was flooded to 2 feet and 56 patients were evacuated.

<Warwick>: Millers Road factory owners were badly hit by floods, including Avon Bodies Ltd who lost electrical plant and equipment. Warwick Racecourse was flooded to a depth of 2 feet. The Forbes estate and Hampton Road were again badly affected with gardens and cellars flooded. Wellesbourne was badly hit with bridge Street under 3 feet of water and houses flooded.

<Gaydon>; Water swept into houses in some to a depth of 2 feet. Other villages in the south of the county were also affected including <Pillerton>, <Ettington> and <Combroke>.

<Southam>: Warwickshire had 127 mm (and Kempton Surrey had 102 mm).

**2 Aug 1969  
Eden (2008)**

Widespread thunderstorms caused flooding in west and south London, in East Berkshire, Norwich and south Warwickshire.

**9 Jun 1970  
Birmingham  
Daily Post 10  
Jun**

An hour long thunderstorm felled many trees and blocked roads in the vicinity of Bewdley

<Bewdley>: The main street and cellars of business premises were flooded. A woman was killed by lightning in her home and another seriously injured.

**10 Jun 1970  
Eden (2008)**

<Miserden> ( Gloucestershire): had 111 mm

**4 Jul 1971  
Coventry  
Evening  
Telegraph 5**

0.66" in 1h

<Coventry>: A thunderstorm broke at 7 pm. Tile Hill, Longford and the city centre were the worst hit. Road surfaces were widely damaged. Lightning strikes and electrical short circuits caused further damage.

<Rugby>: Flooding to 3 inches depth in the bar occurred at the Stag and Pheasant, Hillmorton Road, Rugby. No other flooding was reported at Rugby.

|                     |   |  |
|---------------------|---|--|
| <b>Jul</b>          |   | <Coleshill> Fire Brigade were called to flooding at the Bulls Head pub <Meriden>.  |
| <b>31 Jul 1972</b>  | Coventry 1.00 in 40 m   |  |
| <b>COL</b>          |   |  |
| <b>28 May 1973</b>  | Coventry >0.75" in 1 h  | <Coventry>: the thunderstorm lasted 3 hours and caused some local flooding   |
| <b>Coventry</b>     |   |  |
| <b>Evening</b>      |   |  |
| <b>Telegraph 29</b> |   |  |
| <b>May</b>          |   |  |
| <b>? Aug 1973</b>   |   | <<Wye>> at <Pant Mawr>: Acreman lists a discharge of 174 cumecs on an area of 27.2 km <sup>2</sup> . (from the Surface Water Archive)  |
| <b>Acreman</b>      |   |  |
| <b>1989</b>         |   |  |
| <b>16/17 Jun</b>    |   | <Midlands>: there were many reports of flooding and lightning damage during the period. From Long Lawford (near Rugby) there were over 200 flashes to earth in a 2 hour period.  |
| <b>1974 COL</b>     |   |  |
| <b>(Oct)</b>        |   |  |
| <b>17 Jul 1975</b>  | The slow moving storm lasted 1 ½ hours.   | <Rugby>: Several roads in the <Hillmorton> area of Rugby were flooded and the lounge bar of the Stag and Pheasant public house had water sweep under the door.   |
| <b>Coventry</b>     |   |  |
| <b>Evening</b>      |   | <Bedworth>: flooding was reported. Farmer's house at Corkcutters Cottage, Smorral Lane was flooded to a depth of 2 feet. The boiler house of Bedworth Palace Bingo Hall was flooded to a depth of 5 feet.  |
| <b>Telegraph 18</b> |   |  |
| <b>Jul</b>          |   | <Stretton on Dunsmore>: Ice particles the size of large marbles fell at the beginning of the storm. Some houses were flooded. Two Oaks Nurseries on London Road was flooded including the house  |
| <b>7/8 May 1976</b> |   | <Coventry>: The observer measured only 10.9 mm in the city centre but observed 'flash floods' (the first mention of this term) 20 to 30 cm deep on some roads. Hail 10 mm diameter fell in parts of Coventry and at Claybrooke Magna. The storm was local. |
| <b>COL</b>          |   |  |
| <b>13/14 May</b>    | Widespread heavy thunderstorms after high temperatures eg Folkestone 26C. Maxima on that day 10-14C in the Midlands | <Stratford upon Avon>: Flooding was said to be the worst for 53 years (1924?). Heavy flooding in parts of the Midlands after storms on the morning of 14 <sup>th</sup> . (Widespread thunderstorms also in SE England).                                    |
| <b>1977 COL</b>     |   |  |
| <b>16/17 Aug</b>    | Heavy rain was accompanied in places by thunder.  | In West Wiltshire west Somerset, Avon and Gloucestershire 12 hour falls of 60 to 90 mm were widespread. Heavy rain continued to fall well into 17 <sup>th</sup> and brought severe flooding in Gloucester.   |
| <b>1977 COL</b>     |   |  |



|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>1 Jun 1978</b><br><b>COL</b>                | Temperatures widely reached 27 to 28C. Storms occurred in SE Wales through central England to East Anglia Bilton (near Rugby) 24 mm in 40 m  | <p>&lt;Longlevens&gt; (Gloucester): Many homes were flooded and a wall was brought down. Total rainfall was 32 mm.</p> <p>&lt;Gloucester&gt;: The Met Office there reported 30.5 mm in 15 minutes with hail 25 to 30 cm deep.</p> <p>&lt;Hereford&gt;: Rain caused manhole to burst up.</p> <p>&lt;Churchdown&gt;&lt;Straverton&gt;: Some parts were under 50 cm of water .</p> <p>&lt;Bromyard&gt;: Some of the roads in &lt;Munderfield&gt; and &lt;Penscombe&gt; were turned into a sea of mud as water poured off fields in torrents</p>  |
| <b>12 Aug 1978</b><br><b>COL</b>               | Coventry 31.7 in 20 m with local hailstorms  |   |
| <b>8 Apr 1979</b><br><b>COL</b>                | Showery weather predominated and these were heavy in the west country with thunderstorms and local hail  | <Worcester>: A local storm produce hailstones nearly 1.5 cm in diameter.  |
| <b>30 May 1979</b><br><b>COL, CBHE</b>         | The rain was caused by a small depression moving up from the Bay of Biscay. Thunderstorms spread from Devon and Dorset across Somerset Avon and Wiltshire> Many places within this area reported more than 30 mm with more than 60 mm in parts of Dorset and south Somerset. | <p>&lt;Blaisdon&gt; (Gloucs): The storms were so severe that all the roads in the area were flooded. Streams rose rapidly and the main road A40 Gloucester to Ross on Wye was impassable at many points. Police diverted traffic on the A48 Gloucester to Chepstow road at &lt;Westbury on Severn&gt;. All minor roads were awash and normally quite streams became raging torrents causing streamside cottages to become flooded in some places.</p> <p>&lt;Cheltenham&gt;: A major flood on 30 May 1979 caused considerable damage, disruption and distress. The problem is so acute in Cheltenham because the river has been diverted in several places away from its natural course along the valley bottom in order to provide a head for the water mills. As a result, when the river does overflow its banks, the water flows along the old course which is through the town centre.</p> |
| <b>30 Dec 1981</b><br><b>(Alan Schol p.c.)</b> | Not a flash flood by my definition   | <p>&lt;Tenbury&gt;: ‘This is the only significant flash flooding event that I have witnessed here in the last 40 years that was associated with rain and rapid snow melt. After three weeks of snow cover and exceptionally low temperatures, there was a rapid rise of temperature overnight 29th/30th with the arrival of heavy rain. About 25 mm of rain fell in 12 hours and this, together with the melting snow gave rise to severe flooding as surface water poured off frozen ground. The flooding did not involve the larger rivers – it was just water coming off fields along with overflowing ditches and brooks’.</p>  |
| <b>2 Jun 1982</b><br><b>COL</b>                |  | <Bromyard>: In a thunderstorm 17.4 mm fell most in 15 minutes. This was accompanied by hail 1 cm in diameter  |

**14 Jul 1982**  
**COL**

<Coventry> 80% of July rainfall fell in 40 minutes.

<Birmingham>: Daily rainfall 45.1 mm (41.0 mm fell in 3 hours but estimated 30 mm in 30 minutes). City drains were unable to cope with the deluge and flooding was reported in many parts of the city. The Aston expressway was closed for a time.

**21 sep 1984**  
**COL**

<Stourbridge>: A ten minute hailstorm gave hailstones measuring 14 to 15 mm and covered the ground to a depth of 3 to 4 cm. The hail caused damage to plants and fruit trees. The storm appears to have been very localised. Total precipitation of the period measure 11.0 mm

**22 Aug 1987**  
**COL**

It was a very warm humid day in E Anglia with storms moving north. Storms also occurred in W Midlands

<Birmingham>: At Handsworth 55.2 mm fell and at Harborne south 52 mm

**21 Jul 1988**  
**COL**

Wolverhampton 33.5 mm in 2 h 30 m

**26 Jul 1988**  
**COL**

One of the wettest Julys on record.

<Wolverhampton>: A thunderstorm gave 2 inches of hail just NW of Wolverhampton which totally destroyed hundreds of acres of oilseed rape just ready for harvesting.

**6 Jul 1989**  
**COL**

<Coventry>: Houses damaged by lightning, greenhouses smashed by hail mainly in the NW of the city. The temperature fell from 28.0 to 18.5 in 30 minutes.

<Wolverhampton>: Hail with an average diameter of 10 mm and maximum of 15 mm fell.

<Oakham> (W Midlands): there were two thunderstorm and in the first hailstones fell 2.5 cm in diameter which devastated gardens

<Acocks Green> (W Midlands): Hail fell 15 mm in diameter with a storm rainfall of 15.3 mm in 20 minutes.

<Harborne S> (W Midlands): Hailstones were ½ inch to ¾ inch in diameter with 19.9 mm in 54 minutes though much heavier intensities were recorded nearby. Flooding was widespread in the area. The storm was associated with squall winds up to 60 mph.

**15 May 1990**  
**COL**

<Bloxwich> (nr Walsall): In a thunderstorm 13 mm rain fell in 15 minutes and hailstones greater than 2 cm covered the garden. One hailstone measured 2.8 cm.

**30 Jul 1991**  
**COL**

Daily rainfalls – not clear if the result of thunderstorms  
Coventry 52.0  
Acocks Green 45,6  
Handsworth 41.7

Hall Green 41.2  
Stourbridge 40.2  
Wolverhampton 39.8  
Hinckley 38.5  
Rockingham 38.1  
Stourport on Severn 37.8

**9 Jun 1992**

**COL**

**7 Aug 1992**

**The Guardian**

**26 Aug**

**10 Jun 1993**

**COL**

<Bromyard>: severe local flooding occurred on roads between Bromyard and Worcester

<Shrewsbury>: The area had over 3 inches that day in thundery downpours.

<Harborne South>: In a thunderstorm 24.2 mm fell in 45 minutes. <Harborne NW> 25 mm fell in 1 hour

<Birmingham>: It came to a virtual standstill and many properties were hit by lightning. The daily rainfall at Birmingham University was 51.7 mm and at Hall Green was 35.1 mm. Roads near the university were flooded and cars were stuck

<Stourport> (Worcs): Drivers had to evacuate cars as a 'tidal wave' of floodwater threatened to sweep away two bridges over swollen brooks.

<Wolverhampton>: The Race course was flooded and <Wednesfield> was flooded.

<West Bromwich>: The Yew Street Estate was flooded

<Coventry>: There was a storm rainfall of 38.6 mm, the wettest June day at this site since 1901.

<Wolverhampton>: Hilton Hall the HQ of Tarmac Ltd was flooded over 6 feet in parts.

<Coventry>: In an afternoon thunderstorm there was local flooding in the Coundon area. 23.5 mm fell in 45 minutes.

<Pattingham> (7 m west of Wolverhampton): Golf ball sized hailstones damaged 3 garden centres while parked cars were dented and Perspex roofs were holed.

<Wellington> (Shropshire): 35 mm of rain fell in 45 minutes.

<Pontesbury> (Shropshire): Golf ball sized hail fell.

<Tenbury Wells>: there was a brief intense thunderstorm from 13.35 to 14.05 with a total rainfall of 18.5 mm but most of which fell in 10 minutes.

<Coventry>: A thunderstorm lasted from 14.00 to 15.30 with 18 mm rain in 30 minutes. Hail lay in 4 cm drifts.

**11 Jun 1993**

**COL**

**8 Sep 1993**

**COL**

**24 Jun 1994**

**Webb (2016)**

**11 Jul 1995**

**COL**

**16 Jul 1995**

**COL**

**12 Sep 1995**

**COL**

**7 Jun 1996**  
**Independent**

Widespread thunderstorms including at Tewkesbury but no flooding reported.

**2 Aug 2009**

**23 Jul 1996**

**COL**

**6 Aug 1996**

**COL**

<Shrewsbury>: In a 1 hour thunderstorm 30.5 mm rain fell causing flooding.

<Telford>: Flooding was also reported.

<Willenhall>: In a thunderstorm from 19.30 to 21.00 the M<sup>1</sup> at Junction 6 was closed by torrential rain and hail.

<Bromyard>: Large hailstones fell 1 cm in diameter.

<Egmond><Newport> (between Shrewsbury and Stoke): In a series of thunderstorms the daily total was 28.5 mm

<Stiperstones>: 58.3 mm in 1 hour

<Newport>: Flooding was reported.

**5 Aug 1997**

**COL**

<Gloucester>: 55.6 mm during the night most of which fell in 1 hour (roads were dry when rain began 03.00 and rain stopped at 04.10)

<Upton St Leonards>: Daily rainfall 47.8 mm but <Churchdown> 4 miles away only 14.1 mm.

<Abbeydale> (Gloucs): During a 4 hour period 52 mm fell. several families were evacuated from basement flats

<Tipton> (W Midlands): 49.8 mm fell in 4 h 15 minutes.

<Lilleshall>: Storm rainfall 40 mm

<Egmond> Storm rainfall 30 mm

**13 Aug 1997**

**COL**

<Shrewsbury>: 16.6 mm in 15 minutes

**17 Aug 1997**

**COL**

**9 Oct 1997**

**COL**

<Harborne S>: A thunderstorm brought 19.1 mm in an hour or so with lots of localised flooding.

<Anslow> (Staffs): A thunderstorm with heavy rain in the early hours with 25.6 mm and local flooding.

**25 Apr 1999**

**COL**

<Bromyard> (Hertfordshire): 25.3 mm fell in a 2 hour period with flash floods and disruption on roads.

<Worcester>: 30 mm in 1 hour reported.

<Warstock> (W Midlands): 17.4 mm in 90 minutes with conical hail 7 mm in diameter.

<Frankley> (SW Birmingham) 56 mm rain fell in 2 hours.

**19 May 1999**

**COL**

<Frankley> (SW Birmingham): 30 mm fell in one hour, of a total of 34.5 mm.

**2 Jun 1999**

**COL**

<Harborne S>: A total of 42.2 mm fell in thunderstorms, the wettest day in June since records started in 1985.

**5 Jul 1999**  
**COL**

<Bishops Frome> (Herefordshire): Torrential rain caused flash floods with sewerage coming up from the drains. The water was 6 to 12 inches deep on the road through the village. The thunderstorm seemed centred on the village.

<Penderon><Wolverhampton>: 5 feet of flood water was reported.

<Harborne South>: 43.8 mm occurred in the day of a monthly total of 49.9 mm. A tornado was observed in the close vicinity.

**1 Aug 1999**  
**COL**

<Pendeford><Wolverhampton>: In a thunderstorm the village was flooded for the second time in less than a month.

**2 Aug 1999**  
**COL, Alan**  
**Schol p.c.**

Storms broke out in a band from the Isle of Wight to Northern Ireland and south-west Scotland with some heavy and prolonged downpours particularly in the Welsh Marches. there were up to five separate storms in succession over the south and west Midlands.

<Bromyard> (Herefordshire): 39.2 mm fell in a thunderstorm with hail and squally winds with hail reaching a depth of 2 cm in 1 hour.

<Tenbury Wells>: Storms started at about 1615h and continued for five hours, apparently most severe to the east and north of the town. 11.4 mm of rain fell at Tenbury Wells but considerably more nearby with some flash flooding (e.g on the Dowles Brook in the Wyre Forest).

Houses were flooded in <Bewdley>, <Kidderminster>, <Stourport>, <Streetly>, <Four Oaks> and <Bilston>. There was also lightning damage, squally winds and hail.

**8 Aug 1999**  
**COL**

Heavy thundery rain was reported in central and eastern England. There was widespread flooding across the W Midlands.

<Pennsylvania> (Gloucs): Daily rainfall was 47.0 mm.

<Barlake> (Warwickshire): 61.0 mm fell in the day.

<Bloxwich>: With a rainfall of 56.1 there was further flooding including at <Pendeford>.

<Harborne S> (W Midlands): Daily rainfall 54.4 mm.

<Tipton> (W Midlands): Daily rainfall 53.2 mm

<Persore>: Daily rainfall of 60.0 mm was the wettest day for at least 21 years.

**19 Sep 1999**  
**COL**

<Leamington Spa>: A thunderstorm gave 25 mm in 90 minutes. Roads were flooded to a depth of 15 cm.

**3 Jul 2000**  
**COL**

<Birmingham>: A thunderstorm n the south of the city led to some flooding of the A441 at <Stirchly> and <King's Norton>

**6 Jul 2000**  
**COL**

<Shawbury> (Shrops): Heavy rain gave 25 mm in 2 hours.

**3 Aug 2000**  
**COL**

<Hockley Heath> (Sollihull): 8 mm rain fell in 1 minute.

**16 Jun 2001**

<Coventry> <Bablake>: 34.8 mm fell in 1 hour

**COL**  
**7 Jul 2001**  
**COL**

<Warstock> (SSE Birmingham): 24.4 mm fell in 60 minutes and 38.9 mm in 24 hours.  
<Cheltenham>: An unofficial station registered a daily rainfall of 70.5 mm  
<Harborne S>: Heavy rainfall in the early evening lifted manhole covers with 32.1 mm in 2 hours with localised flooding and road damage.  
<Monkwood Green> (N of Malvern): 36 mm fell in 90 minutes. Little rain fell at Malvern.

**7 Aug 2002**  
**COL**  
**26 Apr 2004**  
**COL, CBHE**  
**(Worcester**  
**Standard 29**  
**Apr**

Worcester 43 mm fell in 2 hours near the city.

<Worcester> Residents and businesses were left counting the cost this week after flash flooding left many buildings deluged by up to three feet of water. Firefighters responded to more than 65 calls between 8 pm and 11 pm on Monday night as torrents of water poured through the city's streets...The Standard's weatherman, Paul Damari, said about two inches of rain... fell in Worcester in just two hours between 6 pm and 8 pm.....Homes in Warndon Villages in Grosmont Avenue, Slade Avenue, and Quisters were among the worst affected by the floods. Residents in Stanley Road in Wyld's Lane, Kingston Avenue in Merriman's Hill, Cranham Drive in Warndon were also flooded. One house in Canterbury Road, Ronkswood was so badly flooded that the residents were advised to move upstairs for their own safety.

**5 Aug 2004**  
**COL**

In Gloucestershire the fire brigade asked for only 'life or death' emergency calls as they responded to appeals for help.

<Warstock> (West Midlands): 31.8mm of rain fell in 20 minutes during a thunderstorm at from 1505 GMT.  
<Elkstone> (Gloucestershire): 3cm diameter hail was observed.

<Harborne> (Birmingham); It reported a heavy storm during the evening. There was violent rain, and 8.4mm recorded in 10 minutes, which caused some flash flooding within the near area.

<Malvern Link>: A thunderstorm tracking N across Malvern produced 24.7mm between 1507GMT and 1535GMT, of which 24.5mm fell in 18 minutes. Gusts to 30mph and a 6C drop in temperature occurred.

**12 Aug 2004**  
**CBHE**

<Bromsgrove> (Worcs): In Thursday's (12<sup>th</sup>) torrential storms the brook broke its banks in Crown Close for the first time in many years and the flood was made worse by the amount of debris blocking the flow of the stream. The brook forms the major flood drain for Bromsgrove, whisking water away from the town during heavy rain. But the water built up and flooded the lower part of High Street, including the offices of several businesses, costing a number of them hundreds of pounds in damages and lost business. [Spadesbourne Brook]

**19 Jun 2005**  
**COL**

During the afternoon thunderstorms developed in the West Midlands, Wales and N England and spread NE.

**Golf ball- and walnut-size hail was seen in the West Midlands (5cm diameter hail seen at <Wolaston> near Stourbridge).** There was very large hail at Dudley during the thunderstorm; the observer measured several stones at 1.5cm diameter and one of his greenhouse panes of glass was cracked as a result. The thunderstorms

**28 Jun 2005**

**COL**

**28 Jul 2005**

**COL**

resulted in some large falls in temperature; at Tipton from 30.6C at 1300GMT to 22.9C at 1700GMT

<Gloucester>: Rain was heavy from 2125GMT. 2138GMT saw a very close flash and continuing heavy rain; 22.6 mm of rain fell 2130-2210GMT, with 12mm in 20 minutes at one stage.

<Harborne><Birmingham>: A day with steady rainfall and murky conditions where low stratus gave visibility below fog limits was reported and there followed a period of thundery activity and very heavy rainfall during the period 1300-1300GMT. A tornado was reported from the Kings Heath area of the city during the same period which uprooted trees and trapped staff at a nursery blocking their exit. The observer reported many drains and manhole covers unable to cope and lifted with the surrounding tarmac destroyed. There were many motorists trapped in cars as flash flood water played havoc with their vehicles. The tilting siphon gauge here at Harborne recorded 21.2mm in the hour 1300-1400GMT. The heaviest rain occurred between 1320-1345GMT giving 20.9mm. The Daventry Grove area of Quinton was under two feet of water with some properties having furniture ruined. The Barnes Hill area of Weoley Castle and the Bristol Road area in Edgbaston had similar conditions. Twenty people were injured - three of them seriously – after estimated winds of 130mph occurred during a tornado that affected the Birmingham area during the afternoon. The sudden storm damaged buildings and cars, uprooted trees, and took entire roofs off some homes in areas in the south of the city

**12 Oct 2005**

**COL**

<Harborne S>: Some torrential rainfall during evening rush hour. 16.4mm between 1555h and 1710h then 24.5mm between 1815h and 2055h - the final total for the 12th was 42.7mm having had 15.1mm on the 11th. The small Bournbrook 'stream' to the south of the station was in full flood and raging in intensity. Traffic in the area was struggling desperately to move as large flood areas appeared. The 12th was the wettest October day in 21-year record.

<Selly Oak>: 67.0mm fell; River Rea had the worst flooding since June 1999

**13 May 2006**

**COL**

<Pershore>: The Met office reported a storm with 18 mm in 1 hour. 1631-1639h 20mm in 8mins, 1639-1649h 13mm in 10 minutes and 42.4mm from the one thunderstorm.

**12 Jun 2006**

**COL**

**(Coventry**

**Evening**

**Telegraph)**

**5/6 Jul 2006**

**COL**

SW England, the Midlands and then parts of Yorkshire saw some heavy thunderstorms that led to flooding in places.

<Coventry>: The local newspaper had photographs of golf ball sized hailstones, and even some more the size of cricket balls.

<Malvern Link>: Thunderstorms headed N with the main activity E of Malvern. There were some lightning

strikes and flash flooding in Worcester, with a gauge near Welland (6km SE of Malvern) recording 62mm - 59 mm falling during the morning of the 6th.

**18 Aug 2006**  
**COL**

<Evesham>: A storm with heavy rain moved along the Cotswolds over Evesham from 1335GMT onwards, and one report mentioned 36mm in just under half an hour - there was widespread local flooding in the town.

<Persore> reported showery rain by early afternoon moving north.

<Harborne> (Birmingham): It reported 15.3mm in 90 minutes during a moderate thunderstorm with some very local flooded areas from 1450-1620GMT (11.8mm falling in the half hour 1500-1530GMT).

**21 Aug 2006**  
**COL (Malvern**  
**Observer)**

<Malvern>: The storm caused flooding of many roads in N Malvern. There was much thunder and more lightning than in other storms this month, striking some houses in Worcester. In spite of having 11 gauges in the Malvern area, I have no absolutely reliable measurement of the rainfall, but estimate from accumulated totals that at least 25mm, and possibly 40mm, fell in about 45 minutes.

<Harborne>: It reported a thunderstorm beginning 1523GMT; it was a light thunderstorm with light rain falling at the station. Further storms broke out becoming moderate in intensity during the evening with frequent lightning. Some heavy rainfall was associated with storms with 15.5mm recorded 2020-2210GMT and 9.4mm 2050-2130GMT. Once again Harborne saw some localised flooding with the main road through Harborne centre under water.

**14 Jun 2007**  
**COL, Alan**  
**Schol p.c.**

<Bablake>: This was the wettest June day on record (69.9mm of rain). With daily rainfall totals dating back to 1892, the previous record had been 42.2mm of rain during June 2001. Only one day has ever recorded more rainfall in 24 hours than this at any time of year, and that was on 31.12.1900 (72.3mm), the day of the famous floods in Coventry City Centre.

<Tenbury>: 60.9 mm of rain fell in Tenbury Wells over these two days but there wasn't anything noteworthy in the way of flooding.

**15 Jun 2007**  
**COL**

<Kidderminster>: Torrential downpours led to flash flooding in many areas. In Worcestershire, roads in Kidderminster were affected by flash flooding and the town's fire station was hit by lightning, putting its emergency call system out of action.

<Harborne><Birmingham>: Major rainfall event for this area during the early hours with 37.3mm being recorded in 6 hours ending 0500GMT. 0245-0500GMT 20.0mm. 0330-0430GMT 13.5mm. Local flooding occurred along many nearby routes. People trapped in cars on city roads. Main through route of Harborne-Birmingham centre saw surface damage to tarmac. Thunderstorms breaking out during the afternoon bringing



**19 Jun 2007**  
**Eden (2008),**  
**COL**

more heavy rainfall. The final rainfall total for this day was 59.1mm which was the wettest June day on record and the second wettest of any day on record falling behind the 72.6mm recorded on 14.9.1994.

<Hampton Loade><Bridgnorth>: A thunderstorm led to a destructive flash flood at Hampton Loade, south of Bridgnorth in Shropshire.

<Hereford> <Worcester>: A major clear-up operation was started after heavy rain caused flash flooding that left people trapped in their cars and homes and damaged property in Hereford and Worcester where the Fire Service took 300 calls in just a few hours on Tuesday night. At around 1900GMT torrential rainfall caused flash floods along the River Severn affecting <Ross on Wye>, <Bewdley>, and <Hampton Loade> near Bridgnorth, causing flooding and several landslips, with the River Severn bursting its banks in several places. A section of the Severn Valley Railway was washed away. Motorists were stranded in their cars in a number of places.

<Telford> ( Priorslee): Severe thunderstorm from 2015h with exceptionally heavy rain. About 48mm fell in less than 2.5 hours, causing the worst flooding for 25 years in nearby <Shifnal> where the <<Wesley Brook>> burst its banks overnight 19th/20<sup>th</sup>

**25 Jun 2007**  
**COL**

Not a flash flood but affected by previous heavy rainfall. The flooding is usually referred to as the Yorkshire floods but between 50 and 100 mm fell in parts of the Teme Valley over a 48-hour period, particularly in the Corve catchment, and flooding here was probably the worst since at least 1960. 48-hour rainfall at Tenbury Wells was 47.3 mm and at Shobdon (north Herefordshire) 47.6 mm.

<Coalbrookdale>: 45.5mm of rain; severe disruption locally. Surface water was extensive; the ground was totally saturated so that run-off caused flooding, especially in Coalbrookdale, affecting houses never before flooded in living memory.

<Tenbury>: The flood was caused by the River <<Teme>> and the <<Kyre Brook>> bursting their banks (rather than surface water). Tenbury Town Centre was flooded.

<Ludlow> Properties were flooded. The most dramatic damage was on the Corve in Ludlow where the bridge over the old A49 was swept away and a house was partially demolished.

The third flood again involved the River Teme and the Kyre Brook bursting their banks..... the toilets capsized in the third flood. " [R. Teme]

**17 Jul 2007**  
**COL, CBHE**  
**(Times Jul**  
**18), Schol p.c.**

<Tenbury Wells>: There was an exceptional very localised thunderstorm between 1300h and 1400h with torrential rain and hail up to 1cm in diameter. 35mm fell in less than one hour. Severe flash flooding occurred as the water poured off saturated ground into Tenbury Wells at around 1340h. There was extensive damage to property and five people were rescued from their homes by boat. The thunderstorm was centred on a hilly area to the south-west of Tenbury between Tenbury and Leominster. My weather station is a mile from Tenbury town centre and it is likely that considerably more than 35 mm of rain fell just a little further to the south-west. After the event there was evidence that brooks in the area (normally not much more than a trickle) had risen

**20/21 Jul  
2007 COL,  
Schol p.c.**

Possibly not a flash flood?  
The rainfall on 20th increased from north-west to south-east in the Teme Valley, with 70.2 mm at Clunbury, 75.0 mm at Tenbury Wells, 88.3 mm at Malvern (and 135.6 mm the other side of the Severn at Pershore).

more than 3 m during the storm, flooding roads and farmland and a few properties. The flooding in Tenbury was caused essentially by rain (and hail) flowing down the roads into the town centre and damming up behind the defensive wall along the Kyre Brook. The town's drainage system (much of which was blocked) failing to cope, creating flash flooding. Properties in Market Street were flooded until the wall eventually gave way allowing the water to drain away. It was the rush of water into the Brook that undermined the public toilets and left them teetering on the brink! The road surface was torn up in places as water tore down streets towards the town centre.

CBHE notes: At least ten people were rescued from their homes in Tenbury Wells, the second time in three weeks that it has been flooded

<Gloucester>: 18.7mm was measured on the mornings of 20<sup>th</sup> and 73.4mm the following day. The rain started at 0200h/20th and continued for 18 hours, by which time 83.2mm had fallen into my gauge. From 0915h to 1845h 60mm fell and at its heaviest rain was falling at the rate of 5mm in 30 minutes. The rain fell over a large area and caused floods on the Avon and Severn rivers which meet at Tewkesbury. Rainfall totals reported from AWS sites around the city include Longlevens 70mm, Elmbridge 90mm, Tredworth 101mm and Tuffley 86mm.

<Bromyard>: Persistent heavy rain caused severe flooding with Bromyard cut off by landslips and floods. 100.6mm fell from 1700h/19th to 0700h/21st. 88.1mm on the 20th is the highest daily fall on record (1980).

<Malvern Link>: The wettest July day on record (1889), with 0900-0900GMT totals around Malvern of 87mm to 103mm. 0000-2400GMT totals ranged from 103mm to 117mm. The only comparable 0900-0900GMT total was 100mm on 31.5.1924 due to a thunderstorm.

<Tenbury wells>: The third flood again involved the River <<Teme>> and the <<Kyre Brook>> bursting their banks. Flash flooding and then river flooding in Tenbury Wells was the worst in living memory with water levels in the town centre exceeding those of 1947 (?). Further extensive damage to property and many people evacuated from their homes.

The observer reports: There were actually some torrential thunderstorms in advance of the main rainfall event, on 19th, particularly in the Worcester/Pershore area. I was travelling home from Devon that evening and had some difficulty finding a route from Worcester to Tenbury that was not affected by torrents of water flowing off the fields. By mid-afternoon the flooding was unlike anything that I have seen both in towns and countryside. I tried to travel home from work in Worcester at about 3pm but almost every road was impassable in places with deep fast-flowing water and the hills were raging torrents with stones and other debris being swept along. About half-way I could get no further, nor return and had to spend the night in Clifton-upon-Teme (which, actually, is on a hill way above the river). By evening, the Teme had burst its banks and flooded Tenbury town centre. The Teme peaked at 1345h on 21st at 5.97 m, the highest recorded by current gauges and probably the highest since 1947. The toilets capsized into the Kyre Brook

**28 Jul 2008**  
**COL**

Pershore: 58.3mm of rain, the most for a thunderstorm event in Pershore for over 20 years. 15.8mm fell in 17 minutes, and 25.4mm in 25 minutes.

<Malvern Link>: Evening thunderstorms moved NW, giving rainfall varying from 16mm to 32mm over and near Malvern. Heavier falls occurred to the E and N; the storms cleared after 0200GMT.

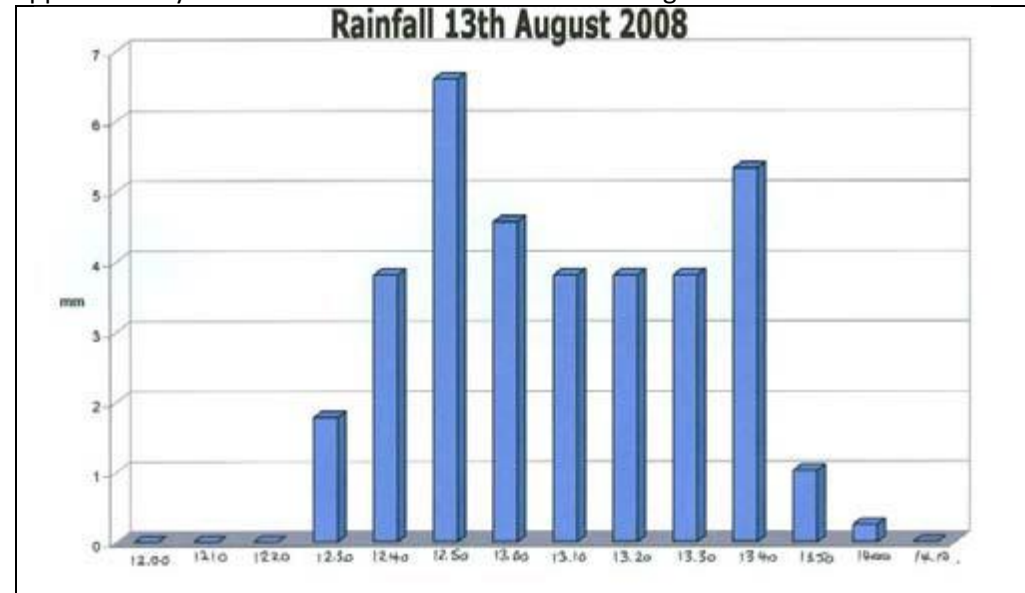
<Telford> (Priorslee): Very heavy rain (47.5mm) in an evening thunderstorm.

**29 Jul 2008**  
**COL**

<Harborne>: During the early evening there were a number of thunderstorms which broke out with associated violent rainfall. At the height of the storm rainfall fell at the rate of 99.6mm per hour; totals for the evening (all times GMT): 1730-1830 21.3mm, 1830-1930 14.3mm. 1930-2030 10.0mm, 1730-1800 20.8mm, 1743-1753 16.6mm, 1933-1953 9.0mm. The temperature fell from 25.7C at 1723GMT to 21.0C at 1803GMT, with localised flooding and the observers garden was covered to a depth of around 1.5mm during height of the downpour. Street manhole covers were lifted in the area as pipes were unable to cope with the sheer volume of water and the Harborne city centre main road was flooded with lifted manhole covers.

**13 Aug 2008**  
**COL**

Alvechurch (Near Bromsgrove): Period of very heavy rainfall on 13 August during 1230h to 1400h approximately. Rainfall amounted to 40.3mm. In the figure the time interval on horizontal axis is 10 minutes.



**5 Sep 2008**  
**COL, CBHE**  
**(Bromsgrove)**

<Tenbury Wells>: Persistent rain from about 0330h culminated in two very intense downpours around 1350-1400h and 1445-1515h, the first of these with thunder. About 55mm of rain fell in the 12 hours to 1530h. The torrential rain, falling on waterlogged ground, caused immediate flash flooding. The <<Kyre Brook>>, which

**Advertiser 10  
Sep)**

flows into the River <<Teme>> at Tenbury Wells, poured into the town centre through breaches in the defences that occurred last year, repairs to which had only just started. Some shops and businesses were flooded for the fourth time in 16 months. 48.0mm recorded in the 24 hours from 0730h was the most recorded in a day in September since records began in 1981.

<Harborne>: Heavy periods of rain with the afternoon of the 6th seeing very heavy falls creating localised flooding within the vicinity. At one point divers went into flooded areas to secure cars and car parts that were floating around. Local fire station on Border of Harborne and Bartley Green flooded. Some rainfall totals for the afternoon of the 6th - 1230-1330GMT 10.6mm, 1330-1430GMT 19.7mm, 1330-1403GMT 17.8mm

<Telford> (Priorslee): Very heavy rain gave 41.3mm;

<Shrewsbury>: Heavy rain gave a total fall of 50.8mm, causing a lot of roads to be closed due to flooding. The flood defence barriers around the town are now in place.

<Bellbroughton>, <Frankley> and <Longbridge> were particularly badly hit in a ferocious thunderstorm which dumped 22 mm of rain across [North Worcestershire] region with scores of cars stranded. On Saturday just before 2 pm firefighters were called to Callowbrook Lane, <Rubery>, when a brook, blocked by debris, flooded the area. The water was powerful enough to wash away parts of Galton's Mill in Bellbroughton

<Selly Oak><Birmingham>: during 1715-1745GMT there was a localised severe hailstorm accompanied by lightning and thunder. Hailstones in the range of 0.5cm to 1.0cm diameter fell. Widespread surface accumulation of 6cm depth occurred, subsequently slowly melting. Surface flooding of roads and the river floodplain occurred, the latter due to infiltration and excess accumulation of water. However the local river responded little to the storm because of the highly localised nature of the precipitation and because of relatively slow dispersion of water to the river because of the delay in melting. There was still a considerable accumulation of hail stones in places until around 0900GMT the following morning. Total rainfall equivalent recorded 1715-2015GMT was 27.0mm, the vast majority of which fell during the first and most intense half hour of the storm.

**29 Apr 2009  
COL**

**28 Jun 2012** Severe flooding in  
**COL** Leicestershire and Tyneside

<Tenbury Wells> <Bitterly>: Although only 7 mm of rain fell here, most in a few minutes just after 0800 h, there was flash flooding nearby with a fatality at Bitterly only 6 miles to the north.

<Bromyard>: 16.2 mm of rain fell in less than an hour in an intense thunderstorm; 12 mm fell in 20 minutes causing flash flooding.

<Coseley>: 15 mm fall in just over an hour as part of a storm system moving through the region. This brought with it flash flooding in many areas of the Dudley/Coseley area (along with many other areas of the West Midlands etc.). Small hail grains also observed.

<Quinton> (West of Birmingham): Moderate thunderstorms with some torrential rain from 0840 GMT. Further

|                                  |   |  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
|                                  |   | thunder rolling through the morning and early afternoon. I measured at 1600 GMT and by this time this had given exactly 37.0 mm, most falling between 0855 and 1130 GMT.   |
| <b>13 Jul 2012</b><br><b>COL</b> |   | <p>&lt;Alvechurch&gt; &lt;Reddich&gt;: We had a very heavy rain storm with 22.1mm of rainfall in a very short space of time. In Redditch, a mile from my site, a retaining wall collapsed under the pressure of water in the local Staples car park. The wall being 40-50 m long and about 5 m high - it covered the local ring road bringing traffic chaos.</p> <p>&lt;Tenbury Wells&gt;: An intense thunderstorm affected the southeast corner of Shropshire, just to the east of the Clee Hills, in the evening. Thunder was almost continuous here in Tenbury Wells from 1730-1800 h but only 6 mm of rain fell. The storm appears to have persisted for longer than this in the area around &lt;Cleobury Mortimer&gt;, about 13 km to the NE of Tenbury Wells. Local media reported 75 mm of rain on the 12th/13th, a period in which I recorded 30 mm. So this would suggest rainfall of at least 50 mm during the thunderstorm. There was remarkable flash flooding the valley of the Rea, a tributary of the Teme, with water levels rising 5-6 m in some places, apparently higher than in 2007. The valley is not very populated but there were a few night time evacuations and a bridge at &lt;Neen Sollars&gt; (W of Kidderminster) was severely damaged.</p> |
| <b>27 Jul 2013</b><br><b>COL</b> | Possibly not a flash flood  | <p>&lt;Edgmond&gt; (N of Telford): Rainfall 50.5 mm on 27th was greatest July daily fall on record (since 1995).</p> <p>&lt;Telford&gt; (Priorslee): Heavy rain gave 36.3 mm on the 27th, mostly falling between 2100h and 0100h/28th; the wettest day since 24.9.2012.</p>  |
| <b>21 Apr 2014</b><br><b>COL</b> | The main outbreak developed in the Towcester region around 1400 GMT and tracked WSW across Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester, Powys and Dyfed to near Fishguard around 2000 GMT. | <p>&lt;Gloucester&gt;: 20 mm of rain fell in 20 minutes at Gloucester around 1600 GMT.</p>   |
| <b>13 Jun 2014</b><br><b>COL</b> | From 1900h, a major thunderstorm outbreak affected the counties of Gloucester, Wiltshire, Oxford, Hampshire and Berkshire.  | <p>&lt;Gloucester&gt;: It began in the Gloucester area and slowly mushroomed out from there on a broadly easterly, later southeasterly, track.</p>   |
| <b>27 Jun 2014</b><br><b>COL</b> |   | <p>&lt;Tenbury Wells&gt;: A thunderstorm between 2030h and 2100h with intense rainfall (16.0 mm in 30 minutes) and hail that caused damage to fruit, vegetables and plants. The Tenbury observer is unaware of any flooding as a result of this storm.</p>   |
| <b>19 Jul 2014</b><br><b>COL</b> |   | <p>&lt;Gloucestershire&gt;: Several roads in Gloucestershire were closed by heavy downpours,</p> <p>&lt;Stourton&gt; (nr Stourbridge): In the West Midlands a woman became trapped by floodwater in her car in Stourton and had to be rescued from it by the fire service.</p>   |

**2 Aug 2014**

**COL**

**10 Aug 2014**

**COL**

Remnants of Hurricane  
Bertha with widespread rain  
some thundery

**1 Jul 2015**

**COL**

**1 Sep 2015**

**COL**

**14 Apr 2016**

**COL**

**8 Jun 2016**

**COL**

**12 Jun 2016**

**COL**

Pershore: 40.4 mm - heaviest 24-hour rainfall since 28.07.2008.

<Pershore>: A severe hailstorm struck the parishes of <Hinton>, <Childswickham> and <Aston Somerville> (near Evesham) and damaged apple and plum orchard crops. Possible whirlwind damage near Hinton-on-the-Green.

<Coventry>: It had 18.2mm in one hour.

<Shrewsbury>: A thunderstorm developed near Shrewsbury around sunset and grew into a major storm that affected Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and Cumbria towards midnight.

<Malvern> A four-minute hailstorm destroyed the entire apple harvest (estimated at 6.3 million apples) at a farm in the Malvern Hills.

<Pershore> 30.2 mm - probably the highest rainfall in the UK for the date. A sharp thunderstorm from 1650 to 1735 h that included five minutes of heavy hail.

<Birmingham>: Severe flooding occurred in northern parts of Birmingham with people trapped in cars.

<Pershore>:24-hour rainfall was 38.2 mm, the second highest total for June. 17.5 mm fell in nine minutes.

Holloway was completely flooded as the water rushed down the hill for at least ten minutes. Photographs © Adam Thorne COL



**14 Jun 2016**

**COL**

**16 Jun 2016**

**COL**

**27 Aug 2016**

**COL**

**23 Jul 2017**

**COL**

**25 Jul 2017**

**COL**

<Pershore>: 11 mm of rain fell in 10 minutes.

<Selly Oak> <Birmingham>: Daily total was 32.9 mm.

<Selly Oak> <Birmingham>: Recorded rainfall was more than 2.5 times the long-term average total for July, with three very wet days, on the 16th with a new station record of 78.0 mm in 24 hours (mostly between 1600 h and 2300 h). A number of roads were flooded by surface water and/or river water and a number of houses threatened by flood water leading to the mobilisation of the local Flood Action Group.

<Long Lawford> (near Rugby): 33.8 mm fell in three hours during thunderstorms in the afternoon; the daily total of 34.0 mm was the wettest in the record since it began in 2011.

<Gloucester>: At 1230 h, 16.9 mm rain fell in 15 minutes with 7.8 mm and 8.0 mm in successive 5-minute periods.

<Gloucester>: There was rain from 1740-1840 h with a total of 21.0 mm. Occasional thunder 1740 to 1745; continuous for 15 minutes with some cracks very close by; then little more. Many reports of flooded roads in Gloucester city where 3 cm was reported to have fallen but the rain was very local and nothing fell in Stroud 9 miles distant. In the centre of Gloucester a manhole cover was forced open under pressure of the water

**27 May 2018**  
**COL**

narrowly avoiding injuring a family.

<Birmingham>: 59 mm, out of a 24-hour total of 94 mm, fell in an hour at Winterbourne Botanic Garden, near Birmingham.

<Rushall><Walsall>: After the storms, a man died after his car became trapped in floodwater.

<Quinton> (W of Birmingham): Severe flooding during thunderstorms across this area. Edgbaston and Selly Oak areas of the city most affected. 58.6 mm in one hour at the University site. 'Drier' further west and east with 33.4 mm in total recorded here.

<Warstock>: 78 mm rainfall daily total. Three periods of thunderstorms affected Warstock, West Midlands. Thunder began before midnight. These storms moved away NW-wards after a couple of hours, during which time 7.1 mm of rain was recorded here. Then thunderstorms produced 11.7 mm between 0726 and 0744 GMT. Once again, they moved away NW-wards. My tipping-bucket rain gauge recorded 47.4 mm in one hour, 1600-1700 GMT. Rainfall ceased 1731 GMT as the trough moved slowly northwards. The 24 hour total (0000-2400 GMT), measured by Snowdon rain gauge was 78.8 mm. Nearby rivers Rea and Blythe exceeded their previous height records.

<Selly Oak> (Birmingham): A day of intense thunderstorms and exceptional rainfall. The lesser storms occurred between 0200 h and 0900 h with much lightning and 6.1 mm of rain. The much more severe storms occurred between 1600h and 1800h with thunder and lightning, torrential rain for a time and hail of over 1 cm diameter. 81.7 mm of rain fell during this period (a new station record) including 60 mm in just the one hour from 1600h to 1700h. This overwhelmed the infiltration capacity of the ground and the urban drainage system and caused widespread surface water flooding of roads, parkland, gardens and some properties. The River <<Rea>> reached a new record peak level, but the new local flood alleviation scheme prevented fluvial flooding in the immediate neighbourhood. Widespread flooding was reported in many parts of Birmingham including some serious river flooding.

<Ludlow>: Thunderstorms from 0230 h gave torrential rain, particularly from 0520 h, with lightning displays, and a 24-hour total (for 26th) of 32.7 mm which, at that time, was the highest daily total at this site (May 2016).

<Tenbury Wells>: Thunderstorm 1755 -1830 h with intense rain, an estimated 16 mm fell in 15 minutes.

<Ludlow>: Very heavy rain from 1830 h, continuing intermittently for several hours as a line of thunderstorms moved from the SE across the area. Temporary surface flooding locally, and a total rainfall of 42.0 mm for 31st, the wettest day in my record here (May 2016). The observer is unaware of any flooding associated with this storm.

**31 May 2018**  
**COL**

**8 Aug 2019**  
**COL**

<Malvern Link>: Heavy rain late evening; 23 mm fell in two hours.

<Tenbury Wells>: 17.0 mm of rain fell in the two hours from 2200 h. The observer is unaware of any flooding associated with this event.



**23 Sep 2019**

**COL**

**15/16 Feb**

**2020 Schol**

**p.c.**

Persistently wet weather started in the second half of September and has continued to the end of February (with some respite in January). By mid-October the ground was saturated followed by significant river flooding from persistent rainfall

<Malvern Link>: 0900-0900 GMT rainfall totalled 43.1 mm, of which 25 mm fell during 0720-0855 GMT on 24th.

<Tenbury>: Whilst the most extensive flooding was from the rivers, an interesting aspect to this event was a period of very heavy rain between 2200h on 15th and 0200h on 16th during which nearly 21.2 mm of rain fell in Tenbury Wells (and there was probably considerably more than this on the higher ground). This resulted in two flood peaks on the <<Teme>> in Tenbury Wells. The first was during the morning of 16th, as a result of rapid run-off in local tributaries. There is evidence that some of these tributaries such as the <<Ledwyche Brook>> and <<River Rea>> that drain the west and east sides of the Clee Hills rose rapidly by some 3 m or more causing extensive flash flooding in what are very rural valleys, so there was minimal impact on properties (though some damage to bridges). The second peak came in the evening of 16th presumably when the run-off from the upper reaches of the Teme in east Wales and the <<Corve>> in Shropshire.

## References

Ian D. Phillips (2003) Four south-west Birmingham flood events, 1998-2000 Weather, 58, page 143-155