



## Burrowbridge: Keeping Our Challenges Visible

Living in Burrowbridge means living with flood risk. Our location on the Somerset Levels, alongside the River Parrett, brings a set of challenges that are not occasional or exceptional — they are recurring and cumulative, particularly during prolonged periods of wet weather.

When flooding occurs, it is often slow to develop but long-lasting. Water across the moors and rising river levels can lead to road closures and restricted access to the village. Routes such as the **A361, Stathe Road, West Yeo Road and Stanmoor Road** and surrounding lanes can become impassable or heavily congested, leaving residents isolated and forcing traffic onto narrow roads never designed to carry sustained volumes of diverted vehicles. This creates safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists, children, pets and livestock, while accelerating damage to already fragile road surfaces, verges, and drainage. For example the large Towns lorry that fell into the ditch on West Yeo Road last year.

Repeated closures and diversions place increasing strain on the local highways network. Potholes, broken edges, standing water, and blocked gullies often worsen after flood events, yet repairs can be slow, particularly when damage occurs repeatedly in the same locations. Over time, this leaves our road infrastructure in a precarious state and less resilient to future flooding.

Flooding and disruption also bring wider impacts. During periods when access is limited and unfamiliar traffic increases, residents have reported feeling more vulnerable. While most people passing through are simply rerouting, prolonged disruption can increase the risk of opportunistic crime and anti-social behaviour, particularly around empty or flood-affected properties, sheds, and vehicles. These concerns are heightened for vulnerable residents and those living alone.

The Parish Council continues to raise these issues with **Somerset Council**, the **Environment Agency**, highways authorities, and elected representatives. However, **it is essential that the lived experience of residents is also heard directly**. Every report, email, photograph, and phone call helps build the evidence needed to secure attention, resources, and long-term solutions for Burrowbridge.

### What Residents Can Do

- **Report flooding**, flooded roads, blocked drains, **potholes**, and **unsafe traffic conditions** to Somerset Council
- <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/potholes-and-road-damage/>
- **Report ongoing issues again** if they persist — repeat reporting matters
- **Share real impacts**: missed appointments, access problems, isolation, safety concerns
- **Report suspicious activity** to the police via 101 (or 999 in an emergency)
- **Sign up for flood warnings** from the Environment Agency
- <https://www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings>

- **Let the Parish Council know** what you are experiencing

## **Key Contacts**

- **Emergency:** 999
- **Police (non-emergency):** 101
- **Environment Agency Floodline:** 0345 988 1188
- **Somerset Council (Highways & Flooding):** 0300 123 2224

Burrowbridge has faced flooding before and will face it again. By continuing to raise concerns calmly, clearly, and consistently, residents help ensure that flooding, road safety, infrastructure resilience, and community security remain priorities — not just during emergencies, but in long-term planning.

*A strong, informed, and vocal community can be one of Burrowbridge's greatest strengths*