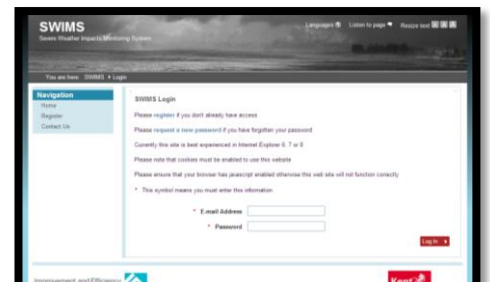


The Severe Weather Impacts Monitoring System (SWIMS)



Kent County Council and partners are committed to ensuring the county is prepared for the impacts of climate change, in particular severe weather events. An important part of this work is to further understand how we are impacted by, and how we respond to, severe weather events currently. This will enable us to learn from our experiences and continue to deliver effective services for the county, both now and into the future. We have therefore developed in partnership the web-based Severe Weather Impacts Monitoring System (SWIMS). This is the first system of its kind in the UK and as such has gained significant national interest.

SWIMS is a decision-support tool and ongoing central data collection point for public sector services to log on and record the impacts of severe weather events and the resulting financial cost. Services can also capture additional data including the impact on the Kent community (e.g. flooded homes), reputational impacts (e.g. compliments/complaints received) and how they responded to these events. Further information is available on our website www.kent.gov.uk/swims.

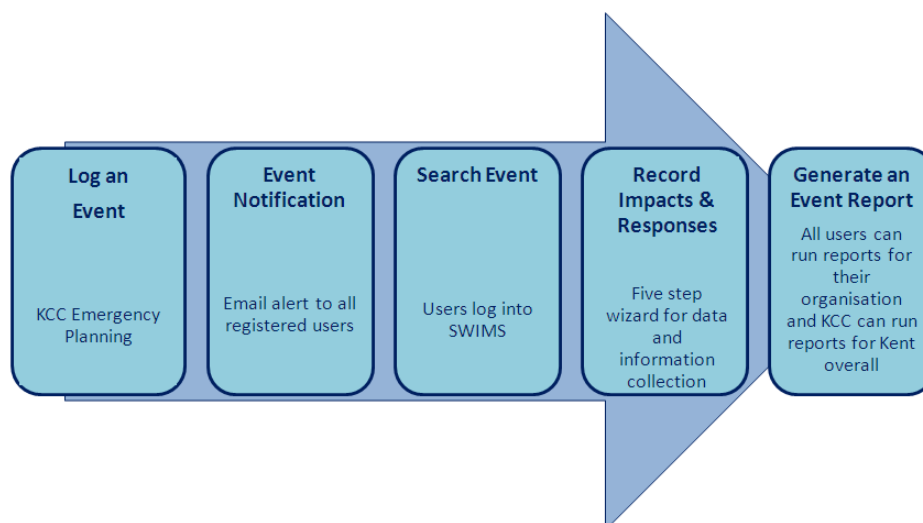


Screenshot of SWIMS login page

Over 90 users, representing services and organisations have signed up to SWIMS with over 35 severe weather events have been logged on the system in the period of Jan 2012 – 2014.

Impacts include road, rail and port closures, fatalities, numerous flood events and structural damage, with services disrupted after the event through additional staff resources.

SWIMS builds up a picture of key vulnerabilities to severe weather and can provide the evidence base for business case development for climate change adaptation and resilience.



National roll out of SWIMS

In 2012, Defra released the national Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA), which identified the priority risks and sectors for the UK. Using this evidence base, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), was published in 2013.

The roll out of SWIMS is a key action for the local government stream of 'Climate Ready', the front face of the National Adaptation Programme. Through Climate Ready, SWIMS was made available to other public sector partnerships from Spring 2013.



Kent County Council provides input into the National Adaptation Programme through the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP), a partnership of local authorities leading on climate change adaptation, the Environment Agency, Defra, LGA, DCLG with other Central Government departments attending when required. SWIMS provides key learning for this group and Lord de Mauley (Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Resource Management, the Local Environment and Environmental Science) has directly referenced SWIMS in letters to Chief Executives across the UK.

Further information

- [Kent County Council's website on SWIMS](#)
- [The Kent Adaptation Action Plan](#)
- [The Kent Environment Strategy](#)
- [The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment](#)