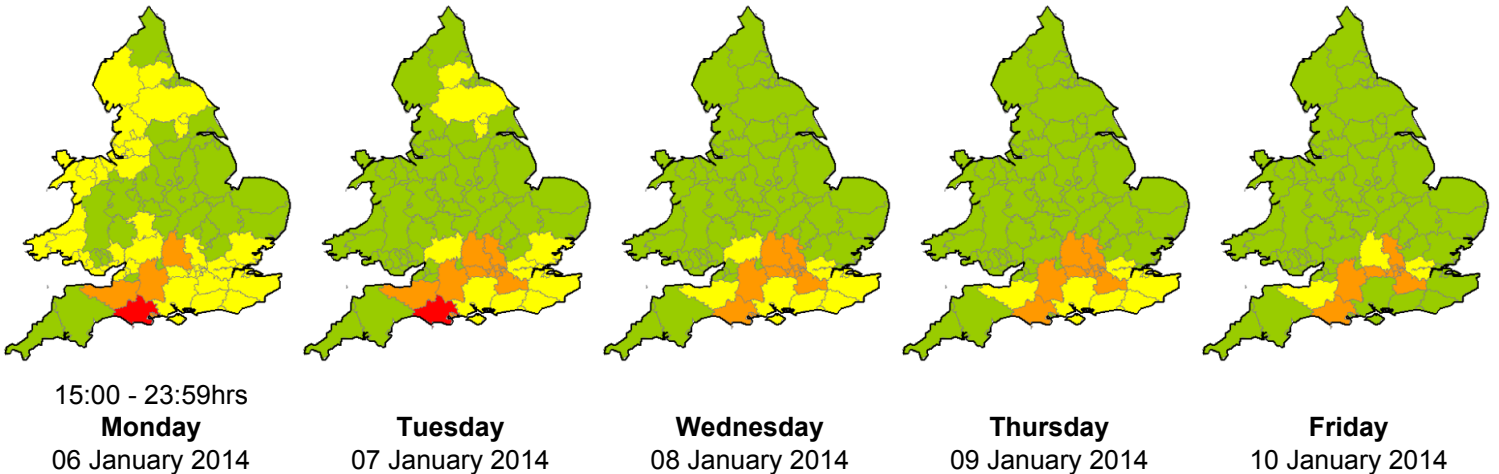


## Flood Guidance Statement 15:00hrs Monday 06 January 2014

Our assessment of daily flood risk for England and Wales, working with flood forecasting teams in the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales, is below.



**15:00 UPDATE - There is now a MEDIUM flood risk for Somerset today and tomorrow from river flooding on the Somerset Levels.**

**In Dorset, there is a HIGH overall flood risk today into tomorrow for coastal flooding along Chesil Beach at Chiswell and the main coastal road along Preston Beach at Weymouth.**

### General overview of flood risk

There is a HIGH overall flood risk for Dorset for coastal flooding today and tomorrow. There is a high likelihood of severe impacts from coastal flooding along Chesil Beach at Chiswell and the main coastal road along Preston Beach at Weymouth this evening and into early tomorrow morning.

There is a MEDIUM overall flood risk for ongoing groundwater flooding in parts of Dorset and south Wiltshire throughout the next five days, with a medium likelihood of significant impacts. Slower responding rivers in parts of the south of England are continuing to respond to previous days rainfall. There is a MEDIUM overall flood risk from rivers along the lower reaches of the Hampshire Avon and River Stour in Dorset until Wednesday and also from the River Thames in Oxford today until Thursday, with this risk transferring to lower reaches of the river Thames from Tuesday onwards, notably: Buckinghamshire, West Berkshire, Reading, Slough, Wokingham, Windsor and Maidenhead, Bracknell Forest and Surrey. This gives a MEDIUM overall flood risk in these areas.

There is now a MEDIUM overall flood risk today and tomorrow in Somerset as a result of river flooding on the Somerset Levels.

There is a LOW overall flood risk from coastal flooding today around the coastlines of Wales and north-west England. There is a high likelihood of minor impacts from coastal flooding in these areas except for North Wales where there is a medium likelihood of minor impacts.

There is a LOW overall flood risk from river and surface water flooding from forecast rainfall over the next three days. There is a medium likelihood of minor impacts in parts of north-west and north-east England from river and surface water flooding and for surface water flooding only in North Wales. This LOW flood risk also includes parts of south-east England through until Wednesday, with only ongoing river flood risk on Thursday.

## Assessment of flood risk

### Coastal / tidal

There is a HIGH risk of coastal flooding along the Dorset coast along Chesil Beach at Chiswell and the main coastal road along Preston Beach at Weymouth where there is a risk to life. There is high confidence that severe disruption from coastal flooding is expected along this coastline this evening into early tomorrow morning. Severe flooding is expected to communities along this coast, and there is also a high risk to life for people living in these coastal communities. Severe disruption is also expected to transport in this area, with road closures and also flooding to the causeway cutting off Portland.

Elsewhere the coastal flood risk is LOW in many western parts of England and Wales today. High tides will decline through the next five days but further large waves and a surge are expected on Monday. As a result there is a high likelihood of minor impacts from coastal flooding in these areas. Typical disruption may include localised flooding of coastal promenades due to wave and spray overtopping. (See AOC Map for further details).

### Groundwater

Groundwater levels across Dorset and south Wiltshire are very high, especially around the Cranborne Chase and Salisbury area. Groundwater levels are expected to continue to rise over the coming week as a result of above average rainfall in these parts through December. This brings a medium likelihood of significant impacts from groundwater flooding throughout the next five days. Typical impacts expected include flooding affecting parts of communities, significant travel disruption such as a number of road closures and septic tank and sewage management problems.

Groundwater levels are also rising across Hampshire, Sussex and Kent and with further rainfall over the next few days some minor impacts are possible in these areas. There is currently only low likelihood of minor impacts and so the flood risk remains VERY LOW, but this may be increased through the period.

### Rivers

The highest overall river flood risk is MEDIUM for the next five days.

There is a medium likelihood of significant impacts from river flooding today in Dorset along the lower reaches of the Hampshire Avon in Salisbury and Ringwood and the River Stour in Iford as they peak in response to recent heavy rainfall.

There is also a medium likelihood of significant impacts along parts of the River Thames which continues to rise over the period, but with the highest flood risk transferring downstream over the coming days. This brings a MEDIUM risk of river flooding overall to Oxfordshire, West Berkshire, Reading, Wokingham, Windsor and Maidenhead, Slough, Surrey and Buckinghamshire, as coloured amber in the maps above. Impacts could include flooding affecting properties and parts of communities and disruption to travel as a number of roads are likely to be closed.

There is now a medium likelihood of significant disruption from river flooding on parts of the Somerset Levels, particularly around Langport, for today and tomorrow, where impacts include communities cut off because of flooded access roads. Additional rainfall across the period will serve to prolong the river flooding disruption around the Somerset Levels, with minor impacts here from Wednesday onwards.

The slower responding River Severn continues to bring a LOW overall river flood risk for a medium likelihood of minor impacts until Wednesday, coloured yellow in the maps above for Worcestershire and Gloucestershire.

There is a medium likelihood of minor impacts from river flooding in parts of north-west and north-east England today, continuing into tomorrow in parts of north-east England. This river flood risk also includes parts of south and south-east England tonight and overnight into tomorrow due to rivers reacting to forecast heavy showers becoming aligned and running over the same areas (see AOC Map for further details).

Further rainfall in the south-east of England on Thursday may fall on areas that are sensitive to further rain. Kent has a low likelihood of minor impacts at this stage, bringing a VERY LOW flood risk here on Thursday.

### Surface water

There is a medium likelihood of minor impacts from surface water flooding in parts of north-west and north-east England and North Wales today, continuing into tomorrow in parts of north-east England. This river flood risk also includes parts of south and south-east England tonight and overnight into tomorrow due to rivers reacting to forecast heavy showers becoming aligned and running over the same areas (see AOC Map for further details). Given the saturated ground conditions throughout these parts, there is a medium likelihood of minor surface water disruption. Disruption may include flooding of land and roads and disruption to travel.

Elsewhere and at other times the surface water flood risk remains very low, despite generally showery conditions, which may lead to minor disruption very locally from surface water flooding.

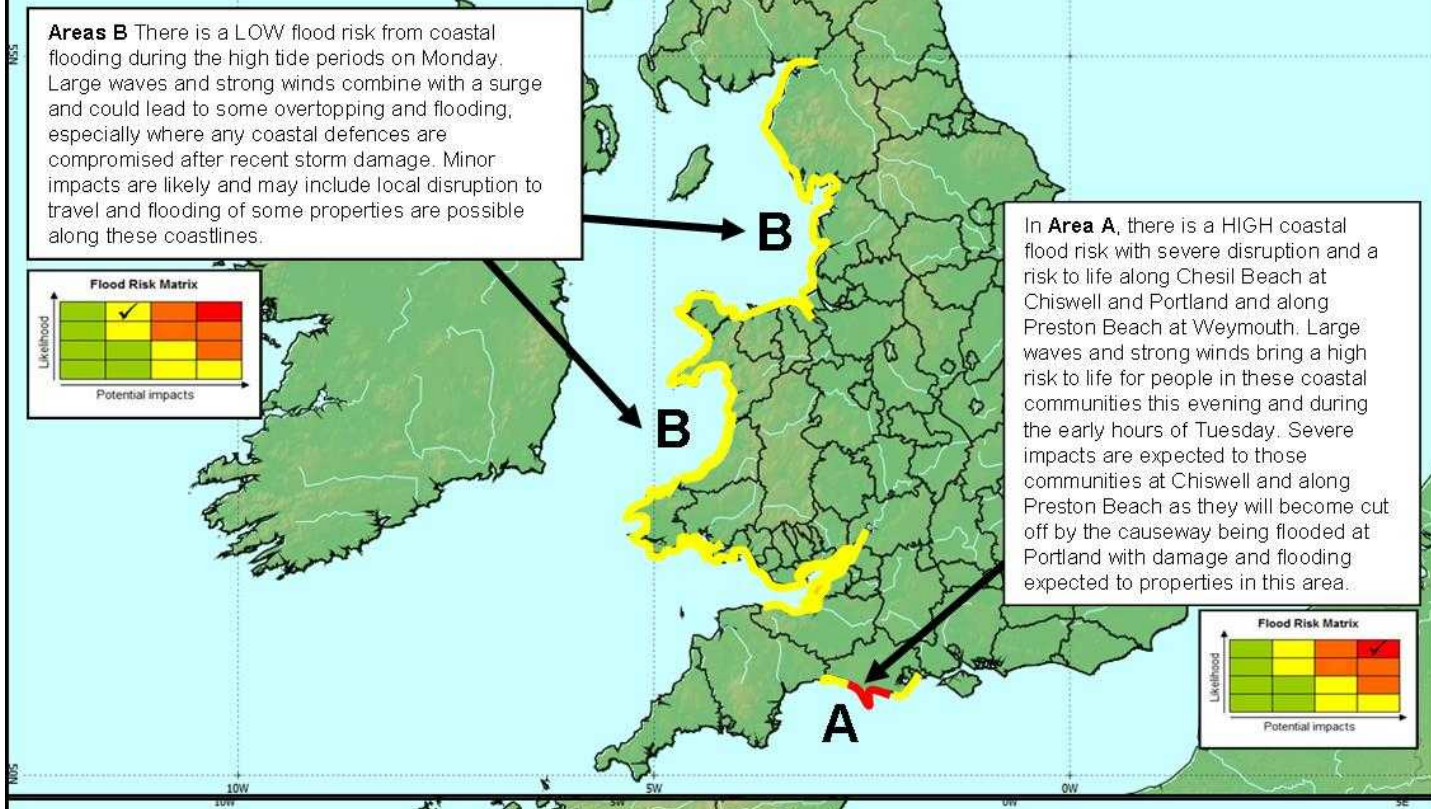
### Warnings and Alerts in force in England and Wales at 15:00hrs

Flood ( <a href="#">click here</a> )	
Severe Flood Warnings	1
Flood Warnings	103
Flood Alerts	217

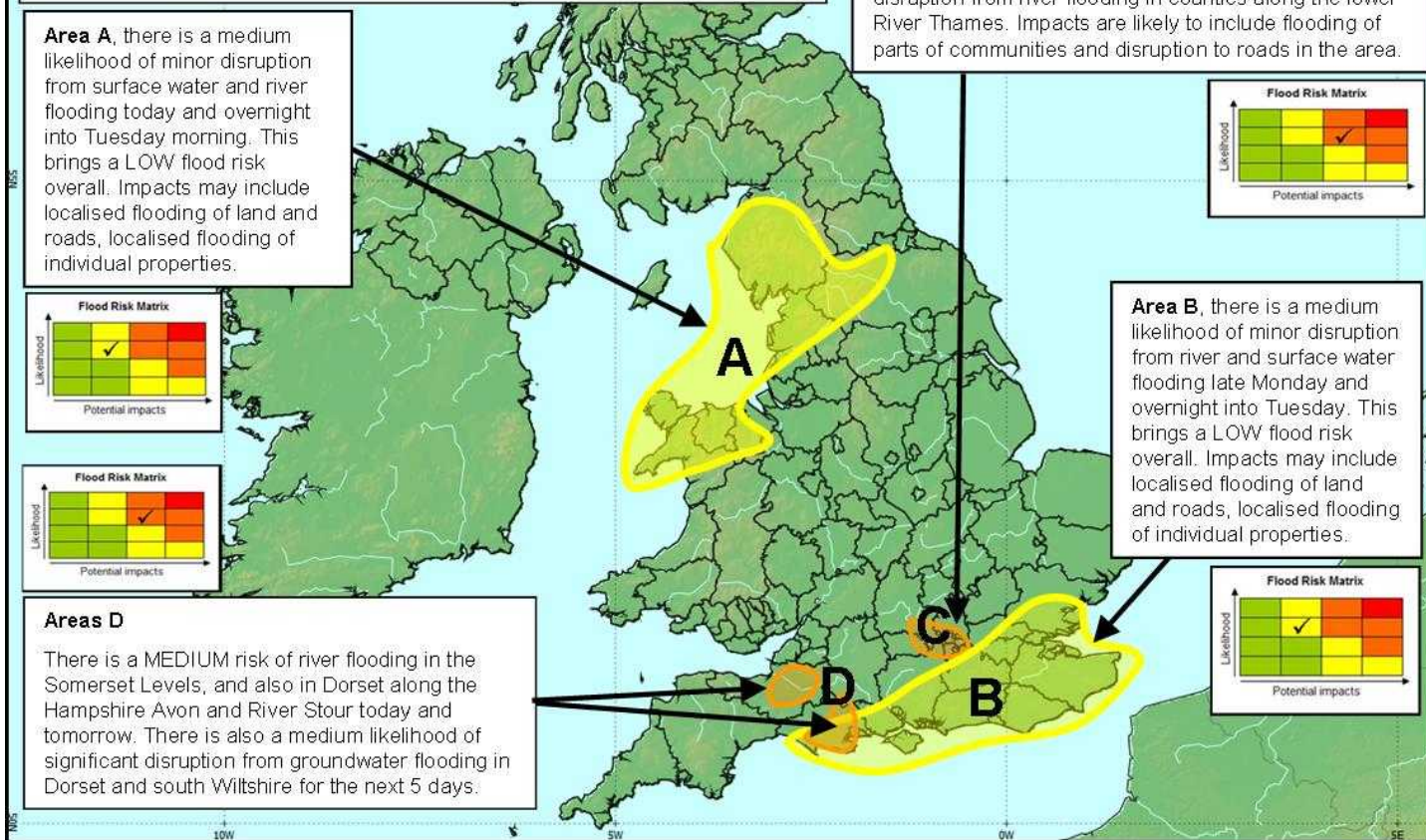
Severe Weather ( <a href="#">click here</a> )	
Warnings	Yes
Alerts	No

## Specific areas of concern

### Coastal flood risk on Monday 6 January 2014



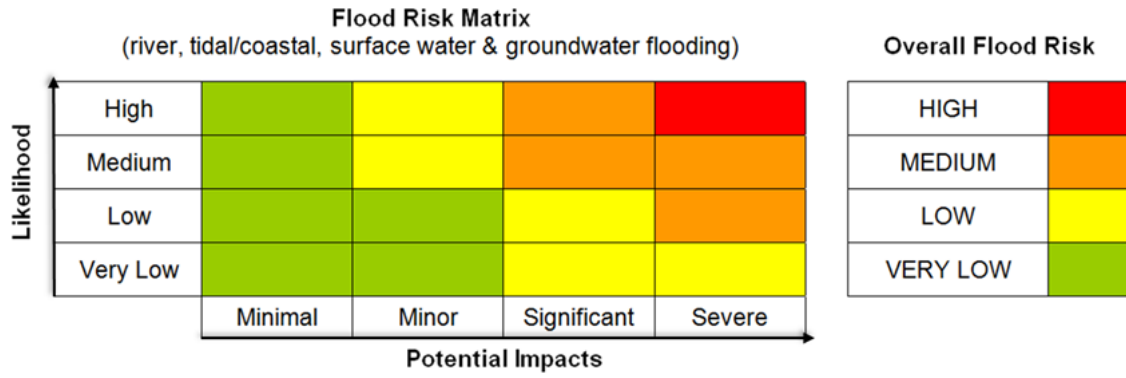
### Monday 6 January 2014 and onwards



Next statement due: 20:00hrs Monday 06 January 2014

**Contact details:** Flood Forecasting Centre Duty Hydrometeorologist: 0300 12345 01

All times are local.



Click [here](#) for the Flood Guidance Statement User Guide.