

River Simene

Brit Catchment Natural Flood Management Programme
45% of BCNFMP locations are on the Simene.

Big landowners/farmers are involved. I have put a call out to in the parish newsletter for residents to join in the monitoring (CSI & River Fly). As far as I know, Tanya Outfin is the only Symondsburry resident still actively monitoring (apart from myself). Ian Rees has recently widened the call.

I have asked the Symondsburry parish clerk to establish relations with Netherbury pc (directly to the north) where the River Simene rises. And intend to attend the Netherbury pc meeting to ask for their support in recruiting river quality monitors.

We are looking for signs of voles on the lower Simene. Inconclusive as far as I know.

Symondsburry Parish now includes about 1km of the River Brit below Pyemore, where otters are known to catch salmon.

The Symondsburry Estate seems very keen on Beavers and otters.

The River Eype (in Symondsburry civil parish) is not monitored, as far as I know. It is a very steep river that rises in pastureland and flows through publically inaccessible, tree-lined gullies. It is undermining the very bottom of Mount Lane beside the notorious car park.

I spotted worrying signs in the stream flowing below the Bridport recycling centre (dump). And would like help getting to a spot where a sample can be taken. It flows into the lower Brit (where Jurassic Fields festival takes place).

Lower Simene (below the bridge)

Foundry Lea

The developers are laying in the infrastructure for the development of 760 new homes. Seven large attenuation ponds have been dug. These will play a part in the completed development to collect run-off from new impervious surfaces in order to reduce the risk of flooding in the Brit Catchment. But now in the infrastructure phase the developers are pumping out ground water into some of these ponds in order to lower the water table so a network of sewer pipes can be installed deep underground. These pipes will flow into a giant subterranean sump at the downstream end of the site, which will hold sewage back in times of high rainfall, to be released when the river system isn't under so much pressure.

During construction the Environment Agency is monitoring the water quality in the Simene every three months to see if sediment in the run-off from the site is clouding the river.

The construction of the access road into the development is under construction. It crosses the water meadow bordering West Road. The 65metre causeway, which has to be 1.6metres above the highest previous flood level, will have eleven 900mm pipes running through, which is considered adequate to allow floodwater in the meadow to drain. The road will continue over a bridge. The flood plain will be planted with trees. An opportunity for a wetland has been missed.