



DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY

Fire Station Closure Consultation

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION
IS OPEN FROM:
Friday 13th February 2026
until Friday 15th May 2026**

This is your chance to have
your say about our proposals

INTRODUCTION

What we're proposing

We're suggesting to the community the possible closure of eight on-call* fire stations, four in Dorset and four in Wiltshire.

Your Fire and Rescue Authority is legally required to provide a fire and rescue service to the communities of Dorset and Wiltshire. We must continually scrutinise and review this service to make sure it works well, makes best use of public money and runs smoothly.

Why we're proposing it

We've been looking at information and data about all our fire stations. This helps us understand how busy they are, what risks they face and, for stations with on-call firefighters, how often fire engines are ready to go. Our initial analysis considered:

- the demand placed on stations by incidents,
- the community impact of fire station removal including;
 - the travel time to the next nearest Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service station,
 - proximity to a full time/wholetime duty station,
 - non-removal of two neighbouring stations.

Following this analysis, we shortlisted these eight stations:

- Bradford on Avon
- Charmouth
- Cranborne
- Hamworthy
- Maiden Newton
- Mere
- Ramsbury
- Wilton

* Firefighters at on-call fire stations live or work near to the station and respond when alerted

We used data from the last six years to consider:

- how busy the station is,
- how quickly and how often the station is able to respond to incidents,
- how could other fire engines nearby respond to these incidents,
- the financial impact of closing the fire station,
- existing and possible future risk in these communities,
- how we meet the changing needs of the community.

These proposals would save money and make sure we can still provide fire and rescue services across Dorset and Wiltshire, when you need us.

What this doesn't mean

We know closing fire stations might sound worrying and will not be a welcome decision for our communities. That's why we've looked very carefully at all the facts to make sure we're doing the right thing with the money and people we have. We understand you care about what this means for where you live. Before we make any decisions, we want to hear from you. Tell us what you think and if there's anything important that we might have missed.

We want your views on these proposals so that we can understand what is important to you, what our focus should be, and how we can meet our future financial challenges. The Authority has not yet decided on these proposals. Your feedback will help us decide what is best for Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service.

How you can have your say

The consultation is open from Friday 13th February until Friday 15th May 2026.

We will be holding public meetings in each affected town or village, to allow you to understand the data and impact of a closure and give us your thoughts. We'll also be holding online dial in sessions for each town or village. We have a consultation questionnaire which we'd encourage you to complete as well so we can collect all feedback.

Premier Advisory Group, an independent company, are supporting us with this public consultation. They will provide us with a report so we can review all the responses, before the Fire Authority makes the final decision at their meeting on Tuesday 30th June 2026.

FROM THE CHAIR AND CFO



Cllr Clare Weight
Chair of the Fire and
Rescue Authority



Andy Cole QFSM
Chief Fire Officer

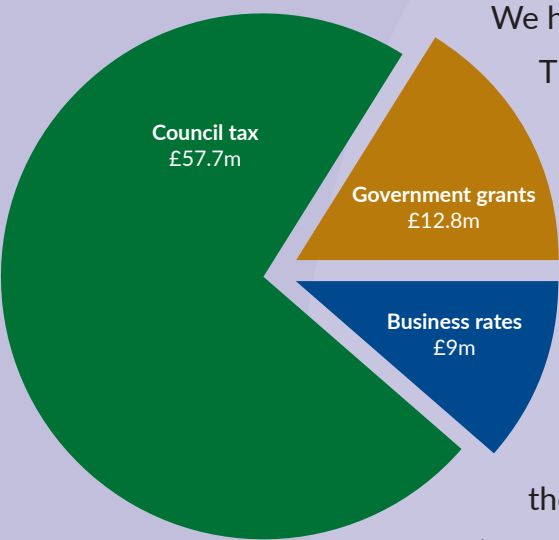
As Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority and Chief Fire Officer, our first responsibility is to keep people safe. That means making sure we have the right people and equipment in the right places, and that we can afford to sustain that for the long term.

We are a large Service made up of a dedicated and professional workforce that provide our response across 50 fire stations. We have 36 on-call stations, four wholetime only stations, five wholetime stations with an on-call section and five day duty stations with an on-call section. We manage our resources 24 hours a day to get you what you need when you need it, that does not always mean it will be your local fire engine.

Changes have already been made across all parts of our Service to save money and match our resources to where our risks are. Since the combination of Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services in 2016, we have saved £15.1m. During 2024/25, we have saved nearly £1m through further efficiencies. We will continue to look at the service we provide across all of our communities as a whole.

The proposal to close fire stations is a matter for the Fire and Rescue Authority. Whilst nobody wants to make these difficult decisions, we must maintain a sustainable and safe fire and rescue service. Although these proposals will save us money, the data is also telling us it's the right thing to do.

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION

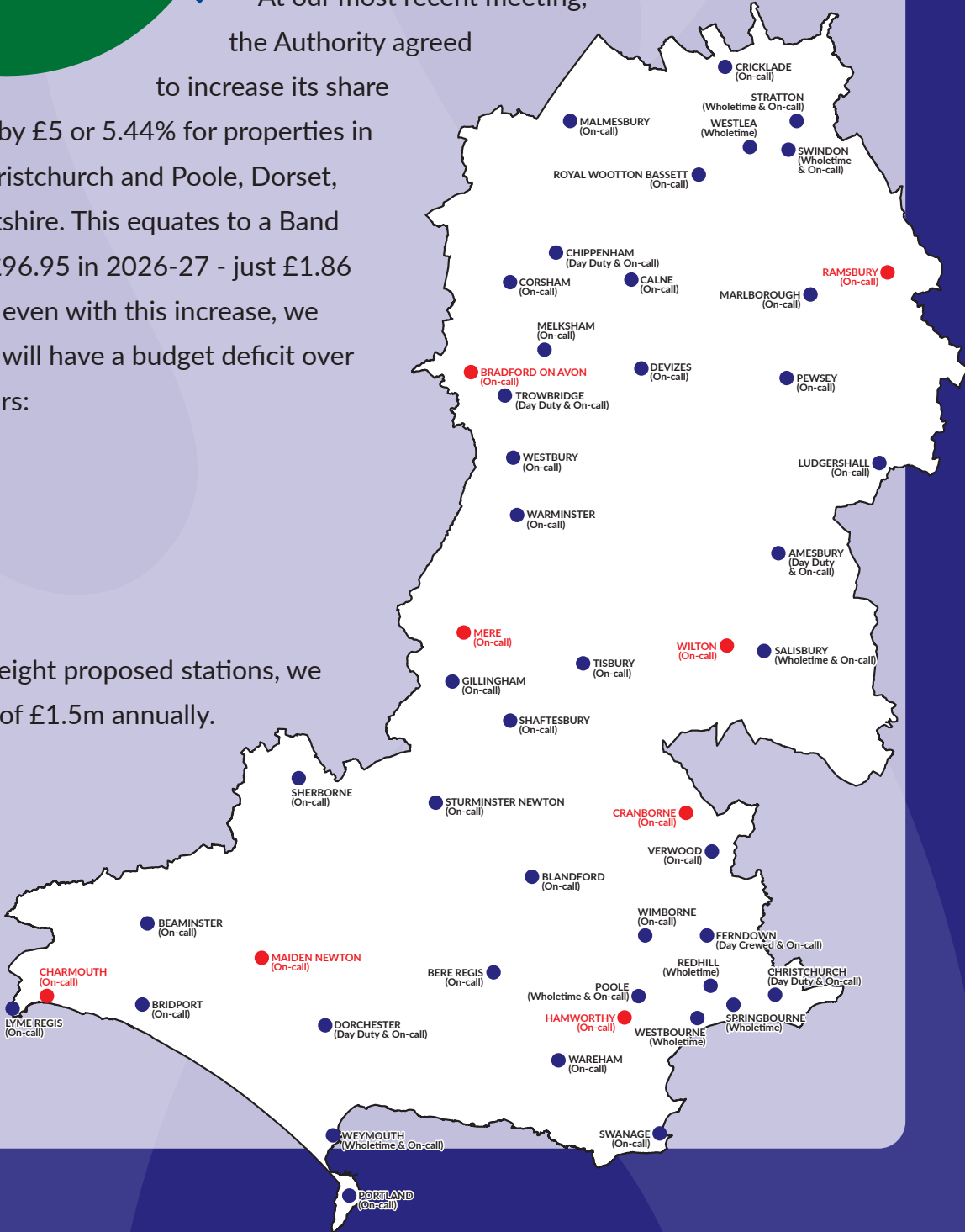


We have an annual budget of £79.5 million for 2026-27. This is made up of 16% grant from Government, 11% from business rates and 73% from council tax. Over time, government grant has not kept up with our costs, so a greater share of our budget now comes from council tax – it has increased from 63% to 73% since 2015-16.

At our most recent meeting, the Authority agreed to increase its share of the council tax by £5 or 5.44% for properties in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, Dorset, Swindon, and Wiltshire. This equates to a Band D Council Tax of £96.95 in 2026-27 - just £1.86 a week. However, even with this increase, we recognise that we will have a budget deficit over the next three years:

- 2026-27: -£1.2m
- 2027-28: -£1.5m
- 2028-29: -£1.7m

If we close all the eight proposed stations, we calculate a saving of £1.5m annually.

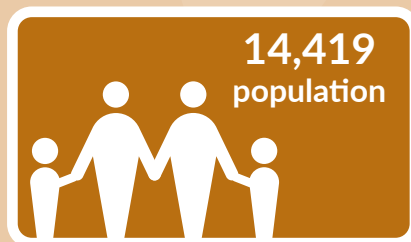


BRADFORD ON AVON FIRE STATION

About your station

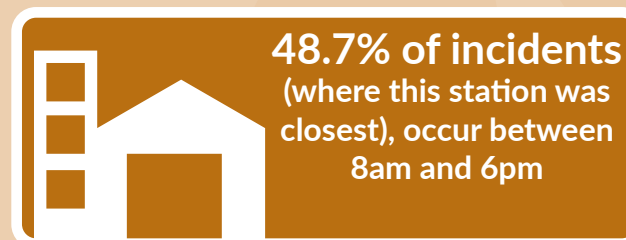
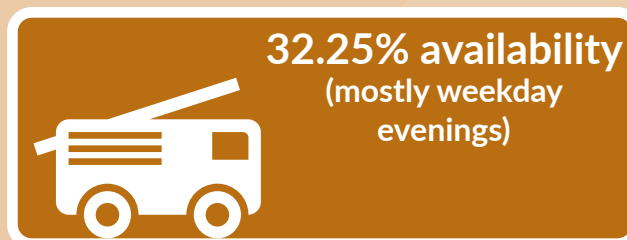


Your area



Bradford on Avon is a market town on the western edge of Wiltshire, close to Trowbridge and Melksham. The station area covers approximately 45 sq km. There are no significant future developments planned.

Current availability and response times

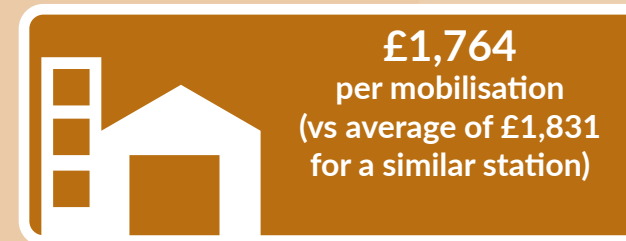


How often is my station needed?*



* Figures based on a yearly average taken over a five year period

Station costs

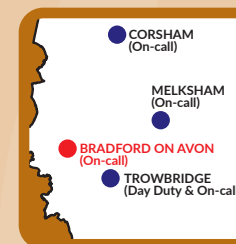


What changes if my station closes?



When the station is unavailable, or if it were to be closed, a fire engine from another station responds. At the moment this happens 67.75% of the time.

We currently use, and would continue to use, the nearest fire engines to Bradford on Avon. These are:



Trowbridge (2 fire engines) with 8 minutes travel time

Melksham (1 fire engine) with 16 minutes travel time

Corsham (1 fire engine) with 19 minutes travel time

Bath (Avon FRS) with 16 minutes travel time

Times based on normal road speed. This will be quicker using blue lights.

How to get involved

Join our public meetings:

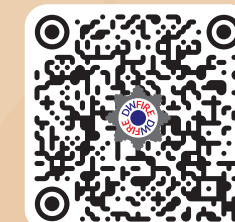
At United Church Hall, 10 St Margaret's Street, Bradford on Avon BA15 1DD

On Tuesday 3rd March, 6pm - 8pm or Wednesday 4th March, 10:30am - 12:30pm



Alternatively, join our online meeting on Thursday 16th April, 12pm - 1pm. Scan this QR code or

[click this link](#) in the pdf version of this document.



Let us know what you think by filling in our on-line survey. Scan the QR code to the left, or go to:

www.dwfire.org.uk/proposed-station-closures

CHARMOUTH FIRE STATION

About your station

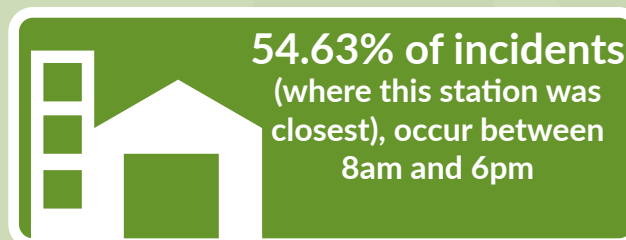


Your area



Charmouth lies in southwest Dorset at the heart of the Lyme Bay coastline. The station area covers approximately 54 sq km and includes a dispersed rural community with a number of small villages and hamlets. There are no significant future developments planned.

Current availability and response times

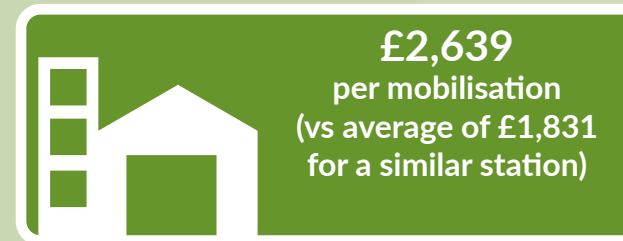


How often is my station needed?*



* Figures based on a yearly average taken over a five year period

Station costs

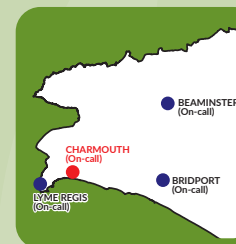


What changes if my station closes?



When the station is unavailable, or if it were to be closed, a fire engine from another station responds. At the moment this happens 6.59% of the time.

We currently use, and would continue to use, the nearest fire engines to Charmouth. These are:



Lyme Regis (1 fire engine) with 11 minutes travel time

Bridport (2 fire engines) with 14 minutes travel time

Beaminster (1 fire engine) with 27 minutes travel time

Times based on normal road speed. This will be quicker using blue lights.

How to get involved

Join our public meetings:

At St Andrew's Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth DT6 6LH

On Tuesday 14th April, 6:30pm – 8:30pm or Wednesday 15th April, 11am – 1pm



Alternatively, join our online meeting on Thursday 23rd April, 12pm - 1pm. Scan this QR code or

[click this link](#) in the pdf version of this document.

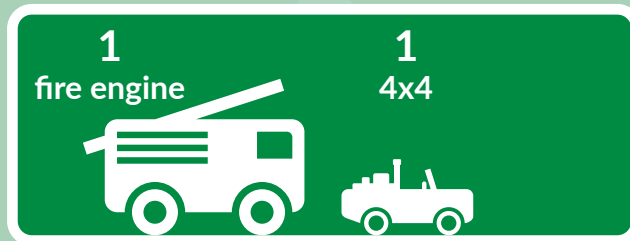


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CRANBORNE FIRE STATION

About your station

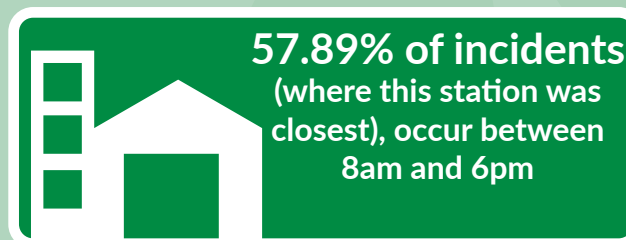


Your area



Cranborne is an agricultural village near to the Dorset/ Hampshire border, halfway between Salisbury and Poole. The station area covers approximately 98 sq km and includes a number of small villages. There are no significant future developments planned.

Current availability and response times

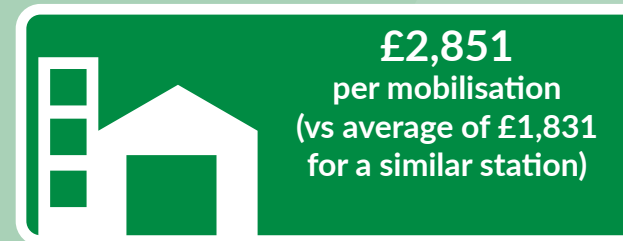


How often is my station needed?*



* Figures based on a yearly average taken over a five year period

Station costs

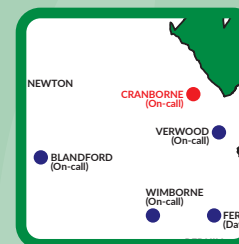


What changes if my station closes?



When the station is unavailable, or if it were to be closed, a fire engine from another station responds. At the moment this happens 60.3% of the time.

We currently use, and would continue to use, the nearest fire engines to Cranborne. These are:



Verwood (1 fire engine) with 8 minutes travel time

Wimborne (2 fire engines) with 15 minutes travel time

Blandford (2 fire engines) with 21 minutes travel time

Fordingbridge (Hants & IOW FRS) with 13 minutes travel time

Times based on normal road speed. This will be quicker using blue lights.

How to get involved

Join our public meetings:

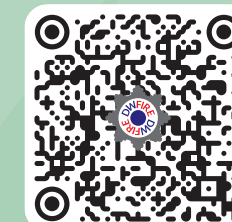
At Cecil Memorial Hall, Water Street, Cranborne BH21 5QB

On Wednesday 11th March, 11:30am - 1:30pm or Thursday 12th March, 7:30pm - 9:30pm



Alternatively, join our online meeting on Tuesday 21st April, 6pm - 7pm. Scan this QR code or

[click this link](#) in the pdf version of this document.

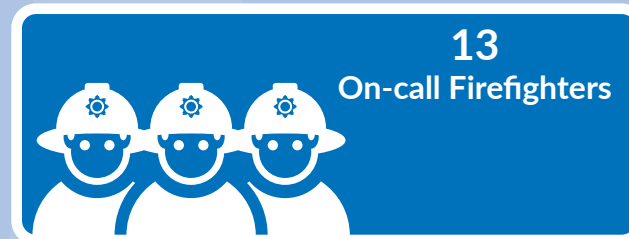


Let us know what you think by filling in our on-line survey. Scan the QR code to the left, or go to:

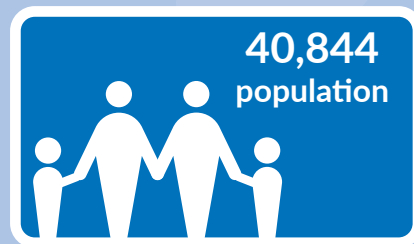
www.dwfire.org.uk/proposed-station-closures

HAMWORTHY FIRE STATION

About your station



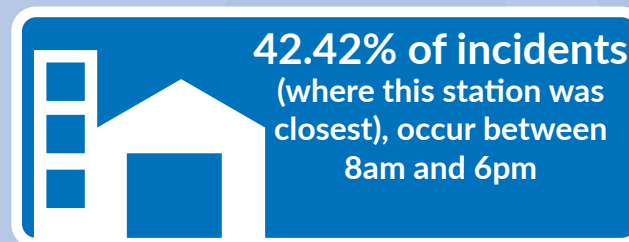
Your area



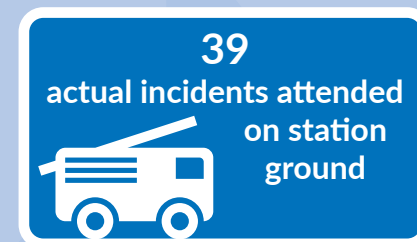
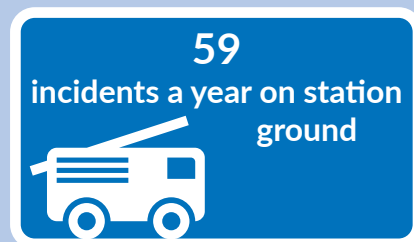
Hamworthy is a suburb of Poole in Dorset. Hamworthy's station ground is mainly within Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole local authority (BCP), but part of the catchment is contained within Dorset. The station area covers approximately 54.5 sq km, in addition to Hamworthy it includes Upton and the villages of Lytchett Minster, Lytchett

Matravers and Corfe Mullen. There are development sites at the former Hamworthy Power Station site and Twin Sails Regeneration Area.

Current availability and response times

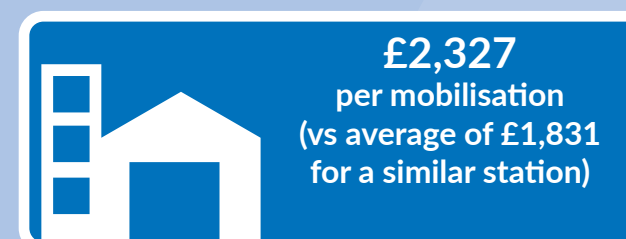


How often is my station needed?*

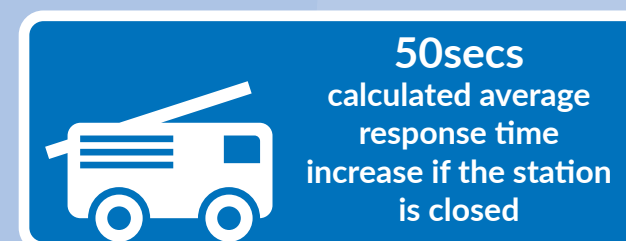


* Figures based on a yearly average taken over a five year period

Station costs

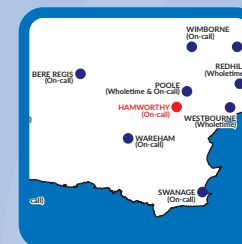


What changes if my station closes?



When the station is unavailable, or if it were to be closed, a fire engine from another station responds. At the moment this happens 29.85% of the time.

We currently use, and would continue to use, the nearest fire engines to Hamworthy. These are:



Poole (2 fire engines) with 6 minutes travel time

Wareham (1 fire engine) with 16 minutes travel time

Bere Regis (1 fire engine) with 17 minutes travel time

Redhill Park (1 fire engine) with 17 minutes travel time

Westbourne (1 fire engine) with 17 minutes travel time

Times based on normal road speed. This will be quicker using blue lights.

How to get involved

Join our public meetings:

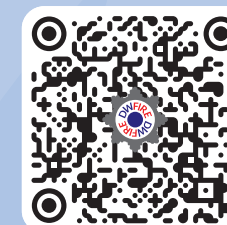
At Hamworthy Library, Blandford Road, Hamworthy BH15 4BG

On Wednesday 11th March, 6pm - 8pm, Thursday 12th March, 10:30am - 12:30pm or later on the same day (Thursday 12th March) at 1pm - 3pm**



Alternatively, join our online meeting on Wednesday 22nd April, 12pm - 1pm. Scan this QR code or

[click this link](#) in the pdf version of this document.



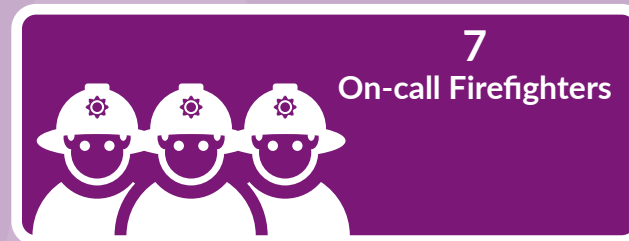
Let us know what you think by filling in our on-line survey. Scan the QR code to the left, or go to:

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** We have put on an extra session due to low capacity levels at this venue

MAIDEN NEWTON FIRE STATION

About your station

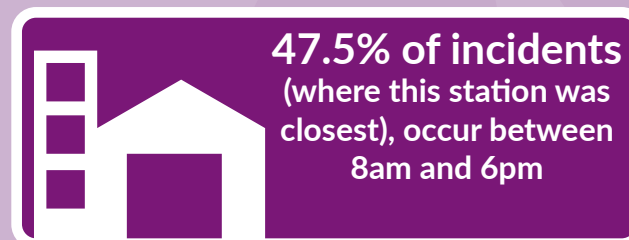


Your area



The village of Maiden Newton is situated to the northwest of Dorset's county town, Dorchester. The station area covers approximately 139.1 sq km. There is no significant future developments planned.

Current availability and response times



How often is my station needed?*



* Figures based on a yearly average taken over a five year period

Station costs

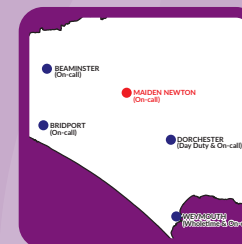


What changes if my station closes?



When the station is unavailable, or if it were to be closed, a fire engine from another station responds. At the moment this happens 68.78% of the time.

We currently use, and would continue to use, the nearest fire engines to Maiden Newton. These are:



Dorchester (2 fire engines) with 15 minutes travel time

Beamminster (1 fire engine) with 17 minutes travel time

Bridport (2 fire engines) with 20 minutes travel time

Times based on normal road speed. This will be quicker using blue lights.

How to get involved

Join our public meetings:

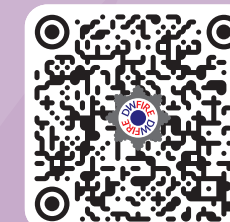
At Maiden Newton Village Hall, 64-66 Dorchester Road, Maiden Newton DT2 0BG

On Tuesday 14th April, 10:30am - 12:30pm or Thursday 16th April, 6pm - 8pm



Alternatively, join our online meeting on Wednesday 22nd April, 6pm - 7pm
Scan this QR code or

[click this link](#) in the pdf version of this document.



Let us know what you think by filling in our on-line survey. Scan the QR code to the left, or go to:

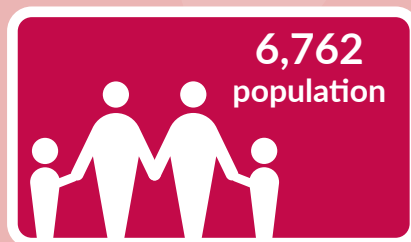
www.dwfire.org.uk/proposed-station-closures

MERE FIRE STATION

About your station

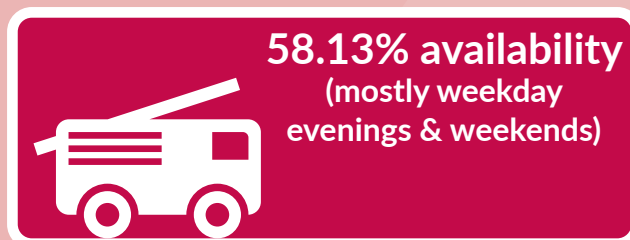


Your area



Mere is located in the southwest of Wiltshire. It is adjacent to and easily accessed from the A303. The station area covers approximately 124 sq km. The village is near to the Somerset border, and the nearest towns are Gillingham and Wincanton. There are no significant future developments planned.

Current availability and response times

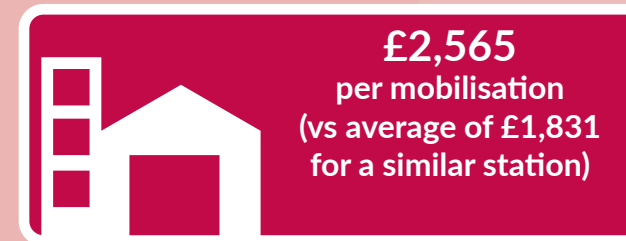


How often is my station needed?*



* Figures based on a yearly average taken over a five year period

Station costs

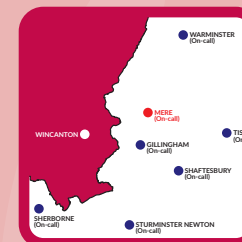


What changes if my station closes?



When the station is unavailable, or if it were to be closed, a fire engine from another station responds. At the moment this happens 41.87% of the time.

We currently use, and would continue to use, the nearest fire engines to Mere. These are:



Gillingham (1 fire engine) with 8 minutes travel time

Shaftesbury (2 fire engines) with 18 minutes travel time

Warminster (2 fire engines) with 22 minutes travel time

Wincanton (Devon & Somerset FRS) with 12 minutes travel time

Times based on normal road speed. This will be quicker using blue lights.

How to get involved

Join our public meetings:

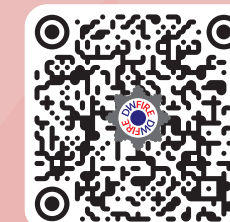
At Mere Lecture Hall, Salisbury Street, Mere BA12 6HA

On Wednesday 4th March, 6pm - 8pm or Thursday 5th March, 10:30am - 12:30pm



Alternatively, join our online meeting on Thursday 23rd April, 6pm - 7pm. Scan this QR code or

[click this link](#) in the pdf version of this document.



Let us know what you think by filling in our on-line survey. Scan the QR code to the left, or go to:

www.dwfire.org.uk/proposed-station-closures

RAMSBURY FIRE STATION

About your station

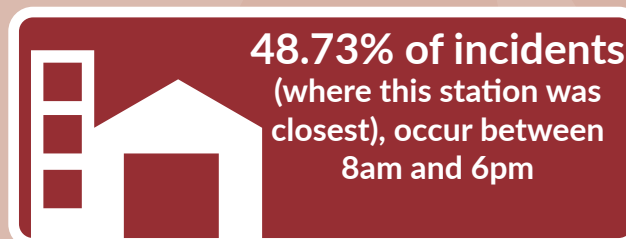


Your area

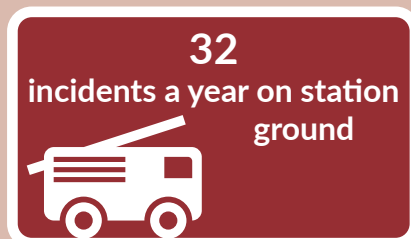


Ramsbury is located in the northeast of Wiltshire. The village is in the Kennet Valley near the Berkshire border. The nearest towns include Hungerford, Marlborough and Swindon. The station area covers approximately 124 sq km. There are no significant future developments planned.

Current availability and response times

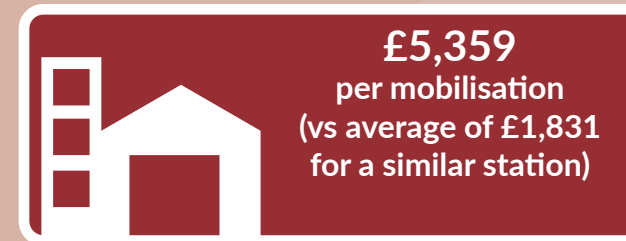


How often is my station needed?*



* Figures based on a yearly average taken over a five year period

Station costs

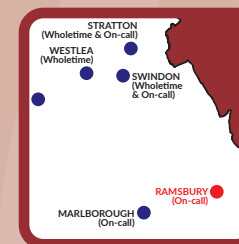


What changes if my station closes?



When the station is unavailable, or if it were to be closed, a fire engine from another station responds. At the moment this happens 70.26% of the time.

We currently use, and would continue to use, the nearest fire engines to Ramsbury. These are:



Marlborough (1 fire engine) with 13 minutes travel time
Swindon (2 fire engines) with 23 minutes travel time
Stratton (2 fire engines) with 23 minutes travel time
Hungerford (Royal Berks FRS) with 11 minutes travel time
Times based on normal road speed. This will be quicker using blue lights.

How to get involved

Join our public meetings:

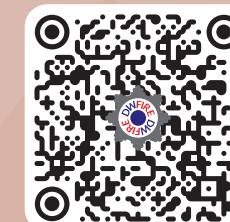
At Ramsbury Memorial Hall, 26 High Street, Ramsbury SN8 2PB

On Monday 2nd March, 6pm - 8pm or Tuesday 3rd March, 10:30am - 12:30pm



Alternatively, join our online meeting on Wednesday 15th April, 6pm - 7pm. Scan this QR code or

[click this link](#) in the pdf version of this document.



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WILTON FIRE STATION

About your station

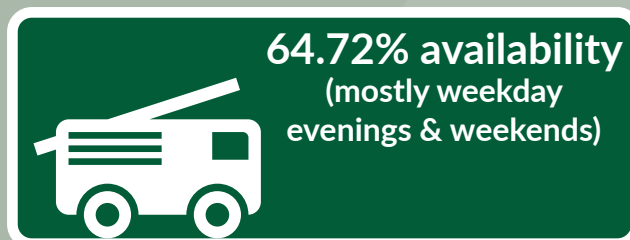


Your area



Wilton is two miles west of Salisbury. The station area covers approximately 180 sq km and has numerous small villages. There are no significant future developments planned.

Current availability and response times

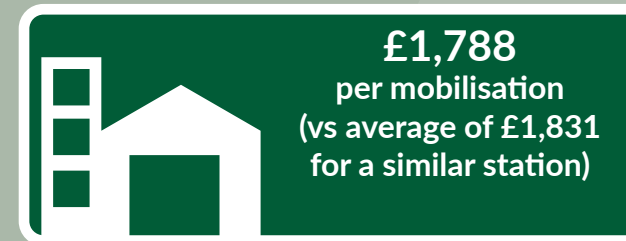


How often is my station needed?*



* Figures based on a yearly average taken over a five year period

Station costs

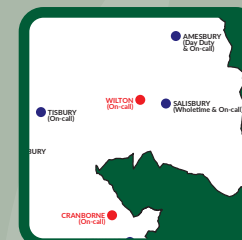


What changes if my station closes?



When the station is unavailable, or if it were to be closed, a fire engine from another station responds. At the moment this happens 35.28% of the time.

We currently use, and would continue to use, the nearest fire engines to Wilton. These are:



Salisbury (2 fire engines) with 7 minutes travel time

Amesbury (2 fire engines) with 18 minutes travel time

Tisbury (1 fire engine) with 21 minutes travel time

Times based on normal road speed. This will be quicker using blue lights.

How to get involved

Join our public meetings:

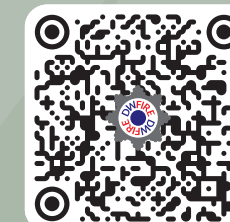
At Castle Meadow Pavilion, Castle Lane, Wilton SP2 0HG

On Monday 9th March, 6pm - 8pm or Tuesday 10th March, 10:30am - 12:30pm



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[click this link](#) in the pdf version of this document.



Let us know what you think by filling in our on-line survey. Scan the QR code to the left, or go to:

www.dwfire.org.uk/proposed-station-closures

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

We want your views on these proposals so that we can understand what is important to you, what our focus should be and how we can meet our future financial challenges. The consultation is open from Friday 13th February until Friday 15th May 2026. The Fire Authority makes the final decision at their meeting on Tuesday 30th June 2026.

Have your say now



Scan the QR code to fill in our on-line survey.
Or go to: www.dwfire.org.uk/proposed-station-closures
Call **01722 691000** if you need help accessing our survey

Come to a meeting

We are holding in-person and online public meetings. All dates and locations can be found in this document or on our website (www.dwfire.org.uk/proposed-station-closures). Or call **01722 691000** if you need help joining a meeting.

Accessibility

If you need this information in another format or language, or need help taking part, please contact consultation@dwfire.org.uk.

That’s why your opinion matters! This is your chance to speak up and make a difference.

KEY DATES

Friday 13 February	Public Consultation begins	
Monday 2 March	6pm - 8pm	Ramsbury
Tuesday 3 March	10:30am - 12:30pm	Ramsbury
Tuesday 3 March	6pm - 8pm	Bradford on Avon
Wednesday 4 March	10:30am - 12:30pm	Bradford on Avon
Wednesday 4 March	6pm - 8pm	Mere
Thursday 5 March	10:30am - 12:30pm	Mere
Monday 9 March	6pm - 8pm	Wilton
Tuesday 10 March	10:30am - 12:30pm	Wilton
Wednesday 11 March	11:30am - 1:30pm	Cranborne
Wednesday 11 March	6pm - 8pm	Hamworthy
Thursday 12 March	10:30am - 12:30pm	Hamworthy
Thursday 12 March	1pm - 3pm	Hamworthy
Thursday 12 March	7:30pm - 9:30pm	Cranborne
Tuesday 14 April	10:30am - 12:30pm	Maiden Newton
Tuesday 14 April	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Charmouth
Wednesday 15 April	11am - 1pm	Charmouth
Wednesday 15 April	6pm - 7pm	Ramsbury - Online
Thursday 16 April	12pm - 1pm	Bradford on Avon - Online
Thursday 16 April	6pm - 8pm	Maiden Newton
Tuesday 21 April	12pm - 1pm	Wilton - Online
Tuesday 21 April	6pm - 7pm	Cranborne - Online
Wednesday 22 April	12pm - 1pm	Hamworthy - Online
Wednesday 22 April	6pm - 7pm	Maiden Newton - Online
Thursday 23 April	12pm - 1pm	Charmouth - Online
Thursday 23 April	6pm - 7pm	Mere - Online
Friday 15 May	Public Consultation ends	
Tuesday 30 June	Fire and Rescue Authority meeting	Elected Councillors will make the final decision on the proposals for station closures



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Important contacts:

Scan the QR code:



www.dwfire.org.uk/proposed-station-closures



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