

Iwerne Minster Parish Council

RESILIENCY GUIDE

(Adopted by resolutions August 2023 & May 2025)

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01. Abbreviations

AED	Automated External Defibrillator
BT	British Telecomm
CAB	Citizens Advice Bureau
DC	Dorset Council
DE	Dorsetexplorer: website - DorsetExplorer (geowessex.com)
IMPHA	Iwerne Minster Produce and Horticultural Association
LX	electricity
PCC	Parochial Church Council
SSE	Scottish and Southern Electricity – LX distributor
WI	Wessex Internet
WTW	Water Treatment Works
WWT	Waste Water Treatment
WW	Wessex Water – supplier of potable water and waste water treatment

02. Issue Control

Issue 1 Initial issue, 2023

Issue 2 New sections added on “Firefighting and emergency vehicle access”, and “Heat”;
contact details updated, 2025

1. DEFINITION

The Oxford English Dictionary defines ‘**resilience**’ as meaning the “the act of rebounding or springing back”, “rebound”, “recoil”: ‘**resiliency**’ is the “*power of recovery*”.

It is this second meaning that this document considers: **resiliency as applied to the parish of Iwerne Minster.**

This is not an emergency plan. An emergency plan is about what to do in an emergency! This is about trying to ensure emergencies do not happen, and, if they do, how we, as a community, can recover from them. The parish council has a separate Emergency Plan.

2. INTRODUCTION

The aim of this guide is to help you prepare for possible future environmental events which may threaten. Agencies to support well-being and community groups are identified. We outline the provision of utilities, the supply of water, electricity and telecoms. We explore what you yourself can do to mitigate extreme climatic events such as heat and snow in your house or workplace. And, where we can, we show how, as a community, we can work together.

The experience of Covid-19, the way the Village rose to that challenge, suggests that we, collectively, have the ability to weather difficulty, and have strong powers of recovery.

There are some events which, as individuals, we might think we have little control over, but there are simple, inexpensive things we can do to mitigate their impact, and maybe pre-empt them.

Obviously each of us must be self-aware and be responsible for ourselves. But we sometimes need help, and we can help each other: we have a 'duty of care' to ourselves and other, and we must nurture and support our 'good neighbourliness'. This is an ever present and continuing duty.

In terms of physical resources, we must consume less. Not only will this reduce our bills, but it will also mean we produce less waste. The treatment of waste is usually costly, requiring the expenditure of other resources better used elsewhere.

The world is changing, and the provision of basic services is becoming more uncertain. Electrical power is getting more expensive. The demand for water is increasing and, with climate change resulting in rainfall changes, our water supply is threatened. These are just two of the challenges: there are many more. All are fundamental, existential, issues.

3. AIMS

The aim of this document is twofold:-

- a) Firstly, to identify what we, as a village and as individuals, can do to prepare for, and mitigate, events that may cause hardship, danger or generally interfere with our lives.
- b) Secondly, to provide an overview of the services whose disruption might impact on the village, such as electricity supply, telecommunications.

This document does not intend to be prescriptive, rather it offers information and guidance about Iwerne Minster now and continuing into the future: Take from it what helps you.

4. PEOPLE – HEALTH & WELLBEING

4.1. At the Heart of the Community is Resilience

By far the most important asset to community resilience is the people and the contribution that they make to the community. In section 4 we try to give some assistance. What can you do to help yourself, to reduce your dependence, to be independent, to support others? What is available to you today? What is most important is that you try to help yourself before calling on others; however, at all times "remain safe" whatever you do.

The village responded to the Covid-19 pandemic with both by speed and significant 'good neighbourliness'. This was a good demonstration of the strength and resilience of our community. An ad hoc action group was rapidly established, and it recruited volunteers to offer support to others. These were organised by area. Support ranged from doing shopping and collecting prescriptions, through to dog walking and simply being available to chat. With many individuals and households having to shield, this was a real help and people felt they remained connected to others and cared about.

The speed of the village's response achieved two significant outcomes. Firstly, people were reassured and could access meaningful help. Secondly, volunteers felt they were making a real contribution to helping their neighbours and so ameliorating the crisis.

4.2. Village Organisations and Institutions

There are many existing clubs and semi-formal groups of which you can become part.

At the time of writing the formerly constituted organisations and clubs, that is, those with a constitution and membership, are:-

- a) Iwerne Minster Village Club
Contact – Secretary, Mervyn Marsh, 01747 811339
- b) St Mary's Church – Parochial Church Council
Contact: Reverend David W John, 01747 811623
- c) Abingdon Hall (Charity No: 281988)
Contact: Secretary, Rita Lishman, 01747 812 508
- d) IM Parish Council
Contact: clerk@iwerneminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk
or on 01747 850515
- e) Iwerne Minster Produce and Horticultural Association (IMPHA)
Contact: Chairman, Sue Le Prevost, 01747 812173
- f) Women's Institute (SWIM)
Contact: President, Minnie McCann [07944 656652]

Many of these, such as the Village Club, have subsidiary groups doing activities like table tennis, billiards, and of course, the Christmas Panto. IMPHA also organises its annual Summer Show on the Parish Field.

The Abingdon Hall, the Village Clubhouse and St Mary's Church are available for hire.

The Parish Council, in addition to its statutory duties, is responsible for things like Speed Watch, litter pick, stream cleaning and snow patrol. Volunteers for these activities are covered by the Parish Council's insurance.

Neighbourhood Watch is a separate organisation to the Parish Council and has its own insurance scheme. The village co-ordinators are Susan Trim and Kerry O'Connor. Contact Susan at susan@trimuk.net .

4.3. Support for those in need

There are many reasons an individual or family may need support. It may be for health reasons, bereavement, loneliness, the struggle to care for another ... the list is endless.

There are many sources of help, and the emphasis will be on help, your independence, and your privacy. For example help could come from:

Carers Support Dorset who help unpaid carers to access support and service to assist them with their caring role. <https://www.carersupportdorset.co.uk/> Telephone number for carers 0800 368 8349.

4.3.1 Iwerne Valley Benefice

Within the immediate vicinity of the village there is the Iwerne Valley Benefice and its PCC who is active in these matters. You may contact the Vicar, The Reverend David John on 01747 811623. This is open to all, regardless of creed.

4.3.2 Help and Kindness Dorset

More widely, there are many sources of help and support. A good place to start looking is the 'Help and Kindness Dorset' website: [Welcome to #HelpAndKindness for Dorset](#)

This gives links to many different support initiatives, such as personal care, respite care, food, help after leaving hospital, mental health to signpost just a few things. Providers typically work with the NHS and subject specific charities.

You can 'phone them on: 01305 595958, or email at: hello@helpandkindness.co.uk

You might even find something that you would like to volunteer to help with!

4.3.3 Technological support

The Adult Care group of Dorset Council runs what it calls 'Tec Lounges' where a variety of technology based apps, devices, gadgets, that could support you in independent living are demonstrated. There is one in Wimborne and another in Dorchester. One can book a visit by 'phoning 01305 221016, or online at :- <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/tec-lounges>. But remember, the apps and some of the devices do depend on having an internet connection and electricity supply – think power cut!

4.3.4 Communication Systems

A WhatsApp Community has been set up for village news and events to be circulated in the village. Only the administrators (Susan Trim, Paul Le Prevost and Kerry O'Connor) can send information and see who the members are. Contact Susan Trim on either email address susan@trimuk.net or WhatsApp her on mobile number 07811 314694 to be added to this mailing list or if you have important village news to share.

The village also uses an online Community Forum called Next Door to share information. If you would like to join Next Door please see the village noticeboards for joining information or contact Susan Trim as above who can send you an invite. Susan can also help you if you are struggling to use or can post on your behalf.

Added to these online systems Neighbourhood Watch is available where Susan Trim can send out messages through Dorset Alert.

4.3.5 Weldmar

Weldmar Hospicecare is an independent Dorset charity providing high quality end of life care. The care provided includes, but is not limited to, cancers, heart disease, and neurological conditions such as motor neurone disease. The service is free and is available to all adults with life limiting illnesses.

Over 80% of its care and support is delivered in patient's own homes, care homes or community hospitals. Some conditions requiring more sustained specialist input are managed at the Weldmar's Inpatient Unit in Dorchester. For some patients, the

establishment of a regime for symptom control and pain management may enable them to return to their own homes. This unit also can provide respite care before enabling the patient to return home where they will continue to be supported.

The Weldmar website is:- www.weldmarhospicecare.org but can also be contacted on 01305 269898. Their address is:

Trimar House
Cromwell Rd.
Weymouth
DT4 0JH

4.4. Insurance and Risk Assessment

The Parish Council have insurance to cover any of the activities or events for which they are responsible, and these will be covered by a risk assessment. Cover for other events is the responsibility of the organisers.

4.5. Other Village facilities

The village has a Village Store and Post Office, and a public house (The Talbot). These are privately owned and managed businesses. Both make an important contribution to the welfare of our community.

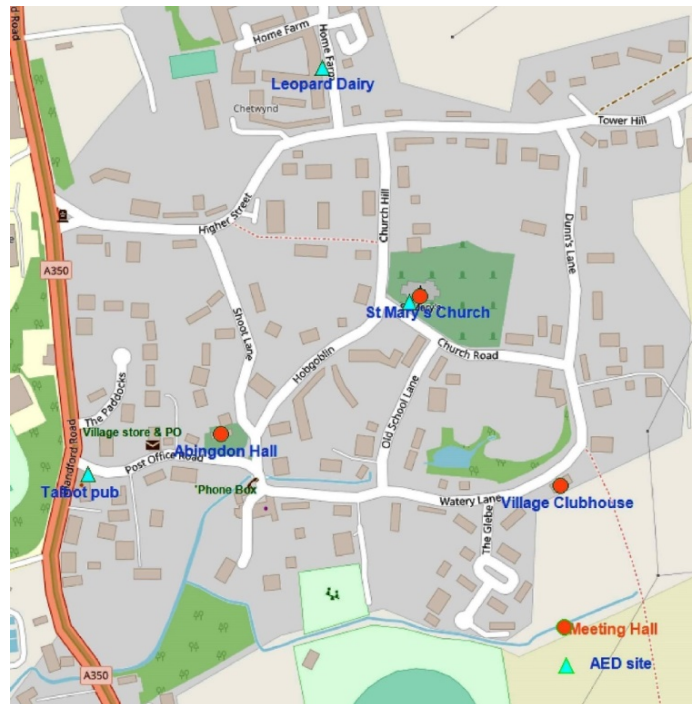
A working telephone kiosk is sited at The Chalk. It does not take cash but from it one can make credit card calls or transfer charge calls.

The village is part of a Neighbourhood Watch and if you want to reduce your house insurance it is in your interest to join. To do so contact Susan Trim on susan@trimuk.net or mobile 07811 314694.

There are three AED (Automated External Defibrillator) devices in the village, they are sited as follows:

Behind The Talbot
In St Mary's Church Porch
Outside the Leopard Dairy

See the map for: **Community Facilities** below:



Community Facilities

4.6. Reporting Issues

Although this is dealt with in greater detail in the village's Emergency Plan, may we suggest that to report an issue to the emergency services, especially somewhere off the beaten track (for example, if you are walking on one of the many footpaths in Dorset), you use the "what3words" app. This can locate to within 3 metres. For example, the AEDs mentioned above can be located by their 'what3words' as follows:

Behind The Talbot	–	'scariest.tripling.duties'
In St Mary's Church Porch	–	'robes.point.hobbit'
Outside the Leopard Dairy	–	'pill.shampoos.exit'

See: [what3words app](#) | [Find, share and navigate to precise locations](#) | [what3words](#)

Obviously, to use this you'll need a mobile 'phone. This way of pin-pointing a location is much more precise than post codes or street names, even with a street number (which entrance, where in the garden, etc.). Though dependant on the internet it is, for some, easier to use than OS grid referencing.

4.7. A word on loneliness:

Loneliness is a significant issue in one's health, now considered as bad for your health as smoking: see https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2023/feb/06/how-to-have-a-happy-life-according-to-the-worlds-leading-expert?CMP=share_btn_link

5. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Whoever is billing you for electricity, the actual physical supply is provided by the Scottish and Southern Electricity Network (SSEN). SSE is the organisation you should contact in the event of a power cut.

5.1. LX distribution in the Parish

LM is supplied from the high voltage (HV) distribution station at Park Farm. Supply comes into the village past Oyles Mill and then splits around the village, somewhat like a ring main or a net. This means that the village itself has a fairly robust supply. If a section goes down, it should be possible, via the substations in the village, to reconnect the section. Outlying sites, like Hill Farm, Peggs Farm, Farringdon, West Lodge, are on spurs and consequently more vulnerable.

In the event of a long term outage SSE can provide generators. SSE can also deploy a 'meals van' providing basic hot food and drink. Generators are noisy. In the event of needing one, they should be sited somewhere near a communal hall that can be lit and heated. Possibilities are the Abingdon Hall, the Village Club House or the Church. Maintaining LX supply to the Church would have the added benefit of preserving mobile 'phone connections.

If necessary, a substation can be replaced with a generator.

5.2. Electrical power use

All households use electricity for lighting and many use it for cooking. In the winter all those with oil or gas central heating boilers will use it to run the timers, to fire up the boiler and to drive the central heating circulation pumps. There will be some households for which the LX supply is critical, such as those with dialysis machines. And there are many which may be classed as vulnerable, such as those with very young children, the old, the infirm and those with certain health conditions. SSE maintain a list of vulnerable households (see 'vulnerable peoples register', 5.3.2 below) so they can prioritise and make additional provision in the event of an outage. This they can do whether the outage is scheduled or unscheduled.

5.3. What we can do

5.3.1. Preparation for the event of a power cut

Torch:	The simplest preparation is to have a torch <i>easily</i> to hand, i.e. not buried at the back of a drawer (which drawer was it?) <u>and</u> a set of fresh batteries.
Warm clothes & blankets:	Keep them easily accessible.
Cordless devices:	Keep mobile 'phones, ipads, wireless etc. charged. Similarly for stair lifts and any medical equipment.
Camping gas cooker:	If you have one, keep it handy with spare gas cylinders.
Electric car:	Keep charged.
Vulnerable household:	Make sure you are registered with SSE.

5.3.2. SSE Vulnerable peoples' register

Vulnerability includes: disability, children under five, blindness, deafness, chronic illness, aged over 60, those using medical equipment or aids reliant on electricity. This is not a definitive list, so contact SSE and discuss your situation.

If you have vulnerable people in your house, let SSE know.

You can do this either by 'phoning them on **0800 294 3259**,

Or visiting their website: [Priority Services Register - SSE](#),

Or completing their form (available from the village shop) and FREEPOSTing it to them.

5.4. What we can do – Longer term actions

Use less electricity! All sorts of things can reduce your usage and your bill! Change to LED lights; when you replace any white goods, favour low energy models with the green A, A+ or A++ rating; cold wash laundry (and do it less often!) etc., etc.

6. WATER SUPPLY AND WASTE WATER REMOVAL

6.1. Water Input

Potable water is delivered to Iwerne Minster village by gravity from the Hill Farm reservoir at the top of Tower Hill. This reservoir is supplied from the water treatment works (WTW) in Stubhampton from where it is pumped up to Hill Farm. Although this relies on SSE mains electricity (LX) supply, there is a backup generator on site. If that were to fail, WW have portable LX generators and could also use tankers, or in extremis, bottled water and Arlington tanks. Be aware that in this later situation, water would be provided for drinking and cooking only, not for WCs, showers, clothes washing etc. However, WW state that they *"would tanker [sic] the reservoir to keep it full, so there would be no outages."*

Farringdon and Peggs Farm are also supplied from Hill Farm but are on a different pipeline, and, again, are gravity fed.

If the WTW at Stubhampton were to fail, WW can also fall back onto the Grid trunk main. WW describes the Grid main as *"a strategic main that travels throughout the whole Wessex system."* IW is adjacent to the main running between Shaftesbury and Blandford. See: [Water supply grid \(wessexwater.co.uk\)](http://www.wessexwater.co.uk)

The Stubhampton abstraction plant is in a "Groundwater Source Protection Zone". This is an Environment Agency designation relating to the time pathogens can travel in groundwater. WW does not spread sewage sludge in a zone, known as an SPZ1, which demarks a water in aquifer travel time of greater than 50 days.

6.2. Water Output

Waste water goes to the two waste water treatment (WWT) plants situated to the south-west of the village, beyond Marsh Lane [now known as Trout Farm Lane]. The plants also take waste water from Sutton Waldron. They are mains powered but have backup generators. Without power, and depending on weather and flow, they possibly could run for about an hour. The lower the flow the longer they can operate.

Treated water is discharged into the River Iwerne.

WW remove sludge once a week by tanker and take it to a sludge treatment facility, of which WW have nine such facilities in our region. Here sludge is either anaerobically

digested or mixed with lime. Both methods kill any harmful bacteria. Treated sludge is then returned to farmland as fertilizer and soil conditioner.

6.3. Additional information

WW have installed phosphate removal facilities at the Trout Farm site to reduce the phosphate pollution burden on the Iwerne and Stour rivers. WW maintain the seals on foul water drains to limit flooding from ground water into the WWT system (WWT systems work better with predictable flow) and the seals also prevent foul water leakage. WW have recently (January 2023), re-lined many of the sewers in the village. The projected life of this work is seventy years.

As a note of historical interest, up until the early 1970's some in the Village depended on wells and water arising from springs in the village. However, because of the amount of agricultural run-off entering this ground water, principally nitrates and phosphates, these sources are believed to be **not to be fit for human consumption**. WW are not responsible for monitoring the quality of the spring water entering the River Iwerne.

6.4. What we can do

Nationally, it is recognised that the UK climate is getting drier, see National Infrastructure Commission's '*Preparing for a drier future*' (April 2018). The West Country Water Resources Group recognises that "*The potential impact of drought on water users is high*", and that "*forecasting decades into the future is fraught with uncertainty*".

6.5 What can we do to help?

Use less water! What is clear is that in the event of water shortage, due to climate change, damage to the supply route, long term power outage or whatever, we should consume less water. This would not only protect the potable water supply, but also ease the burden on the WWT plants. (It would also reduce our own water bills!)

In the longer term, changing one's lifestyle, even a little, to use less water will benefit everyone. This might be taking a shower rather than a bath, taking a shorter shower, washing clothes less often, installing water butts to cache rainwater for the garden ... the list is endless.

Many people are already taking these measures.

7. TELECOMS

The UK telephone system is changing. The digital signalling protocols, which have been in use between exchanges, and now being extended out to the end user, i.e. you and me. See: <https://www.futureofvoice.co.uk/>

7.1. Wessex Internet

Wessex Internet (WI) provide wireless and fibre connectivity to the village. There are two sorts of power cut which could affect the service. With a power cut to the village itself, your own telecoms devices, powered by your domestic supply, will not work, and WI can do nothing about this (other than advise on domestic battery back-up systems). For power loss to its own network, WI has back-up batteries and contingency plans. WI continually monitors the performance of both its wireless and fibre systems. Part of this involves checking the state of the back-up batteries in their network cabinets. The

batteries provide, typically, for a minimum of 4 hours use. If this proves insufficient, WI say they will deploy generators to keep the service going.

WI monitor and regularly test their backup procedures.

The WI network connects to the wider national and international networks via two, geographically separate, "Points of Presence" (PoPs, sometimes known as 'tele-hotels'). Connectivity to and from the internet is achieved by peering its network with many other networks from these two points.

7.2. Openreach

Openreach is a separate company to BT Mobile and BT Broadband which are part of BT. They do not, "for legal reasons of competition", seem to talk to each other! EE is now part of BT.

Openreach provide the network over which all the various providers signal. This is the same sort of arrangement as pertains with LX providers over the SSE network. However, unlike SSEN, if you have a problem you must contact your provider, rather than BT Openreach.

The Openreach network is completing the move from copper to fibre. This means that if your LX supply goes down, your BT telephone will no longer be 'trickle charged' from the exchange and you will not be able to make a 'phone call. In IM there is fibre to the roadside cabinets and to homes. Copper is currently being replaced.

Fibre to Iwerne Minster is understood to come from the Blandford exchange via Fontmell Magna. It is said to be constantly monitored so a break should be dealt with in a matter of hours.

7.3. Mobile 'Phone signalling

The mobile 'phone mast located in St Mary's church tower is operated by Vodafone. If you have a Vodafone mobile you can contact them on 191. Alternatively, visit <https://www.vodafone.co.uk/network/status-checker>. You can report an issue on this site. If, and only if, you have a mobile, you can also sign up for alerts about planned maintenance events and monitor unplanned events.

For non-urgent questions about the site or equipment, contact Shared Access estates team at estates@sharedaccess.com. For more pressing issues contact Shared Access on 01590 670 025, who operate a 24hr help desk.

The church mast relies on the SSE electricity as the rest of the village. However, it has an (approximately) two hour battery back-up system. The village's one experience of it going over to the battery was that signalling degraded from 4G to 2G, meaning that, although voice calls could still be made, data became problematic.

The mast is connected to the national network by Openreach fibre. If the fibre goes down so will the connections. Wessex Internet's recently installed fibre connection into the church **does not connect** to the mast.

7.4. Emergency Alerts

For information about HMG's 'Emergency Alert' system, which is a UK government service that may warn you if there's a danger to life nearby? For local alerts and notifications, see also the Emergency Plan.

8. Gas, Oil, Firewood and Alternative Energy Sources

Iwerne Minster is not on the gas main. Procurement of both gas and oil is the responsibility of the individual householder.

Prepare for winter by procuring an adequate supply. Regularly check the safety and integrity of your installation.

The same applies for those with wood burners. Please use dry wood, i.e. seasoned logs, containing less than 20% moisture. Dry wood produces much less particulate matter. (It also means that you'll need to sweep your chimney less often! Another small saving.)

Farms in the parish may have their own generators and are able to isolate themselves from the grid and be able to supply power to themselves.

There is one solar photovoltaics installation in the parish, rated at 4MW, at Park Farm.

Over twenty buildings within the village now have their own solar photovoltaic panels. Some have a battery. Being a conservation area, and having many listed building, there are limits on such installations. Never-the-less, the number is steadily increasing. Getting the initial grant of planning permission, and maintenance, is the responsibility of the owner. Note that, unless the installation has specialised trip switching (expensive), should the grid go down, you can neither generate for your own home, nor supply to the grid. If you wish to install such switching, consult with SSE.

At the time of writing there were no windmills in the parish.

9. FLOODING

9.1. Naturally occurring water in Iwerne Minster

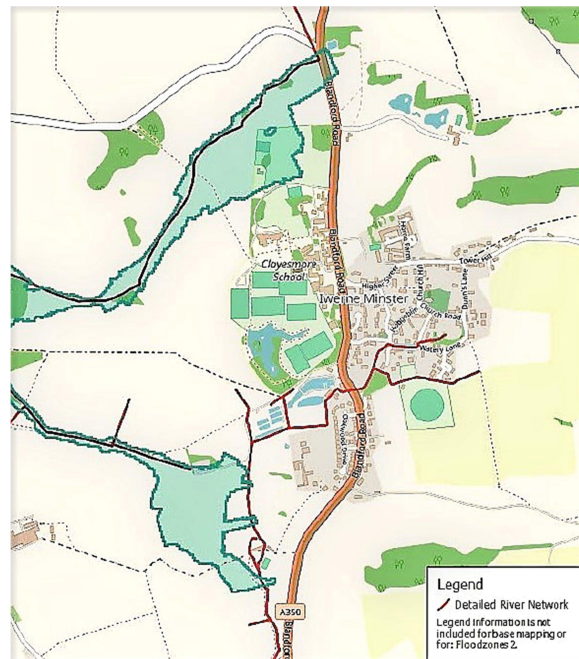
Iwerne Minster has numerous springs that surface in the village and issue from where the chalk and greensand meets clay. These springs are the source of the Iwerne River which flows south out of the village to join the River Stour some four miles away.

Being the source of a river, does this mean that Iwerne Minster might flood? The simple answer is: "very unlikely". There are three types of flooding to consider: river flooding, groundwater flooding and surface flooding. A fourth, sea water flooding, a significant issue in parts of Dorset, is not relevant here.

9.2. River Flooding

The River Iwerne is a small chalk stream within the village and is highly unlikely to burst its banks within the village. Based on Dorset Council's predictions, shown on the Dorsetexplorer (DE) website, the predicted river flooding, with a probability of between 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 years, is shown in the blue areas on the map below. It is limited to the fields and ditch network draining west into the Fontmell Brook, and southwest into the Iwerne. In regard to global warming, Dorset Council is using this, 1 in 1000 year prediction, as a proxy (currently under review).

No flooding is anticipated near or within Iwerne Minster's settlement boundary. No dwellings in the village should be affected.



Map: ©Ordnance Survey, courtesy of Dorsetexplorer: [DorsetExplorer \(geowessex.com\)](http://DorsetExplorer.geowessex.com)

The map also shows the “detailed river network” in red, that is, the ditches and culverts as well as the River Iwerne itself. (Do not be confused by the A350 road, shown in purple, running N-S!) However, note that the A350 north of the village at the Child Okeford turnoff, could potentially flood.

9.3. Groundwater flooding

Regarding groundwater flooding, that is, flooding due to the ground becoming so saturated that water table rises, resulting in water coming up to the surface of the land, Dorsetexplorer projects that there is a less than 25% chance of it happening in Iwerne Minster. However, a shortcoming of DE is that the projection is applied in kilometre squares, a somewhat coarse resolution, and the village square includes the low-lying land to the west of the A350.

9.4. Surface flooding

Surface drainage in and immediately around the village is generally good, and water from prolonged rainfall should rapidly drain away. However, in extreme conditions the A350 through the village might flood, though this should be short-lived.

The roadside gullies drain into the Iwerne. This system is separate from the sewerage system, which Wessex Water maintains.

9.5. What we can do

The individual householder can check for the risk of flooding on the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk>. This site also offers some guidance about what can be done.

As a community we must ensure that storm drains and the River Iwerne are clear of any blockages. This means reporting blocked storm drains to Dorset Highways ([Report a gully, drain or flooding issue](#)) and checking that such reports are actioned.

It means keeping the River Iwerne, and its little tributary that runs between the playground and cricket pitch, free flowing. Unpopular though this may be with some, this might require the occasional removal of excess weed. It certainly requires the frequent clearing of debris caught by the grates on Watery Lane near The Chalk.

Regarding pollution of the River Iwerne, we must ensure that any polluting spillages, such as oil, radiator coolant and the like, do not occur and, if they do, are contained and removed before getting into the storm drain system and thence the river. And remember, the village has a trout farm a few metres downstream.

10. SNOW

The village has a volunteer staffed 'snow patrol' which may be called out in the event of a heavy fall. Its primary purpose is to make snow-free pathways for pedestrians. Activation of the Snow Patrol is described in the Emergency Plan. See the Parish Council's "Snow Code" and map below for details of the routes and paths to be cleared.

Grit and salt bunkers are located as shown below. Replenishment of salt and grit is the responsibility of the Parish Council: please alert the PC if a bunker looks empty.

Bunkers locations [see map below]:

- Tower Hill outside Clayesmore Art Dept,
- Tower Hill opposite Dunns Lane turn,
- Watery Lane opposite drive to Highview (ex Cleff House),
- N side of The Chalk, and
- South end of Oakwood Drive.

There is also a bunker at the top of Home Farm access road, the replenishment of which is the responsibility of the Home Farm management.



Salt and Grit Bunkers:

11. Firefighting in Iwerne Minster

Individual householders are responsible for ensuring the fire safety of their dwellings and curtilage. Tenants may need to liaise with their landlords. Dorset Fire Service are happy to advise about necessary precautions. Householders should also ensure that their insurance is adequate.

This section deals with the infrastructure within the village and how you can help ensure its effective operation.

11.1. Access for emergency vehicles

The lanes in Iwerne Minster are narrow and have sharp bends. To allow the clear passage of emergency vehicles, such as fire engines and ambulances, please be thoughtful when you park. Ensure that there is sufficient space for an emergency vehicle to manoeuvre. Please also make sure that any visitors you have also park in a sensible manner.

11.2. Fire Hydrants

The village is well served and has many fire hydrants as shown on the plan below. Hydrants are installed in underground chambers, situated below pit covers (some of which are painted yellow), and are identified by yellow marker plates which display their location and size of the water main.

Hydrants may not be used for any purpose other than fighting fires.

Think before you park

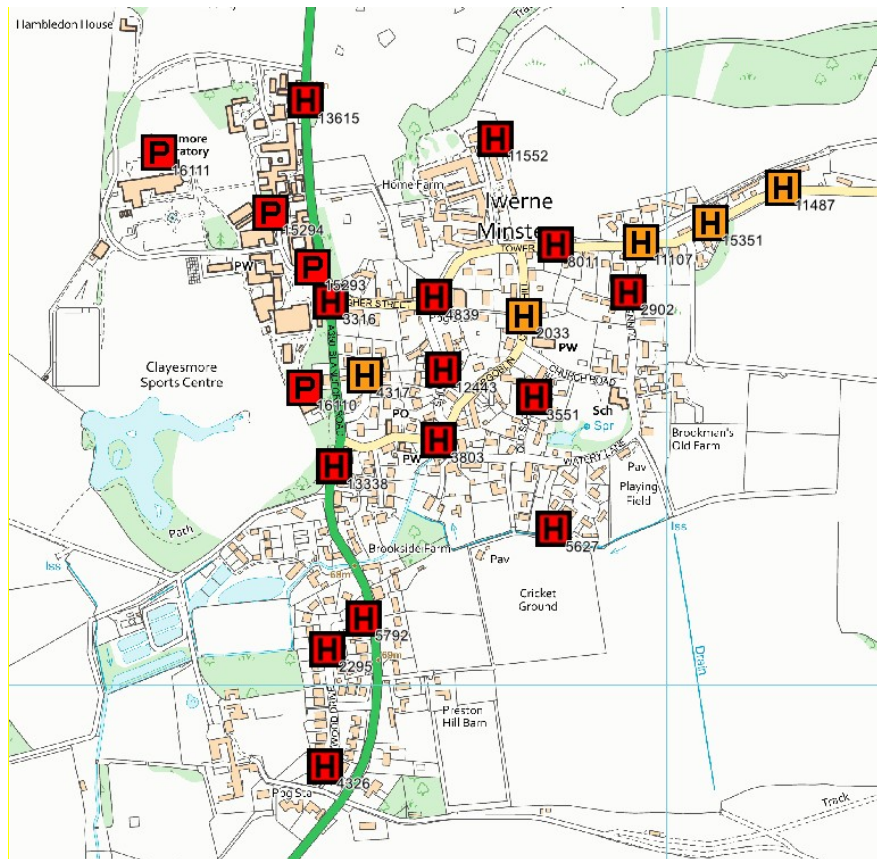
Please ensure that access to the hydrants is not obstructed. Firefighters may need to get to them quickly. The insurance of a vehicle obstructing a hydrant may not cover damage caused by the Fire and Rescue Service whilst gaining access to the required water supply.

Report any issues to Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service, by email to:

<https://www.dwfire.org.uk/contact-us/?formid=14#linked>.

The hydrants are inspected by the Fire Service on either a yearly or a four yearly inspection cycle. On the plan overleaf the H symbol denotes hydrants on Wessex Water mains, and the different colour indicates the size of the main. The P symbol denotes private hydrants. Private hydrants are the responsibility of the owner of the private main; however, the fire service does inspect them as part of their routine inspection cycle. The mains are supplied by the reservoir at the top of Tower Hill.

For further information on hydrants, contact the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service at: hydrants@dwfire.org.uk



Fire Hydrants in Iwerne Minster village

12. HEAT: Being Prepared for Hotter Summers

Because of global warming we are already experiencing hotter weather conditions, and these are most likely to get more serious. We must be prepared.

12.1. Your own person

Recognising heat exhaustion or heatstroke can be difficult – it creeps up on one, and one's ability to make sensible decisions diminishes. Be prepared! The NHS website give a plain set of guidelines to help prevent heat exhaustion or heatstroke:-

- Drink more cool drinks**, especially if you're active or exercising.
- Wear light-coloured, loose clothing, covering most of the body.
- Avoid the sun between 11am and 3pm.
- Avoid excess alcohol.
- Avoid extreme exercise.
- If you're inside on a very hot day, close curtains, close windows if it's hotter outside than inside. Turn off any electrical equipment and lights that get hot.

** Very chilled drinks are not recommended. Chilling your core may confuse your body into thinking that it is, itself, cold, and cause it to burn calories to warm you up. Clearly, this will make the problem worse.

12.2. Passive preventative measures in your dwelling or workspace

Choose to be in a room on the north or east side of your dwelling during the hottest times of day. If you do not have such a room, choose one with curtains or blinds that can be closed to keep direct sunlight out. Consider fitting external sun shades to windows. Follow the NHS guidelines above, and drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids! You should, if you have space, consider planting trees in the garden. Not only will these offer shade, but they can also actively cool spaces.

12.3. Electricity dependent measures in your dwelling or workspace

Install air conditioning, but remember: this needs electricity (LX), the generation of which currently contributes to global warming. Install a heat pump, one that can also work in reverse, that is, act to refrigerate for your dwelling. This, too, requires LX.

NB: If the electricity supply fails, so will the air conditioning and heat pump. And in some towns, because of many air conditioning units, the LX demand in the summer exceeds the winter demand, making the LX supply more likely to fail.

If you are interested in the effects of heat on the human body and what can be done to mitigate this, there is a comprehensive and detailed series of papers in The Lancet: [Reducing the health effects of hot weather and heat extremes: from personal cooling strategies to green cities - The Lancet](#)