

**By:** Max Tant, Flood Risk Management Officer  
**To:** Floods and Water Resources Committee  
**Subject:** Kent Flood Update  
**Classification:** Unrestricted

---

The Environment Agency has recently reported an increased flood risk this autumn and winter due to the unusually wet summer. The wettest April to June on record, and further wet weather in July, September and October, has left river levels full, the ground saturated and ground waters in some areas exceptionally high in England. This means that there is less capacity than is normal for this time of year to receive rainfall in the ground and rivers, which could lead to flooding as they can be overwhelmed more easily.

It is important to note that this is a warning of increased risk, rather than a flood warning, and the risk is relative to this time of year. Typically in the autumn the soil would not be as saturated or river levels as high as they are now. For a flood to occur there must also be heavy rainfall, these antecedent conditions mean that storms could cause more flooding than would be expected at this time of year, but not that flooding is inevitable.

The Environment Agency's report does not mention Kent or the south east as a specific risk area. The south and east are mentioned as at risk due to high groundwater levels and the southwest, north and west as at risk from high river levels. However, the saturated soils across the country means that surface water flooding is an increased risk everywhere.

The Met Office and Environment Agency continue to keep emergency responders across the county informed of severe weather and flood warnings.

### **Author contact details**

Max Tant, Flood Risk Manager, Flood Risk and Natural Environment, Planning and Environment, Enterprise and Environment; [max.tant@kent.gov.uk](mailto:max.tant@kent.gov.uk); 01622 221691