

NOTABLE SEVERN FLOODS

1484

A flood known as *The Duke of Buckingham's Water* helped towards his defeat and death. Many people were drowned in their beds, as were animals in the fields. The same century saw 8ft of water in the friary at Shrewsbury. The Earl of Warwick, as he was buried in his parish church at Worcester, the locals stated that he would be drowned, not buried.

1607

Many hundreds of men, women and children perished during this great flood, which was between Gloucester and the estuary. It was at 9 o'clock in the morning that large waves were to be seen coming up the river. This must have been the Bore, which would have met floodwater coming downstream.

1672

Flood marks for these years are to be seen on the walls near Worcester Cathedral.

1770

February: The deepest and the one that caused the most damage. The cause was due to 2 months of frost and snow, then a quick thaw resulting in much water flowing into the river.

This was happening all over England and Wales. Many Severn bridges were swept away, including 16 in Shropshire alone. *[The great flood of 1947 was caused by the same reason].*

1818

The River Severn was flooded 5 times, but this year also had the longest drought in memory!

1847

The Severn rose 18.5ft in 5 hours.

1852

So much damage was done to Minsterworth Church, Glos., that the floor had to be raised by 4ft.

1862

A train which had left Worcester during the floods, when it arrived at Bridgnorth the band of the Bridgnorth Rifles were playing *See the Conquering Hero Comes*

1868

Flooding at Caersws destroyed the railway embankment and a train from Newtown went off the rails, killing the driver and fireman.

1947

One of the highest recorded floods on the Severn

1958

Haw Bridge at Tirley, Glos., hit by a tanker barge during floods. Bringing the bridge down onto the vessel, killing the skipper.

1960

A major flood happens on average every 200 years. 1947 was the last one, but smaller, major floods have also occurred in these years.

2007

20th July. 90mm of rain fell in Gloucester causing much localised flooding from watercourses and the Severn. Mythe Waterworks at Tewkesbury was knocked out resulting in Gloucester and Cheltenham being without water for some considerable time. [ESRC Flood Memories](#)