

Flash flood history Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire and Avon

Hydrometric area	Rivers	Tributaries	Towns and Cities
43	Avon Stour	Ebble, Nadder, Wylye, Bourne, West Avon, East Avon Allen, Shreen	
44	Piddle Frome Wey Asker	Sydling	
45	Axe		
51	Horner Washford		
52	Parrett Kg Sedgemoor Brue, Axe Congresbury Yeo Land Yeo	Isle, Tone, Halse, Sowy, Yeo Sheppy,	
53	Avon	Frome, Boyd, Gauze, Marden, Semington, Biss, Wellow, Midford, Chew	

Date and sources	Rainfall	Description
23 Jun 1717 Stamford mercury 27 Jun		<Devizes> and <Calne> in <Wiltshire>: A thunderstorm with hail caused much damage was 'about 5 inches about'
30 Jul 1717 Stamford mercury 8 Aug		<Andover>: near <Devizes> in Wiltshire a thunderstorm killed a shepherd and his dog and caused serious damage to fields of wheat. Great damage was also reported in Somerset with men and horses burnt.
Aug 15 1719 Pue's Occurrences 29 Aug		<Weymouth>: Thunderstorm which killed a man on the road at Abbotsbury and burned a house down. A ships main mast was split by lightning. There was no reference to flooding.

**20 Nov 1725 Stamford
Mercury 2 Dec 1725
(GF)**

<Calne> in Wiltshire: We have had a prodigious quantity of rain in these parts which has done a great deal of damage. The water rose so suddenly and so high that they justly alarmed the whole town. A great many goods were spoiled, the quantity of which cannot yet be known. Two men were drowned (sic) in the very street in the sight of all their neighbours who could give them no assistance; one of them is much regretted; he has left a wife and nine children almost unprovided for. He was lost in going to help his neighbour. A cask of oil weighing eleven hundredweight was also carried away by the force of the water and has not been found since. We also hear that from several places around us a great deal of mischief has been done by floods which have been larger than was ever known by the oldest person in those parts.

**26 Jun 1736 Caledonian
Mercury 13 Jul**

<Chudwell>: Hail also fell at Chudwell in Wiltshire, several inches round, destroying almost all the corn. [Flood damage in the following weeks was widespread with severe flooding from the <<Severn>>, <<Trent>> and in Oxford. A bridge over the Avon at <Pershore> was washed away].

**3 Jul 1737 Derby
Mercury 14 Jul**

<Bristol>: A thunderstorm lasted about 3 quarter of an hour; rain flooded the streets, many houses and cellars. One man lost his life near College Green. 'Never was seen such a fall of water from the hills which came down with such rapidity as though several rivers had opened their banks'.

25 Jul 1738 Lamb 1964

Severe hailstorms occurred in many districts. In <Herts> and <Wilts> lumps of ice up to 9 inches across fell (mainly in a dry summer).

**18 May 1739
Caledonian Mercury 29
May**

<Chilcompton>, <Midsommer Norton> SW of <Bath>): A violent storm of rain which lasted three hours raised the waters to the greatest height they were ever known. A small rivulet that runs through this place rose to high that the water ran into most of the houses. At <Midsommer Norton> where a burial was taking place the minister and the people came to the church almost up to their waists. The land floods came down with such great rapidity as to carry away very great stones and where there was any considerable descent the lanes were cleared and all the stones carried to the bottom.

**4 Jul 1752 Salisbury Jul
13**

<Bristol>: A thunderstorm with hail caused injuries to people. 'In several Places the roads were like rivers'.

**2 Jun 1753
Gentleman's Mag,
Derby Mercury 28 Nov
1877 (Chronology)**

<Bridgewater>: Hail occurred 6 to 9 inches (presumably in circumference) made holes in the ground like cannon balls. Divers persons were bruised by the large hail and most of the windows were broken.

<Sherbourne>: A hailstorm lasting for hours with stones 3 inches about.

24 Jan 1756
Sussex Advertiser 14
Feb
2 Jul 1760 Sussex
advertiser 14 Jul

23 Jun 1764 Oxford
Jour 30 Jun
23 Jul 1768 Manchester
mercury 2 Aug, Bath
Chronicle 4 Aug

8 Sep 1768 Leeds
Intelligencer 13 Sep

1 Jun 1780 Bath
Chronicle and Weekly
Gazette 9 Jun

<Downton>: Some hailstones were 6 inches about.

<Imber> (E of Warminster) Wilts: The greatest flood ever known occasioned by the sudden melting of the snow. It entirely threw down two cottages and had it happened in the night would have destroyed a great number of people.

<Salisbury>: A violent storm occurred at <Fordingbridge> and <Ringwood> that water in the brooks going into the <<Avon>> rose in less than an hour by 10 to 12 feet perpendicular. At <Redbrook> a wagon and five horses were with difficulty saved from being carried away by the rapidity of the water. In one house it rose half way between the floor and the ceiling. Great quantities of hay were swept away along with hogs and their sties. At <Gorley> 18 hogs were carried off but saved by a neighbouring farmer.

Wilts: A thunderstorm with hail caused much damage to crops in Wilts and Gloucestershire. Many trees were split by lightning. (Flooding occurred in Oxford).

In <Glastonbury> and the towns adjacent the losses sustained in the late floods was estimated at upwards of £3000. Many fields of hay are covered with water which was never known before. Severe losses occurred from floods in the Parish of <Meave>.

Storms were also reported at Cheltenham in Gloucestershire where a barn burned down, in Hampshire, Edinburgh and Somerset.

<Bruton> Wilts: The storm was so violent that it swelled the river three feet perpendicular in five minutes. Several people had the greater part of their possessions below stairs carried away. Many walls were thrown down as was part of the town bridge and the one at the west end is destroyed.

<Warminster>: A violent thunderstorm with hail lasting half an hour caused great damage. Nearly all the windows in the west end of town with a southwest or southerly aspect were destroyed. All the cucumber and melon frames are broken. The hailstones of various shapes and sizes measured from 3 to 9 inches in circumference. Some of the stones are composed of several smaller ones. At <Longleat> the glass in hothouses is entirely demolished. Many cows received great injury and many ducks and geese were killed. The windows in Mere were generally destroyed and the storm was also very violent in <Burbage>, <Pewsey>, <Marlborough> and other places in Wiltshire.

**20 Jun 1781 Oxford
Journal 30 Jun/ 7 Jul
Saunders's Newsletter 4
Jul**

**1 Jul 1783 Manchester
mercury 15 Jul**

**27 Aug 1783
Saunders Newsletter
30 Aug**

**12 Jul 1787 Bath
chronicle 19 Jul**

**26 Jun 1790
Northampton Mercury
3 Jul**

**13 Aug 1791 Bath
Chronicle 25 Aug
Stamford mercury 26
Aug**

14 Sep 1797 Sherborn

<Salisbury>: There was a very violent thunderstorm but no damage reported in the city but at <Shrewton> a large barn was completely destroyed. At Berkshire, <Farringdon Hundreds> near the White Horse Hill the storm lasted for 4 hours. The rain was combined with congealed ice which cut up the corn and grass. Glass was broken in houses. On flat ground the water lay five inches deep. <Bath>: A thunderstorm lasted several hours; in two hours a basin 8 inches deep was filled.

<Warminster>: trees were destroyed by lightning

Widespread thunderstorms occurred throughout England and Scotland.

<Salisbury> and throughout Wiltshire, thunderstorms occurred. At Sherrington near Warminster 18 sheep were struck dead.

<Bristol>: A thunderstorm lasted nearly an hour with hailstones as large as marbles, houses were damaged by lightning but no flooding was reported.

<Alford>: (a village between Castle Cary and Somerton, Somerset) experienced a thunderstorm. An old elm tree was stuck and destroyed; the earth was ploughed around the base. A woman was struck down but recovered. There were no reports of flooding.

<Bristol>: A thunderstorm with heavy rain occurred at <Sherborne> and also at <Yeovil> and vicinity with a heavy fall of hail. Windows were broken and corn was damaged. At <Yeovil> a man was torn in pieces by lightning.

<Salisbury>: Temperature rose to 80F in the shade followed in the evening by a thunderstorm with hail and rain for several hours. At Upway in Dorset a farm was burnt down.

<Taunton>: A very severe thunderstorm with hail was reported.

<Coalpitheath>: Gloucs: A man was killed by lightning. A horse and two cows were killed in fields.

<Holmes> in the Bristol channel: The lighthouse was severely damaged.

<Devizes>, Little Cheverel: Some of the hailstones measured upward of 6 inches in circumference and shattered every window facing south including all those of the south side of the church. Much damage was done to crops.

Weston: A mill and barn were set alight and destroyed.

<Salisbury>: The thunderstorm was reported there and 'at most places within 48 miles of Salisbury', differing only in its timing and duration. Very large hail was reported. In some places the hail measured six in other four and five inches in circumference.

Dorset, Hants Wilts, Somerset: Horses, sheep and cattle were widely struck dead

<<River Avon>>: Owing to the very heavy rain the <<Avon>> rose in 12 hours 10 feet above its usual height flooding the meadows and the whole valley between <Bath> and <Keynsham> was one sheet

mercury 25 Sep

15 Jul 1808 Webb et al
2001, Webb and Elsom
(2016)

27 May 1811 Hereford
Journal 19 Jun
Notts Jour 8 Jun

21 Jun 1817 Public
Ledger and Daily
Advertiser 27 Jun
London courier 26 Jun

23 Jul 1817

Widespread flooding from
Somerset to Shrewsbury

of water, carrying away trees, fences, boats and doing great damage to gardens along the riverside. The <<River Chew>> was also swollen many feet above its usual level and inundated houses in <Chew>, <Stanton Drew>, <Pensford>, <Publow>, <Woollard>, <Chewton>, <Keynsham> etc. Many took refuge in the upper parts of their houses. A woman and two small children were rescued by boat from a flooded house at Dolmead <Bath> at the bottom of South Parade <Bath>/<Bristol>: Hail up to 70 mm diameter fell close to these locations. However extensive damage was done in villages east and north of Bristol including Keynsham, Newton, Kelston, Preston and Corston <Batcombe> Large pieces of ice of over 100 mm diameter. Many were reported as weighing over 220 g . <Wincanton>: Hail descended with such velocity as to strip or loosen bark, windows were broken and oak doors deeply indented. <Castle Cary>: Pieces of ice were around 90 mm diameter. Webb and Elsom do not report flooding.

<Bristol>: A thunderstorm with hail (or pieces of ice) 1 inch in diameter damaged windows in <Westbury>, <Henbury> and caused lightning damage (at the same time as more severe flooding in Hereford etc). <Wiveliscombe> (Somerset): The thunderstorm and surface runoff blocked the roads with soil and hedges. A tan yard was broken up and hides and machinery washed away. The <<Crowford>> river overflowed and swept away everything within reach. Lyneham>: 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>. At <Salisbury> every street was flooded and water ran through many houses. At <Langford> 12 sheep were killed by lightning. <Bath>: The storm continued from 2 to 5 o'clock; the common sewers were choked and many houses were flooded. Greenhouses and skylights were broken by hailstones which in many cases were 2 inches in circumference. The whole surrounding country felt the fury of the storm including <Weymouth>, <Salisbury> and <Clifton>. <Bristol>: A thunderstorm in which a few minutes after its commencement the water was 10 to 14

Herford Jour 2 Jul

**29 Jul 1819 Public
Ledger 3 Aug**

The storm took a direction
from NE to SW

**16 Nov 1821 Morning
Post 24 Nov
7 July 1828 Western
Times, Morning Post 16
Jul**

**15 Jul 1828 Oxford Uni
Herald 26 Jul
25 Jul 1828 Globe 31
Jul
25 May 1829
Cheltenham Jour 4
May**

inches deep in some of the streets and houses were flooded. Greenhouses and skylights were broken by hailstones, many of which were 2 inches in circumference. A man was struck dead by lightning and another expired due to fear causing fits.

<Winterborne Stoke>, Wiltshire: Here and at <Berwick St James> a thunderstorm caused great damage to crops and corn which was beaten down by rain and beaten out by hail. Many hailstones were 3 inches in circumference. Church and house windows were broken.

<Bristol>: A storm of wind and rain did much damage to crops and windows. At <Iron Acton> the water was 3 feet deep on the road, houses were inundated and inhabitants fled to their upper stories. During the storm caterpillars fell from the sky and were shovelled up by the bucketful.

<Devizes>: The rain was accompanied by thunder and lightning and hail. Several houses were completely flooded. <Bath> was also affected by the storm.

Thunderstorm over <Taunton> accompanied at one time by hurricane winds. The streets in a few minutes became impassable and houses in the lower parts of the town were flooded.

<Bath> - The houses in Widcomb at the bottom of Claverton Hill were inundated in some places to a depth of 12 feet and so rapidly that a man, aged 70, and his wife occupying a lower apartment in Sussex Place leading to the Canal were drowned in their beds. The stones and gravel hurried along by the water broke open windows and doors and in five minutes the rooms were filled with water. Other inhabitants escaped terrified. The soil and trees in Beechen Cliff were displaced by the violence of the tempest and swept into the valley beneath.

<Weston>: A man was drowned by the sudden rising of a brook.

<Bridgewater>: The thunderstorm inundated many houses. The storm lasted half an hour but it continued to rain during the whole evening. Hail did much damage to glass.

<Bath>: At Brymore House 600 panes of glass were broken by hail or rather cakes of ice 3 ½ inches in diameter. The principal parts of the meadows were under water.

<Chard> and <Langport>: thunderstorms occurred and at the latter most of the houses suffered flooding

<Langport>, Somerset: there was a rapid swell in the river owing to the violent rains. In some places the water invaded houses to a depth of 4 feet. (Hail than thunder was reported elsewhere but not at Langport)

**25 Jun 1830 Yorkshire
Gazette 10 Jul**

Widespread storms occurred from 25th to 28th Jun. See General Floods

<Bath>: Rain and hail fell in torrents raising the <<Avon>> to overflow in two hours. In the outskirts water rushing down the hills carried large stones to 2 to 3 hundredweight notably on the Gloucester road where the water has cut deep channels.

**12 Apr 1831
Dorset county Chron 21
Apr**

<Taunton>: The town was visited by a thunderstorm with hail of extraordinary size. The storm extended as far as Brighton.

**10 Jun 1835 Bath
Chronicle 18 Jun**

<Warminster>: A thunderstorm from 3 pm lasted an hour and made the streets impassable. The floods caused great consternation in the lower parts of the town where many had scarcely enough time to remove their furniture, so rapidly had the water entered the houses, in several instances nearly filling the cellars. The hail was of extraordinary size and did great damage to glass in greenhouses. One man had more than 1000 panes destroyed. Garden produce was also damaged. It was said to be unparalleled in this part of the country.

**19 Jun 1842 Exeter and
Plymouth Gaz 25 Jun**

<Chard>: A thunderstorm with hail caused the houses of many of the inhabitants to be flooded before precautions could be taken. The streets for a quarter of an hour were of agitated water

**9 Aug 1843 Cambridge
chronicle 19 Aug**

<Sherborne>: A farm labourer was struck in the fields and several others injured. The storm was accompanied by **hailstones, some picked up from 3 to 6 inches in circumference.**

**5 Sep 1844 Wilts
Independent 12 Sep**

<Chippenham>: The thunderstorm was accompanied by hail said to be nearly 3 inches in diameter.

**6 Jul 1845 Leicester
Chronicle 11 Jul**

<Frampton>, <Sydling St Nicholas> (Dorset): A thunderstorm was attended by a fall of hail and large pieces of **ice which averaged about an inch in diameter but one was measured at upwards of two inches in its longest part and of irregular shape.** The fall only lasted a few minutes but caused great damage.

**29 Jul 1846 Manchester
Courier 5 Aug**

A thunderstorm in Wales affected the village of Talsarn near Aberaryon in Cardiganshire. Severe thunderstorms were also reported from Dorset and Somerset, Nottingham and the northeast.

**25 Jun 1850 Sherborne
Mercury 2 Jul**

<Sherborne>: the thunderstorm started at 8 pm and continued for 2 hours. In a short time the streets were flooded and also those houses in low situations.

**15 Jul 1850 London Evg
Standard 18 Jul**

**1 Jul 1851 Hampshire
Advertiser 5 Jul
Morning Advertiser 7
Jul**

**10 (?17) Jun 1852
Bristol Times 19 Jun**

<Marston Magna>: The storm did considerable damage to wheat and barley crops. A heifer was killed by lightning.

<Martock>: The storm commenced at 5 pm with rain and hail such as not been witnessed here for many years and continued with trifling intermission until midnight. The streets were inundated and crops damaged.

<Bath>: In the thunderstorm an immense quantity of rain fell so that in some of the steep thoroughfares the rush of water was like the rapid flow of a river. This was particularly the case near the Old Bridge on the Widcombe side where the confluence of streams from Holloway and the Wells Road caused quite a flood. St mark's Church and other buildings were injured by lightning.

<Bristol>: The lightning caused damage to buildings injured several people but there were no reports of flooding.

<Sherborne>: It was the most violent storm to have occurred for many years. The preceding days had been hot and sultry. Rain started around midnight but was intense between 4 and 5 in the morning and accompanied by immense hailstones. In a very short time the streets of the town were like a rapidly flowing river and the houses especially in the lower part of town were more or less flooded. Much damage is done to the roads in and near the town. Conservatories were much damaged by hail and crops beaten down.

<Heytesbury> nr <Warminster>: **The hailstones fell as large as walnuts** and caused great damage to crops as well as killing 50 rooks and other birds. Some of the ploughmen were rather severely hurt. There was no reference to flooding.

<Taunton>: The hailstorm destroyed many acres of crops at Stoke St Gregory; apples were struck off trees and ducks were killed in the pond. Windows in church and houses were broken. Cattle and sheep were killed by lightning.

<Bristol>: A thunderstorm with strong wind passed over the city. Damage was done to trees and crops and glass broken. The road to the station was partially flooded. At the Trowbridge station the line was flooded to a depth of two and a half feet. The lower part of the town of <Chippenham> near the station was flooded but not so much as at <Trowbridge>. The waters were out on the lands abutting the Avon between <Chippenham> and <Bradford>.

<Bath>: The storm did considerable damage with trees blown down.

**13/14 Aug 1852 Bells
Weekly Mess. 16 Aug**

**Hereford Journal 28
Aug 1852**

**9 Jul 1853 Eddowes
Journal 13 Jul
Maidstone Jour 19 Jul**

**12 Jul 1855 Sherborne
mercury 17 Jul**

**14 Jul 1855 Derby
Mercury 18 Jul
Western Times 21 Jul**

**6 Oct 1856 Reading
Mercury 11 Oct**

21 Jun 1857 Devizes

The raingauge at Bristol
Philosophical Inst registered
1.13 inches overnight.

<Congresbury>, Somerset: A severe thunderstorm hit the eastern part of Somerset. At Congresbury the river overflowed and carried away a six foot wall and carried everything before it.

Between <Redhill> and <Clutton> the roads were impassable the water being 4 to 5 feet deep. A horse and some cattle were swept away by the flood and destroyed.

The flood was also experienced in the <Bristol> area and at <Shepton Mallett> where the river was swelled to an enormous height and filled the adjacent houses and washed crops out of gardens.

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

<Wellington> (SW of <Taunton>): A thunderstorm in a few minutes completely inundated the lower part of the town. So vast a volume of rain has hardly ever been known to fall in so short a space of time. Many of the cellars were deluged. A sewer burst at the railway station. Grain crops have been beaten down.

<Bristol>: An overhanging hill at the extremity of Brandon Hill overhanging Jacob's Well was washed down and buried a number of houses.

<Bedminster>: A man was struck dead by lightning at his doorstep.

<Sherborne>: The storm occurred in Sherborne but without damage. However, correspondents in <Blandford>, <Banwell>, <Sturminster>, <Newton>, <Dorchester> testify to the visitation of hail rain and thunder, killing horses, flooding houses, breaking windows and striking trees.

<Bristol>: Damage was done to crops and glasshouses by the hail; thousands of panes were broken and the crops were laid. (The main flooding was in Leics and Notts).

<Ashburton>: During the storm square pieces of ice fell half an inch in size; others were round and as large as marbles. Later pieces were found a full 6 inches in circumference. The streets were like a river with the water running into houses. Burnett's London Inn, the Dukes Head Inn and Bowden's residence opposite Kingsbridge Street were flooded to a depth of nearly 3 feet.

<Bristol>: A storm with some thunder inundated lower parts of the city. Inhabitants were flooded in an incredibly brief space of time and escaped with no small hazard to their lives. At Bedminster, Parsons Street 11 pigs were drowned. Elsewhere a horse and a cow were drowned.

<Collingbourne Dulcis>: A thunderstorm within two hours caused the <<River Bourne>> previously

**and Wilts Gazette 25
Jun**

**6 Aug 1857 Salisbury
and Winchester Jour. 8
Aug**

**13/14 Aug 1857
Taunton courier 19 Aug**

**31 May 1859 Western
Daily Press 1 Jun**

**18 Jul 1859 Bradford
Observer 26 Jul**

quite dry to become full and overflowing, flooding the highway and several cottages in lower situations.

Faringdon: A cow was killed by lightning.

<Marlborough>: A thunderstorm lasted just a quarter of an hour and the water poured down the lanes and streets like rivers and some houses were flooded to a considerable depth. The water from the city rushed into the Thames where it caused difficulty for boats some of which were sunk. Sewers overflowed and filled basements with sewage.

<Weston super Mare>: A deluge was accompanied by **hail of large size, some nearly an inch in diameter**. Watercourses and drains were choked and the lower parts of many houses were inundated. Glass was damaged mainly at Worle.

<Swanage>, <Isle of Purbeck>: Buildings were struck by lightning. Hail accumulated many inches deep on the neighbouring hills and were **masses of ice from one to 3 inches in length**. The valley from Swanage to <Corfe> was deeply flooded for two miles. The streams of the <<Corph>> were increased to torrents and the whole of the streets and houses of Corfe were flooded. The water rushed down the steep declivity at the entrance of <Corfe> from <Wareham> washing the solid road into deep and dangerous gulleys. Crops were washed out of fields. At Wareham the storm was comparatively light and at Worth harvesting was not interrupted.

<Bristol>: The rain was mingled with large hailstones. All the low and flat thoroughfares were inundated with several inches of water and businesses were suspended as water rushed down from the upper districts carrying everything with them. Cellars were flooded and small gardens in the suburbs were much injured. At one point 0.60 inch of rain fell in 18 minutes.

<Chippenham>: It was said to be one of the worst thunderstorms in the last 50 years. The thunderstorm lasted 2 hours and the hailstones were as large as hazelnuts. Many of the fields and houses on the banks of the <<Avon>> are flooded.

<Bristol>: The thunderstorm lasted an hour and a half and 0.73 inch rain fell in 35 minutes. The temperature fell 12F during the storm.

Thunderstorms occurred both in Yorkshire and south of England. The rain was accompanied **by large hail and ice of sufficient size that cattle and sheep were reported to have been killed**. Ice lay several inches thick in places in Berkshire; many windows were broken and geese had their wings broken.

**16 Jun 1860 Wiltshire
Independent 28 Jun**

**16 Jun 1861 Dorset
County Chronicle 20
Jun, W Somerset Free
press 21 Jun**

**9 May 1862 Taunton
courier 14 May
9 Jun 1862 Wilts and
Gloucs Standard 14 Jun
2 Sep 1862 Manchester
Times 13 Sep Devizes**

Many buildings were struck in the Bristol area and people injured. At <Chippenham> the hailstones were nearly as big as walnuts.

<Devizes>, <Potterne>: The centre of <Potterne> village is low and so rapidly did the flood come on that in less than a quarter of an hour from the commencement several of the houses had 2 feet of water. In one instance a party who were sitting at tea were obliged to make a hasty retreat upstairs whilst the table was carried about in the room. Cellars were completely filled with water. Out of 3 cottages 6 cart loads of sand were removed after the flood. An old inhabitant says he remembers a similar visitation about 40 years ago but nothing since.

<Wareham>: The storm which was widespread and commenced at 12.45 and was accompanied at first by heavy hail. The streets were flooded and in some instances covering the whole width of the road washing away all the lighter material and leaving the flint and gravel.

<Williton>: the headline refers to 'The Great Storm'. The effects were much worse than for many years past. Around midday the clouds began to gather round Brendon Hill. At 2.00 the storm came overhead and the rain descended in torrents and in an hour the storm passed over to the sea but the storm returned again in the evening for two hours after midnight. A cottage was set alight and sheep were killed by lightning. At Woodlands the water was a foot deep round the farmhouse. At <Luscombe> a grocer's shop was flooded to the counters. At <Porlock> many houses were flooded.

<Taunton>: The storm was reported with lightning effects with buildings set alight, horses and bullocks killed but no reports of flooding.

<Bridgewater>: Considerable damage to goods by the inundations was reported in the High Street and neighbouring localities. Animals were again killed by lightning and several people injured.

<Ilminster>, <Chard>, <Bridport>, <Crewkerne>: Serious lightning effects were again reported but without reference to flooding.

<Yeovil>: In a thunderstorm with hail and rain the water ran down the streets and many houses in the lower part of town were flooded. The storm lasted about half an hour.

<Wooton Bassett>: A woman was killed when lightning struck her house.

Extreme hail and flooding in Wiltshire occurred at <Market and West Lavington> and <Easterton>. In less than half an hour the whole countryside was covered with hail so that not a blade of grass or

**and Wiltshire Gazette 4
Sep**

crop of corn was to be seen. The houses were from 2 to 3 feet deep in water and cellars full to the gratings and roads were a rushing, roaring torrent. The streets and roads of <Easterton> to <West Lavington> were converted to a deep roaring torrent which carried everything before it. Acres of barley were left without a grain on the stalk. At Russell Mill the water rose in less than an hour 6 feet in the tail of the mill. Hundreds of acres of corn were completely ruined. A house at the foot of the hill from <West Lavington> to <Tilshead> made a clean breach from the back to the front door inundating the house to a depth of 2 feet. The extent was only half a mile in breadth and 2 miles in length. In one cottage in <Easterton> the water rose to the ceiling and drowned a cat. Walls and boundary fences were carried away. Ducks were drowned in their favourite medium and birds were killed by the hundred, knocked down by the hail and buried beneath it. 78 sparrows were picked up dead in the church which is currently unroofed! **Hailstones on the ground were 7 feet deep at Lavington.** The main storm was only half an hour. The violence seems to have been only half a mile in breadth and two miles in length. At <Market Lavington> the inn cellars were filled to the level of the road; a brick wall near the church came down en masse.

**17 Jul 1864 Wiltshire
times 23 Jul, Salisbury
and Winchester Journal
23 Jul**

<Eastcott>: Every house was under water and people looking out at upper windows. At Newman's farm yard the water was 6 feet deep. At <Broadwell> the water was so deep that 2 feet of mud and sand covered the ground floor

<Trowbridge>: A severe storm burst over Wiltshire and Dorset, the worst for many years causing severe lightning fire damage to several hay ricks.

<Warminster>: In a short time the streets streamed with water and in George Street was considerably more than one foot whilst the houses were as suddenly inundated to a depth of 6 to 9 inches. Silver Street was similarly flooded. Hundreds of cart loads of sand and mud were taken away the next day. A block of cottages at Corsley was burnt down.

<Devizes>: The Market Place was flooded and at the top of the Brittox there was a sheet of water several inches in depth.

<Chippenham>: A most violent rain also descended.

<Shaftsbury>: Lightning damage was reported but there was no reference to flooding.

16 Jun 1866 BR

<Trowbridge> (Wilts): A remarkable hail storm at 10 p.m., stripping leaves off the trees and seriously injuring potatoes and beans.

**27 Jun 1866 Devizes
and Wilts Gaz 28 Jun,
Bristol Times 29 Jun**

Bristol storm rf 0.8"

<Devizes>: A thunderstorm with hail as large as marbles completely stripped the trees of their leaves and caused damage to crops.

<Bristol>: A thunderstorm lasted 3 hours and was accompanied by unusually large hailstones, a third of an inch in diameter. Water which poured through thoroughfares and carried gravel and stones from gardens.

Thornbury: Rain and large hailstones caused flooding of streets and some houses were flooded and shops were also affected. In one house on the High Street the water was up to a man's waist. Standing crops have been seriously damaged.

<Warminster>: Streets were flooded and damage done to dwelling houses and their contents in a severe thunderstorm with rain and hail.

<Ottery St Mary>: In a violent thunderstorm many houses in the town were quite flooded and considerable damage to furniture etc. Crops are damaged and young mangolds were washed away. Three sheep were killed by lightning. Hailstones were 2 inches in circumference.

<Podymore>: A man was killed by lightning

<Melbury> (near Dorchester): A thunderstorm began between 11 and 12 p.m., and continued till about 2 a.m. of 20th. Thunder with torrents of rain and hail. Much glass was broken in the gardens, and the walks rutted out to the large stones where they were much on the slope.

<Malmesbury>, <Chippenham>: Severe thunder and lightning was experienced but there was no mention of flooding.

19/20 Jun 1868 BR

29 Sep 1869

Wilts and Gloucs

Standard 2 Oct

16 Jun 1870 Webb et al

2009, Bells Weekly

Messenger 18 Jun,

Western Gaz 24 Jun

This H6 hailstorm caused extensive damage over about 65 km (SSW–NNE) between <Bridport> (Dorset coast) and <Warminster> (Wiltshire). There was great destruction of glass and slates around <Wincanton> (Somerset). Webb does not report flooding. The hailstones were in many instances 6 inches in circumference. Many conservatories and hothouses were entirely destroyed and cattle were killed. At <Wincanton> thousands of panes of glass were broken and the masses of ice were 5 ½ inches in circumference.

In the neighbourhood of Stalbridge and from there to <Sherborne> and to <Bruton> the hail was as big as fowl's eggs and measured up to 6 ¼ inches in circumference. At <Evershot> the hailstones were as big as Walnuts and weighed 2 to 3 oz. One man was killed by lightning at <Chard> and rooks,

**29 Jul 1871 Western
Mail 1 Aug
13/14 Aug 1871 BR,
western Daily Press 14
Aug, Western Times 17
Aug, BR**

Trowbridge (Wilts) 1.53" in 1 h
Chippenham (Wilts) 0.60" in 15
m
Melbury (Dorset) 4.24" in 4 h
(14th)

poultry and game were killed and some sheep were also killed by the hail. Lightning and hail damage was widespread. Again BWM and WG do not mention flooding.

<Bath>: The streets and low lying grounds near the River Avon were flooded. A horse pulling a barge was struck and killed whilst the boy on its back was uninjured.

<Melbury> in Dorset A thunderstorm between 5.30 and 8.00 gave 4.24" in 4 hours. Much damage was done and roads and walks in many places were washed out to their foundations. A house had 3 feet of water and below this at Melbury Village two aged women were rescued with difficulty the flood passing in and out of their cottage windows, **so rapid was the rise of the flood that there was no time for precaution.** A mill lower down was flooded. Heavy rainfall was also reported for Devonshire stations but no details given.

<Crewkerne>: The total rainfall was 1.68" of which 1" fell in 45 minutes; the roads which are very wide were in a few minutes flooded so high that it would have been dangerous to cross over. Nearly every house in the town was flooded (which was never known before).

<Martock> <Yeovil> The Main Street was 2 feet deep in places. Two men were killed by lightning at <Ilchester>. The maximum temperature in the shade on the 13th rose to 84.9F A little rain, with thunder and lightning occurred at 11.40 am. Heavy rain began to fall at 2 p.m. and lasted till 2.15, from which time it rained till 3.30 p.m., but only slightly after 3 p.m. Very heavy hail and rain fell from 2.02 to 2.07 p.m., the hailstones averaging half-inch in diameter, and leaving the ground white for some time after they had ceased falling.

<Crewkerne>(Bincombe House) The thermometer was 81° at 2.30. At 5.45, it again clouded in, and soon after 6 the wind got up and the rain and hail came down in sheets of water. I happened to be in the town when the second storm came on; the roads, which are very wide, were in a few minutes so high that it would have been dangerous to have crossed over; nearly every house in the town was flooded, which was never known before; in many places here the roads were washed away; there was very little damage done to the corn, a good deal being cut; as soon as it stopped, which was at 7, I found 1.68 in., more than 1 in. having fallen in about three-quarters of an hour. The thermometer went down from 81° to 62°.

<Beaminster>: The streets were converted to miniature rivers which it was difficult and dangerous to attempt to cross and some houses were flooded.

**24 Jul 1872 Hampshire
Telegraph 27 Jul, Wilts
and Gloucester
Standard 27 Jul**

Storms were widely reported in
Midlands and SE

**7 Aug 1872 Leicester
Daily Post 8 Aug,
Salisbury and
Winchester journal 10
Aug**

<Evershot>: The lower portion of the town was flooded sufficiently for furniture to float.

<Blandford>: The hailstones were very large and damaged greenhouse glass.

<Bristol>: the fall of rain was so excessive that many places in the city were flooded. The rain ran like a mountain torrent down Kingsdown Hills and St Michaels Hill but was most striking at the bottom of Christmas Steps with waster from Broad Street and Christmas Street, Steep Street and Host Street where the flood left much debris. For the previous few days there had been almost tropical heat.

<Taunton>: The crops are much laid by the heavy rain.

<Chippenham>: On one farm 8 sheep were killed and a cottage badly damaged by lightning. At the church some scores of panes of glass were broken. Panes were broken at Babington House and kitchen and offices were flooded to a depth of 1 foot. Many other houses were affected and the fruit crop was damaged by the hail.

<Rimpton>: Two cows were struck dead by the lightning.

<Wooton Bassett>, Wilts: **Hailstones 6 to 7 inches in circumference were picked up;** most of the windows were broken on the north and east sides of the streets and crops were destroyed and the roads rendered impassable. The storm of hail lasted about 10 minutes and was followed by a torrent of rain which completely flooded the High Street. The flood was very high at the railway station. Such a storm has never been witnessed here before.

<Cirencester>: See Thames chronology

<Devizes>: The drains were not sufficient to carry off the water and the streets and many houses, cellars and underground kitchens were flooded.

<Dursley>: A few minutes after the storm broke the water was nearly knee deep in Parsonage Street and running through several of the houses. The Broad Well rose 2 feet filling one house with mud and water to a depth of 18 inches and floating the barrels of beer.

<Bridgwater>: A violent thunderstorm flooded North Street and West Street on market day to a depth of 3 feet and sheep narrowly escaped drowning. Many shops and warehouses were flooded.

<Warminster>: A severe storm lasted an hour and a half. Streets and houses were flooded at the west end of the town and the water was very high in George Street, Silver Street and Portway where the water passed through many of the houses. An immense quantity of sand gravel and mud was deposited and many of the roads were much rutted.

**23 Jul 1873 Cambridge
independent press 26
Jul**

20 Jul 1875 BR

**22 Jul 1875 Wiltshire
Times 24 Jul, BR**

White Lackington (Somerset)
0.62" in 30 m

The storm was local and did not
travel further than Widbrook,
Bradford and Wingfield
Trowbridge 2.53" in 1 h

<Bath>: Two thunderstorms occurred which have not been exceeded since the night of the death of George III. The rain in torrents carried sand stones and soil from the neighbouring hills into the city. Houses have been damaged, cattle destroyed and trees split. The storm lasted about an hour.

<Trowbridge>: Within a few minutes of the start of the deluge, the sinks and drains were choked and the streets assumed the aspect of streams especially in the lower parts of the town especially Frog Lane, Conigre and Back Street. The waters rushed through the thoroughfares and in a torrent down Back Lane bursting the drain and heaving up paving stones. Kitchens were flooded in a short time. Hill Street was covered with water and swept along Fore Street. At the bottom of Polebarn Road there was an additional contribution from the compensation water course arising from a supposed waterspout at Hilperton. The lower portion of Polebarn Road was flooded to a depth of several feet in a very short time; a rustic cottage was submerged and the inmates escaped by the windows. A power loom shop was flooded and other businesses. The stream covered the bridge and was impassable. At Hilperton Marsh the intensity was so great that crops were washed out of the ground and soil carried away to make an obstruction near the Cemetery. In the Wyke farm cattle were over their legs in water. Low lying portions of the railway were flooded, especially the deep cutting at Lady Down where the water was up to the footboards of the carriages. Ballast was washed away and a goods train had two trucks overturned.

BR notes: Sunnyside, Trowlridge . The heaviest fall of the year (2.69"), of which 2.53" fell in one hour, between 2 and 3 p.m. The storm was very local, hardly extending beyond the boundary of the parish. The storm was concentrated about two miles from my gauge, and a phenomenon resembling a waterspout was said to have been seen there. I went to the spot an hour later, when the rain had ceased, and the turnpike roads resembled the bed of an Alpine torrent rather than the Queen's highway.

Axminster: The rain came down in torrents for at least an hour. Many persons at the bottom of Castle Hill were flooded to a great depth. A further storm on 8th caused the river Axe to almost overflow its banks.

<Taunton>: A severe thunderstorm lasted nearly 4 hours. The low lands were flooded and leaves

**6 Aug 1875 Western
Times 10 Aug, Chard
and Illminster news 14
Aug**

10 Sep 1875 BR

19 Sep 1875 BR

1 Oct 1875 BR

19 Aug 1876 Bristol

Mercury 26 Aug, BR

14 Aug 1877 BR

10 May 1878 BR

**18 May 1878 Globe 18
May**

**13 Jun 1878 St Neots
Chronicle 22 Jun, W
Somerset Free Press 22
Jun, Weston Mercury
22 Jun**

Tytherton Lucas (Wilts) 0.62" in
20 m

Orcheston St. Mary (Wilts)
0.50" in 20 m

Bristol Daily 3.57"

2 to 3.30 pm 1.53"

6.45 to 9.00 pm 0.64"

9.00 to 10.00 pm 1.08"

10.00 to 9.00 am 0.32"

Greater than the fall on 14 Jul
1875 when 3" was registered in
some parts of Bristol

Ashley down (Bristol) 1.53" in
30 m and DR 3.57" (7 h)

Weston Bath 1.33" in 1 h

Bincombe (Somerset) 1.50" in
75 m

were cut from trees as if by a knife. Greenhouses and conservatories suffered by breakage of glass by hail. At least 3 horses and other animals were killed by lightning.

<Chalbury> (near Wirriborne): Thunderstorm at 1 am preceded by a rush of wind, which roused most of the dwellers in the house. The storm was all over by 2 a.m.; 1 in. of rain fell during this time, the effect of the downpour was plainly shown next day, by the gravel washed down the hill-side

<Bristol>: In comparatively few minutes roadways were flooded and rain penetrated the roofs of houses and caused the water to rise to several feet on basement floors

<Bath>: In a thunderstorm during the night a landslip occurred on the Midland Line about 3 miles from the city. The River Avon overflowed in places.

<Bath>: A waterspout burst on <Lansdown> passing from one end of the village to another. Volumes of water observed descending the hillside and the two hill roads leading respectively to <Lansdown> and <Kelston> became channels for bodies of water, some 3 or 4 feet in depth. They joined and ran into the stream which runs parallel with the high road that runs through the village. Hedges and walls were swept away. It swept down the village street in an immense wave and carried a woman and child away and with difficulty rescued. It caused great destruction to gardens, wall and roads. Many houses shops and cottages were severely flooded to a depth of 4 feet. Furniture and pigs were washed away. It was worst for cottages in the vicinity of the fountain which were flooded three weeks ago.

<Wells>: A flood exceed in magnitude and destructiveness any that has occurred in the memory of man. In a few minutes there was a rush of water down Bristol Road which developed into the dimensions of a river and the fury of a mountain torrent. The residents of Sadler Street, some parts of High Street, Broad Street and St John Street had their houses inundated before they were aware of it. Barriers constructed by tradesmen in Saddler Street and High Street were partly successful but there was 5 feet of water in some cellars. Some cottages in Bath Road opposite Berylane down which the water rushed were flooded to a depth of several feet with goods and chattels floating before they had time to respond. Water poured over the gardens at the back with such fury that potatoes and vegetables and surface soil was carried away down to the subsoil. After the flood the mud was several inches thick. The flood was attributed to a waterspout which was said to have burst at Hillgrove, three miles from the city in the Mendips.

<Goathurst> near <Bridgwater>: In a thunderstorm the watercourses soon became overcharged and thoroughfares were deeply flooded and entered several of the dwellings. In hilly parts large stones were washed out of place and carried along with garden produce. Great damage was done at Broomfield hall where the water found its way into the wine cellars etc, several feet in depth. The neighbouring parishes of <Broomfield>, <Spaxton> and <North Petherton> suffered in like manner. Low lying lands including the Hamp level were inundated with newly mown hay floating on the surface.

17 Jun 1878 BR

Bincombe (Someerset) 1.09" in 1 h

30 Jun 1878 Bristol

Hail fell in short intervals and some hailstones were 2 inches in circumference.

Mercury 1 Jul, BR

Weston (Bath) 1.46" in 1 h

<Bath>: The storm lasted nearly an hour and was attended by hail which caused damage to growing plants. Widcombe and Bathwick Hills became channels for the flood water; the Putney road was like a shallow river and many fields and adjacent houses were flooded. Walcot Street was similarly visited; walls at East Hayes and Snow Hill were overthrown and at <Larkhall> the Larkhall Inn at the junction of three roads was completely flooded. Above Sydney Gardens, <Bathwick> a sewer burst causing much injury to property. Houses in Queen's Terrace were entered.

<Weston> (Bath) Rain 1.46" which nearly all fell in 1 hour. The village was flooded, but not half so deep as on the 13th.

Thunderstorms were also reported at <Gloucester>, <Salisbury> and at <Bridgwater> where 11

**20/21 Jul 1878 John
Bull 27 Jul**

23 Aug 1878 BR

Weston (Bath): 0.50" in 11 m
Pewsey (Wilts) 2.68 in 105 m

**12 May 1879 Salisbury
and Winchester journal
17 May**

13 Jun 1879 BR

S Petherton (Somerset) 0.75" in
1 h

**2/3 Aug 1879 Western
Daily press 4 Aug, BR**

The storm was widespread
from Wales to East Anglia.
Daily rainfall
Lydeard House, Taunton 3.21"
Cothelston (N of Taunton)
3.55"

22 Jul 1880 BR

Gillingham (Somerset) 1.15" in
1 h

**30 Jul 1880 Bath
Chronicle 5 Aug**

30 Aug 1880 BR

Crewkerne (somerset) 0.73" in
45 m

**5/6 Jul 1881 Western
daily Press 7 Jul**

**21 Aug 1881 Western
gazette 26 Aug**

**23 Aug 1881 Weston
super Mare gazette 27**

sheep were killed by lightning, but without floods reported.

<Taunton>: the storm broke over the town completely deluging the streets and flooding the houses in the lower parts. Lightning struck houses in the eastern part and did considerable damage. The corn has been beaten down as if a large roller had passed over it.

<Wimborne><Dorset>: In a thunderstorm some of the streets were flooded and the water stood several inches in depth.

<Clevedon>: The storm raged from midnight to about 4.30 and was accompanied by torrents of rain and hail. Some **hailstones were an inch in diameter** and had disastrous effects on gardens. Meadows in lowlying districts were flooded.

<Newbury>: many houses were flooded.

<Taunton>: A heavy local storm occurred near Taunton (Somerset) .and at the mouth of the Severn.

<Chard>: Rain fell in torrents flooding the streets. Many drains burst and some of the houses in the lower part of the town were flooded.

<Chard>: A prolonged storm with heavier bursts and thunder occurred at night. The rain caused a flood in the lower parts of the town and burst open the main sewer. The River Axe overflowed its banks and carried away a large quantity of hay {Thunderstorms were widely reported round the west of the country and Wales but with no repoting of flooding}.

<Langport>: After persistent rain through the morning a thunderstorm broke out at 3 in the afternoon and laste for more than an hour washing channels in the roads and flooding the lowest places. Some of the hailstones measured an inch and a half in circumference.

<East Brent>: (7 Km S of Weston) The storm lasting 2 hours surpassed anything in this neighbourhood for a great number of years. The waterworks in the grounds of the Venerable

Aug

Archdeacon Denison were overflowed and the carriage drive was flooded and then his garden and kitchen. Very quickly several houses were flooded some to a depth of one foot or more. 'I don not recall so great a flood in the 36 years that I have been vicar of this place'. (2.10 inches in 16 hours).

<Bridgwater>: A tremendous downpour occurred between 8 and 9 o'clock flooding several houses especially in the neighbourhood of West Street.

<Clevedon>: Although the storm lasted only a quarter of an hour it caused the flooding of low lying districts. In copse road the water rushed through houses with great violence with furniture floating in basement rooms.

**1 Jul 1882 Western
Daily Press 3 Jul,
Taunton courier 5 Jul,
Western Gazette 7 Jul,
Cheltenham Mercury 8
Jul, BR**

Bath 1.90" in 30 m

<Bath>: Rain fell with hail of large size and the streets were flooded in a short space of time. The sewers being unable to carry off the water many houses were flooded on the lower levels and the roads on the hillsides damaged with the surface removed. The mill stream which runs at the back of the houses in Prior park road and Widcombe Parade overflowed its banks and rushed into the dwelling near. Many houses suffered from the gutters on the roofs being unable to discharge the water in one case flooding a house and shop on Newmarket Road. On one or two houses on Claverton Street water poured into the basement and burst open doors carrying articles into the towing path and river. Daily rainfall was 2.07 inches.

<Croscombe> (between <Wells >and <Shepton Mallet>: the storm seems to have burst over the Dinder and Chilcote Hills and rushed with startling velocity through the villages of Croscombe and Dinder. The metal on the roads was washed away to a depth of several inches, fields which had just been ploughed were completely levelled and livestock were seen floating on the flood. A litter of pigs was washed away and drowned. No rain fell at Wells.

<Evercreech>: The adjacent hamlets of <Stratton> and <Chesterblade> were deluged with rain and hail and the small stream running between was soon swollen into a mighty torrent. Footbridges walls and banks were swept away and many houses were deluged with the inhabitants having to seek refuge upstairs. At a distance on only a few hundred yards no rain fell.

<Wotton under edge>: The drains and culverts not being sufficient to carry off the water some of the houses in the lower part of the town were flooded and in some cases filled with sand and stones from higher parts. Roads and streets were washed in furrows.

24 Oct 1882 Western

Not a flash flood – persistent

<Bristol> <Bath> Widespread flooding occurred from persistent rain all over the area of Avon and

daily Press 25 Oct	rainfall for a long period	Somerset and Wilts. A railway bridge at Cattistock near Dorchester was washed away. The rush of water in the flood covered the line for quite a mile. Two other bridges up the line were also washed away. In Wiltshire it was reported that the flooding was heavy and continuous but there are statements about the occurrence of snow sleet and hail.
10 Jun 1883 Western daily Press 11 Jun, BR	Bournemouth 0.56" in 30 m	<Radstock>: the storm continued from 3 o'clock to 6 pm and the rain and hail did great damage to crops. Several cottages in the lower part of the village were flooded. Six sheep were killed by lightning whilst sheltering under a tree.
29 Jun 1883 BR	Chedington (W Dorset) 1.00" in 30 m	
28 Jun 1884 BR	Bincombe (Dorset) 0.70" in 30 m Stowell (Somerset) 1.42" in 2 h Beaminster (Dorset) 1.14" in 2 h Frampton Cotterell (Gloucs) 1.76" in 3 h	
28 Apr 1886 Warminster & Westbury Journal 1 May		<Warminster>: It was one of the severest thunderstorms that have ever visited Warminster. It continued without intermission for 3 hours and was accompanied at times with hail. Considerable injury was done to crops and several houses were flooded. <Westbury>: Roads were flooded and many places were impassable to pedestrians. Near <Bratton> and <Tinhead> much damage was done to gardens with seeds and potatoes washed out of the ground and one man had 3 perches of land washed away.
19 Jun 1886 Birmingham Daily post 21 Jun		<Dorchester>: A severe thunderstorm broke out in south Dorset and at <Moreton> near Dorchester the hailstones were as large as pigeon's eggs causing considerable damage to growing crops. No flooding was reported.
4 Sep 1886 Sheffield Independent 6 Sep, Western Gazette 10 Sep.	Thunderstorms occurred in South Wales, Monmouthshire, Gloucestershire and Hereford and elsewhere.	<Chard>: The streets were submerged and many houses were flooded. <Bridgwater>: Several parts of the town were flooded including houses and cellars. At <Hamp> a horse was killed by lightning. <Yeovil>: The streets were deluged. Cattle and horses were killed by lightning nearby. In the valley of the <<Axe>> the force of the storm was felt with the river overflowing its banks. <Blandford>: One of the heaviest thunderstorms deluged the streets and the drains were unable to

carry off the flow so that many houses in East Street and other parts of the town were flooded with much injury to goods and furniture. Flooding also occurred at Blandford St Mary where gravel stones and mud accumulated in several houses.

14 Jul 1887 BR

Mells (Somerset) 1.35" in 1 h

15 Jul 1887 BR

Wivellscombe (Somerset) 1.09" in 30 m

8 Jul 1888 Shepton

Mallet Journal 13 Jul

<Langport>: A thunderstorm lasted an hour and a half with some hail as large as marbles which lay on the ground 3 inches deep. Houses were flooded through overcharged drains and garden crops were much damaged.

16 Jul 1888 BR

Bishop's Lydeard (Somerset) 1.60" in 90 m

30 Jul 1888 Western

Gazette 3 Aug

<Baltonsborough> Near <Glastonbury>: A violent thunderstorm occurred and the roads in many places were impassable for pedestrians. Many houses were flooded and much hay was swept away by the violence of the rain and hail. The small stream which runs through the village rose 4 feet in half an hour and a pen of pigs was drowned.

**6 May 1889 Devizes
and Wiltshire Gazette 9**

Bradford on Avon 1.72" in 2 h 30 m

**May, saliabury and
Winchester Journal 11
May, BR**

<Devizes>: Rain and hail fell in torrents for half an hour. The drains were unable to carry it off and considerable damage was done. A grocer lost goods from flooding of his cellar. A draper's and a malthouse were also flooded. At the Railway station the water ran through the offices like a mill stream. In many houses cellars and apartments were flooded.

<South Wilts> and <Dorset>: <Fonthill Gifford>: Several houses were flooded and potatoes washed out of the ground.

<Hindon>: Few houses escaped injury in some way. Hailstones were measured at 1 ¼ inches in diameter.

<East Knoyle>: Rain and hail burst over the village doing serious damage to trees, gardens and houses. Great hailstones covered the ground in places to a depth of 2 feet. All the drains were quickly filled with mud; the streets were ploughed up and houses and cottages inundated. On hillside allotments potatoes and vegetables were washed out of the ground. Conservatories were riddled with hail. The hailstones were 2 inches in circumference.

<Shaftesbury>: The thunderstorm lasted for 3 hours.

<Mere>: Houses were flooded causing considerable damage to furniture and potatoes and seeds

**7 Jun 1889 Exeter flying
Post**

12 Jul 1889 BR

**25 May 1890 The Star
27 May, Western daily
Press 28 May, Bridport
News 30 May, Western
Chronicle 30 May, BR**

**Bishops Cannings (Wilts) 1.30"
in 3 h**

Lyme Regis Cliff House – The
raingauge overflowed.
Clevelands 2.78" in 4 or 5 hours
(Tiverton 5.20").
Exford 0.70" in 22 m
Rousdon (W of Lyme Regis)
1.56" in 1 h
Daily rainfall
Lyme Regis (Holme Cleve) 3.70"

were washed out of the ground.

<Wells> (Westbury) Heavy thunderstorm with 1.50" of rain, followed by floods.

<Yeovil>: There was a thunderstorm with very little rain but in the evening of the same day a **great wave of water from 8 to 10 feet high rolled down the Batcombe Hills on the village of Chetnole**. It is ordinarily a small brook supplying a mill but became a powerful torrent. At the first mill and farm 40 pigs some sheep and poultry were washed away. Cowsheds and outbuildings were swept away. At Hannaford Mill stock were drowned and people escaped from the flood with difficulty. At Chetnole Mills the water reached the top of the first floor. The villages of Cerre and Minterne also suffered and miles of road were washed away. An eyewitness described a waterspout on Balcombe Hill. 'A solid sheet of water about the diameter of a man's body. It tore up the ground to a considerable depth and forced a channel for its escape down the hillside'.

<Lyme Regis>: Here and along the Dorset coast a thunderstorm caused much damage. The <<River Lynn>> rose 15 feet and carried away bridges, furniture and other property. A relief fund was set up to help poorer sufferers. The storm confined itself to a comparatively small area. <<Buttle River>> overflowed and a perfect torrent poured over adjoining land washing away walls roads and gardens and all the houses within its reach. At <Uplyme> 5 cottages were flooded to a depth of 8 or 9 feet and everything on the ground floor including doors and windows was washed away. Into <Lyme Regis> 25 more houses suffered and the occupants of some cottages had to be taken out of bedroom windows into boats. <<Buttle river>> drives the Wallis Mill which suffered severely with carts and wagons washed into the sea. Cottages adjoining the mill were flooded. The river then ran through the vicarage garden where the crops and a substantial footbridge were carried away. Hailstones measured ½ inch in diameter. The parapet on Gosling Bridge in Millgreen was destroyed. The water flowed down into Coombe Street. The Crown Inn and the Angel Inn were also flooded but Bridge Street did not suffer from the effects of the river. A group of cottages by the Drill Hall were flooded and this is where people were rescued by boat. Cottages at Bethel and Jerihco were flooded and another footbridge was carried away. At Jordan's Ban the ground floors are buried in mud and gravel to a depth of several feet. At Horn Bridge the roadway is rendered impassable by a large gully

has been washed out although the bridge remaining standing. Haye Lane in transformed into a chasm 6 feet deep. Nearer Uplyme two cottages near the old mill were submerged to the fourth or fifth step of the stairs. At Venn Lake five dwelling had all their furniture destroyed.

Pound Street, Silver Street and Broad Street were washed clean from top to bottom and large portions of the roadway and kerbstones are torn up. Church Street and Monmouth Street are in a similar condition. The Mayor's residence was flooded. There were no serious inundations in Pound Street. Bridport News details individual sufferers.

<Bridport>: The thunderstorm was accompanied by heavy rain and hail and lasted 4 hours. The Rivers <<Brit>> and <<Symone>> were observed to be rising rapidly and within 20 minutes of the time the water was level with the banks the land on either side was submerged and the houses flooded especially from the River <<Symone>>. The cottages near the Grove Iron Works in West Allington were flooded. The roadway was submerged to a depth of several feet. The cottages in Ewen's Lane were flooded to a depth of 12 inches to 2 feet. A cottage at the back of the White Lion Inn, West bridge was flooded to a considerable depth as were a large number of houses in St Michael's Lane. The water also entered houses in South Street. The gardens near St Mary's Bridge sustained considerable damage. Castle Buildings were flooded to a depth of 2 feet.

<Beaminster>: Many houses were flooded. Sheep and a bullock were killed by lightning.

<Brimley><Stoke Abbot>: Much damage was done by the flood. Banks and hedges were swept away in many places.

<Chard>: In a thunderstorm the water ran through the streets in great volume and many houses situated at the bottom of Fore Street were flooded.

<Yeovil>: Rivers and ditches were full from previous rains but the storm caused water to rise rapidly over the meadows. Thousands of acres of hay are spoiled. Corn is badly beaten down in the valley of the <<Parrett>>.

Heavy rainfall generally in the South and South Midlands centred east of Reading Flooding occurred at Brixton, Colne and West Drayton, Windsor, Maidenhead, Reading, Aldershot, Rickmansworth, Bark, Bury St Edmonds and on Dartmoor

**11 Jun 1890 Western
Gazette 13 Jun
17 July 1890 BR**

24/25 Jun 1891

Widespread thunderstorms in

<Bristol>: In Broadmead, a low level area the cellars of several business houses were flooded. The

**Gloucester Citizen 26
Jun Warminster and
Westbury Journal 27
Jun**

central and western England

water covered the floors of the police cells at Bridewell.

<Warminster>: Lightning killed several horses and cattle and caused considerable damage to growing crops and property. The drains in the lower part of town were inadequate to cope with the volume especially at the bottom of Sambourne and the top of Silver Street which were in an almost inconceivable space of time covered in several inches of water. Many houses in the vicinity were flooded. George Street was also affected.

**16 Jul 1892 Shepton
Mallet Journal 22 Jul,
BR**

Flax Bourton (somenset) 1.79"
in 1 h and 3.75" in 2 h
Bath 1.75" in 3 h 15 m
Pucklechurch (S Gloucs) 1.88"
in 3 h 30 m

<Nailsea>: The water rushed in torrents from the higher parts of the land to the lower parts and great quantities of earth were washed down including stones of incredible size. The storm lasted fully 4 hours. A horse was killed by lightning. Backwell Common was completely under water and the road near Nailsea railway station was impassable for pedestrians. Considerable damage was done to gooseberries and currents and to crops.

<Bath>: the storm lasted several hours and was accompanied by hail so that roads in various parts of the city were flooded. The road near Blegrave Crescent was flooded and rendered impassable. The mill stream in front of Prior Park buildings overflowed and caused problems to residents there. The brook rose rapidly at <Twerton> and flooded houses in Dorset Street. The water poured with tremendous force down the slopes leading from Victoria Park and caused flooding in Charlotte Street.

<Burnett>: A man was killed by lightning.

<Newbury> Berkshire: The thunderstorm flooded streets roads and buildings

<Bristol>: Many houses in the northern suburbs were flooded. Many horses and cattle were killed by lightning.

<Langton> Dorset: A young woman was killed in her house and her mother injured.

**23 Aug 1892 Sheffield
independent 25 Aug**

20 sep 1892 BR

Broad Hinton (Wilts) 0.52" in 30
m

14 Jun 1893 BR

Devizes (wilts) 0.99" in 20 m
Bishops Cannings (Wilts) 1.35"
in 1 h

3 Aug 1893 BR

Almondsbury (S Gloucs) 0.85"
in 45 m

11 Jul 1893 BR

Devizes 0.91" in 1 h

24 Jul 1894 BR

Bristol docks 0.87" in 1 h
Clifton 2.87" in 3 h

<Failand> (Bristol): Rain began about 1 p.m., and, by 6 p.m., 1.65" had fallen, and an additional 1.00" was measured at 9 a.m. on 25th.

**25 Aug 1894 Weston
Super mare Gazette 29
Aug, BR**

<South Somerset>: A thunderstorm lasted 2 hours and the River <<Yeo>> overflowed and inundated adjacent meadows and drowned 9 sheep.

<Yeovil>: Some houses were flooded

<Closworth>: Whistle Bridge was almost completely swept away.

<Sutton Bingham>: Abbots Mile bridge was entirely submerged and the stone coping of the buttresses carried away. One side of the structure was completely destroyed.

<East Coker Mills>: Houses were flooded in one case reaching the level of a bed.

BR reports: <Beaminster>: Thunderstorm and lightning and great flood at night. Serious floods also at <Axminster>, <Bridport>, <Closworth>, <Button Bingham>, and <East Coker>.

<Yeovil>: The footbridge near the station was swept away. The <Yeo> and the <Frome> both overflowed.

14 Nov 1894 BR

Chedington (Dorset) 0.70" in 30 m

17 Apr 1895 BR

Taunton 1.70" in 30 m
Halse (Somerset) 1.20 in 90 m
Mere down (Wilts) 0.71" in 45 m

<Halse>: the hailstones were of great size.

<Taunton>. About 2.30 p.m. the storm burst with the fury of a tornado. Hail and rain continued for a little over half-an-hour, the hail covering the ground to the depth of an inch and in places it was washed up against walls and rails to the depth of two feet. In this short time 1.70" of rain and hail fell. Great damage was done to roads and crops, and cottages were flooded. Tons of soil were carried from the fields on to the roads.

24 May 1895 BR

Abbot's Leigh (Bristol) 1.15" in 90 m

26/27 Jun 1895 BR

<Marlborough> 2.71" in 50 m
Mildenhall (Wilts) 0.97" in 30 m

Very Widespread thunderstorms but no flooding info in this area reported in newspapers.

**7 Sep 1895 Taunton
courier 11 Sep,
Southern Times 14 Sep**

<Blandford>: Rain fell in torrents and was accompanied in some places by hail. The storm lasted half an hour and several cattle were killed by lightning.

<Strickland>: Rain fell in torrents and North Street was like a river, the water being several inches deep in the shallowest part. A few houses had the water in and in one it rose to the first step.

15 Jun 1896 Gloucester

Very high temperatures

<Yeovil>: During the thunderstorm the lower parts of the town were flooded. At Preston a mile from

Journal 20 Jun	reported during the previous 2 weeks with deaths from sunstroke- 30C in London	Yeovil a flock of sheep were struck and several killed. <Taunton>: Plate glass was broken, trees were uprooted and tents at the military camp at Thurlbere were blown down.
7 Jul 1896 BR	Devizes (wilts) 0.80" in 30 m	
1 Aug 1896 BR	Warminster 1.75" in 2 h 30 m	
2 Aug 1896 BR	Warminster 0.84" in 30 m	
21 Aug 1896 BR		<Wimborne> Violent thunderstorm with rain so heavy that boats were used in the streets.
8 Sep 1896 St James Gazette 9 Sep		<Poole>: A heavy thunderstorm passed over Poole and Branksome and considerable damage was done to property and shipping. The storm lasted 3 hours and the High Street was flooded, the water entering the hotel and shops to a depth of several feet.
28 Apr 1897 BR	Devizes 0.50" in 20 m	
20 Jul 1897 BR	Warminster (Wilts) 2.75" in 80 m	<Warminster>: A heavy thunderstorm from 2.50 p.m. to 4.10 p.m. The ground was completely flooded for half-a-mile N., E. and S. of the gauge, and about a mile to the W. of it in the direction of <Maiden Bradley> and <Horningsham>. The road passing here was a swift, running stream about a foot deep in the middle, on which hurdles, turnips and other things were floated a distance of fully three-quarters-of-a mile.
24 May 1898 BR	Tintinhull (Somerset) 1.28" in 1 h	
28 Jun 1898 BR	Bishops Cannings (Wilts) 0.75" in 15 m	
23 May 1898, BR, Taunton courier and Western Advertiser 25 May	Lyneham 1.47" in just over 30 mins.	<Taunton>: In a heavy thunderstorm roads in the south of the town were completely flooded
28 Jun 1899 BR	Calne (Wilts) 0.85" in 45 m	<Wimborne Minster>: Large hail stones like broad beans, and much damage was done.
22 Jul 1899 Taunton Courier 26 Jul,	Alderbury (Wilts) 1.17" in 1 h North Cadbury 0.80" in 50 m Dorchester 2.56" in 1 h	<Ilminster>: Roads and many houses were flooded. <Stoke under Ham>: Houses in different parts of the village were flooded and part of the High Street.

**Southern times and
Dorset County Herald
29 Jul**

**23 Jul 1899 BR
14 Aug 1899 Taunton
courier 16 Aug,
Western daily Press 17
Aug, Salisbury Times 18
Aug, Warwick
Advertiser 19 Aug**

Dorchester 2.40" in 3 h

15 Aug 1899 BR

Gillingham (Somerset) 1.60" in
45 m

5 Sep 1899 BR

Christchurch 1.86" in 2 h
Swanage (Dorset) 2.21" in 3 h
30 m

6 Sep 1899 BR

Poole (Dorset) 0.70" in 30 m
and 2.06" in 3 h 15 m
Christchurch (Dorset) 1.30" in
75 m

8 May 1900 BR

<West Lulworth>: the streets were for a time turned into a river. Corn has been laid flat in several places.

<Compton Valence>: There was a flood such as has never been here before in so short a time. Much damage is caused to hilly roads and some fields of swedes were washed clean out of the ground. "" sheep were killed by lightning.

<Dorchester>: On many roads the water stood for a time several inches deep and a large number of houses were flooded. Houses with basements especially suffered. Poultry were drowned. The rain lasted about 3 hours but without wind. At the Waterworks over 2.5 inches of rain were recorded; the greater part of this fell in one hour. At Woolaston House 2.4 inches was measured in 3 hours.

<Bridgwater>: Torrents of rain and hail caused several parts of the town to become flooded. At Churchdown a Gloucester suburb the main street for 50 yards was completely impassable.

<Amesbury>: In less than an hour the streets were like rivers. Many houses were flooded including the Post Office. The water poured down from neighbouring hills carrying mud and sand. Giddings Diary was under several feet of water.

<Wincanton>: The storm was accompanied by hail and ice which fell heavily for 15 to 20 minutes. The pieces varied in form and size and one was measured at 1 1/8 inch in diameter. Most of the pieces were circular and flattish, one side being slightly concave the other convex with a sharpish point in the centre.

<Templecombe> (Somerset): Heavy hail storm, many of **the stones being the size of pigeon's eggs.**

<Christchurch>: Heavy thunderstorm with rain between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.; the ground was so dry that the rain lay like a lake on the lawn and flowed in streams towards the house, none being absorbed.

<Bournemouth>: Severe thunderstorm. Rain fell from 6.30 a.m. to 10.0 a.m., and was heaviest from 8.30 to 9.30 a.m. At 9 a.m. 1.35" was measured, and up to 10 a.m. the fall was 1.75". Roads and basements were flooded, and the lower pleasure gardens submerged. Houses were struck by lightning in Grove Road and Stewart Road.—

<North Cadbury> (Somerset): Severe thunderstorm from 2.45 to 4.45 p.m., during which 0.81" of rain

**12 Jul 1900 West
Somerset free Press 14
Jul**

Cothelstone (Somerset) 0.96"
in 20 m

fell, and more afterwards. The storm came from S.E., over Templecombe, the worst of it passing a mile-and-a-half S. of North Cadbury. Not less than 2.00" of rain and hail fell at <South Cadbury> and <Sutton Mentis>. A stack was fired by L at Weston Bampfield

<Watchet>: A hailstorm of extraordinary violence lasting half an hour passed over the town. So rapidly did it make its appearance that hardly was it possible to make any provision against it. The hailstones were as large as pullet's eggs smashing windows and skylights in all directions. In windows facing the storm hardly a pane remained. In all parts of the town there were broken windows and flooded houses even in elevated parts of the town like Severn terrace. Parsonage farm was flooded to a depth of 15 inches. On the road leading from Watchet to Belmont a large sloping field with a root crop was swept out of existence. At the bottom of the field a wall gave way and the water poured down the roadway towards the town carrying enormous quantities of soil and large stones. The station premises were flooded and the water between the metals was knee deep and thick with soil. The water then flowed into the Undenominational Schoolroom and then into Swain Street leaving a deposit of soil 3 to 6 inches deep.

<Williton>: Hail came down in thick irregular lumps for 15 to 20 minutes. Practically all the stones were the size of small walnuts. Glass was broken everywhere especially greenhouses and skylights but also windows facing the storm. The melting hailstones with heavy rain caused water to run right through many houses. Egremont Hotel was flooded through the rain coming in through broken skylights. One hailstone picked up was 2 ¼ inch in diameter. In some places the ice was a foot deep and all low lying places were flooded.

13 Jul 1901 BR

Calstone (Wilts) 1.12" in 1 h

24 Jul 1901 BR

Rousdon (W of Lyme Regis)
0.60" in 30 m

26 Jul 1901 BR

Marlborough (Wilts) 0.70" in 20
m

27 Jul 1901 BR

Bournemouth 1.81" in 110 m

<Bournemouth> (Kempsey): Three houses, a chapel and a coach-house were struck by lightning. The lower pleasure gardens, portions of Holdenhurst and Wellington Roads, and basements of houses were flooded and considerable damage was done.

29 Jul 1901 BR

Broad Chalke (Wilts) 1.31" in 90
m

5 May 1903 Shepton Mallet Journal 15 May

<Shepton Mallet>: The storm affected mainly the neighbouring villages of <Havyatt>, <West Pennard>, <Baltonsborough> and <Bradley> where considerable damage is reported. the storm which continued for more than an hour was accompanied by a waterspout. The road near West Pennard was flooded to 4 feet and a wall was washed down by the rapidly rising flood at southtown West Pennard.

9 May 1903 BR

Bristol 1.00" in 30 m

28 May 1903 Chard and Ilminster News 13 Jun

Dorchester 1.03" in 1 h
Crewkerne (Somerset) 1.13" in 90 m

<Chard>: Although no reference was found to it in the immediate aftermath, there was a reference to a severe flood during the following event.

9 Jun 1903 Chard and Ilminster News 13 Jun, BR

<Chard>: The rain was almost tropical in its violence and the streets were flooded like rivers, the gutter being insufficient to carry off all the water that rushed down the hill. Roof gutters were choked with hail

16 Jun 1903 Coventry evening telegraph 17 Jun

Widespread persistent rainfall for 3 days was followed in some places by thunderstorms.

<Bath>: A thunderstorm was accompanied by hail the size of marbles. On 16th the River Avon was 10 feet above normal and a great many houses in Dolemeads had several feet of water in them. Tradesmen's cellars in Southgate were also flooded.

17 Jun 1903 BR

Minehead Somerset 1.00" in 20 m

18 Jul 1903 BR

Verwood (Dorset) 1.25" in 30 m
Chipping Sodbury (Gloucs) 1.50" in 45 m

25 Jul 1904 Western Gazette 29 Jul

<Wimborne>: Rain fell in torrents and in a very short time the gutters and gullies were unable to carry off the water and the roadway became a miniature river particularly near the Post Office where the water spread across the pavements.

21 Aug 1904 BR

Bourton (Dorset) 1.02" in 20 m

23 Aug 1904 Chard and Ilminster news 27 Aug

Ilminster (Somerset) 1.10" in 80 m and 1.40" in 2 h

<Ilminster>: In the thunderstorm the hailstones were of an exceptional size and the deluge lasted for 2 hours. Ditton Street presented a river and the houses in the vicinity suffered severely and the water reached a considerable depth. Similar difficulties were experienced in Butts and High Street; those businesses in Silver Street suffered no little inconvenience. At the bottom of the town a huge lake appeared. Much damage was done to the roads especially North street. Extra labour had to be commissioned to take away the debris washed down to the market square and ditton Street from East Street. The storm was quite local and 2 miles from Ilminster no rain fell.

14 Sep 1904 BR

Beaminster (Dorset) 1.05" in 20 m

15 Aug 1905 BR

Bishops Cannings (Wilts) 1.52" in 2 h

13 May 1906 Wells

Radstock Storm rainfall 2.43"

Journal 17 May,

Winscombe 1.35" in 4.5 hours

Shepton Mallet Journal

Frome Hill 1.47" in 4 hours

18 May, Western

The most remarkable feature was the remarkable rise in the flood Everywhere the tale was the same; the water rose with extreme rapidity.

Gazette 18 May, BR

Harptree Court (Somerset)

1.35" in 42 m

Wylve (Wilts) 2.52\2 in 2 h 45 m

Frome Mells 3.00 in 5 h

<Coleford>: Walls were washed away and the following morning the road was strewn with stones and debris. Furniture was washed out of some of the houses and several hives of bees were washed away. A pig and 6 fowls were drowned. Schools were closed because of the mud which had been washed into the buildings. The roadway near the Primitive Methodist church was a roaring torrent; heavy walls were washed down and stones of enormous weight carried several yards. A business at The Grove was flooded. Holes many feet deep were washed in gardens.

<Highbury>: the village escaped with flooded houses in places but a garden wall was washed into the street.

<Holcombe>: there were some flooded houses.

<Wookey>: The pinnacle of the church was struck by lightning and fell through the roof. No one was injured.

<Cheddar>: the storm lasted over 5 hours. The streets were flooded and some houses in lower lying districts. Growing crops on hillsides were much damaged being washed from top to bottom of fields. One cow was killed by lightning.

<Midsomer Norton>: High Street and church Road were so flooded that the congregation had to be carried from church through the water to their homes.

<Radstock>: 160 fowls were drowned and a sow and 10 pigs were washed from their sty and 8 of the latter and a calf drowned. Ladders and wheelbarrows floated down the street along with sleepers from the Somerset and Dorset Railway. Fortescue Road, High Street, Church Street and the Frome Road were under water and in the course of a very few minutes the Great Western Railway Subway which is 8 feet 6 inches deep was filled with water and several inches of water covered the railway metal above the subway. The flood came down the Kilmersdon Valley and 'it is surmised there must have been a cloudburst over this valley'. A tremendous volume of water rushed through Radstock Coal company's workshops and yards down the railway carrying some of the ballast away; officials houses nearby were flooded. Gardens were wiped out and the soil carried away. The Quoit Club Pavilion was smashed up and washed away. The water rushed through Manor Farm into the Victoria

Hall and the Council Offices and the Fortescue College. The bulk of the flood went through Fortescue Road where the first 3 shops suffered severely but further shops had water only in their basements. The basement of the drug store in high Street was also flooded. The water rushed down and over the Great Western railway into the Frome Road and Waterloo Road and on to the Somerset and Dorset railway where it extinguished the fires in some of the engine boxes. The flood played great havoc at both the flour mill and the saw mill

<Chew Magna>: Hailstones of remarkable size fell.

<Winscombe>: A huge volume of water rushed down from the surrounding hills carrying all moveable things before it.

<Congresbury>: The deluge flooded the roads and a number of houses to a depth of 4 inches.

<Mells>: After 6 feet of water collected behind a wall, the wall gave way and water rushed across the roadway destroying 30 feet of the wall surrounding the rectory grounds and entered the stream below and then on to the lower part of the village where almost every house was flooded to a depth from 4 to 7 feet.

<Tisbury>: Rain and hail continued from 3.00 pm to 10.00 and great damage was done to potatoes and seeds; four heifers were killed.

<Amesbury>: There was a sharp storm of hail with stones the size of marbles and the rain flooded the streets.

<Chicks Grove>: The roads were cut up to look like the beds of rivers having holes in them over 4 feet deep, gardens were ruined and in the morning children had to be ferried by cart to school because of water axle deep on the road.

<East Knoyle>: hailstones were as large as marbles. The street near the congregational Chapel was flooded and at the Manse there was 2 feet of water in some of the rooms. Other residents suffered from flood water and mud entering their homes. The water flowed through the Police Station. Potatoes were washed out and other crops ruined.

<Stoford>: Several houses were flooded.

<Wyllye>: Much damage was done to roads and fields, the surface of one field being washed bodily into the high road.

<Frome, Mells>: A fall of 3.00 in 5 hours caused a disastrous flood, the worst since 1808. The

**23 Jun 1906 Western
Times 25 Jun, Taunton
Courier 27 Jun**

Widespread flooding in Devon
and Cornwall
Weymouth 0.54" in 20 minutes.

lightning, which was incessant, struck several trees and set a haystack on fire.

<Frome> (Orchardleigh): A sudden flood, caused by a thunderstorm carried away a bridge and walls between Orchardleigh and Buckland, and drowned many young partridges, pheasants, chickens and ducklings.

<Dorchester>: Low lying parts of the town were flooded in a few minutes the surface drainage being quite unequal to the pressure. Paving stones were lifted several inches by the force of the water. Hotels and shops were flooded and much damage done.

<Weymouth>: the drains were quickly choked and serious flooding ensued. In the Park district, Hardwick, Walpole and Chelmsford Streets in particular the water ran in to the houses and rose to the height of the first step of the stairs. Some of the drains in North Square and St Thomas Street also became blocked and caused flooding. A cow was killed by lightning.

<Chard>: The main street of the town in a short time resembled the bed of a river and the road surface was broken up. At the bottom of East Street large holes were washed out.

<Starcross>: Rain and hail fell usually as large as marbles but some irregular hailstones an inch and a half in width and nearly a quarter inch in thickness also fell. 17 sheep were killed by lightning whilst sheltering under a tree.

<Sidmouth>: In the space of 5 minutes the streets were flooded. Fore Street was turned into a canal the roadway and paths being covered with water.

<Portland>: A deluge of rain poured down for about an hour choking all the drains and flooding houses in Chelsil and the southern side of Easton Square. Some houses had 2 feet of water and mud in them. There were several bursts in the drains and the water main broke in Clements Lane. Big hailstones accompanied the rain some of them being as large as 5 shilling pieces. In Easton Square the Jubilee Hall was flooded and the Crown Farm. The hailstones broke a large number of windows including St John's School.

<Frome>: The hills leading to the Market Place resembled rivers. Many of the sewers became choked and water made its way into houses

<Bath>: Roads and houses were inundated and walls washed down while tons of road material were swilled down steep lanes on the hillsides. Several drains burst under the pressure. At Lambridge the road was submerged to a considerable depth and water lay on the Horse Show field.

**21 Jul 1907 Morning
post 23 Jul, Bath
Chronicle 25 Jul, BR**

Bath 2.60" in 3 hours
Bath 2.49 in 70 m and 2.90" in
3 h
Pewsey (Wilts) 1.72" in 3 h

Market Lavington (Wilts) 2.55" in 3 h 45 m

Basements in many cases were inundated. In a number of houses in Newbridge Street the water rose to a height of nearly 18 inches. In many cases water rushed through houses on slopes. At Fairfield potatoes were washed out of gardens and strewn on the road.

<Warminster> and <Westbury>: A thunderstorm lasted 4 hours and houses were flooded by the torrential downpour.

22 Jul 1907 BR

Quantoxhead (Somerset) 1.54" in 90 m

**21 Oct 1908
Philip Eden Great
British Weather
Disasters 2008, BR**

Persistent rainfall; not a flash flood
Portland 2.28" in 2 h and 6.50" in 5 h
Upwey 1.65" in 2 h
Weymouth 3.40" in 3 h and 4.00" in 4 h

At Portland Dorset 165 mm fell in 5 hours and Weymouth had over 100 mm This was in a 4 day period when 238 mm fell at Portland where serious flooding occurred.

**10 Jul 1909 Western
chronicle 16 Jul**

<Ilchester>: In a heavy thunderstorm the rain flooded several houses and did great damage to crops.

22 May 1910 BR

Holford (Somerset) 1.65" in 2 h

5/6 Jun 1910 BR

Salisbury 2.00" in 70 m

10 Jun 1910 East Anglia

Bath 1.5" rain

**Daily Times 11 Jun,
Philip Eden Great
British Weather
Disasters 2008**

<Bristol>: A heavy downpour of rain flooded small areas to a depth of 2 or 3 feet.

<Salisbury>: Many shops and houses were flooded in Salisbury when the sewers were found to be inadequate; Fisherton Street, Castle Street, Exeter Street and the spacious Market Square soon had the appearance of lakes.

2 Jul 1910 BR

<Broadstone> (Dorset): Rain and hail fell so heavily that drains and gardens became flooded in 5 minutes. After lasting nearly 20 minutes the storm passed to S.E.

**14 Aug 1910 West
Somerset**

<Williton>: The effects of the torrential rain were felt on all hands. A turnip filed was washed with its soil over a hedge and ditch into a large lower garden and into the house. A raingauge measured 1.67" mostly in 1 hour. In Bridge Street several cottages were flooded and In High Street most of the houses were flooded including the Wyndham Arms. The flood ran like a mill race down Tower Hill. Most of the houses in Robert street were flooded along with some houses in Fore Street. In Long street also many residents suffered flooding. Roads were covered with soil from adjoining fields.

21 Jul 1911 BR

Corsley (Wilts) 0.99" in 45 m
East Harptree (Somerset) 2.23"
in 66 m

26 Jul 1911 BR

Nordrach on Mendip 1.74" in
75 m

21 Aug 1911 BR

Collingbourne (Wilts) 2.00 in 2
h

31 Aug 1911 BR

Cholderton 1.29" in 1 h
Stratford sub Castle (Wilts)
2.01" in 90 m

13 Oct 1911 BR

Whitminster (Gloucs) 1.20" in 1
h

16 Aug 1913 BR

Bishops Cannings 1.77" in 2 h

**14 Jun 1914 Western
chronicle 19 Jun, BR**

Yeovil 2.27" in 100 m

1 Jul 2014

**Gloucestershire Echo 2
Jul,**

Widespread storm but most
damage from lightning.

<Sampford Brett>: The village street was badly washed with flood water from the adjacent high ground and several cottages were flooded. Some larger houses were also inundated.

<Watchet>: Some houses were flooded. Sections of the roads were badly washed owing to the culverts being choked.

<Stogumber>: Flooding caused inconvenience to several householders especially those at the foot of high ground. Extensive damage was done to root crops and much soil was washed from the fields.

<Dulverton>: several houses were flooded.

<Stoke sub Hamdon>: Rain was accompanied by very large hailstones and the streets had the appearance of rivers. A part of High Street was flooded and many houses in all parts of the village were swamped and much damage done to furniture. Residents in High Street, North Street and Castle Street endured floods which swept through their houses. The road leading to Martock was completely submerged. Footland Mead was under water for some hours and people could not leave their homes.

<Bristol>: A great wind first caused a dust storm and all traffic was stopped by the grit. Then in about half an hour 1 1/3 inches of rain fell. Half a mile of shops between the archway at Cheltenham road and Sommerville road was flooded. In Detland Road the water rose to about 3 feet and the wooden paving was thrown up. At the headquarters of the Fire brigade the men's homes in Silver Street were flooded. In the railway cutting between Clifton and Redland the flood rose to 3 feet and poured like a waterfall over the embankment. The Chapter House and Robing Room of Bristol

27 Jun 1915 BR

**4 Jul 1915 Philip Eden
Great British Weather
Disasters 2008, Webb
et al 2001, Western
daily Press 5 Jul, Wells
Journal 9 Jul, Shepton
Mallett Journal 9 Jul,
BR**

Codford St Mary (Wilts) 1.51”
in 70 m

There were two destructive
storms, both in Devon; around
Combe Martin (H6, 60 mm
diameter hail observed) and in
the Exe valley north of Exeter.
Another severe storm tracked
from Gwent across to
Worcester and also caused
extensive damage. (Symon's
Meteorol Mag 1915), (British
Rainfall 1915).

Hailstones 4-5 cm in diameter
(140 mm circumference) were
reported from Shipham in
Somerset

Flax Bourton (5 m SW Bristol)
1.14” in 25 m

Clifton 1.07” in 30 m

Cathedral where the enthronement of the new bishop was proceeding. Queen's road Clifton became a rushing river

<<Chew>> valley, N Somerset: Webb reports hail smashed windows and violent winds uprooted trees. On the Gloucester Wiltshire border **50 mm diameter hailstones split bark pierced metal roofing and twisted lead window frames.**

<Bristol>: The thunderstorm was accompanied by hailstones as large as marbles which broke glass. In many parts of the city the streets were flooded and water made its way into the houses with much damage done to glasshouses, skylights and windows. (There has been no such rain since 1 July last year when ¾ inch fell in 20 minutes). Another report says the **hailstones were up to 1 ¼ inch in diameter**. Cheltenham Road between the railway arches and Zetland Road was flooded including many shops and the flood was swelled by flow from Cotham Brow. Stapleton road in the vicinity of the Black Swan suffered similarly. Frogmore street was flooded to a depth of 1 foot and floods in Chaplin and Mina Road and Silver Street were also reported. White Ladies road from Tyndall Park Road to the Colonial Institute was flooded to a depth of several inches. A shop at the top of Park Street was flooded.

<Clifton>: In Polygon road the gratings were incapable of carrying the flow coming down from a higher level and soon the road was flooded to more than a foot. Houses below the Polygon Road suffered from flooding.

<Kingswood>: Much glass was destroyed by the hailstones including at several churches.

<Weston super Mare>: **In the thunderstorm hailstones fell which were 3 inches in circumference.**

Drains were choked in a few minutes. Gardens were much damaged.

<Long Ashton>: Much damage has been done to the fruit trees by the hailstones. In the village the roadway was completely torn up and others strewn with stones and debris. The roadway between the church and the schools was impassable. Many houses were flooded, damaging carpets and furniture.

<Highbridge>: The storm was characterised by a very strong wind rather than rain or hail. Also at <Axbridge>.

<Blagdon>: Nearly every pane that faced the storm was broken. All the windows on the west side of the church received damage. Hailstones considerably over an inch in diameter fell (the size of walnuts). Young pheasants were killed by the score.

<Axbridge>: The hailstones were as large as hen's eggs. Trees were blown down.

<Wrington>: With a strong wind blowing from the northwest and hailstones the size of an ordinary walnut nearly all the windows in the cottages from Bakers Buildings to the end of Station Road were smashed. Most of the villagers had water in their houses. In Broad Street the water reached three quarters of the way across the road.

<Shipham>: Some of the hailstones were lumps of ice 5 ½ inches round. Trees were blown down and glass smashed.

<Winscombe>: The hailstones were as large as hen's eggs and windows and conservatories were smashed.

<Chew Valley>: There was a violent windstorm which unroofed houses, blew down trees or beheaded the trees. A torrential deluge of rain and large hailstones followed; glass houses were riddled. No flooding was reported.

<Poole Keynes> (S Cotswolds) Lead window frames were twisted and windows were pierced like bullets.

<Malmesbury> (Wilts): Plaster was knocked off house walls and metal roofing was pierced.

BR reports: The districts most severely visited by hail were in the neighbourhoods of Barnstaple, Bristol, Abergavenny, Ledbury, Malvern and Woodstock, and in all these places serious loss was caused. At Hampton Poyle, near Woodstock, [See Thames chronology].among other damage, the church windows were broken,

12 Aug 1915 BR

Shrewton (Wilts) 0.80" in 20 m

17 Aug 1915 BR

Yeovil 0.75" in 30 m

28 Jun 1917 BR

Very high daily rainfall but not a flash flood.
BR provides a long list of severe daily rainfalls with 21 in Wiltshire over 4", 2 in Hampshire, and 36 in Somerset

Very severe rainstorm across the south of England with total daily rainfall at Bruton 9.56 and 8.48 inches in Somerset. The storm lasted from before forenoon on 28th to about noon on 29th though little on 29th rainday. For the central period of 2 hours rain was falling at 1" per hour. The storm was accompanied by thunderstorms but they did not play a prominent part. Destructive floods occurred in Bruton and Gillingham.

15 Jul 1917 BR	North Cadbury 1.50" in 45 m
20 Jul 1918 BR	Shrewton (Wilts) 1.59" in 1 h
5 Sep 1918 BR	Kilminster (E Devon) 1.00" in 20 m
	Corsley (Wilts) 1.23" in 50 m
9 Apr 1920 BR	Calne (Wilts) 1.78" in 3 h 15 m
15 Oct 1920 BR	Bournemouth 1.17" in 30 m
3 Jul 1920 BR	Horningsham (Wilts) 2.50" in c 2 h
	Kilminster 1.75 in 105 m
19 May 1924	
Gloucestershire Echo	
20 May, BR	
31 May 1924 BR	Sherborne Castle (Dorset) 1.44" in 1 h
	N Cadbury (Somerset) 2.18 in 2 h
	Crewkerne (Somerset) 1.38" in 2 h
18/19 Aug 1924 Philip Eden Great British Weather Disasters 2008 Western Gazette 22 Aug, Wells Journal 22 Aug, BR	Bridgewater 2.5" in 24 hrs
Glasspole J BR 1924) The unprecedented rainfall at Cannington August 18th 1924	After 20h. there were a few heavy showers and thunder was heard in the west. By 2h. it commenced to rain very heavily. The observer describes the rain as falling in solid sheets as if being emptied from buckets" Two or three distinct thunderstorms followed each other in quick succession. Heavy rain ceased by 06.30. to be followed by steady rain until about 22.00. The rain was accompanied by hail mainly in

<Bridgewater>: A jagged hailstone measured 2 and 36 in Somerset and a quarter inches by two inches and nearly half an inch thick. At <North Petherton>, near Bridgewater, there was a remarkable hailstorm which did considerable damage (see Meteorological Magazine, June, 1924, p. 104)

<Simonsbath>: As storm broke over Acklands common on the border of Exmoor. The water rose with such rapidity that gates and even trees were uprooted and carried away by its force.

<Cannington>: BR reports: In the Cannington storm which occurred in the early morning on August 19th we have no estimate of the intensity for any period less than 4 ½ hours. Dr. J. Glasspoole adopts the "conservative estimate" of 8" in 5 hours. As we reckon 1 ¾" in a single hour "remarkable" it was hardly to be expected that such an average rate would ever be maintained for as long as 5 hours. Localised downpour occurred west of <Bridgewater> in Somerset with 239 mm at Cannington, most of it falling in 5 hours.

<Bridgewater>: Streets and low lying houses in <Bridgewater> were flooded.

<Wells>: :In a severe thunderstorm the moorland around Wells is under water and in some places invaded roadways.

<Bristol>: Parts of the city are under water due to the heavy rainfall in the last few days – mainly from persistent rainfall. Large tracts of land are under water to a depth of 6 feet and cottages and

the early part of the storm and some hail seems to have fallen over the whole area of exceptional precipitation. At Brymore House it is estimated that 3 to 4 inches of hail lay on the ground in the early morning and other estimates in the neighbourhood vary from 3 to 6 inches. Much damage was done to plants and trees, especially to their north-west sites. The hail stones appear not to have been as large as they are sometimes, and no glass was broken.

houses have water up to the first floor. A boy aged 8 was drowned at <Stapleton>.

Glasspole notes: One of the outstanding features was the small area involved. More than 4 inches occurred in the one rainfall day over an area of less than 13 square miles. The region of exceptional fall was confined to a small area to the east of the Quantock Hills, stretching from Bridgwater to the coast. Heavy rain also fell to the east of the River Parrett on the Polden Hills.

<Cannington>: Much damage was done in the district to the roads. In many places the roads, being below the level of the surrounding fields, became torrents and the banks were cut into so that many collapsed. The Engineer to the Bridgwater Rural District Council estimated that 2,000 tons of earth banks had to be removed from the roads in Cannington to Stogursey area. Similar denudation was produced by the streams in their natural courses but this is more difficult to estimate. The surface of the roads was impaired, the gravel and small stones being washed away. In the Polden Hill area the steepness of the land enhanced the damage, a large amount of earth falling in when the steep banks were undercut by the rushing water. This was the case at Knowle. The area of heavy rain was drained by three main streams :— (1)<< Cannington Brook>> flowing into the River <<Parrett>>; (2) a stream entering the River Parrett further north at Combwich, and (3) <<Stogursey stream>> draining direct to the sea. The inhabitants of the one storey lodge of the Brymore Estate, were compelled to pull a table on the bed and remain on top of it for two hours until the water subsided. In Cannington practically all the houses were flooded. In the Blue Anchor Inn, 20 yards from the brook, the flood mark 2 ft. 4 in. above the ground was plainly visible. The landlord had 13 young pigs and many head of poultry drowned. He refers to the water coming down like a big wave, and very quickly reaching up to his knees. This was no doubt resultant on the breaking down of the wall by the Brymore Estate and subsequent release of a considerable depth of water.

<Fiddington>: Two cottages, built of cobblestones, were partly washed away by the swollen stream, the inhabitants being rescued from the window of the upper storey. Further on the stream usually flows under the road but in flood a wall 3 feet high was submerged and the Rector's house and garden flooded. Here two wheelbarrows were carried over hedges. At Fiddington, also, two interesting examples were noticed of the change of course in the stream occasioned by the abnormal rainfall.

<Combwich>: The village was flooded, the water running over the top of the bridge. The brook rose

no less than 6 feet within 20 minutes. The state of the roads and banks from Cannington to Comwich left no doubt that less rain fell in that area than to the west and that there was less rain at Comwich than at Cannington. Photographs in BR (Glasspole) show damage at Edbrook Farm <Stogursey>: At Stogursey Mill-house the floods are described as the most serious for 35 years. Then the water rose 10 inches higher than on the present occasion after heavy snow followed by rain. Much damage was done in this area but less than in the other two drainage areas.

7 Sep 1924 BR

Abbotsbury (Dorset) 1.62" in 1 h

2 Jul 1925 BR

Lyme Regis 1.00" in 1 h
Portishead (Somerset) 0.90" in 25 m

<Portishead>: the thunderstorm followed a drought which lasted over 30 days.

19/20 Aug 1925 BR

Blagdon (Somerset) 1.80" in 1 h
Winscombe (Somerset) 1.37" in 75 m

4 Apr 1926 BR

N Cadbury (somerset) 1.80" in 150 m

A secondary deptreeion caused local thunderstorms.

23 May 1926 Western

Daily Mail 24 May

Bournemouth 1.52" in 1h 35 m

<Bristol>: The suddenness and fierceness of the storm choked the drains in many places. In 35 minutes 1.52 inches of rain fell and the temperature dropped from 69F to 54F. The most seriously affected area was between Cheltenham Road Arches and Zetland Road where the water rose to the base of shop windows and there was 2 feet of water in some of the shops. The basements were flooded out and much stock damaged. Traffic was held up and at the end of the storm the road was covered with mud. Shops in Bishop road had flooded basements. An electricity sub-station was flooded. At Stapleton Road between Robertson Road and St Mark's Road similar flooding occurred. From the Black Swan to the White Swan at Eastville the water was very deep and cars were stuck in the middle. Near Station road the wood blocks were washed up and floating about. So quickly did the water rise that two girls were cut off and marooned on a high window ledge and were rescued by a wader. The Black Swan Hotel was badly flooded and considerable damage was done to shop windows and premises along Stapleton road. In Chaplin Road Easton, in spite of the construction of a new culvert there was a repetition of earlier flooding there; the road and pavement was covered to

17/18 Jul 1926 Philip Eden Great British Weather Disasters 2008 Hull Daily Mail 19 Jul, Webb et al 2009, The Scotsman 19 Jul, Western Daily Press 19 Jul, Western Gazette 23 Jul, Central Somerset gazette 23 Jul, Bath Chronicle 24 Jul, Western Gazette 13 Aug

The storm travelled from Lyme Regis to the Mendips near Wells. At Lyme Regis it began at 10 pm on 17th and reached the Mendips at 6 am on 18th passing Beaminster, Crewkerne, Langport, Glastonbury and Wells but only slightly affecting Shelborne, Wincanton and Bruton. The total was well over 3" at Glastonbury and Wells. Chedington: 2.82" Crewkerne: 2.46" White Lackington: 2.31" Broadwindsor 2.35" Lyme regis 3.86" 17th Shepton mallet 1.40" in 90 m High Littleton (Somerset) 2.99" in 2 h Litton (Somerset) 1.47" in 2 h Sherborne resvr 1.47" in 2 h followed bt 1.26" in 1 h

a depth of 18 inches. At the Melville road end of Hampton Road, Redland the road was forced up. Hail also fell but was of small size.

Thunderstorms affected the south coast of Dorset, Devon Somerset as well as Wales. Flash flooding affected Lyme Regis, Seaton, Sidmouth, Axminster, Woolacombe, Wells. Two houses were burnt down near Lyme Regis and houses were flooded in all the surrounding villages. A hole was torn in the main street. Numerous cattle were killed. Hailstones weighing an ounce were reported at Seaton Devon. At Beer near Seaton walls were washed down and tons of earth were carried into houses. <Lyme Regis>: Torrential rain and hail smashed windows and burst several sewers. Broad Street was turned into a raging torrent and businesses and houses were flooded. In all parts of the town furniture was floating about. The storm continued for 6 hours. Two houses were burnt down three miles from Lyme Regis and numerous cattle were killed.

<Seaton>: Hailstones weighing one ounce fell and some measured 1 ¼ inches long and ¾ inches wide breaking many windows. Rain measured 1.78 inches in 6 hours. Many townspeople were washed out and the floods reached 4 feet in depth. Business premises suffered much.

<Beer>: Walls were washed down and tons of earth were carried into houses.

<Wells>: Damage to the extent of several thousand pounds has been done to roads in the district by the floods. The drains were unable to carry off the flood water and Sadler Street, Portway, Tor Street and other streets were quickly flooded in some cases to a depth of 3 feet. In Tor Street a car was lifted by the flood and carried into the wall of the Palace Gardens. The Bishop's palace and the Deanery were both flooded. On constitution Hill great breaches were made in the bank on the east side of the road and the debris blocked the road. Dulcote Hill sent a quota down towards the old White Horse. On the old Bristol Road great trenches were cut in the road. Many cellars and underground kitchens were flooded. Flooding also occurred by choking of house gutters and downpipes by hailstones in some cases causing penetration of roofs.

<Mendip>: In this area hailstones of extraordinary size fell or lumps of ice as big as pigeon's eggs. One measured at Oakhill brewery was 1 ½ by 1 by ¾ inch

<Stratton on the Fosse>: Extensive damage was done to gardens by hailstones especially at Downside Abbey where glass was much damaged. Hailstones beat beans and peas out of their pods.

<Gurney Slade>: The hailstones were very large and the street and many houses were flooded. Horses and cattle were killed by lightning.

<Taunton>: Hundred of panes of glass were broken. Many of the hailstones weighed from 2 to 3 ounces and some were an inch in length. A duck was struck on the head by a hailstone and killed.

<Weston>: In Lower Weston the road was flooded from Park Lane to Locksbrook, the drains being

11 Jul 1927
Gloucestershire Echo
12 Jul, Western daily
Press 12 Jul, Taunton
courier 13 Jul, BR

Tyndall's Park: 1.49". the storm lasted from 13.45 to 16.00 but was most severe for an hour. Temperature fell from 77F to 61F during the storm
Stogursey (Somerset) 1.01" in 15 m
Bristol 1.55" in 35 m
Hinton Blewitt (Somerset) 1.77" in 35 m
Blagdon (Somerset) 1.88" in 40 m
Wookey (Somerset) 1.61 in 70 m
Marlborough (Wilts) 2.38 in 2 h
Marlborough (2) 2.39" in 2 h 30 m

totally inadequate to carry off the flow. Outside the Co-op stores the water reached almost to the door. In some of the houses in Lower Weston water came in at the back and out the front while in one house in Audley road the water was 18 inches deep and in Tennyson Road it ran into the backs.
<Timsbury>: Large elm trees were uprooted by the wind. Water invaded a number of houses and carried away poultry from a farm.

<Chard>: At Combe' St. Nicholas Vicarage, near Chard, a severe thunderstorm raged from 2 h to 10 h on the 18th. The gauge was empty at the beginning of the storm and at 9 h. registered 1.50" and at 10 h a further 1.53 inch. The observer suggests that owing to hailstones bouncing out of the gauge the true precipitation was in excess of these amounts. Some of the hailstones measured 3 by 3 ½ inches.

<Membury> (near Axminster): Practically all the measured fall of 2.79 inches is reported to have fallen between 6 h. and 9 h on the 19th, including 0.95 inch between 8 h. and 9 h. At another station a mile away, the time given for the measured fall of 2.76 inches is 0 h to 9 h 10m., including 0.99 inch from 8 h. to 9 h 10 m. The intense rain was confined to the district within a radius of 10 miles.

<Bristol>: The storm was said to be the most severe for several years and the streets were converted into running streams with the drains and culverts getting blocked there was much flooding in low lying parts of the city. [no details given in GE]. The storm did not reach further than the Berkeley district and there was no rain through Gloucester to Cheltenham. In the Broadmead area at the lower end of Union Street the water was so deep that the tramcar service was held up. Parts of Eastville especially in the neighbourhood of the Rover's ground were under water and the Black Swan was flooded. Gardens and houses in Hampton Park, Hampton road and other parts of Redland were flooded and volumes of water broke through on to the railway. Flooding also occurred at Thomson Road and Felix road Easton. In King William's Court, Old Broad Street, St Phillip's four houses in the court were flooded. Several parts of Bedminster and Ashton Gate were flooded with houses flooded in Raleigh road, Lombard Street and Catherine Mead Street amongst others. A water main on White ladies road burst and the water reached considerable depth near Victoria Rooms and ran across the open space leading to Queen's Road. The basement of the City Museum was flooded.
<Chippenham>: Rain fell in torrents for half an hour and the streets became flooded and several prominent shops were inundated. The Rural District Council offices were flooded to a depth of 5 feet.

<Chew Valley>: Hailstones of phenomenal size fell riddling vegetables and stripping fruit and leaves off trees. Most roads were flooded.

<North Petherton>: The streets were soon flooded especially in the low lying part of High Street.

**5 May 1928 Western
Daily Press 7 May, BR**

Bristol: temperature fell from
70F to 58F.

13 Jun 1930 BR

Westbury (Wilts) 1.03" in 45 m
East Stour (Dorset) 2.65 in 2 h
Devizes (Wilts) 1.38 in 2 h

**6 Aug 1930 Philip Eden
Great British Weather
Disasters 2008**

**27 May 1931 Philip
Eden Great British
Weather Disasters**

**2008 Sheffield
independent 28 May
Hull Daily May 29 May,
BR**

Thunderstorms across western
England affecting Devon,
Somerset, Glamorgan and
Monmouthshire. Daily rainfall
was 114 mm at Penarth, 113
mm at Cardiff, 108 mm at
Abergavenny and 100 mm at
Bampton in Devon (See SW
chronology).

Water collect to a depth of 3 feet in the cellar of the George Hotel. Tables and chairs were floating about in cottages and material from Ashill Corner was washed as far as High Street. Towards <Broomfield > a whole field of mangolds was washed out of the ground and the floors of omnibuses were awash.

<Chipstable>: the thunderstorm lasted an hour and accompanied by **hail over an inch in diameter** which pierced some slate roofs. The fields were soon covered with hail some inches thick.

<Bridgwater>: Flooding held up traffic in lower parts of the town. Hailstones as big as pigeon's eggs were reported.

<Lyme Regis>: Hundreds of tons of shingle are reported to have been torn from the roads and washed into the sea, while large hailstones did considerable damage to glass roofs. Here the rainfall amounted to about 3 ½ inches.

<Axminster>: Thunder was continuous from 10 p.m. on 17th July to 11 a.m. on the 18th. The rainfall amounted to about 2 ½ inches, causing great floods which swept away fields of mown hay and other crops.

<Bristol>: the downpour was so sudden that in many places the water could not run away quickly enough and basements of houses and shops became flooded. Hail assisted in blocking the gratings.

<Market Lavington> (north of Salis bury Plain): 1.78 inches fell in about two hours. It is noted that rain poured down the hill, and one street and many houses were flooded and in the allotments potatoes were washed out of the ground.

<Westbury>: The intense rain fell and was accompanied by hail; severe flooding occurred in parts of the town.

Thunderstorms notably in Somerset where 111 mm fell at Cheddar.

<Watchet> (Somerset): Large hail was widely reported with stones of 4 cm diameter at Watchet in Somerset. The thunderstorm raged from 18.30 to 22.30. A great deal of damage was sustained through huge hailstones, which fell for about 20 minutes about 21.00. Many of the stones were mere slabs of ice, ranging between 1 to 1 ½ inches thick, and besides damaging crops, many windows were broken. The wind was from the south-east and of a velocity of about 5 m.p.h. at the beginning and during the storm. At 21.00 it veered to south-west, 5 m.p.h

**5 Jun 1931 Exeter and
Plymouth Gazette 6
Jun**

**14 Jun 1931 Western
daily Press 15 Jun,
Taunton courier 19 Jun
7 Jul 1931 BR**

13 Jul 1931 BR

**4/5 Aug 1931 Philip
Eden Great British
Weather Disasters**

**2008 Yorkshire Post 6
Aug, BR**

**1 May 1932 Eden
(2008), Bath Chronicle
7 May, BR**

Bristol 0.82" in 1 hour

Abbotsbury (Dorset) 1.20" in 35
m

Kilmington (Wilts) 1.00 in 30 m

Steeple Langford (Wilts): 114
mm in 135 minutes

Salisbury 1.40 in 25 m

Puddletown (Dorset) 1.93 in 75
m

Woodford (Wilts) 2.17" in 90 m

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.

Bath: Warmest day of the year
before storm.

Chiseldon (Wilts) 1.13 in 1 h

<Axminster>: Many houses were flooded in the lower part of the town to the extent that furniture was floating up to a depth of 3 to 4 feet.

<Salisbury>: On Salisbury Plain **hailstones fell and inch and a half in diameter.**

<Wedmore>: The water was 4 or 5 feet deep in the Guildhall and in Tucker's Garage in the west end. The storm extended to <Alleton>, <Draycott> and <Rodney Stoke>.

<Bradford> nr <Wimborne>: A house was severely damaged by lightning.

<Bath>: The southwestern slopes of the city were subjected to an amazing cloudburst. Many streets were quickly converted into torrents and numbers of houses were flooded. Oldfield Park Cinema was flooded and serious damage was done to Moorfields brickyard. Two thirds of the city escaped the cloudburst. Upper Weston, Southdown, Twerton and Oldfield park caught the full force of the storm. Houses were swiftly invaded by the flood which left a deposit of mud. Hailstones as large as peas fell. some of the worst flooding occurred in the Oldfield Park area immediately below the southern slopes of the city. The water came down the hills in amazing volume making new watercourses. A stream from the Moorfields playing fields burst through the allotments nearby washing a course a foot deep through some of the plots. The water rushed down either side of Southdown Road gradually spreading out to almost meet in the middle; manhole covers were forced up. Many cars were stranded at Newton with their engines flooded. Oldfield Park cinema was flooded from storm water from West Avenue. The main Bristol road was flooded in several places to 18" to 2 feet. The road flooding was at its worst between Corston Lane and the bottom of Saltford Hill and also between Keynsham and Brislington House where the road dips. Houses were flooded in Oldfield Park down to those on Resebury Road. Lyndhurst Road was badly affected just below the

Cooperative Stores. One resident noted that it was the worst for 38 years. Severe damage was caused at Victoria Park and the Tile Company. Tons of stone and rubble collected at the bottom of every road leading from Rush Hill. The water from the hills poured through some houses on the upper side of Englishcombe Lane. The road bridge at Padleigh Bottom was damaged with part of the parapet washed away and water over the road. The Grove Tavern at Englishcombe came in for a heavy rush of the flood. The valley at Pennyquick bridge was like an inland sea. Newton Mill Farm was marooned. Daily rainfall at Henrietta Park was 1.16" but was spatially variable. The <<River Avon>> reached a level of 14feet 6 inches exceeding that in December 1929 by 18" and only 3 inches below that of the great flood in 1925; this was on the measuring pole opposite the Institution gardens and then from the gauge at the Old Bridge when the pole was overtopped. At Bradford the Avon rose 3 feet 3 inches in 3 hours. At Limpley Stoke the Avon was 3 or 4 times wider than normal. On 2nd the water extended from the western end of the new riverside bus station near the Old Bridge all along the Lower Bristol Road and past St James Cemetery. It extended up Midland bridge Road past Small's workshops (which were flooded). In the middle of Lower Bristol Road the water was thigh deep. At the Windsor castle the water invaded the back of his premises and the water encroached on the Bath Gas Company where coal stacks were surrounded by water. The lower Weston entrance to Locksbrook Road was under water for a distance of 50 yards. The Dolphin Inn was marooned and the flood extended along the bottom of Avondale road. Traffic generally was much dislocated, by bus tram or car. Milk street was completely covered except for a yard at the end and a punt was used for transport. In James Street West the water was lapping against the walls of Holy Trinity church and beyond Midland Station the water was right across the road for 50 yards. The flood was quite deep in Little Corn Street with water flowing in from Back Street and the Ambury. The water came about 50 yards up Avon Street. Spring Gardens and the greater portion of ferry lane were inundated. In Dolemeads furniture was moved upstairs with water downstairs 2 feet deep. A photo in BC shows Southgate Street flooded right up to St James Church in October 1894 which was higher than this flood.

<Chippenham>: Although Chippenham itself escaped the worst of the storm, heavy rain on the hills caused floods first in Calne and later in Chippenham, the main Bath and Swindon roads were flooded, and in the lower end of the town water reached a depth of 4 feet in business premises, a

number of which were obliged to close temporarily.

23 Jun 1932 BR

Stalbridge (Dorset) 1.08 in 35 m

21 Jun 1933 BR

Temple combe Rectory 2.75" in 45 m

Horsington Marsh (Somerset) 1.63" in 80 m

26 Sep 1933 BR

Chippenham (Wilts) 4.31 in 2 h
Street (Somerset) 0.50" in 15 m

12 Jul 1934 BR

Trowbridge (Wilts) 1.15 in 1 h

22 Jul 1934 BR

Iwerne Minster (Dorset) 1.45 in 1 h

15 Sep 1934 Wiltshire Times 22 Sep, BR

Trowbridge (Wilts) 1.25" in 10 m

<Trowbridge>: Over an inch and a quarter of rain fell in 20 minutes and was accompanied by heavy hail and a half-gale. Within a few minutes the gulleys were overcharged and water flowed into and through houses. Some houses notably those in the lower part of the town near the river were flooded with water and mud to a depth of 2 feet before the inhabitants could take measures to remove their carpets and furniture. Quite a few ceilings collapsed. Whole streets were flooded that were never known to flood before, such as Stallard Street near Trinity church, Wingfield road, Roundstone Street. The basements of several shops were flooded. Hailstones accumulated to a foot depth in front of the Town Hall. IN total 1.88" fell in the afternoon. The storm was local and neighbouring areas suffering from water shortages due to a drought were not alleviated. The Surveyor to the U.D.C. reports that rain commenced at 14.30, changed to hailstones the size of ordinary marbles (a few were the size of pigeon's eggs), and was subsequently followed by the heavy deluge ; by 14.40 1.25 inches had fallen. Another storm began sometime after 15.00. The rainfall was again measured at 16.15 when an additional 0.52 inch was recorded.

16 Jun 1935 Shepton Mallet Journal 21 Jun

<Castle Cary>: Torrential rain fell and in the south part of the town water rushed over an 8 foot wall into allotments and carried away vegetables and poured into the centre of town. Another miniature torrent flowed along Fore Street and the two streams met and flooded the lower rooms of dozens of houses. The water was 3 feet deep in the Britannia Hotel, leaving a covering of potatoes mangolds and carrots mixed with mud.

25 Jun 1935 Eden (2008) The Guardian 23

A large part of southern Britain was affected by intense rain with thunder and lightning.

<Keynsham>: Hailstones as large as peas fell and the rain soon caused the streets to become small rivers. The almshouses on the Bristol Road again suffered with flooding.

Jun 1993 (Bob Prichard), Western Daily Press 26 Jun, Central Somerset Gazette 28 Jun, BR

Swainswick Somerset recorded 153 mm in less than 4 hours.
Bath: Between 3 and 7 pm 3.6" fell.
Trowbridge (Wilts) 0.94" in 29 m
Melksham (Wilts) 2.50 in 1 h
Bishops Cannings 1.70 in 1 h
Seend (Wilts) 2.85 in 105 m
Amesbury (Wilts) 1.00 in 54 m

<Coleford>(Gloucs): Over an inch of rain fell in just over half an hour. Lightning ripped fissures in the street.

<Bath>: Water ran like a torrent across some of the principal streets and children had to be rescued from a flooded school at Batheaston; the children had to scramble on to desks. Hundreds of homes and businesses were flooded in <Bath>. Box tunnel was flooded and railway services were held up for several hours. The River Avon at <Bath> rose 6 feet in 4.5 hours. On the path to Melksham road a large elm tree trunk on the road was borne by floodwater described as a tidal bore for a distance of half a mile. A man was killed by lightning. The most noteworthy rains occurred in the neighbourhood of Bath, as much as 5.00 inches being recorded at <Great Chalfield> and 4.94 inches at <Little Chalfield>, between Melksham and Bradford-on-Avon. Most of this rain fell within 3 ½ hours. At the Climatological station at Bath (Henrietta Park) 1.90 inches occurred between 13.00 and 16.30. It is reported that more than 4 inches fell at <Bathford> (to the east of Bath) but that the gauge then overflowed. The Bath Waterworks recorded as much as 4.83 inches at Batheaston Reservoir. At Ashwicke Park, 5 miles to the north-east of Bath, 4-50 inches was' recorded at the Home Farm and the height of the storm was reported as from 13.30 to 16.15. At Swainswick, two miles to the north of Bath, the gauge, which is usually read once a month only, contained 6 in. more after the storm than before. At Oriel Lodge, Lower Swainswick, 3.79 inches was recorded for the 3 hours from 13.15 to 16.15. The damage done by the flood water in this area was extensive and due to the sudden swelling of the usually small streams draining these narrow valleys. The village of <Swainswick> occupies one side of the valley, which lies between the Lansdown and Charmy Down Spurs of the Cotswolds and drains an area some three miles long to the River Avon. All down the valley, fences adjoining the stream were washed away, low-lying gardens and cottages damaged, numerous landslides occurred and in some cases bridges were entirely swept away. At the Manor House, Swainswick the most severe downpour occurred in the valley at any rate during the last 65 years. The River <<Avon>> at Bath is reported to have risen as much as 4 ft. in less than two hours and 6 ft. in 4 ½ hours. The flooding which occurred in the east of Bath was so severe that the Mayor asked for contributions for the relief of the sufferers. The tram service was held up at <Lambridge> to the east of Bath, the bus services were delayed between Bath, Chippenham and Melksham, while trains were delayed both at Melksham Station and Box tunnel owing to the depth of water on the lines.

<Box>: The water rose 9 feet from the canal and washed over the seats in the railway station.

<Chippenham>: Four inches of rain fell and people were paddling about in flooded streets. Platforms and waiting rooms in the railway station were flooded.

<Melksham> (Wilts): The observer reports: " The storm began at 13.30 with a high wind from the

east, at first with quite moderate rain. After a short time the wind dropped, but the rain continued until about 14.15 when it eased off. By 14.30 it then began with torrential rain continued until 15.30. At 16.00 the rain-gauge showed 3 inches and subsequently there was -22 inch. Local damage was far greater than any within living memory. The river <<Avon>>, which flows about half a mile from here, did not overflow its banks but the small streams and ditches did in every direction. The fact that a great deal of hay was lying in the fields contributed largely to the flooding, as it was washed against hedges and gateways and filled culverts and so kept back the water. We are somewhat accustomed to floods in this district, but the notable feature of this storm was that places were flooded that had never been known to have suffered before. Perhaps the most remarkable occurrence was that in which on the Bath-Melksham road, a large elm tree trunk, which had been felled a month or so ago and was lying at the side of the road awaiting removal, was borne on what can best be described as a ' bore ' for a distance of half a mile along the road towards Melksham station, where it finally rammed into a well built wall, demolishing the whole to ground level."

11 Jul 1935 BR

Bath 1.05" in 20 m
Long Ashton (Somerset) 1.54" in 90 m

8 Aug 1935 BR

Amesbury 1.00" in 54m
Somerton (Somerset) 0.79" in 30 m
Ashbrittle (Somerset) 1.70" in 90 m

22 Sep 1935 Western Daily Press 23 Sep, BR

Frampton Cotterell: 1.34"

<Bristol>: Many houses in the Frenchay district were flooded from the <<River From>> with furniture damaged.

<Horfield> (N of Bristol): Tthe measurement of 1.48" in one hour was made at 02.30 and the observer reports: It was impossible to sleep during the storm which was regarded generally as the worst during the period within living memory.

<Weston super mare>: Hail fell like plum stones. The torrential rain flooded many streets.

18 May 1936 BR

Shepton Mallett 1.10" in 20 m

19/20 Jun 1936

Widespread thunderstorms with lightning damage in Southwest

Western Daily Press 20 Jun, Webb (2016)

Cannington: 2.5" in 12 hours
Stogursey (Somerset) 1.00 in 30 m

<Portishead>: A hotel was struck by lightning and then flooded.

<Horfield> (Bristol): 38 mm diameter hail was observed.

29 Jun 1936 BR

Thunderstorms affected many parts of the west country on

<Bristol>: Considerable damage occurred in Bristol, several main thoroughfares becoming muddy

the afternoon of the 29th June. Of the 9 entries for this day as many as four occurred at stations in or near Bristol.
 Clifton 1.95" in 30 m
 Bristol (Hopewell Hill) 1.47" in 75 m (most in 20 m)
 Horfield 1.82" in 4 h; 1.64" in 2 h and 1.56" in 70 m
 Tyndalls Park 2.00" in 40 m
 Trowbridge (Wilts) 1.02" in 60 m

rivers and many wood blocks being forced up in the road.



**30 Jun 1936 Yorkshire
 Post 30 Jun**

**15 Jul 1937
 Gloucestershire Echo
 15 Jul, Western
 Morning News 16 Jul,
 BR (Bristol evening
 Post 15 Jul, Dorset
 Daily Echo 15 Jun)**

There was a belt of heavy rain, exceeding two inches stretching almost continuously from Somersetshire to Lincolnshire.
 West Lambrook (Somerset) 0.55" in 10 m
 Street (Somerset) 1.21" in 25 m
 Street (Hill close) 1.50" in 40 m
 Angersleigh (Somerset) 2.26" in 75 m
 Easton (Dorset) 2.52 in 2 h
 Radstock (somerset): 2.39" in 2 h

<Bristol>: Torrential rain fell for several hours. Miniature waves washed city streets and tore up the road surface in one place on Colston road for 60 yards. Many roads were 2 feet deep in water; shops and offices were flooded and traffic held up. Broadmead and Merchant Street which are over the course of the <<River Frome>> were badly affected with dozens of shops and businesses flooded in a few minutes. Broadmead Post Office was flooded.

<Weymouth>: Streets were turned into raging torrents. Hotels and shops were flooded in about 20 minutes, in one hotel 4 feet deep. BR notes: "The rain which fell continuously from 11.00 to 12.00 flooded the Park district of Weymouth to a depth of two feet in places. Water poured into the houses and Weymouth Fire Brigade was called out to help in coping with the rush of storm water. For the first time since 1910 rowing boats had to be used in this part of the town and holiday visitors had to be rowed to their lodgings for lunch. Practically the whole of the low-lying streets in Weymouth were flooded. The Weymouth Weather Bureau reported that in the two and a half hours from the commencement of the storm, 3 inches of rain had fallen.!"

<Dorchester>: Streets were turned into torrents, houses were flooded and cars marooned. Manholes were burst open and roadways broken up by the flooded drains. Some houses were

Bridgwater2.09 in 2 h

flooded 4 feet deep. The water rose 5 feet under a railway bridge and a bus was stranded.

<Seaton>: Manhole covers were lifted off in several places and a house and bakery in Sidmouth Street were flooded to a depth of 2 feet. Low lying parts of the town were most affected especially Station road. Trevett's Garage was waterlogged and the basements of shops in Marine Place were also flooded with much damage to stock.

<Beer>: Several cottages and houses were flooded and the main street resembled a river.

<Bridgwater>: the storm started at 7am and within a few hours 4 inches of rain had fallen. Streets were flooded, the most serious being North Street and West Street where the water rose to a height of several feet.

<Taunton>: There was 3 feet of water below the railway bridge. On the Wellington road a mile from the town there was flooding to a depth of several inches and the <<River Tone>> overflowed in the <Creech St Michael> and <Ruishton> districts.

<Bristol>: " Three storms struck Bristol: the first broke just before 09.00 and lasted about an hour, during which time many districts were flooded; the second storm broke about an hour later flooding districts where the water had begun to subside ; the third and least severe storm came shortly after 14.00. After the first storm had ceased, the water, which had flooded many houses, began to subside rapidly after an interval of about half an hour. The traffic began to flow again and it seemed that the roads would be clear in a very short time, apart from the mud which covered everything. Then came the second storm and the water was once more rising rapidly to the despair of the inhabitants. A subsidence of about 50 ft. of the banking of the railway line near Clifton Down Station caused several tons of masonry and earth to fall across the line. Lawrence Hill G.W.R. station was flooded up to platform level for some time and several trains were held up. The River Avon rose four inches in half an hour at Netham Lock and the Floating Harbour level went up by four inches in an hour."

<Fiddington> nr <Bridgwater>: 0.77" in 1 hour. No flooding was reported.

<Minehead>: A severe thunderstorm affected west Somerset. Streets were flooded in some cases to a depth of 18 inches and it is feared hundreds of acres of corn are ruined by the deluge.

**30 Aug 1937 Western
Gazette 17 sep
1 Aug 1938
Nottingham Journal 2**

Storm followed the hottest
Bank Holiday in 5 years. (86F)
Deaths from heatstroke

**Aug, Western Daily
Press 2 Aug BR 1938**

reported.
Williton (Catwell) (Somerset)
1.25" in 30 m
Ditcheat (Somerset) 0.80" in 30
m
Winscombe (Somerset) 1.47 in
35 m
Winsford 1.43" in 43 m
Widespread flooding from
intense rainfall in Devon and
Cornwall
Ashbrittle (Somerset) 0.67" in
15 m
Dunster Castle (Somerset)
1.54" in 40 m
Blandford (Dorset) 1.28" in 72
m
Bishops Canning 1.44" in 45 m
Warminster 2.12" in 110 m

**4 Aug 1938 BR (Met
Mag 1938 195-202)**

9 Aug 1938 BR

12 Aug 1938 BR

16 Jul 1939 BR 1939

1 Aug 1939

Birmingham mail 2 Aug

20/21 Aug 1939 Eden

(2008) Yorkshire post

22 Aug, Western

Gazette 25 Aug, BR

1939

Seaton: >0.50" in 10 minutes
Blandford (Bryanston School:
4.66" in just over 6 hrs.
Another Bryanston gauge
recorded 4.52"
Blandford: 2.50" in 2hr; daily
4.09"
It was the result
of a complicated series of
storms following each other in
quick succession, which flooded
the roads, tore up foot-paths,
and killed one man by
lightning on the Downs.
The first storm to reach

<Burnham>: Water accumulated on the streets and lawns to a depth of several inches and campsites were flooded

<Brushford Nursery>: 2 miles south of <Dulverton> measured 2.49" in 90 minutes. The storm was less severe at Dulverton and very little rain fell at Exbridge or East Anstey. The road to the station was impassable to cars.

East Dorset had a destructive flood after 118 mm rain at Bryanston School near Blandford Forum. On 21st Frome and Oxford were hit. Severe flooding was reported at Yeovil and Whitstable.

<Gillingham><Peasemars>: Road traffic was held up by floods 2 feet deep. A house at Motcombe was flooded.

<Yeovil>: Roads were transformed into rivers and paving stones and manhole covers were forced up and businesses and houses flooded. Water rushed down Sherborne road towards Middle Street to the island with the junction at Middle Street. The whole length of Reckleford crossroads was flooded and entered Pike and Dare's Garage and house. At Pen Mill station the water flowed through the entrance and reached over the rails. There was a miniature lake on the approach to the Town Station. Half way up Babylon Hill there was a landslide. In Kingston near Bide's Gardens workers

Bryanston burst at 16.20 and in the next two hours up till 18.20 2.64" fell. At 17.40 the storm was overhead and hail fell the size of large peas. The next storm started at 18.30. In the next three hours up till 21.30 1.88" fell.. A less severe storm followed at 21.45 lasting until 22.30 during which period another 0.14" fell. This made a total of 4.66 inches, between 16.20 and 22.30.
Frome (21st)

paddles with water half way up to their knees. From Kingston Hotle across the road the water was in many places over a foot deep. Water came rushing down Kingston and then down Court Ash and then alongside the market to the bottom of Silver Street where the flooding was worst and the water level rose alarmingly. Shops in court Ash were flooded while on the opposite side of the road doors had to be barricaded against the huge volume of water. The 'Cottage' next to the Pall Hotel had 6 inches of water on the ground floor; the stables at the Pall Hotel were awash. Flooding also occurred to businesses in Sherborne Road and Middle Street. Water rushed down Red Lion Lane and Kingston into the bars of the Red Lion Hotel carrying mud and debris. Lyde Road was under water and one or two houses were flooded.

<Bradford Abbas>: Twenty houses were flooded and residents had to take refuge upstairs.

<Wimborne>: The worst effects were at the villages of <Witchampton>< Crichel> and <Gussage> where a cloudburst flooded houses. At Crichel House where Lord Arlington was entertaining a house party had the ground flood flooded to a depth of several feet and there was 6 feet of water in the wine cellar. At the <Gussages> at college Farm there was two feet of water in the pig sties. Hailstones of exceptional size also fell. Various farm animals were killed by lightning.

<Blandford>: many of the streets were turned into roaring torrents and in lower areas notably in East Street and market Place areas many houses were flooded in some cases to a depth of 2 or 3 feet. Drains burst and caused dangerous upheavals of the road surface. The entire width of the road near East Street railway arches was flooded as was also the case outside the Borough boundary at Blandford St Mary. At Durweston bridge a long stretch of main road was flooded. A shepherd was killed by lightning.

<Purbeck><Wareham>: Although the rain lasted less than half an hour the streets were flooded becoming a raging torrent and in places over 18 inches deep. Houses in some areas including East Street were flooded.

<Frome>: The storm occurred in the evening and many shops were flooded to a considerable depth and sewage swept up out of the sewers. No rain fell at Berkley, two miles from Frome.

<Wellington>: Some villages in the area were flooded

<Sherborne>: there was much temporary flooding during the afternoon

27 April 1940 BR 1940

16 Oct 1940 BR 1940

17 Sep 1941 BR 1941

Wellington: 1.50" in 60 m

Sherborne: 1.52" in 60 m

Churchstanton: 1.38 in 20 m

29 Aug 1942 Eden (2008), BR 1942	Angersleigh: 0.85 in 30 m	Somerset and Gloucestershire experienced heavy rain with Burnham on Sea recording 114 mm of which 57 mm fell in 50 minutes. <Somerton>: At the Grange there was flooding and the observer regarded the storm as the heaviest since June 28, 1917. In 24 hours 1.51 inch fell. <Cossington>: In the same period 1.78 inch occurred at Cossington Manor. <Frampton>: Thunder and lightning were severe and there was damage from lightning. There was almost a gale at Frampton and 3.21 inches was measured in the 24 hours commencing at 18h. on the 29th. <Bath>: There was damage by flooding
30 Aug 1942 BR 1942	<Chiseldon (nr Swindon) 1.48" in 60 m Chewton Medip: 1.00 in 30 m Long Ashton: 1.00 in 45 m:	<Long Ashton>: The storm began with a high wind and there was a gust of 43 miles per hour. <Chiseldon>: 2-84 inches, or more than half the total rainfall for the month, fell on the two days 29th and 30th. .
12 Sep 1943 BR 1943	A depression off north-west Spain moved north-north-east over the country. Wiveliscombe: 1.67 in 45 m Ashbrittle: 1.62 in 45 m Williton: 2.39 in 60 m	<Williton>: The fall at Williton was the most intense recorded by Mr. F. S. Hayne during 45 years.
30 May 1944 Eden (2008), Webb et al (2009), BR 1944	Street: 1.12 in 20 m Somerton: 1.12 in 41 m Cossington: 1.16 in 50 m Weston S Mare: 0.99 in 39 m	Somerset, Kilve had 113 mm in a thunderstorm causing severe local flooding. On 29th and 30th May there were five separate hail events of H3 or H4 intensity plus two others of H2 level (Webb doesn't say where!). <Street>: the observer notes there was large hail and visibility was reduced to 200 yards.
23 Jun 1946 BR 1946	Bourton-on- Water: 1.44 in 35 m Salisbury: 2.04 in 40 m Salisbury 2: 2.12 in 50 m	<Salisbury>: The rain exceeded all local records since the great storm of 28th June, 1917 (when the centre of the downfall was at Bruton, Somerset). The serious flooding which resulted was said to be unparalleled in living memory.
8 Sep 1946 Manchester Guardian 9 Sep	A short spell of unusual warmth towards the end of August was followed by intense thunderstorms on the 29th and 30th. Severe storms were most widespread on the 29th,	<Salisbury>: In a thunderstorm the streets were flooded in less than half an hour. Houses were flooded and cars stranded. The Cathedral Close had five large lakes.

particularly in south and south-west England.

Somerton: 0.98" in 30 m

Cossington Manor: 1.04 in 35 m

Aldbourn: 1.03" in 45 m

Burnham: 2.27" in 50 m (4.05" in 25 h).

Cirencester: 1.30" in 90 m

Frampton: 2.31 in 2 h

Bath: 1.78" in 2 h

Harescombe Grange: 1.55" in 2 h

Bath: 1.48 in 60 m

30 Jul 1947 BR 1947

11 May 1948

Manchester Guardian

12 May, BR 1948

28 Jul 1948 BR 1948

Stogursey: 0.87 in 30 m

Holford: 2.57 in 50 m

Holford 2: 2.55 in 60 m

Kilve: 2.33 in 60 m

E Quantoxhead: 1.20 in 70 m

7 Aug 1948 BR 1948

15 May 1949

Manchester Guardian

13 Jul 1949 BR 1949

On July 13 began a period of country-wide thunderstorms which lasted till the 17th.

<Bath>: The town was near the centre of a short-lived storm on July 30 and heavy falls were recorded in most parts of the city.

<Trowbridge> (Wilts): A thunderstorm converted streets into rivers and the main Bristol Portsmouth Railway was flooded with planks floated through Trowbridge station. A cloth factory was flooded and workers were cut off from their houses. The Times reported that at Trowbridge trolleys were used to get workers out of a flooded factory.

<Quantoxhead> (Somerset) in a thunderstorm the rainfall was of outstanding severity.

<Holford>: A representative of the Mid-Wessex Rainfall Association reported that 2.55 inches of rain fell in an hour at Holford but at Crowcombe and at Fiddington, 3 miles south and east of Holford respectively, there was no rain at all. A feature of the storm was the very high wind which blew down large elm trees.

<Stalbridge>: Precipitation was very heavy in Dorset on the 8th, the fall at Stalbridge for the 24 hours amounting to 4.24 inches of which the observer wrote : " 3.94 fell in approximately two hours, a measurement being taken immediately after the storm."

<Bristol>: The thunderstorms were localised but flooded houses and shops in Westbury and at Bishopton where the water forced up manhole covers. Villages were flooded on Salisbury Plain and cars were stranded in floodwater.

Observers also reported a fall of 1.40 in. in 2 ¼ hours at Stogursey.

16/17 Jul 1949 BR	<p>Notably severe thunderstorms occurred in the afternoon of the 13th in Somerset with furnished by the Mid-Wessex Rainfall Association.</p> <p>Stolford: 1.63 in 105 m E Quantoxhead: 1.53 in 2 h Portbury (16th) 1.85 in 45 m Portishead (16th) 1.17 in 70 m Cannington (17th) 1.87 in 30 m Spaxton(17th): 2.11 in 75 m</p>	<p><Cannington>: on July 17, two unusually heavy falls occurred. During the first one 1.87 in of rain fell in 30 minutes. Two hours later a further 1.40 in. fell in 30 minutes. The observer, writes "Damage to crops was not great as there was a complete absence of wind. However, houses and roads were flooded and much soil was washed into roadways from the fields. Erosion was the main agricultural damage."</p>
27 Aug 1949 BR	Great Somerford: 2.06 in 80 m	
29 Aug 1949 BR	Orchardleigh Pk: 1.33 in 90 m	
26 May 1951 BR	Weston S M: 1.25 in 60 m	<p><Weston Super Mare>: The isolated fall entered for May was due to a heavy thunderstorm at Weston-super-Mare on the 26th which caused flooding of the streets.</p>
19 May 1952 Dundee	Porton: 0.91 in 30 m	<p><Salisbury>: The thunderstorms there lasted 3 hours. Hailstones measured at <Porton> were said to be as big as halfpennies and the station was flooded to a depth of 3 to 4 inches.</p>
Courier 20 May, BR	Minehead (20 th): 0.78 in 22 m	
13 Jun 1952 BR	Kingston St Mary: 1.40 in 50 m Barrow Gurney res: 2.00 in 2 h	<p><Bristol> (Long Ashton Research Stn): A storm was seen approaching the Station, from a northeasterly direction: "the storm was widespread and rainfall heavy but lightning discharges were comparatively few. After a slight lull about 16.30 the storm became severe at 16.50 with very heavy rain and lightning discharges, many to the ground, about every 30 seconds, lasting until 17.30. For another 45 minutes the storm was slightly less severe and then gradually subsided. In 3 hours 45 minutes, commencing at 15h., there was as much as 1-98 in., out of a total for the whole storm of 2.21 in."</p>
6 Jul 1952 BR	Wiveliscombe: 1.87 in 75 m Sampford Arundel: 1.40 in 90 m Hemyock: 1.69 in 30 m Filton (Bristol): 0.98 in 60 m	<p>BR reports: Intense rains were recorded during the early morning of the 6th, mainly in the Minehead to Hemyock area. At Minehead 1.32 in fell in 72 minutes, of which 0. 57 in was recorded in 15 minutes. There were probably similar noteworthy falls at Lype Hill, Withiel Hill and Sminhayes in the Brendon Hills.</p>

21 Jul 1952 BR	North Cadbury: 1.40 in 30 m	<Wiveliscombe>: There "was a fall of ice of all shapes and sizes, some about the size of bus tickets".
6 Aug 1952 BR	Bishops Lydeard: 1.43 in 60 m	<Culmstock>: An observer at Culmstock near <Hemyock> estimated that probably 1.25 in fell in the
15 Aug 1952 BR	<p>The date of the disastrous flood at Lynmouth. Scattered thunderstorms occurred elsewhere in England.</p> <p>Exford: 0.77 in 20 m Worton: 2.27 in 45 m Sherborne: 2.29 in 60 m Sherborne 2: 2.11 in 80 m</p>	first 20 minutes out of the 1.72 in which occurred in 1 hour 45 minutes.
	<p>Daily rainfall</p> <p>Simonsbath: 7.35 inches Exford 4.96 Kinsford Gate 4.80 Culbone 4.50 Wootton Courtenay 4.08</p>	<North Cadbury> (nr Wincanton): The storm was local only.
		<Sherborne>(east of Yeovil): The "very rare" fall of 2.29 in. in an hour about midday was followed by
		a fall of 1.27 in. in an hour.
		<Exford>: The observer measured 2.37 in. for the 2 hours 5 minutes ending at 20h. 20m. followed by
		the noteworthy fall of 0.77 in. in the next 20 minutes.
		It is considered that rather more than half the rainfall of the 15th in the Exmoor area was confined to the four hours 18h. 30m. To 22h. 30m. This means that over the area with more than 8 in. for the day the mean rate was about one inch an hour and this was maintained for four hours.
		BR notes: On August 15 there were 13 measurements in Devonshire and Somerset which exceeded 4.00 inches for the day. Two of these, 7.58 inches at Challacombe, 850 feet, and 7.35 inches at Simonsbath (Honey mead), 1,250 feet, both within a few miles of Longstone Barrow (where the highest rainfall of 9.00 inches was measured), rank as the thirteenth and fourteenth respectively among the heaviest falls yet measured for a rainfall day.
		See also Southwest Flood chronology
23 Aug 1953 BR	<p>Heavy storms were reported in western England</p> <p>Filton 1.30 in 3 h Exford 1.15 in 90 m</p>	<Exford>: Many West Country towns were flooded and the rivers of Exmoor were reported to have
		reached their highest levels since the Lynmouth flood disaster of 1952.
13 May 1954 BR	<p>Salisbury: 1.30 in 55 m Salisbury 2 0.75 in 24 m Dorchester 2.32 in 60 m</p>	<Salisbury>: The Salisbury Times reported damage to houses and street flooding. A manhole cover
(Salisbury Times)		was seen to be held one foot in the air for minutes as water gushed up.
		<Dorchester>: At Little Cheam the observer said there was 6 inches of water in the house and that the cattle yard was flooded to the top of the cows' backs. Disaster to the cows was averted by the collapse of a brick wall.
		<Glastonbury>: The observer reported: "Hundreds of acres of farmland were under water and hay
		afloat;
12 Aug 1954 BR	<p>The heavy falls of the 12th occurred in thunderstorms which were associated with a trough of low pressure moving</p>	<North Wooton>: In the village the roads were like rivers till late evening."

across the British Isles. Storms were particularly severe in the West Country.

Westbury: 0.56 in 10 m
Shepton Mallet 1.30 in 25 m
Glastonbury 1.43 in 35 m

6 Jun 1955 BR (West Somerset Free Press)

Thunderstorms were prevalent in the West Country on the 6th. Wiveliscombe 1.20 in 90 m
Wootton Courtenay 1.15 in 95 m

12 Jul 1955 BR

Bridgwater 0.88 in 30 m
East Anstey: 1.15 in 45 m
Gillingham 1.26 in 80 m

14 Jul 1955 Yorkshire Post 14 Jul, 15 Jul, BR (The Times, Bournemouth Daily Echo)

Shaftesbury: Two and a half inches of rain fell in 70 minutes. At Devizes Wilts 1.31 inches fell in half an hour.
Blandford 1.02 in 15 m
Blandford 2 1.29 in 40 m

18 Jul 1955 BR, COL Jul 1995, <http://www.upweybroadweyhistory.co.uk/flood.html>)

During this period 11 to 18th temperatures rose above 80° F. almost daily at many places, and thunderstorms, although widely scattered, were often severe. This spell of exceptionally warm thundery weather culminated in the storms of the 18th when the heaviest fall in a rainfall day ever recorded in the British Isles, 11 inches, occurred at

<Shepton Mallet>: The observer, referred to extensive damage to crops caused by hailstones, and paths washed away to their foundation. Houses in the lower part of the village <Oakhill> were flooded to a depth of 2 to 3 feet.

<Dunkery Beacon>: The West Somerset Free Press reported flood damage at many places on the eastern side of Dunkery Beacon. The observer at <Wiveliscombe> reported that two small tributaries of the River Tone, which some days after the storm were practically dry, brought down enormous quantities of stones, pebbles, earth and rubble which required several days for removal by a few men and a bulldozer.

<Gillingham>: The observer reported that hail preceded torrential rain, which flooded houses and washed soil off the gardens.

<Shaftesbury>: Many roads and houses were flooded. The Post Office was flooded to a depth of 3 inches. Bell Street was flooded. the Times mentioned damage over a wide area of north Dorset and south Wiltshire.

Two schoolboys were killed by lightning, one at Frome in Somerset and the other at Appleby. Many places in North Dorset reported large hailstones. At Ascot a woman was killed and 46 injured by lightning and four others in a second storm.

<Blandford>: At Blandford the Bournemouth Daily Echo reported that the weight of the water and hailstones, which were half an inch in diameter, dislodged many slates.

The rainfall distribution on the 18th, over the greater part of Dorset and parts of the neighbouring counties is shown on a BR map (not copied). The time distribution of rainfall was rather complex, taking into account variations reported from the fringes of the heavy rainfall area; but over the central area, enclosed by the 6 in. isohyet, it seems that almost everywhere the heavy rain began in the afternoon and continued well into the evening. During the evening there was a lull, and after that there was more heavy rain, continuing until about midnight before giving way to moderate and light rain in the early hours. About two thirds of the total amount fell before the evening lull. In the area with over 6 in. the heavy fall began at about 14h. 30m. on the 18th and rain continued until about 5h. next morning, moderating during the evening lull and after midnight. Intensities reached 1

Martinstown, Dorset.
Weymouth 2.50 in 90 m
Abbotsbury 2.92 in 2 h
Chickerell 2.00 in 2 h
Dorchester 2.00 in 2 h

Daily rainfall
Portland Bill Lighthouse 4.91
Portland (Secondary Modern Sch.) 3.86
Weymouth (Westham) 7.15
Chickerell (Lower Putton) 6.43
Abbotsbury (West Street) 6.71
Martinstown (The Chantry) 11.00
Upwey (Friar Waddon) 9.50
Upwey (Higher Well) 9.00
Upwey (Elwell) 8.31
Warmwell 6.66
Litton Cheney (Primary School) 7.12
Burton Bradstock (White House) 4.89
Dorchester (Queen's Avenue) 7.50
Dorchester (Waterworks) 7.20
Dorchester (Stinsford) 5.11
Dorchester (Birkin House) 5.11
Lyme Regis (Penard) 3.62
Bridport (Island View) 4.65
Bridport (Morecombelake) 4.45
Wynford House 7.90
Beaminster (East Street) 4.53
Minterne 4.60
Glanvilles Wootton (Manor House) 4.25

in./hr. for at least an hour at some time between 15h. 30m. and 19h. and at the centre of the storm the intensity probably reached 2 in./hr. At Martinstown 7 -50 inches was recorded by about 19h. and at Upwey (Friar Waddon) 6-55 inches by about 20h. 30m. A study of the synoptic situation has confirmed deductions which may be drawn from the rainfall observations in out-lying areas, especially those from the coastal belt to the west. A compact area of rainfall travelled slowly and obliquely across the Channel, having probably originated in the Bay of Biscay, became stationary over Dorset and intensified to give the two heavy bursts described, and later, in its decaying stages, withdrew again over the Channel along a path slightly eastward of that of the approach.

<Weymouth>: Floods occurred in many places, the most serious large-scale flooding being at <Weymouth>, where Radipole Lake rose rapidly and inundated nearby urban areas. In some other places, in particular in villages upstream of Weymouth, the sudden rush of water down steep slopes did great damage to roads and stone walls, transporting great loads of debris to the flatter ground over which these fast moving floods then spread. Up the Dorchester Road by the Temperance Hall were rowing boats which had been used to rescue people from the low lying cottages along the river. Mr Jack Comben (farmer at Westbrook Farm) told me that a wall of water came down the valley from Martinstown just like the mists came rolling down and that the water off Windsbatch crashed through the back door of the Dairy House and farm House and out the front doors. All the water was trapped behind the railway embankment of the Abbotsbury Line and the only way through was under the bridge. The force of this water gouged out a very large and deep hole in the road. All along Church Street was debris, stones, rubbish and wrecked cars. Up by the church the lamp post in the roadway by the churchyard had lumps of chalk and coke jammed behind it nearly to the height of the wall. The coke being washed down from the pumping station at Friar Waddon. <Upwey> (4 km N of Weymouth centre): During the afternoon of Monday 18 July 1955 it got very very dark. By 4.00pm it was as dark as night and heavy rain was falling continuing until about 7.30pm. Roy Shepstone had an interest in the weather and measured rainfall at his home in Elwell Street. On the fateful day a quarter of an inch fell before 10 am the rain then eased but by the end of the day 8.39" were recorded in his garden. At 104 Church Street Mr Dominey found he couldnt stand in road because of force of water he said somethings wrong up top that gates come down from the farm later on a car came juddering through sweets from wishing well and even flagstones from

paths. The family went upstairs to be safer the water didnt come in but all of a sudden there was a sound like an explosion and the wall opposite came down. The water went through to the river and flooded out the gatehouse of Upwey House. The lights went out because the falling wall had snapped the electricity cable. Sweets crisp tins and groceries floated out of Mr Eckersalls shop and on down the road. Further along at 32 and 34 Church Street the houses had flagstone floors. Ron Critchell got a chisel and knocked down between the stones and the waters went down. Bunty Gee did the same but the water came up! The family put the settee on the table and took as much as they could upstairs. The flood waters came from the field down through the scullery. A couple of pigs floated down the road (some pigs at North Manor Farm were drowned) a greenhouse John Hares car was taken from corner (near Masons Arms) to Island Gardens gate by the force of the water. Two men in a van got stuck in the floodwaters. Les Hilton and Jack Gee threw them a rope; the force of the water took the smaller man off his feet and he would have been swept away if he hadnt held on to the rope. In Stottingway Street the waters poured off the gardens at the back of numbers 11 to 17 and rushed through the cottages from back to front. Fred Virgin shouted to his wife Beryl to wedge the back and front doors open to let the water go through. The Caves who lived next door had gone to the pictures so Fred went in and opened their doors taking some of their possessions upstairs. In those days this was possible because people didnt lock their doors when they went out. At North Manor Farm in Watery Lane the flood water dammed up against the garden wall between Broadwey House and the farm house; then the wall gave way and the water pushed the farm machinery and Bill Wards car against the wall of the farmhouse. The water entered the house with terrific force flooding the house to dining room table height. Due to the railway bank of the Abbotsbury line acting as a dam Meadow Cottage on the double bend in Watery Lane was flooded to within an inch of its ceilings. Beneath the railway bridge the force of this water gouged out a very large and deep hole in the road. The flood waters took days to recede and it was here that 12 year old local lad Robin Crump lost his life when he fell into deep water whilst out looking at the damage the flood had caused. In February 1956 John Jewers 17 of Chapel Lane was presented with the Royal Humane Societys certificate by the Mayor for having on 19 July 1955 at personal risk gone to the rescue of a boy who drowned in an area disturbed by floods ... but whose life he gallantly tried to save. At Littlemead the water reached half way up the walls the James family took as many of

their possessions as they could upstairs and watched helplessly as three wooden huts full of young chickens from Gills hatchery at the bottom of Mill Street were swept across the field by the force of the water and smashed into the trees. Caravans from the nearby riverside site were also carried into the waters and destroyed. The flood left a trail of devastation from Upwey right down the river to Weymouth through <Broadwey> <Nottingham> and <Radipole>. The clear up operation was huge with all available council workers and the armed forces pitching in to help the locals remove the debris. Families saved what they could dried out their homes and tried to get back to normal as quickly as possible. (<http://www.upweybroadweyhistory.co.uk/flood.html>). There are further descriptions on the Upwey website.



Cottages at Littlemead

Fig River Wey at Upwey after the Jul 1955 storm and b0 cottages at Littlemead

The thirteenth century church of St. Laurence Upwey is at one end of the village somewhat out of the way to the rest of it. It stands next to the old village school which was built in 1840. Inside the church watermarks approximately 10 inches high can be seen on the pews from the flood that

occurred in 1955. (<http://www.weymouthdorset.co.uk/upwey.html>)

<Dorchester>: Over a large area nearer to Dorchester, especially in the valley of the <<South Winterborne>>, which runs through Martinstown, and which received the heaviest rainfall of the day, the severity of the flooding was mitigated by the effects of the underlying chalk, which rapidly absorbed the rainfall and released it again through innumerable springs at a relatively low rate. The gentler floods of this nature continued for a week, whilst the violent and destructive floods were very short-lived.

Some examples of large amounts in more than 2 hours (the limit reported normally by BR) are: Dorchester (more than 3 inches in 3 hours; Litton Cheney, 4.48 inches in 2 ¾ hours; Upwey 6.55 inches in 6 ½ hours. At Martinstown where the fall of 11 inches in a day was recorded, it is believed that 7.50 inches fell in about 5 hours.

COL 1995 notes: Flooding occurred in many places most severe to the south of The Ridgeway where the clay bed was unable to absorb the great amount of water. The flood waters were particularly fast flowing down where the land fell steeply to the coast causing considerable destruction. In some cases the gouging effect completely washed down to the bare rock. Raidpole Lake at <Weymouth> which is fed by the <<River Wey>> rose suddenly inundating the surrounding area to a depth of several feet. Rowing boats were used to ferry people to higher ground. Three hundred campers were evacuated from their holiday caravans at Brownleaze Cove. The bars of the bridge Inn Public house were flooded almost to the ceilings when the peaceful River <<Jordan>> became a raging torrent. At Abbotsbury Tropical Gardens a 3 metre wall was demolished. To the north of The Ridgeway the flooding was generally less severe even though it had the greatest intensity of rainfall. Here the ground is chalky and after months of drier than normal weather it was able to absorb the rainfall and release it through the many springs at a relatively slow rate for many weeks. Flooding affected shops and houses in low lying parts of Dorchester where drains could not cope with the volume of water. The railway line at <Maiden Newton> was blocked by a landslide for two days.

<Bristol>: Houses were flooded at Redland during a hailstorm and carpets were soaked at Chandos Terrace. At the Old Market Street the water was more than a foot deep

13 Sep 1955
Birmingham Daily Post
14 Jul
16 Jul 1956 BR

Salisbury 1.20 in 45 m

**6 Aug 1956 Eden
(2008), Lamb (1964)**

<Swanage> (Dorset): Rainfall of 2 ½ inches in 1 hour caused flooding of houses.

25 Aug 1956 BR

Long Ashton: 3.50 in 95 m

18 Jun 1957

Upwey 1.10 in 60 m

Birmingham Daily Post

19 Jun, BR

<Dorchester>: Water rose to a foot depth on the London Road into Dorchester. Hailstones as large as marbles fell in a wide area across North Dorset and Wiltshire. Windows and greenhouse glass was broken.

30 Jun 1957 BR

Thunderstorms and heavy rain were reported on the 30th from an extensive area including much of southern and eastern England. On the same day storms also affected parts of eastern Scotland as far north as Caithness.

Many roads were flooded in north Wiltshire and adjacent counties.

12 Aug 1957 BR

Winscombe c 2.5 in 45 m

8 Sep 1957 BR

Dorchester 1.30 in 2 h

<Dorchester>: There was flooding to 6 in. to 8 in in parts of the town, but the storm was very localized and places within a few miles recorded little or no rain.

3 Jul 1958 BR

On the 3rd the heaviest storms occurred over the Midlands, the Welsh mountains and in Somerset.
Langport 0.84 in 20 m
Kingston St mary 2.09 in 60 m
Bickenhall 0.67 in 18 m

From this area six "noteworthy" falls were reported.

19 Aug 1958 BR

Broomfield 0.85 in 20 m
Bridgwater 1.00 in 60 m
Stonehouse (Gloucs) 1.25 in 90 m
Salisbury 1.17 in 60 m

<Bristol>: the city was affected by heavy rain. Manhole covers were forced up by storm water, and flood-water up to a depth of 1 foot held up traffic.

Noteworthy falls were reported from <Bridgwater> and <Broomfield>, Somerset.

<Salisbury>: Noteworthy falls occurred at Salisbury, Wiltshire, where the most vulnerable points in the city were flooded,

22 Aug 1958 BR

Devizes 1.07 in 30
Stonehouse 1.22 in 75 m

Further west, damage and flooding were reported from the Cotswolds—at Stonehouse for the

second time within a week—whilst rain and hail storms in Wiltshire included a noteworthy fall at Devizes.

12 May 1959 BR

Trowbridge 2.12 in 2 h
Chippenham 1.31 in 2h 25 m
Chapmanslade 2.20 in 1 h

25 Jun 1959 BR

Thunderstorms were widespread
Stonehouse 1.17 in 30 m
Swindon 0.77 on 30 m
Minchinhampton 1.30 in 90 m
Brislington 2.18 in 60 m
Hanham 3.00 in 90 m
Bishopstone 3.11 in 2 h 30 m

11 Aug 1959 BR, Daily Mail 12 Aug

Weston super mare 1.50 in 90 m
Dunkery Beacon 4 ½ inches rain fell

<Weston-Super-Mare>: Many roads in the town were flooded and water over a foot deep, in places, brought traffic to a standstill.

<Wellington>: Roads were flooded and blocked by landslides

22-23 Jun 1960 BR

Thunderstorms caused flooding in Oxfordshire and Berkshire. Near Oxford 101 mm fell in 5 hours.
Porton 0.81 in 33 m
Lyneham 1.50 in 2 h

BR Notes: The main storm, began shortly before midnight on the 22nd and continued for about 12 hours; it moved on a curved track from Dorset and eastern Hampshire, through Wiltshire, Oxfordshire and east Midland counties into Suffolk. The storm left a trail of damaged homes and crops, flooded roads and buildings and interrupted public services. Two people were killed by lightning, one near Nuneaton and the other near Biggieswade.. Remarkable falls occurred in Hampshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

1 Aug 1960 Lancs Evg News

27 Aug 1960 BR, The Observer 28 Aug

Thunderstorms occurred at one place or another every day during the latter half of the month; they became widespread again on the 27th and were particularly severe in Somerset.
Allenmoor PS 2.18 in 2 h
Bridgwater 1.36 in 48 m
Misterton 1.99 in 2 h 30 m

<Yeovil>: In a thunderstorm roads were like rivers.

<Wells> (somerset): 11 potholes were trapped by risng flood water in Swildon’s Hole a cave in the Mendips. The trouble was caused by torrential rainstorms which swept the area.

<East Coker (near Yeovil)>: Lightning struck a church and blew out the organ motor during a wedding. The church was filled with smoke but the wedding went on in partial darkness.

8 Oct 1960 BR	Castle Cary 3.42 in 2 h 40 m Luxborough 2.80 in 2 h	
22/23 Oct 1960 BR	Many main roads in the south-west became impassable through flooding. Beaminster 1.40 in 1 h Bath 1.53 in 3 30 m	.<Bridport>: The main street of Bridport was under 5 ft. of water. <Beaminster>: A car left outside the police station at Beaminster was swept 100 yds. down the road by the waters of the overflowing <<River Birt>>
4 Sep 1962 BR		
24 May 1964 BR	Martock 30.7 in 60 m	
12 Jun 1964 BR	Porlock 29.2 in 30 m Benson 28.4 in 40 m	
21 Jul 1964 BR	Wrington 36.6 in 60 m	Heavy rainfall mainly in London area
20 Jul 1965 BR	Downside Abbey 29.7 in 75 m Sutton Bingham Res 28.7 in 45 m	
21 Jul 1965 BR	New Cross Farm 26.7 in 60 m Hurn 23.9 in 25 m Hurn Bridge 41.9 in 2 h Clavelshay 32.0 in 2 h	
10 Jun 1966 BR	Folly Farm 18.3 in 12 m Nether Stowey 31.7 in 40 m Brymore 38.6 in 75 m Bridgwater 43.9 in 90 m Ashford WW 34.5 in 2 h Lyneham 40.9 in 2 h Bradford on Avon 54.6 in 2 h	
21 Aug 1966 BR		
25 Jun 1967		Heavy storms in south Wiltshire flooded roads and caused considerable damage to crops
Birmingham Daily Post		
26 Jun		
13/14 Jul 1967 Eden (2008), Webb et al (2009), Weather Oct 1968 (Hardman Wiltshire hailstorm)	Previous high temperatures up to 30C but punctuated by violent hailstorms.(said to be the worst since the 'Wokingham storm' of 9 Jul 1959. Convective heads reached over 40,000 feet. Wookey Hole 20.6 in 30 m Batheaston Res 20.6 in 30 m Castle of Comfort Inn 26.7 in 35	90 km long hail swath from the Mendips across NW Wiltshire to S Glos. Hail up to 75 mm across was observed in NW Wilts. (Hardman, 1968). Hardman provides a map of the hail swath with the most intense storm and large hail from Trowbridge and Melksham to Chippenham and then to the east of Cirencester. There was extensive destruction of glasshouses and windows, and pitting of car bodywork. Hailstones were up to 3 inches in diameter and biggest in the vicinity of the village of Gastard. <Trowbridge> <Melksham>: Strong wind damage occurred with a path about a mile long and 60

m
Chippenham 42.1 in 45 m

yards wide. A wooden cricket pavilion containing both teams was bodily moved some inches. <Chippenham> had a hailstorm which damaged glasshouse vehicles and roofs. At <Cowley> in Oxford, the BMC car factory was flooded up to 2 feet deep and 2500 workers laid off. <Bradford on Avon>: Many houses sustained broken roof tiles and car roofs were badly dented and all the glass in a market garden was broken. Most of the hailstones were at least golf ball size and 'many were tennis ball size'.

22 Jul 1967 BR

Chard 61.5 in 60 m

21 apr 1968 BR

Bagborough 29.6 in 40 m

Sampford Arundel 29.5 in 60 m

23 Apr 1968 BR

Brendon Hill 29.5 in 60 m

Monksilver 29.5 in 60 m

27 May 1968 BR

Huish Episcopi 31.7 in 45 m

1/2 July 1968 Webb et al (2009), BR, Weather Apr 1969 (Stevenson Dust falls and severe storms of 1 Jul 1968)

1st
Minehead 25.7 in 35 m
A radome of a VC10 was damaged by large hail at 27,000 feet. Hail was probably restricted (on the ground) to N Somerset and south Wales between 10.00 and 11.00

Nine hail events reached the severe (H3+) category with four swaths of hail damage over 50 km long. There was widespread damage to glasshouses, windows and vehicle bodywork: in mid Cornwall, north Somerset, Max measured hail diameters on 1st: 63 mm at Minehead (Somerset), <Exebridge><Dulverton> (Somerset): hailstones over 50 mm diameter were reported with cars dented and greenhouses smashed.

<Minehead> (Somerset): Hailstones 50 to 65 mm diameter were measured.

During the previous few days (29-30 Jun) 'rainbow rain' was reported in many areas with red yellow and white particles accompanying hot muggy weather (said to originate in Sahara dust).

9/10 Jul 1968 Eden (2008) The Guardian 12 Jul, Lancs Evg Post 10 Jul

Severe persistent flooding occurred in a belt extending from the Southwest to the Wash. Heaviest fall was 173 mm at Chew Stoke in Somerset most of which fell in 6 hours.
10th
Castle of comfort Inn 19.1 in 20 m
Shepton Mallet 38.1 in 60 m
Spaxton 26.7 in 65 m
Leigh Holt 44.5 in 105 m
Lyneham 44.5 in 2 h
West newton Farm 76.2 in 2 h

More than 100 mm fell over Somerset Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Northampton Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire. A woman was drowned in her house at Sidbury Devon and a man's body was found in a flooded street in a Bristol suburb. Three people were missing at <Keynsham> between <Bath> and <Bristol> after being trapped on a bridge over the <River Avon>. A rail bridge between Bristol and Weston super Mare at <Long Ashton> collapsed. LEP 12 July reports that 7 people died in the floods.

Storm on the 8th & 9th, especially in a belt running from the southwest of Britain across to East Anglia. 175mm at Chew Stoke in Somerset, 125mm at Bristol, leading to flooding and damage. . On the 10th, July, 1968, SEVERE FLOODING in Bristol/north Somerset/Cheddar region, after repetitive HEAVY RAINFALL (part of the aftermath of the stormy period 8th & 9th). Holiday routes to the south-

Clavelshay 78.5 in 3 h 30 m
Long Ashton 20.3 in 18 m
Stoke bottom 20.0 in 29 m
Sherborne 25.9 in 40 m
Hardenhuish res 47.0 in 2 h
Northmoor PS 102.6 in 5 h

west became impassable. Large areas were under deep floodwater for several days.

<Pensford>: In Somerset was one of the worst hit - as the <<River Chew>> burst its banks and the bridge over it collapsed.

<Gloucester> measured 5.14 inches (129mm) in the 24hr up to 6am on the 11th,

<Pensford>: (Guardian): The bridge, built early in the nineteenth century) was swept clean away. Four cars are at the bottom of the river. A dozen houses are shattered some of them beyond repair. The front of one house was torn away and in two others the side walls have collapsed. At the height of the storm one man's car was swept out of the yard along the street and into the river. There are tidemarks on some buildings 12 feet and more above the road level. Church Street suffered most. It was reported that at Chew Magna a dam had burst and **the water reached Pensford in a torrent which burst open doors** and the water eventually reached bedroom sill level.

<Bath>: the River Avon rose 15 feet and 8 streets were still closed a day after. At Weston Bath water was ceiling high in a row of cottages wrenching off doors and a greenhouse was never found again. At <Bitton> and <Willsbridge> the main Bristol road was under 6 feet of water and a 10 foot thick wall of a 300 year old mill was washed away without trace. In Cheddar Gorge rubble was washed down from the hillsides the road was closed ('and may be for several months'). At Alconbury Weston the water had been 7 feet deep and there and at nearby Bedminster boats were used to deliver food and to clear up the rubble.

<Keynsham>: Two died in a flooded car. The father and son escaped and climbed a tree but the father lost grip and he too drowned. The son was rescued by helicopter 5 hours later.

<Taunton>: the casualty department of the main hospital was under water and the County Hall had a river flowing through it.

Further information in:

SALTER, P. R. S.; An exceptionally heavy rainfall in July 1968. Met Mag, London, 97, 1968, pp. 372-380.

SALTER, P. R. S.; A further note on the heavy rainfall of 10 July 1968. Met Mag, London, 98, 1969, pp. 92-94.

14 Sep 1968 BR

Clavelshay 25.7 in 30 m

11 Jun 1970 COL

Bath: daily 1.07"

<Odd Down>(nr Bath):During a thunderstorm hailstones 1 inch in diameter were reported.

**24 Jun 1973 Somerset
Standary 29 Jun**

<Rode> (SW of Trowbridge): The thunderstorm was said to be the worst for 15 years. Homes were flooded and electricity supplies hit. Overloaded gutters caused flooding in the main street. The storm also struck Norton St Phillip, Limpley, Stoke, Westwood, Winsley and Bradford on Avon – no flood information was given.

**16 Jun 1974 Eden
(2008), Sunday
Independent 16 Jun
Eden (2008) 25 Sep
1976**

Widespread thunderstorms in the Midlands with serious flooding occurred in <Bristol> and Oxford areas.

<Bristol>: roads and houses were flooded.

Following heavy rainfall in Cornwall on 24th Somerset Wilts and Gloucs were hit with 111 mm at <Stroud> and 110 mm at <Bathford>.

12 Jul 1977 COL

During the morning a large area of thunderstorms moved from the SE into the IOW, W Hampshire Dorset and Wiltshire and Somerset

<Friar Waddon> (7km SW of Dorchester):102 mm was recorded nearly all falling within 2 hours.

16/17 Aug 1977 COL

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 17th and brought severe flooding in Gloucester.

<Trowbridge>: 78.6 mm spread over 2 days including 18 mm in 20 m and 50.0 mm in 5 h.

<Bradford on Avon>: It had rainfall of 82.6 mm

<Bath>: It had 81.4 mm

<Longlevens> (Gloucester):

**31 May 1979 The
Guardian 31 May 1979,
COL, Belfast telegraph
31 May**

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 o Dorset and south Somerset.

Freak storms sweep away holiday homes. Families in Dorset had to be rescued by helicopter. Three people died in a crash on the M4 in a violent thunderstorm.

<Charmouth> (Dorset): The <<River Char>> burst its banks at a holiday village. A caravan was carried 200 yards from the Dolphin Caravan Park and five people were rescued from a tree which the caravan hit. They had been there for several hours because the helicopter could not reach. A total of 15 people were rescued from the wrecked park. Caravanners told of a 2 foot 'wall of water' which burst through the park and rescuers initially found the current too strong to reach them.

Yeovilton (Somerset) 55mm in 12 h (Similar amounts were

<Bridport>: The <River Brid> burst its banks and Bridport, <Yeovil> in Somerset and <Maiden

reported by the MO in Bristol and Gloucester)

Newton> were cut off. The Devon County Council surveyor's office at Bridport was flooded. The A 35 near Bridport was flooded to 4 to 5 feet and the A30 was 4 feet deep near <Shaftesbury>. Police rescued people from low lying houses.

<Blanford>: Shopkeepers were aroused by police to report that their shops were flooded. Several shops and a car park were under 2 feet of water after the <<River Stour>> overflowed in the town centre. The flooding also closed the A350 and A345 where the roads converge.

<Cheddar>: 40 mm rain fell during the morning in 2 hours

<Charmouth>: People were evacuated from a campsite in Charmouth.

<Weymouth>: The shopping centre was under a foot of water.

<Portland>: A number of houses were flooded.

Highest rainfalls reported were at Bath 70.6 on 18th.

COL has various notes on thunderstorms during the month.

2 Aug 1979 COL

1 Jun 1981 Reading Evening Post 2 Jun

Roads were blocked by flooding throughout the West Country

18 Jun 1982 COL

June was a thundery month with thunder reported somewhere in the UK on 22 days.

2 Jun 1981 The Guardian 3 Jun

Widespread thunderstorms throughout England. A landslide in Leicestershire at Desborough blocked the London to Sheffield line.

<Charmouth> (Dorset): 44 children and adults had to be evacuated from a campsite when the <<River Axe>> burst its banks. In Devon and Dorset the fire brigade received hundreds of calls from people whose homes had been flooded.

<Weymouth>: A shopping centre was under a foot of water.

<Bournemouth>: The May 1998 storm was compared in severity with a storm on this date but perhaps in terms of lightning rather than of flooding.

<Yatton>: 36.1 mm was recorded on a thunderstorm between 20.35 and 23.00 (2 hr 25 m)

The first of these storms were responsible for a 200 km hail swath from Dorset to East Sussex, this swath 10–12 km wide in places. There was widespread damage to glasshouses, car and caravan bodywork etc. Also, hail 25–50 mm across affected the Channel Island of Jersey.

<Winfrith>: A thunderstorm with heavy hail affected Dorset with 74 mm at Winfrith mostly in 2 hours with hailstones 7 cm (?) across with much damage to glasshouses and slate roofs.

<Weymouth>: Out of a month's total of 105 mm 92 mm fell on just 2 days 5th and 22nd.

The Daily Mail notes that the Dorset and Hampshire coast was deluged with thousands of pounds worth of damage with flood water up to 4 feet deep in homes and other buildings.

<Christchurch> (Dorset): Small boats in the harbour were sunk by hailstones. Southampton Weather

12 Jul 1982 COL May 1998

3 Aug 1982 COL

5 Jun 1983 Eden (2008), Webb et al (2009), COL, Daily Mail 6 Jun

Four successive storms deposited large hail along swaths of the south coast of England. (Wells, 1983, Mortimore & Rowe, 1984; Hill, 1984).
Poole Storm total of 60.7 mm

? May 1986 Acreman
(1989) quoting from
Ian Howick Associates
(1986)

26 May 1987 COL

25 May 1989 COL

24 May 1989 Eden
(2008) The Guardian 26
May 1993 Davis (1991),
Webb (2016)

11 Sep 1989 COL

28 Sep 1991 COL

High rainfall in Somerset resulted from slow movement of occluded fronts (thunderstorms not mentioned). There was a long period of rainfall but with intense spells within. Tivington 26.9 mm in 2 h

1 Apr 1992 COL

23 May 1992 COL,
Weather Oct 1993 Kidd
'An intense rainfall
event in the Bristol
area'

There was a widespread thundery period from 23rd culminating on 29th. Bristol weather centre 24 mm in 1 h and 20 mm in 15 m

centre noted reports of hailstones 2 inches in diameter and possible some even bigger. Acreman lists a discharge of 7.0 cumecs on a catchment of 0.8 km² for the <<West Stream>>, <Lyons Gate, Dorset.

<Gurney Slade> (Mendips): A thunderstorm lasted a little over an hour with a rainfall of 36 mm with hailstones up to 10 mm diameter. Soft fruit bushes were stripped several houses in the village were flooded.

<Amesbury> (Wilts): The local airfield recorded 36 mm in a thunderstorm (duration not noted).

<Porton> (Wilts): Hail up to 1 cm diameter fell for a 20 minute period along with torrential rain – 22 mm fell in 20 minutes.

Thunderstorms affected southern England. Swallowcliffe W of <Salisbury> had 110 mm mostly in 3 hours.

<Blagdon Hill>: Hailstones 40 to 50 mm diameter fell at this location in the Blackdown Hills (Somerset)

<Weymouth>: 30 mm was recorded in a thunderstorm and some shops were flooded. Hail also whitened the ground.

Total rainfall for a period of 30 hours was 87.9 at Tivington, 85.8 at Minehead, 84.2 at Porlock. Only a small amount of localised flooding occurred because of the preceding dry weather. Stream levels fell back quickly after the downpour.

<Dorchester>: Heavy rain was also reported without thunder with the greatest intensity of 25 mm in 3 hours.

<Bournemouth>: A total daily rainfall of 78.6 mm of which 53.8 occurred in thundery showers

<Tivington> (Somerset): Heavy hail with 8 to 9 mm diameter covered surfaces for almost 2 hours.

<Minehead> A thunderstorm with hailstones of 11 mm diameter.

<Yatton>: one in ten of hailstones measured 12 mm (but <Bath> had the worst of the hail).

<Bristol>: It received nearly an inch of rain in an hour accompanied by hail 8 to 9 mm in diameter and compounds up to 20 mm across and 3 to 7 mm thick.

<Bath> and <Bradford on Avon>: Kidd reports that flooding occurred but without details.

**18 Sep 1992 Eden
(2008) Thicke and
Bailey (1993), COL**

<Upper Scudamore><Warminster>: A thunderstorm brought 98 mm.

<Dilton Marsh>: For a time it was cut off by flood water.

<Warminster>: A fairground had to be moved as caravans started to float away. Wiltshire fire brigade had 400 calls in 2 hours

<Bristol> It recorded an inch in less than an hour and one station in the Mendips (unnamed) recorded 19 mm in 20 m.

**22/23 Sep 1992 Pike
(1993), Times 24 Sep,
COL**

The heavy rainfall followed a drought with high initial soil moisture deficits. Heavy persistent rainfall with initial and embedded thunderstorms occurred over much of southeast England with 36 daily totals reported as exceeding 70mm. 50 mm or more fell over 1160 km² and more than 75 mm over 125 km².

Convective activity on 22nd gave heavy short period totals including the following:

<Yeovilton> (Somerset): 42.2 mm in 120 minutes

<Haselbury Plucknett> (Somerset): 32.6 in 3 h 30 m

**14 Sep 1994 COL
10 Jul 1995 COL**

Haselbury Plucknett> (Somerset): In a thunderstorm from 14.40 to 17.30 62.2 mm fell in 2.2 hours.

<Leigh Delamere> (near Chippenham): An observer noted large hailstones whilst travelling on the motorway. Hailstones were 30 to 35 mm in diameter causing damage to cars. The storm lasted about 10 minutes.

2 Aug 1995 COL

<Burnham on Sea> (somerset): 81 mm fell between 4.30 and 8.30. The town centre flooded and fire services attended from Bridgwater Weston and Clevedon.

<Brent Knoll> (somerset): 51.7 mm fell in 2 hours.

**7 Jun 1996 Eden (2008),
Webb et al (2009),
[http://booty.org.uk/
booty.weather/climate/1
975_1999.htm](http://booty.org.uk/booty.weather/climate/1975_1999.htm),COL**

After a short heat wave (33°C in London) thunderstorms with giant hail affected Dorset, Wilts to Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. Hail fell unusually widely during the evening; Ball lightning was reported from Tewkesbury (Gloucestershire).

Hailstones were 2 to 4 cm across causing damage to glasshouses and cars. Dozens of homes were struck by lightning.

There were eight hail swaths, including six storms of H3 intensity or more and two others of H2 level.

There were two swaths well over 100 km from SW–NE: 165 km long from the Dorset coast to Oxfordshire (hail 45–50 mm across in Dorset), and 180 km from NW Hampshire to south Cambridgeshire.

From a 'Journal of Meteorology' article, 73.9mm of RAIN fell during the evening of the 7th at Kitford

Gardens, near Lockinge on the Oxfordshire/Berkshire border. TORRO report that this was the most widespread occurrence of 'giant hail' in a single outbreak since 1983 (also on 7th June.) [giant hail>=30mm diameter.] LARGE HAIL over: Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. Lesser diameter hail from: Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Norfolk. The combination of hail and lightning and localised intense rainfall caused severe (but irregular) damage to buildings and crops, together with loss of power supplies etc. The rainfall totals exceeding 30mm occurred in a narrow swathe from just inland of Weymouth, Dorset, NNE'wards across Wiltshire - through west Berkshire and culminating in the heaviest rainfall (~ 74mm) over south Oxfordshire - near Wantage. (based on radar analysis, which showed rainfall rates of 72mm in 2hr. This is judged to have occurred just southeast of Wantage.)

<Salisbury>: Col reports hail initially 1 to 1.5 cm diameter then up to 3 cm and irregular in shape with wind gusts of 25 knots. Storm rain total was 14.0 mm.

<Dorchester>: 6 miles E of Dorchester golf ball sized hail damaged greenhouses, cars, plastic skylights and caravans.

<Amebury> (Wilts): Moth ball sized hailstones fell in a deluge of heavy rain (Total 29.8 mm). No flooding reported

<Bournemouth>: Hail was reported in some parts of the city with local flooding.

<Cirencester>: In an afternoon thunderstorm the roads were awash with an estimated 28 mm from 17.15 to 18.30. the storm was local with 19 mm at <Lydney> the nearest in amount.

<Midsomer Norton> (Somerset): 56 mm rain was recorded flooding 'hundreds of properties'

<Warmley> (E of Bristol): Hailstones measured up to 30 mm diameter

<Haselbury Plucknett> (Somerset): 30.3 mm in 3.25 h.

<Dorchester>: 14.1 mm in 35 minutes of daily total of 54 mm.

<Portland>: 21.0 mm in first 3 hours.

<Christchurch>: (4th) Lunchtime thunderstorm with flash flooding after 15 minute downpour.

River <<Parrett>> and <<Tone>>: The floods were an exceptional event resulting from unusually torrential rainfall over a short period giving a flood that peaked dramatically... Rainfall 3-6 August was about 120 mm, river flows on 6th August were the highest summer flows since July 1968. 5 properties were flooded by the Parrett and Tone, while 2 properties were flooded by the <<Isle>>. Hydrogen peroxide was used to raise oxygen in West Moor flood water, but complete evacuation

6 Jul 1996 COL

23 Jul 1996 COL

**17 May 1997 Webb
and Elsom (2016)**

**5 Aug 1997 COL, CBHE
(<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/levels/News3.htm>)**

On this day very severe hail >50 mm diameter occurred On Oxon and Bucks

Wettest Aug for 3 decades with much flooding early and late in the month – mostly not thunderstorms

was not completed until September"

13 May 1998 COL

Evening thunderstorms affected Dorset Somerset and East Hampshire. Initial temperatures up to 29 C. Several stations reported severe thunder but very little rain.

<Bruton> (Somerset): A mudslide damaged cars and properties. It left some neighbouring villages with mud over two feet (0.6 metres) deep.

<Poole>: The first activity was here where the downpour caused a speedway meeting to be abandoned. Many roads became impassable.

<Fleetsbridge>: A subway was completely inundated.

<Branksome> and <Canford Cliffs>: Blocked drains caused sewage to spill onto some roads. 6 to 8 inches of water had to be pumped out of some homes. The fire brigade answered 112 calls by midnight. Hail up to ¾ inch diameter was reported in some areas.

<Bournemouth>: Comparison of the severity suggests events of 5 Jun 1983 and 12 Jul 1982 were equally severe – and were likewise described as ‘the worst in living memory’.

<Haselbury Plucknett> (Somerset): 15.0 mm fell in 10 minutes

<Crewkerne>: The main street was flooded and there was back flow of sewage in the swimming pool.

<Shaftesbury> (Dorset): of a total of 33.5 mm, 25 mm fell between 19.30 and 20.00.

<Shaftesbury> (Dorset): 17.0 mm fell in 1 h 15 minutes

<Amesbury> (Wilts): In a thunderstorm from 13.45 to 14.55, 23.1 mm fell mostly in a 15 minute period. In the town pub cellars were flooded and carpets in one pub ruined by raw sewage.

<Tisbury> (Wilts): 51 mm rain fell in 2 hours.

<Salisbury>: Daily rainfall was 38.6 mm.

<Burnham on Sea> (Somerset): 58.2 mm fell in a thunderstorm (duration not noted)

<Dorchester>: With a daily total of 68.0 mm it was the wettest September day of the century with four distinct periods of torrential rain including 26.3 mm from 18.15 to 20.30 and 18.5 mm from 00.45 to 01.35.

13 Jun 1998 COL

28 Sep 1998 COL

29 May 1999 COL

5 Jul 1999 COL

9 Aug 1999 COL

18 Sep 1999 COL

Daily rainfalls
Haselbury Plucknett 41 mm
Weston S Mare 45 mm
Yatton 50.8 mm
Burnham on Sea 64.3 mm
East Stour 53.4 mm

29 Sep 1999 COL

6 May 2000 COL

4 Jul 2001 COL

Simonsbath (Exmoor) DR of 102 mm

<Shaftesbury>: 23.0 mm in 30 minutes

<Shaftesbury><Hilltop>: A thunderstorm brought large hail and 21 mm in 25 minutes.

<Locking Castle> (Near West SM): In a series of storms over a 6 hour period 60 mm was recorded. 50,000 homes were without power in the southwest. There was localised flooding in <Weston Super Mare> causing traffic chaos during the morning rush hour. Drains were blocked.

<Dorchester>: It was the most intense thunderstorm there since July 1982 and produced 11 mm in

18 Jul 2001 COL
19 Oct 2001 COL

9 Sep 2002 COL

Daily rainfall
Swanage 2 88.0
St Catherine's Point 74.0
Point of Ayre 66.8 mm
Bournemouth Kings Pk 51.6

22 Oct 2003 COL

6 Jul 2006 COL

There was a thundery trough but not sure if rainfall was intense. Flash flood?

22 Jul 2006 COL

17 Jul 2007 CBHE
(Times Jul 18)

29 May 2008 COL,
CBHE, Independent
May 31

Parts of Hampshire, Sussex and Dorset experienced very heavy downpours and thundery showers in the late afternoon. The heavy rain later affected areas from Wiltshire to Devon with flash flooding reported. Devon and Somerset Fire brigade were taking calls every few seconds

30 minutes

<Blandford>: Local press reported flooding in the town

<Winfrith Newburgh>: (nr Dorchester): Two inches of rain fell in 2 and a half hours causing flooding and much runoff from surrounding fields

<Swanage>: Floodwater averaging eight inches in depth flooded a number of homes, shops and businesses in the seaside town of Swanage. Daily rainfall was 121.4 mm.

<Dorchester>: It had thunder and lightning at times from 1540h to 1815h accompanied by heavy rain and some hail. The storm was unusually active for the time lightning discharges every 1-2 minutes and a screen air temperature of just 5C.

<Winfrith Newburgh> (10 Miles E of Dorchester): A localised thunderstorm gave 28mm of rain in one hour, in addition to the 24mm already accumulated during the day.

<Bristol>: Totterdown, Bristol, recorded 73.6mm in the 24 hours ending 0900GMT, possibly the third highest 24-hour rainfall total ever recorded in Bristol. At Frampton Cotterell (near Bristol) 83mm of rain fell in 24 hours; many of the local roads were impassable.

<Wiltshire>: Many homes and businesses were affected by flooding caused by the thunderstorms.

<Weston-super-Mare>: Some parts were flooded as torrential rain swept across the South West.

<South Somerset>: Firefighters evacuated homes in the worst hit areas of south Somerset after a sudden and heavy burst of rain on Thursday evening. Devon and Somerset fire service said <Crewkerne>, <Ilminster>, <Shepton Mallet> and <Wells> were most severely affected.

<Yeovil>: The thunderstorm on the 29th caused severe flash flooding in <Yeovil>, <Crewkerne>, <Shepton Mallet> and <Castle Cary>.

<Castle Cary>: It was hit by a rapid flash flood after a violent downpour shortly after midday. The local drainage was soon overwhelmed and roads were covered in several inches of water flowing towards the centre of town. Water inundated the Horse Pond Inn, the White Hart public house and the Co-op supermarket.

<Shepton Mallet>: Homes were seriously flooded for the second time in less than 2 years. One house owner was reported to have 18 inches of water in his kitchen.

<Crewkerne>: One couple had only moved into their new home the day before the floods hit. Within 5 to 10 minutes they were flooded out – 'it was that quick'

28 Jul 2008 COL

<Totterdown (Bristol): Two thunderstorms on 28th gave 25.5mm of precipitation. The highest rainfall rate in the second of the storms was 169.4mm per hour.

<Chippenham>: A thunderstorm with heavy rain between 1540GMT and 1640BST with maximum rate of 300mm/h.

12 Sep 2008 COL

Showers turned heavy and thundery in places, especially across Wiltshire and Hampshire where some localised flooding was reported.

<Larkhill>: According to the Met Office in the hour ending 1800GMT 28.2mm of rain fell at Larkhill and 21.0mm at <Boscombe Down>. A total of 1.8mm of rain fell on the SE side of Salisbury Plain, during a thunderstorm, which lasted from about 1540GMT until 1630GMT. This was accompanied by a 'carpet' of hail, though the individual size of the hail was less than 1cm.

<Bournemouth>: A violent mid-afternoon storm was noted at Bournemouth W. At 1440h a very heavy thunderstorm developed over Bournemouth with torrential rain accompanied by small hail (which whitened the ground) - this storm raged for 60-90 minutes and gave much flooding in central Bournemouth.

22 Apr 2012 COL

<Blandford St. Mary>: There was a heavy hail shower, 1550-1600 h. The size of the hail was between 0.7 cm and 1.5 cm. The ground was covered to a depth of 1.5 cm - 2.0 cm for 30 - 45 minutes, but in deep shaded areas was still visible for over two hours.

29 May 2014 COL

<Haselbury Plucknett> (6 miles SW of Yeovil): Torrential rain for 35 minutes (27.9 mm fell) resulting in flooded road surfaces. Within an hour all the floodwaters had gone.

19 Jul 2014 COL

<Bath>: Rail services to and from Bath via Westbury were blocked by flooding on the line near Trowbridge.

25 Jul 2014 COL

Wimborne: Rainfall on the which amounted to 17.3 mm fell in 25 minutes during a thunderstorm.

11 Aug 2014 COL

<Totterdown> (Bristol): The 56.1 mm of rain was the 2nd wettest 24 hour rainfall for August. (The wettest was in August 1897 when 61.0 mm fell in 24 hours), whilst 36.6 mm of this fell in the 2 hours to 2350 GMT. The maximum 1 hour rainfall during that period was 24.4 mm; the highest recorded for this site.

18 Sep 2014 COL

In the late afternoon, thunderstorms broke out and drifted WNW from south Surrey across north Hampshire, to Wiltshire and, developing from Salisbury Plain, into Somerset in the evening. Storms continued throughout the evening over Somerset and Wiltshire.

<Melksham>: Flooding and lightning damage were reported from Wiltshire: a house was destroyed by fire at Melksham and fire crews reported that the presence of solar panels made it difficult to get to the source of the fire. A First Great Western train was stuck all night in floodwater at <Corsham> (Wiltshire), stranding its passengers: it apparently took five hours for them all to be 'released'

11 May 2016 COL

<Chippenham>: A wet day with torrential rain from 1300 to 1330 GMT with storm drains in road unable to cope and neighbour's garden and garage floor temporarily under water.

13 May 2016 COL

< Purbeck (Dorset): This area had a lengthy thundery deluge around the middle of the day,

12 Jun 2016 COL

16 Jun 2016 COL

<Chippenham>: Torrential rain for short time in afternoon with storm drains in road unable to cope and local gardens and garage floors temporarily under water.

17 Jun 2016 COL

<Midsomer Norton> (Somerset): Heavy rain from a slow moving area of thunderstorms caused the local river <<Somer>> to flood some areas of Midsomer Norton on the afternoon.

16 Sep 2016 COL

Thundery activity continued throughout the night, affecting broadly a zone from Dorset to east Berkshire and north Surrey, then extending across London into Essex,

<Swanage> (Dorset) (31 mm fell in one hour.

7 Jun 2019 COL

Thunder broke out in the late afternoon over, chiefly, southwest England and the south Midlands.

<Worle>(near Weston-Super-Mare): There was flooding and a house was struck by lightning.

Acreman, MC (1989) Extreme historical UK floods and maximum flood estimation , J, IWEM 3 (4), 404-412

Ian Howick Associates (1986) Lyons gate: report on flooding and proposal for alleviation works, Report to west Dorset District council 1986.