

# Press release: Latest on UK response to Hurricane Maria

UK aid teams have been on the ground in Dominica to assess the devastation caused by the recent extreme weather in the Caribbean.

DFID field teams arrived on the island yesterday (20 September) to carry out a three day assessment of the impact of the Category 5 hurricane.

Initial reports suggest widespread destruction, with 90% of buildings damaged or destroyed.

Medical supplies, including insulin and aquatabs, funded by DFID and a medical doctor from the Pan American Health Organisation also arrived on one of the first ships into Dominica yesterday.

Today a UK team will also travel to Monserrat to assess the impact of Hurricane Maria. Initial reports suggest the damage to buildings is not extensive, with the east side of Island being more affected.

It comes as a Red Cross appeal to help the victims of Hurricanes Maria and the earlier Hurricane Irma hit over £2million.

The appeal launched a fortnight ago was boosted by DFID's aid match scheme doubling all public UK donations.

International Development Secretary Priti Patel said:

This is an unprecedented crisis with two hurricanes of such brutal force hitting the Caribbean in less than a fortnight.

Our focus now is on making sure the islands affected have the right supplies in the right places to deal with the aftermath of the latest hurricane.

The British public has once again shown its overwhelming generosity in a time of crisis by helping out the victims of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

This money will ensure food, water and shelter goes directly to those who need it most on the worst hit islands.

To date 75 tonnes of DFID aid has arrived or been bought in the region, including food, water, nearly 3,000 shelter kits, 5,000 solar lanterns and 10,000 buckets.

Another 60 tonnes are on the way on HMS Ocean due to arrive in the region on Friday.

Work to prepare Anguilla for the impact of Hurricane Maria proved hugely successful in preventing further damage to infrastructure. Two tonnes of corrugated iron was provided to bolster hospital and police stations roofs. Food, tarpaulins, hygiene and shelter kits provided by DFID are also being distributed on the island by the Red Cross.

Vital supplies, including food, bottled water and shelters, were distributed to the Turks and Caicos Islands yesterday via three RAF flights and DFID field teams are urgently assessing the damage on the island.

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## [Press release: Foreign Office minister signs historic resolution to bring Daesh to justice](#)

Speaking at the United Nations, Minister Burt said:

There can never be adequate recompense for those who were forced to endure the wanton brutality of Daesh, and the dead will not be brought back, but this Resolution means that the international community is united in our belief that there should, at least, be accountability for those who perpetrated such wicked acts.

The United Nations will now help to gather and preserve evidence of Daesh's crimes in Iraq and I can announce that Britain will provide £1 million to establish the UN investigative team that will lead these efforts – and I would respectfully encourage other countries to contribute.

The resolution represents a concerted effort of coordinated global action to bring Daesh to justice for their crimes. It requests:

- to establish an investigative team of experts to collect, preserve and analyse evidence of Daesh's crimes, beginning in Iraq.
- to appoint a UN special adviser to lead the investigative team and promote the importance of holding Daesh accountable for their crimes globally.

Proposed by the UK and fully supported by Iraq, the resolution was passed by the Security Council following a letter written to the U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres from the Iraqi Prime Minister and Foreign Minister requesting international support of Iraqi efforts to bring Daesh to justice.

## Further information

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# [News story: £4.5 million flood alleviation scheme to open in Cannington](#)

Somerset's newest flood alleviation scheme will be officially opened by the chair of the Environment Agency next week.

The chance of flooding has been cut for 200 homes in Cannington thanks to a jointly funded £4.5 million scheme which will be opened by chair Emma Howard Boyd on Wednesday 27 September.

This is a result of a partnership with the Environment Agency, EDF, Sedgemoor District Council, Somerset Rivers Authority, Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, Wessex Water and Cannington Parish Council.

To avoid a repeat of more than 40 homes and businesses flooded twice in November 2012, a new flood alleviation channel has been created after the old brook, built in 1984, was deemed unfit to cope with present and future flood flows. All the fish have since been moved.

Disruption to motorists on the A39 was kept to a minimum in April this year when 4 culverts were installed under the road. Inside each one is a hydrobrake. These cone-shaped funnels accept large volumes of water, swirl it to reduce its speed, before releasing it.

By the time reseeding ends next month, more than 57,000 hours of work will have been put into the award-winning project.

Emma Howard Boyd, Chair of the Environment Agency, said:

From the recovery after the 2012 flood to the development of this scheme, it's been great to see Cannington's community and the Environment Agency working together in partnership.

To better protect over 200 properties in Cannington, 45,000 cubic metres of earth was moved. This uncovered some fascinating archaeological discoveries about the history of flooding in Cannington, dating back to the Roman period.

Thank you to all the partners for making this possible.

David Jenkins, chairman of the Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee,

said:

This is an excellent example of what can be achieved, when so many people and organisations work together with a shared sense of purpose.

David Eccles, EDF Energy's head of stakeholder engagement for Hinkley Point C, said:

Cannington residents have long suffered real issues from flooding so we were pleased to contribute £500,000 to support this vital flood defence scheme.

The funding is part of our wider commitment to support local communities and services through agreements, worth almost £100 million, to build Hinkley Point C.

Of that, some £865,000 has been specifically allocated for environmental schemes, including other flood defences in Bridgwater and Stolford.

Councillor Anne Fraser, Sedgemoor District Council's Portfolio holder for Economic Growth said:

I am delighted that this work has been completed. Not only will it save residents' homes from potential future flooding but enable road users in the area to benefit from the scheme.

Sedgemoor District Council were pleased to make a financial contribution which, along with other partners, enabled the scheme to go forward.

Councillor John Osman, Chair of Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA), said:

This Cannington scheme met all the objectives of Somerset's 20 Year Flood Action Plan, which is overseen by the SRA, so we were delighted to give the final £300,000 that meant this Environment Agency scheme could go ahead. It's good for people, property, business, road users and the environment.

Archaeological findings during construction revealed that Cannington's history with water problems extended further than first thought. Four skeletons were unearthed and the works revealed intensive activity dating back to the Roman period (AD43-AD410), including part of a square enclosure and human burials.

The first phase of Roman features was sealed by alluvial layers, which strongly suggests that the area was flooded in the Roman period. At some point after this flooding episode, the Romans returned to the site, and there was a second phase of Roman activity cut into the top of the alluvial layers.

## **Editor's notes**

The Cannington flood alleviation scheme won a Green Apple award and was shortlisted for the 2017 BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards.

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# **[News story: Leeds seminar: Improving rehabilitation through collaboration: involving service users in probation](#)**

Wednesday, 18 October, 2017

featuring

**Karen Townend I Head of Operations/Community Director I West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company**

**Gail Bland I North East & Yorkshire Engagement Team Leader, User Voice**

**Service User Council members I West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company**

Please see the attached flyer for details and how to book.

PDF, 303KB, 1 page

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# News story: Minister wraps up two day tour of North East

Securing an ambitious Brexit deal that works for every region of the UK remains the Government's priority, Minister Steve Baker confirmed today as he concluded a two-day of the North East of England.

The Minister's trip took in a range of sectors across the region – from energy and construction to life sciences and fishing. He visited Hartlepool Power Station and the Port of Tyne, met with the North East LEP and the North East Chamber of Commerce.

Speaking to business leaders and organisation representatives, the Minister used the visit to hear about the opportunities and challenges that the UK's exit from the EU could pose to the North East and how they are preparing.

## **Minister for Exiting the EU, Steve Baker said:**

As we move towards exit day, we're absolutely committed to listening to the views of businesses and people from across the UK.

In the North East over the past few days, I have talked to a variety of different businesses from a range of sectors and heard all about their priorities and preparations for exit.

The insight and understanding that they have is hugely valuable as we proceed through the negotiations to secure a deal that works for the whole of the UK.

With negotiations firmly underway, the visit comes as the UK Government steps up its engagement with businesses across the UK to ensure the voices of British businesses are heard and reflected throughout the exit process.