

**Maidstone Borough Council: Impacts of severe weather events identified to date (Local Climate Impacts Profile outputs). Media trawl impacts only, awaiting further information.**

Full outputs and a database for Kent-wide impacts and actions to date to be available shortly. Please contact your NI 188 lead or Sarah.Anderson@kent.gov.uk for further information. Please ensure that any further impacts identified through next steps are shared with your NI 188 lead so they can be included in the LCLIP database. Please note that items in green are impacts identified through media trawls and therefore unvalidated unless stated otherwise.

Weather event	Date of event	Impacted group	Service	General description	Operational Impact e.g. damage / difficulty in service delivery	Impacts on service users (with costs if known)
Drought	Apr-97			Driest April that century. River Medway had to be filled with water from Bewl Reservoir in Lamberhurst, this didn't usually have to be done until June/July. Mid Kent water announced that it would be flying a small plane over Kent to stop people using garden sprinklers or hosepipes. Anyone who wanted to use these for a long period of time had to apply for a free license which would only be issued to those who had a metered water supply. The Environment Agency decided to refuse to grant Drought Orders - these permitted water companies to draw water from reservoirs during a drought.		
Drought	Apr-97			Farmers worried about how the hot weather and the water ban would affect the harvest and the price of produce.		
Drought	Dec-05			Mid Kent water advised that the snowfall had made no real appreciable difference to water supplies, and that the hosepipe ban for all domestic customers would remain in place. Weather forecast stated that in January Kent averaged only a third of its normal January rainfall. Nothing else reported about a drought.		
Drought	Jul-06			(14th) A water chief urges the public to continue to not use their hosepipes so that further water restrictions are not imposed. Southern Water began working on 50 new schemes to make more available water as resources remained under strain. (4th) Gardeners taking increasingly devious measures after hundreds of people across the county were reported for flouting the hosepipe ban. Some water companies forced to bolster stocks by importing water from abroad. Manufacturers unable to keep up with the demand for water butts.		
Drought	Jul-06			The heat has caused a reduction in water levels at the lake in Dunorlan Park. Record temperatures force the drought to continue.		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Dec-96			Freeze bursts 400 water mains. Southern water workmen have repaired more than 400 burst mains. More than 120 staff are on stand-by round the clock.		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	May-97			Nothing specific about the freezing temperatures, only stated in weather forecasts.		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Dec-00			Detling Hill, Bluebell Hill and M20 London Bound were all closed for some time after an inch of snow fell. Bus services were badly affected, many rural services unable to run. Seven Mile Lane was blocked from West Malling towards Paddock Wood. Nothing mentioned about		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Dec-00			Kent Ambulance services received 118 emergency calls in the space of 10 hours - most traffic related and pedestrians falling over in the street.		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Dec-00			Line from Ashford to Maidstone was closed as were services between Ashford and Tonbridge and between Hastings and Tonbridge Wells.		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Mar-05			Heaviest snowfall in 10 years, caused chaos on the roads, closed schools and businesses and created havoc for the emergency services. Black ice meant warnings were issued advising drivers not to drive unless absolutely necessary. M2 closed London bound between junctions 5 and 6 due to crash. Many routes to the north and east of Maidstone were almost impassable. A249 closed in both directions between Detling Hill and Stockbury after two lorries jackknifed. Police shut the A229 at Blue Bell Hill, difficult conditions on A274 at Sutton Valence Hill and Boxley Hill. Town centre traffic gridlocked		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Mar-05			Army Land Rovers were called in to take staff to work at the hospital,		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Mar-05			people went home early as shops and schools closed.		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Mar-05			All south eastern train services were severely disrupted, services cancelled between Tonbridge and Ashford, Arriva buses suspended.		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Dec-05			Snow - Train services were cancelled and roads were treacherous.		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Jan-07			Travel misery for thousands of rail users and motorists. Ice on the rails caused trains to grind to a halt, delaying passengers and services. Icy roads also caused problems - a lorry jackknifed on the M25 junction 9-8 causing tailbacks into Kent.		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Jan-07			KCC prepared for cold snap with gritters and crews on standby, the town grounded to a virtual halt because of icy roads. A229 between Linton and Staplehurst 3 cars skidded off the road into a ditch.		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Jan-07			Kent Fire and Rescue, Kent Police and South East Coast Ambulance Service all dealt with high volumes of calls.		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Feb-07			Two inches of snow caused travel misery - chaos on train lines and many motorists delayed. Ghost trains went out doing night checks to try and keep tracks clear. Delays on Ashford to London line, Tonbridge to Hastings line.		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Feb-07			More than 130 schools closed across the county.		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Feb-07			Despite efforts of 54 gritters there were delays on M20, Wrotham Hill, Blue Bell Hill and many rural lanes. Highways Agency advised drivers to take extra care and consider delaying or cancelling their journeys unless absolutely necessary.		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Apr-08			Sunday 13th. no major incidents reported by police. Round One of the British Superbike Championship at Brands Hatch had to be cancelled. Nothing else mentioned, just a double spread page of pictures.		

Freezing temperatures / Snow	Apr-08			Sunday 13th. Gritters were called out to make roads safer,		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Feb-09			KCC suspends all maintenance work to get the county moving. Extensive salting across the county. Roads closed and trains failed to run. Increase in sales of cold weather wear.		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Feb-09			Schools closed.		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Feb-09			Residents asked to leave rubbish out as usual with councils playing catch up.		
Freezing temperatures / Snow	Feb-09			Bill Moss, Maidstone town centre manager reported lots of shops closing early to get staff home. Maidstone and TW NHS arranged 4x4s to collect staff. Some operations cancelled. Off-duty staff asked to help. Arranged accommodation for staff.		
Heatwaves	Aug-98			Pressure put on Kent Fire Brigade due to a series of grass fires occuring because of the hot weather. Nothing reported about heavy rain/flooding		
Heatwaves	Aug-98			Heat and motion sensors being set off by wind as high temperatures meant more windows etc being left open which was wasting police time.		
Heatwaves	Aug-03			(8th) Construction workers at the Fremlin Walk development had to be sent home early after bosses decided it was too hot for them to work safely.		
Heatwaves	Aug-03			There was a sudden huge demand in shops for everything heat-related, ranging from soft drinks to paddling pools. More than 100 electric fans were sold in 2 days at TJ Hughes in the Chequers Centre with reports of stock in short supply at other stores. Lunn Poly travel agents in Maidstone said their bookings were up by a third in one week as the weather made people feel more like going on hoiday.		
Heatwaves	Aug-03			At Maidstone Law Courts a judge allowed barristers to remove their wigs for the first time after the air conditionng system broke down.		
Heatwaves	Aug-03			Network rail imposed speed limits to stop trains having problems from the heat and getting delayed.		
Heatwaves	Aug-03			Firefighters were streched to the limit with grass fires.		
Heatwaves	Aug-03			(15th) Hundreds of homes were faced with water shortages after a treatment works flooded. Supplies were hit after a power surge caused a water station at Old Church Road, Burham to break down leaving residents and businesses in Snodland, Leybourne, Larkfield, Ditton, Aylesford, East Malling, West Malling, Bluebell Hill, Eccles, Burham and Wouldham affected. Householders were urged to use watering cans instead of hosepipes and sprinklers, check that taps aren't left runing, wash cars with a bucket and sponge instead of a hosepipe, have showers instead of baths and make sure that when using washing machines and dishwashers they were full loads.		
Heatwaves	Jul-06			(7th) South East Coast NHS Trust issued severe health warnings of dehydration and collapse as temperatures hit 32°C. Hazlitt theatre had to order in extra fans and bottles of water as dancers struggled with heat and also gave cups of water to audiences.		
Heatwaves	Jul-06			Warnings issued about grass fires.		
Heatwaves	Jul-06			(7th) Some sports days were cancelled as schools didn't want to risk it in the heat.		
Heatwaves	Jul-06			(7th) Police issued security warnings as people were more frequently leaving windows open and so there was a possibility of an increase in burglaries.		
Heatwaves	Jul-06			(21st) Supermarkets across the country ordered in extra bottles water to meet demand, sales of ice cream, sunblock and barbeque food shot up.		
Heatwaves	Jul-06			Highways Officers were on standby to respond to any reports of roads melting.		
Heatwaves	Jul-06			Worry for old people as a heatwave in France in 2003 caused the deaths of more than 15,000 elderly people. Warmest July since records began in 1659.		
Heatwaves	Aug-97			Breakdown at Icelands in Fairmeadow - freezers straining under the heat. Work had to be stopped at a Blacksmiths in West Farleigh due to unbearable temperatures. Chequers Centre recorded better business during hotter temperatures by keeping air conditioning at 60°F. At Haynes car showrooms in Maidstone, all Ford Escorts being offered with free air conditioning were sold. Leisure centres did better business.		
Heatwaves	Aug-97			Vineyards produced better grapes due to heat.		
Heatwaves	Aug-97			Maidstone's magistrates main court had to be closed and cases transferred to rooms that had air conditioning.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Jun-97			More rain in the first week of June than in March and April combined. Fruit growers whose supplies had already been damaged by frost in May were worried that the heavy rain would damage produce further		
Heavy rain / flooding	Jul-99			An inch and a half of rain fell in 15 minutes. Businesses had to close as their electricty failed and water came through the ceilings. Montag Leisure in Gabriels Hill had to remain closed due to serious damage to inside of the building. Basement flooded at The Curry Inn, King Street. AMF Bowling closed as reception area and bowling lanes were flooded. Only thing related to a heatwave were weather reports stating that it would be hot and warnings of		
Heavy rain / flooding	Jul-99			Maidstone East was bought to a standstill after lightening struck signalling equipment, trains had to be diverted and coaches hired out to replace some services.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Jul-99			Drivers/roads not really affected due to people taking notice of advance warnings of heavy rain according to an AA spokeswoman.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Dec-99			Thousands of flood kits were issued to people all over Kent so that they were prepared for storm disasters over the coming years due to climate change. Maidstone escapes serious flooding but worst affected areas were the Weald villages, Five Oaks Green, Collier Street and Yalding. River Alder burst its banks. Yalding was affected by the River Beult bursting its		
Heavy rain / flooding	Dec-99			In Collier Street emergency services were unable to access it as main roads flooded up to three foot deep in places. The Salvation Army were called in to set up mobile canteens and lend a hand.		
Heavy Rain / flooding	May-00			Businesses flooded in King Street and the High Street. Edenbridge was the worst affected area. Flood warnings were in force for River Darent between Westerham and Sevenoaks, River Medway between Forest Row and Penshurst and River Bourne between Hadlow and the River Medway Other worst affected areas were Chiddingstone, Hever, Leigh, and Ightam.		
Heavy Rain / flooding	May-00			A school bus was stranded and had to be rescued at Four Elms.		

Heavy Rain / flooding	May-00			At peak of flooding firefighters from Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge were all called in to divert floodwater from businesses and homes.		
Heavy Rain / flooding	May-00			West Kent police were inundated with calls for help. Police landrovers were called in and owners of four-wheel drive vehicles and tractors also turned put to assist drivers		
Heavy rain / Flooding	Oct-00			Maidstone council's emergency plan was put into action after 6 inches of rain had fallen in 3 days - more than the normal total for the month. Government came under fire about new proposed housing developments and the risk of them flooding. Planning applications were to come under more scrutiny for building developments on flood plains.		
Heavy rain / Flooding	Oct-00			Weald schools were among the worst hit in the country. Maidstone council had to provide temporary accomodation for more than 50 people. Caravan park in Yalding hit particularly hard with most people ending up with nothing.		
Heavy rain / Flooding	Oct-00			Arriva Buses were suspended throug East/West Peckham, Goudhurst and Yalding due to the concern that buses would create surges of water that would breach sandbags that had been put in place to protect peoples homes.		
Heavy rain / Flooding	Oct-00			Farmers sheep and cattle drowned, also worried about how the flooding would affect the next years harvest.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Nov-00			Sandbags were distributed, underpasses next to bridegs were flooded. Yalding residents again worst affected, some claimed Yalding was deliberately flooded to save Tonbridge. John Prescott stated that there was no reason why Kent can't build thousands of new homes despite all the flooding. Homes were getting to be flooded for the third time in a month. Gas/electricity/insurance companies had to all pay out on flood victims.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Nov-00			Maidstone Police and sappers from Maidstone's 36 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers were out in Yalding ready to evacuate people.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Nov-00			High winds bought down trees in the borough blocking roads. Major disruption to road and rail networks, Maidstone East's services to London all had to be cancelled.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Nov-00			Lockmeadow Market had to be cancelled.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Jan-01			January's cold weather only mentioned in the forecast, no sub-zero temperatures though. January rainfall was close to 5 inches - 45% above the long term normal.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Feb-01			February's rainfall was one and a half times the normal amount for that month and the coldest February since 1996. Some residents in Yalding were flooded for the 7th time in 4 months after repair works had finally been started. Areas that had not previously been affected were also hit as rivers, streams and lakes overflowed.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Feb-01			Most problems were caused by motorists who ignored flood warnings and got their cars stuck.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Feb-01			Parts of Kent had almost a month's rainfall in 24 hours. At the height of the floods more than 20 local roads had to be closed in Boughton Monchelsea, Laddingford, Headcorn, Boxley, Bearsted, Kingswood, Headcorn, Marden, Collier Street and Staplehurst.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Mar-01			By 16th March the average rainfall for the month had already been reached. Was noted that from April 2000 it had been the wettest year since records began		
Heavy rain / flooding	Jan-03			(3rd)Town centre escaped worst flooding in two years largely unscathed, except David Lloyd leisure centre Lockmeadow where four rows of car park spaces disappeared under a foot of water. Environment Agency warned though that some parts of Kent would inevitably be flooded, particularly in Yalding area, roads were closed etc. Residents living near rivers were all urged to prepare for the worse and start moving their belongings upstairs. Largely although fields and rivers flooded, less property was affected than in 2000.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Jan-03			Houses were flooded in Beresford Hill - Boughton Monchelsea.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Jan-03			Maidstone Council delivered 4.250 sandbags across the borough over five days and had ordered a further 3000 just incase.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Jan-03			(10th) Sub zero daytime temperatures mentioned in weather forecast (17th) Heavy rainfall mentioned in weather forecast. No mention of snow		
Heavy rain / flooding	Jul-07			Concerns raised about the dramatic contrast with the July before which was the warmest on record, in comparison with all the rain that this July had had, 'no pattern, no prediction'.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Jul-07			Farmers reported hail damaged crops and fruit, worried about effects on harvest.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Jul-07			Due to wetness of July worries that if August and September weren't dry there would be much greater risk of flooding in winter.		
Heavy rain / flooding	Jul-07			No actual flooding mentioned nor any mention of a tornado.		
Heavy Rain / flooding	Aug-07			One of the wettest summers since records began. 212mm of rain fell between June 1st and August 14th compared with the norm of 147mm. Nothing mentioned about flooding		
Heavy Rain / flooding	Jan-08			More than 28mm of rain fell on Tuesday, more than half of whole amount expected for January according to Met Office spokeswoman. Overflowing rivers and heavy rainstorms caused chaos on roads and damage to properties. Flood warnings in place with more rain		
Heavy Rain / flooding	Jan-08			Rivers burst banks, River Medway flooded subways in Maidstone town centre, boats lost moorings and got stuck against East Farleigh bridge. Mote Park partially submerged as lake overflowed into car park. Fields surrounding Headcorn, Marden and Staplehurst became waterlogged and many roads impassable.		
Heavy Rain / flooding	Jan-08			Environment Agency sent out officers to respond to reports of flooded homes in Collier Street, Yalding, Marden and Headcorn.		
Heavy Rain / flooding	Jan-08			Dangerous driving conditions on roads around Sutton Valence and Chart Sutton. In Yalding where three rivers converge the Medway burst its banks leaving the Lees - a natural floodplain - under water. Traffic chaos as drivers got stuck and some abandoned their cars		
Storms	Aug-97			3 people were struck by lightening during a freak storm at a motorcycle event - giant hailstones/thunder/lightening		
Storms	Jan-07			Around 500 trees in Kent all fell down due to gales		
Tornado	Jul-99			Tornado hit Detling, ripped through an antiques fair causing thousands of pounds of damage - nothing else reported about it		