

J Historic records of flooding

Date	Description	Source
13 October 1625	"A tremendous flood swept through the valley, causing great devastation. In the town of Tiverton alone 53 houses were destroyed."	Quoted in Brierley (1964)
1692	"A wave of water 4-5 ft deep swept through West Exe, Tiverton , causing great damage to walls and houses."	Quoted in Brierley (1964)
1757	"As a result of extremely heavy overnight rain the Exe rose suddenly and swept away the Mill House situated at the end of West Exe, Tiverton . Many bridges were destroyed or damaged throughout the Exe Valley ."	Quoted in Brierley (1964)
1795	"Many bridges were damaged and Swines Bridge at Tiverton was swept away."	Quoted in Brierley (1964)
1809	"Water 5 ft deep in West Exe, Tiverton ."	Quoted in Chronology of British Hydrological Events
January 1809	"In the Town of Thorverton a brook of water rose in an unprecedented manner and broke down a cob wall ... one half of [a] dwelling house was washed away."	
1853	"... the Exeter and Crediton Branch was much damaged [by flood water] and the traffic thereon suspended for some time in the winter of 1853."	
January 1866	" Tiverton , greatest flood in the Exe for 20 years."	
19 October 1875	Observer at Tiverton noted "Excessive rain in evening; great floods."	
15-16 April 1877	"Exeter, Crediton , and various other places in Devonshire, are reported to have suffered greatly from floods produced by the rains of the 15th and 16th."	
1884	"... the daily [rain] fall exceeded an inch ... on March 3rd, and June 27th ... on both occasions the fall occurred in the night, and on the following morning the Exe had risen so rapidly that the lower parts of Tiverton were flooded, the main sewers and drains being choked and unable to carry off the superabundant flow of water."	
26 October 1909	Rainfall observer at Tiverton noted "River Exe high and River Lowman in flood."	
21 December 1909	Observer at Uffculme noted "Rain fell on frozen ground in the night and caused the worst floods known here for 16 years."	
21-22 December 1909	Rainfall observer at Crediton noted "Between 6 pm on 21st and 5 am on 22nd, 1.65 in [42 mm] of rain fell, and the ground being frozen serious floods resulted."	
	Rainfall observer at Tiverton noted "Rain commenced at 7:30 pm on 21st and 1.39 in [35 mm] fell in less than 12 hours. The Exe was in flood, and as the ground was frozen hard none of the rain could soak in until the thaw on the morning of the 22nd."	
24-25 August 1912	Observer at Tiverton noted "River Exe in flood."	
June 1946	In Cullompton , 2.35 in [60 mm] of rain fell in 45 minutes and "... in the lower part of the town flooding was 3 ft deep in houses."	
30 September 1960	"Serious and unexpected damage was reported from Crediton and the neighbouring hamlet of Fordton , where several cottages collapsed."	Devon Flood Story (p. 2, 1960)
	In Fordton , "flood water reached a depth of five feet"	Devon Flood Story (p. 20, 1960)
	Yeoford Station was flooded, as well as "... the racks between Yeoford and Crediton , where ballast was washed away leaving the tracks suspended."	Brierley (p. 163, 1964)
30 September 1960	"At midday heavy flood waters were surging over a bridge on the main Southern line between Exeter and Crediton , and as a precaution trains were cancelled. About three hours later the bridge collapsed."	Devon Flood Story (p. 18, 1960)

Date	Description	Source
30 September 1960	"... Bridge Reeve near Chulmleigh ... flood water was pouring through the front window of a cottage and out the back."	Devon Flood Story (p. 2, 1960)
1 October 1960	"There were ... fresh floods in the Exeter and Crediton areas"	Devon Flood Story (p. 2, 1960)
	"After torrential rain on the night of September 30, the River Lowman rose rapidly and flooded Blundells Road, Tiverton . By midday on October 1, Lowman Green was four feet under water. Traffic between the town and Halberton was at a standstill for a time, and hundreds of people were stranded."	Devon Flood Story (p. 23, 1960)
	"The 7:15 am train from Hemyock to Tiverton Junction on the Culm Valley branch had an adventurous career. Shortly after setting out the driver noticed that the ballast was washed away ... temporary repairs were made. On the resumed journey, further down the line at Culmstock the track began subsiding beneath the train."	Devon Flood Story (p. 12, 1960)
	"The Exe Valley branch was flooded at Tiverton"	
6 October 1960	"Floods at Hele had cut both up and down tracks on the main line."	
	"Torrential rain sent new floods surging through Devon during the evening ... Crediton being completely cut off by road and rail for some hours. There was also serious flooding in the Taw valley"	Devon Flood Story (p. 2, 1960)
	" Copplestone station on the Barnstaple line was under water and there was a wash-out between Yeoford and Coleford Junction."	Devon Flood Story (p. 12, 1960)
	"... the main line at Silverton was flooded to a depth of 1 ft."	Brierley (p. 162, 1964)
	In Fordton , "... eleven families had to be evacuated."	Devon Flood Story (p. 20, 1960)
	"At Tiverton police were out in the streets warning householders to barricade their homes."	Devon Flood Story (p. 9, 1960)
8 October 1960	"The River Yeo rose five feet in four hours"	Devon Flood Story (p. 20, 1960)
	" Tiverton on the Exe also experienced floods"	Devon Flood Story (p. 2, 1960)
22 October 1960	Flooding occurred in Crediton , following a total of 64 mm of rain on 20 and 21 October (recorded in Exeter)	Brierley (p. 156, 1964)
27 October 1960	"Rail services between the West, London and the North were interrupted last night at Cullompton and - for the second time in a few weeks - at Crediton , where passengers were having to transfer to emergency buses to complete their journey."	The Western Morning News (Devon Edition, 28/10/1960)
	" Tiverton ... was flooded again, and several schools had to close."	
	"The Lowman had once again caused the trouble at Tiverton. It broke its banks in Blundell's Road soon after 3 am, cutting the town in half. ... At its highest ever, with water lapping the main arches of Lowman Bridge"	
	"For the fourth time in a month householders and shopkeepers in Lowman Green and Blundell's road Tiverton, had their homes and premises flooded to a depth of over 3 ft." Floodwater also swept through the yard of Tiverton Sawmills and lapped the platforms at Tiverton railway station."	
	"Both the Western and Southern Region main railway lines were cut by the floods. On Southern lines buses had to take over from the trains between Crediton and Exeter On the Western Region buses provided the link between Exeter and Cullompton ."	
	"At Bridge Reeve , near Chulmleigh, the Taw rose to an unprecedented height"	

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27 October 1960	“One factory had to be closed at Cullompton More than 3 ft of water entered the Railway Inn. People had to be rescued from caravans at the Station Road site and caravans were hauled to higher ground.”	The Western Morning News (Devon Edition, 28/10/1960)
	“Water on the main road at Bickleigh was over 2 ft deep ... the Little Dart and Exe combined to flood ground floors of the Fisherman’s Cot, the Trout Inn, and Bickleigh Cottage Guest House.”	
	“There was also flooding in the hamlet of Hele by the station.”	
	“... ballast was again washed out from under the down line at Hele & Bradninch [station].”	Brierley (p. 162, 1964)
29 October 1960	“For the fourth time in a month householders and shopkeepers in Lowman Green, Tiverton , had their premises saturated with three feet of flood water.”	The Western Morning News (29/10/1960)
4 December 1960	“Heavy rain and high winds throughout Saturday [3 December] and the early hours of Sunday morning [4 December] brought severe flooding to ... Tiverton , and to the towns and villages of the Taw valley .”	The Western Morning News (Devon Edition, 5/12/1960)
	“The floods at Tiverton were the worst ever recorded, and about 500 houses were affected, some to a depth of 8 ft.”	
	“The most difficult road was that between Exeter and Tiverton , which was impassable at Bickleigh , and in Tiverton itself.”	
	In Tiverton , “... at 9 am ... the Exe, rising 12 ft in an hour and travelling at over 40 miles an hour, broke its banks. In a fury it swept through Leat Street, West Exe North, and West Exe South, and swirled into many more before it met a torrent that rushed through the Walronds Housing Estate.”	
	“At the beginning, the Tiverton factory acted like a gigantic dam shielding much of Leat Street, but as the build-up of water continued, the turbulent muddy tide broke over a 5 ft high boundary wall.”	
	“At Ladysmead 20 sheep grazing on the football field were cut off in the grandstand.”	
	Flooding affected Chappell’s buildings in West Exe South, and residents of the Walronds Almshouses in Well Brook Street were marooned.”	
	“ Bampton was flooded, but not as badly as in October.”	
11 February 1990	“The entire Devon stretch of the M5 was closed because of high winds and surface water.”	Express & Echo (12/2/1990)
7 August 1997	The car park of the Culm Valley Sports Centre in Cullompton flooded from the Crow Green Stream	Mid Devon District Council (2006)
30 October 2000	“Flooding closed the A396 at Bickleigh and between Bampton and Tiverton .”	Express & Echo (30/10/2000)
31 October 2000	Seven people were rescued from flooded cottages in Bolham .	Express & Echo (31/10/2000)
	A family were rescued from their flooded farm in Bickleigh .	
5 November 2000	“Flash flooding of a small tributary on the edge of Thorverton caused misery to dozens of residents.”	Express & Echo (7/11/2000)
7 November 2000	“The Tarka line between Exeter and Barnstaple ... remains closed because of flooding.”	
16 November 2000	Bickleigh Mill Heritage Centre (photograph 40) was flooded	Express & Echo (16/11/2000)
7 December 2000	Flooding from the River Lowman affected Tiverton Business Park, as well as residential properties in the vicinity of Station Road and Little Silver	Environment Agency
Autumn 2000	“More than 60 sheep marooned in a flooded field near Cullompton were rescued by [a] RSPCA inspector ... and mechanics from a local garage.”	

Date	Description	Source
October 2000 – January 2001	171 properties were flooded in Devon as a whole	Environment Agency
December 2000	44 properties in Bampton were flooded to a depth of approximately 0.9 m	
11 October 2012	Low-lying parts of Tiverton were flooded, with the river Lowman bursting its banks.	Impact of flooding on key business sectors in Devon and Somerset 2012-13 Final report (SQW, 2013)
21 November 2012	“Heavy rain and flooding in Devon has "cut off" some villages, closed roads and disrupted trains. People have been evacuated from their homes in a village near Tiverton after a canal breached its banks.” “Between 20mm to 39mm (0.8in to 1.5in) fell in 12 hours overnight on already saturated ground.”	BBC News website (21 November 2012)
	The Grand Western Canal breached some of its banks at Halberton, near Tiverton, where some of the residents from 20 houses in the village were evacuated to the village hall. The bank of the canal between Swing Bridge and Rock Bridge collapsed after sustained heavy rainfall.	Impact of flooding on key business sectors in Devon and Somerset 2012-13 Final report (SQW, 2013)
4 February 2014	The River Exe near Bampton has flooded onto parts of the A396 making it barely passable to small vehicles. Residents in Cullompton have been warned to expect their homes to flood after a night of heavy rain and gale-force winds.	Mid Devon Gazette (05/02/2014)

The Environment Agency provided information on the extent of flooding in two of the locations affected in 2012 – Rivermead in Cullompton and flooding in part of Tiverton from the River Exe.

The flooding in part of Tiverton is shown in Figure J-1. It shows an area was affected around Mountbatten Road and Kennedy Way.

The flooding at Rivermead in Cullompton affected a number of properties. Flooding occurred from the River Culm at approximately 11:00 on 21 November 2012. A flood warning was issued at 10:30 and water had receded by 16:00. Approximately 17 properties were flooded along Chestnut Avenue and Rivermead, some to approximately 200mm.

Figure J-1: 2012 flooding in part of Tiverton from the River Exe

