

Flood Mitigation Scheme (Teffont Parish Council 2024)



The Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council have produced a Flood Investigation Report with recommended actions for the community to consider.

The measures are intended to future proof to some extent, the risk flooding in Teffont.

After the intense rainfall event in May 2023 (which badly affected some homes), TPC asked the EA to look at the contributing factors and make recommendations for reducing the impact of any extreme rainfall events in the future.

TPC will now consider the report and its recommendations and would welcome thoughts from residents and other interested parties. The initial emphasis will be connecting landowners & farmers in the catchment area with the agencies that can provide practical advice and possibly sources of funding.

TPC will also be updating the village emergency plan, so that we can be prepared in the event of future flooding.

Please can homeowners continue to report any flood incidences (inside buildings, or in external areas) to Daniel.everett@wiltshire.gov.uk – with photos if possible. This helps to keep Teffont on the priority list and helps with flood mitigation planning.

Inquiries and observations to:-

Rowena Taylor (Clerk to Teffont Parish Council)

teffontpc@outlook.com

Flood Investigation Report May 2023– Teffont Evias / Teffont Magna and surrounding areas

Date of flooding event

11 May 2023 (circa 16:30-18:00)

Date reported to Risk Management Authorities

18 May 2023 (08:00)

Investigating Officers

Michael Holm

Environment Agency

Partnership & Strategic Overview Flood Risk team

Danny Everett

Wiltshire Council Flood Risk team



Details of Flooding

Reason for investigation

Flooding of several properties, highways and land.

Cause / pathway

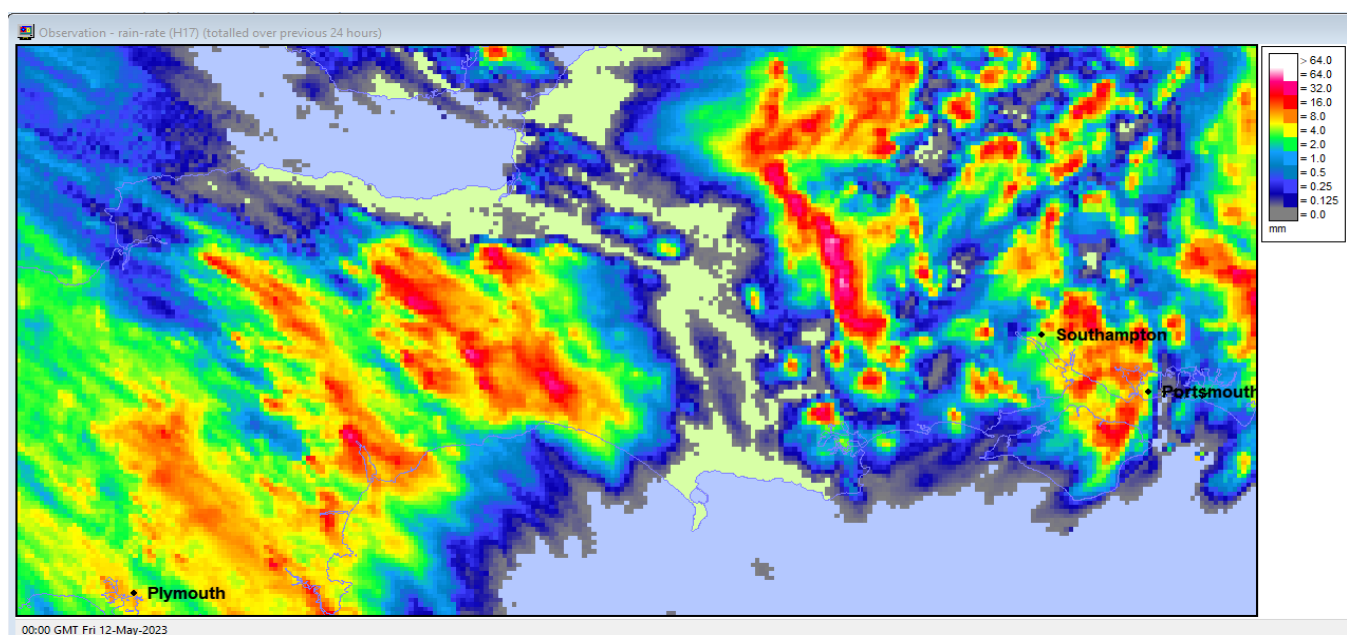
An intense storm event caused extreme run off flows across multiple locations across the Teffont Evias, Teffont Magna, Chilmark and Fovant area.

The intensity of rainfall overwhelmed the ability of drainage systems to channel it away from properties with resultant property flooding and damage. Interpolation of the radar would indicate that totals were circa 35mm in 30 mins, and 50mm in the 60 mins storm duration.

Local rainfall in adjacent Environment Agency rainfall gauges (c 5km away) picked up less than 5mm. Similarly, the river levels gauges in Tisbury and Wilton Nadder did not significantly respond to the rainfall therefore there were no flood warning triggers met. There was not a yellow weather warning in place for this area as the met office warning covered the Midlands to London.

Anecdotal evidence from the local residents collected at a public engagement event (*attended by Michael Holm / Carrie Whittaker*) on 23 May 2023, report flooding raising between 450mm - 900mm in different locations in the space of 15 to 30 mins.

Flooding was limited in its extents to the natural valleys and it was moderately short in duration, but damaging to properties due to the quantity of water delivered by rainfall. It generally followed traditionally 'known' routes of flow, although conveyance through highways was prevalent. The deluge caused the water volumes to exceed the normal channel capacity of the river and affect adjoining land and properties. There were also observed issues associated with the surface water routing from adjacent fields.



Observations indicate concern over where the flooding conveyed down road, tracks and through gardens. There were additional observations that water was not flowing into water meadows south of Teffont Magna as the locals would have expected~.

~ Similar observations were made in 1999 flooding regarding the storage in the water meadows features.

History of Flooding

Historic floods identified 4 times 1979-1999.

1999 Parish record as worst flood experience in living memory. On 5th July 1999 was the largest flood caused by 81mm of rain falling in 90 minutes.

Previous mitigation undertaken in early 2000s which is detailed as follows. Also further flood preventative measures were put in place over some years by the local community.

- 12 grips dug out along the Old Dinton Road to reduce water flow coming directly down the road. Arrangements had been put in place to ensure they were regularly maintained.
- Two attenuation ponds created at Manor Farm which take the diverted water from the grips. These ponds are managed by the owner of Manor Farm.
- An attenuation pond at Spring Head at the top of the catchment to reduce the flow down to the Teffont Stream
- The Environment Agency (EA) carry out regular surveys and maintain stretches of the watercourse that is not practical for Riparian Owners to do So.*
- The culvert by Evias Church had an upright removed to reduce the impedance to water flow.
- A Flood Warden was appointed for Teffont and some Teffont residents signed up to the Environment Agency Flood Warning System.
- A Flood Plan was made.
- Alterations to both the bridge on the B3089 by Post Office Cottage and the heightening of the bridge at Evias Church finally completed all the flood prevention recommendations.

** The Environment Agency, in 2023, do not carry out either regular surveys and / or maintenance in this community; as the organisational resources are focuses on maintaining our flood risk management assets / infrastructure that are in place to protect communities. Whilst previous historic maintenance activities and practices will have changed since the early 2000s, there is increasing understanding and pressures to protect our international rare chalk stream habitats such as this river.*

Recommended Actions

- Report all flood incidents to WC and provide photos showing water flow, if possible.
- Property Flood Resilience (PFR) for eligible properties that have formally reported flooding during May 2023 and 1999. *Note: Environment Agency – added the community to an existing PFR project for eligible properties (March 2024 - currently no timescale available for delivery)*
- Ensure Teffont Parish Council review their flood plans regularly and ensure that community are aware of the risk of flooding. Arrange an annual dry-run of flood plan measures.
- Land Use Management and surface water runoff assessments – using observations from the community and the surface water flood maps to confirm flow routes; the EA, Wiltshire Council and other partners will support the TPC, community and interested parties to influence local landowners to slow surface water runoff on their land through simple land management techniques (*i.e. buffer strips, relocating field accesses if in preferential flow path, plough lines around contours, using cover crops, etc.*). Priority areas identified during the flood event for further Land management considerations to include 1) reducing flow on to the C277 into Springhead, 2) creation of storage and reduce flows near Clarendon Stud, 3) creation of additional storage at Spring Head and 4) creation of storage and reduce flows around Holt Lane and surrounding area.
- Maintenance of surface water systems and grips. Parish to continue to utilise the systems in place for maintenance of any systems they consider critical in these significant rainfall events. WC to investigate drains that run towards the water meadow, to ensure there are no blockages.
- Surface water runoff from properties. Encourage the use of rain gardens and water storage on properties to slow flows and reduce discharges, which add to the impact on the properties / highway.

Recommended Actions (*continued*)

Investigate~ viability of:

- Improving channel performance in the vicinity of weirs in the water meadow in Teffont Evias and downstream from the Church in Teffont Evias.
- Increase size and frequency of grips to drain water off roads into stream.
- Replacing existing stone bridges in Evias with clear span or floating bridges.

~ Please note that whilst the above are recommended actions and investigations, there may not always be a clear flood risk management funding process to support the relevant flood risk management authorities investigations. Therefore, we are keen to support the community to explore other options for funding if they become available. Additionally, the risk management authorities will need to prioritise the wishes and needs of this community against the national and local priorities and resources available.

Appendix

Date of notification

Parish Council – Vice Chair 08:00 18 May 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

My name is [REDACTED] - Vice Chair Teffont Parish Council.

I understand from Ian that you have spoken about the “Teffont issues “ and I would like a conversation with you to discuss the various option open to us to alleviate the situation..

I have been in regular contact with Ian Colley from WW on various subjects regarding the Teff . One week ago Teffont Manga and Evias experience an absolute deluge of water culminating in the river level increasing by some 18 inches in the space of 15 minutes and with water run off from fields several properties in the village experienced extensive flooding.

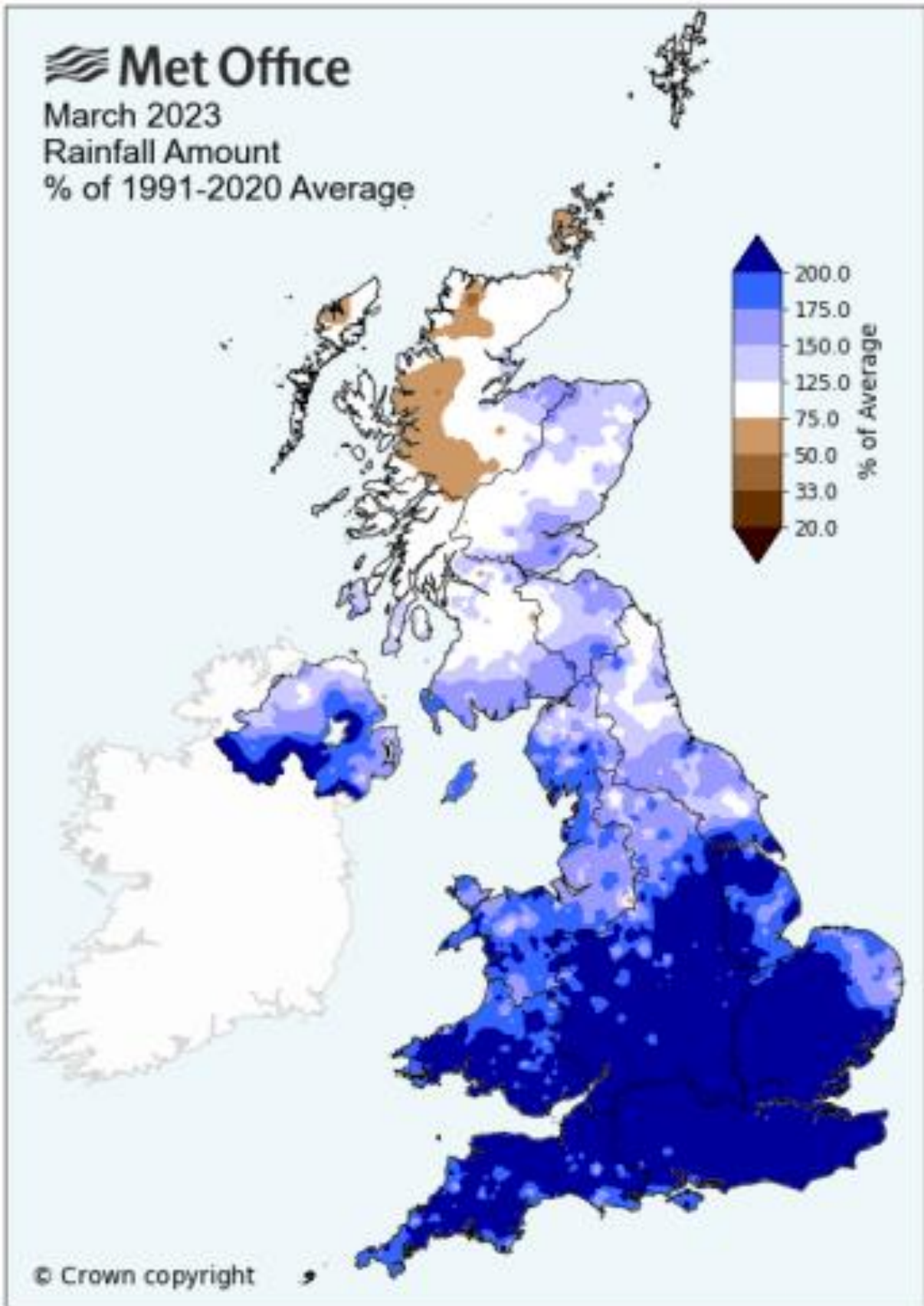
Obviously our residents are anxious to hear what can be done to prevent reoccurring events and would enjoy the support from the EA and perhaps the wider industry

I will call you later today

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Preceding conditions and weather warning

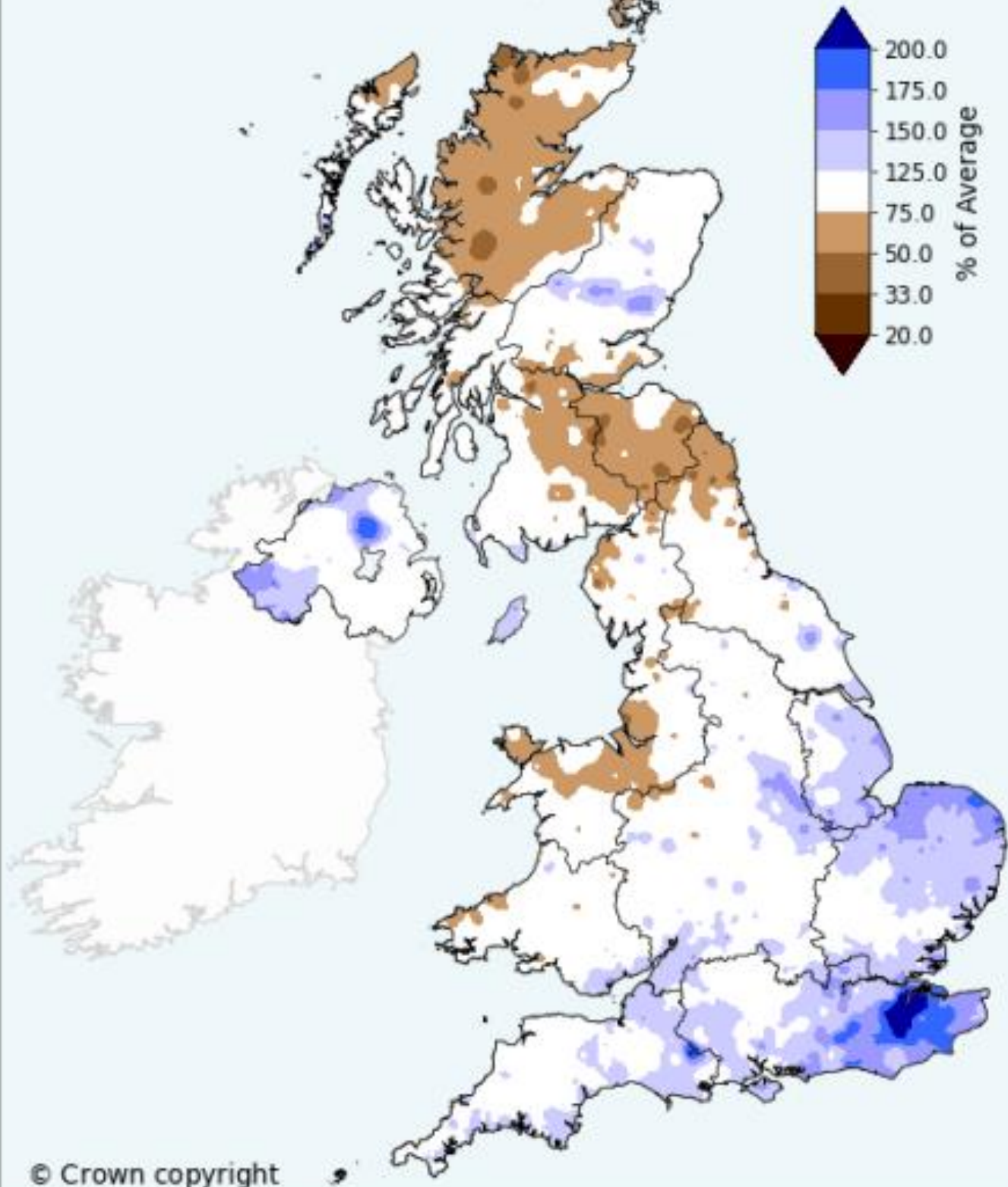




April 2023

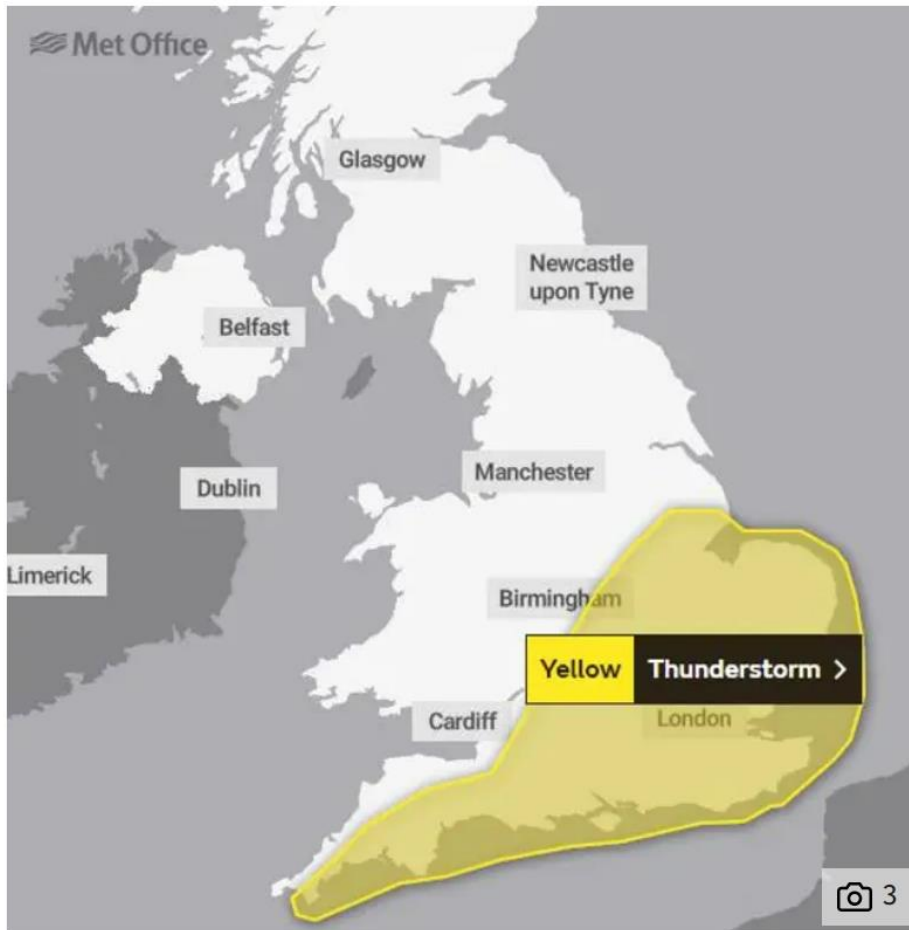
Rainfall Amount

% of 1991-2020 Average



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9th May 2023 weather warning



Met Office warning (Image: Met Office)

Extract of text from 11th warning

"Some of these showers will be slow-moving and 10 to 20 mm of rain is likely to fall in less than an hour in some places whilst a few spots could see as much as 20 to 50 mm of rain in 2 or 3 hours. The weather warning is in effect until 7pm on May 11 2023" Met Office 11/05/2023