

ITEM 10

Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Board Paper

Top-up funding request for A358 Donyatt Hill Flood Reduction Works (Donyatt to Peasmarsh)

RECOMMENDATION

The Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Board is asked:

1. To approve an uplift in the grant allocation for this project in the 2026-27 financial year from £100,000 to £175,000.

Purpose of the item

To request a £75,000 increase in funding to the originally agreed grant agreement for the reasons set out below.

Background and context

At the A358 Donyatt Hill location, significant and increasingly frequent carriageway flooding occurs with a full road closure of the strategic network often implemented as a result. This scheme seeks to reduce the likelihood of implementing road closures due to flooding and, as a result, reduce the disruption caused by the need to divert traffic during such events.

The project requires multi-agency collaboration to help achieve the desired outcomes. Resource and knowledge from Somerset Council, the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group SouthWest (FWAG SW) and the Environment Agency will be utilised throughout the project.

Engagement with specific landowners and the parish council is also critical and has already proved beneficial in confirming the scope of the project. Matters to address include, but are not limited to:

- Undertaking highway drainage improvements on the public highway. Locations identified through drain CCTV survey.
- Establishing the location and condition of existing highway drainage outfalls into the River Isle (Environment Agency main river).
- Identifying, and where necessary, reinstating critical drainage assets on third party land.
- Identifying, and where necessary, using enforcement powers to ensure the reinstatement of critical drainage assets on third party land.
- Undertaking drainage improvements on Crow Lane to enable the more effective capture of off-highway surface water run-off.

- Reviewing the current road closure process. Consideration to be given to the effectiveness of the current arrangements with regards to traffic management, communication strategy, timeliness of mobilisation of highways service etc in times of flood.

Works completed to date

Highways drain jetting and CCTV surveys have already commenced. The following sections have been surveyed:

- A358 Donyatt Hill to Church Street
- A358 Donyatt Hill to Crow Lane
- A358 Crow Lane Junction to the Village Hall

Further surveying works are required to the following sections of the public highway:

- A358 Donyatt Hill to outfalls into adjacent River Isle

Surveying works anticipated to be completed before Christmas 2026.

FWAG SW have met with the respective adjacent landowners served by Crow Lane. An engineering solution has been agreed, designed and costed. Further detail in appendix.

Top-up funding request

A grant of £100,000 from the SRA for 2026-27 work is in place, however costs were estimated at the time of application, January 2026, through an initial expression of interest.

The recent highway drain jetting and CCTV, coupled with engineering solutions proposed following landowner / parish council engagement by FWAG SW, has indicated a need to seek an increase in the grant from £100,000 to £175,000.

Next steps

The project is still very much in the investigation phase. Highway drainage surveys and engagement with key stakeholders continue.

Engineering works to Crow Lane are likely to commence before Christmas 2026, subject to the securing of the top-up funding.

Drainage repairs, asset upgrades to be undertaken when all surveying has been completed. Remedial works will be co-ordinated for delivery in the 2027-28 financial year.

Review of current road closure process over the course of 2026-27. Implementation of proposals / recommendations in the 2027-28 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

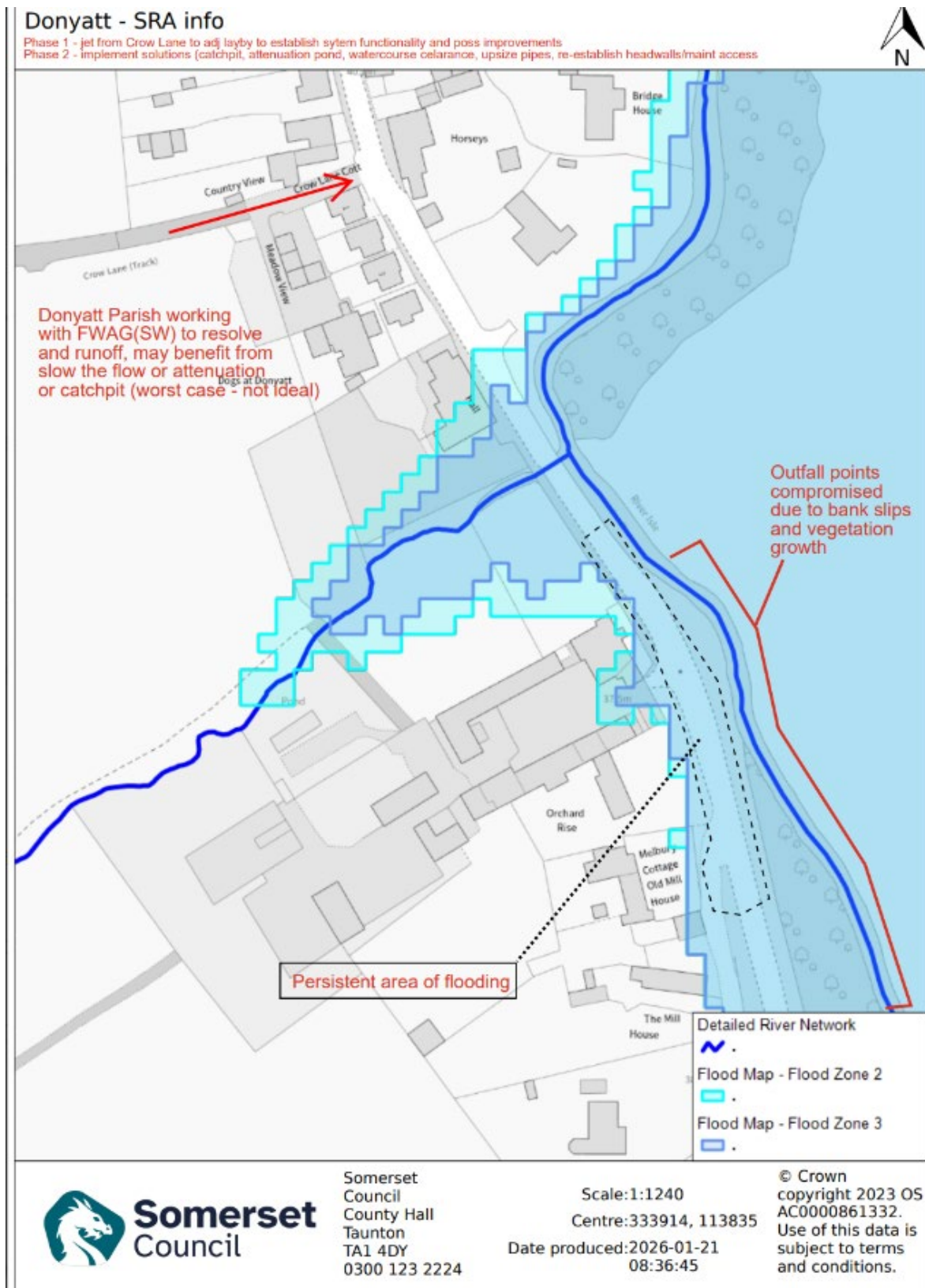
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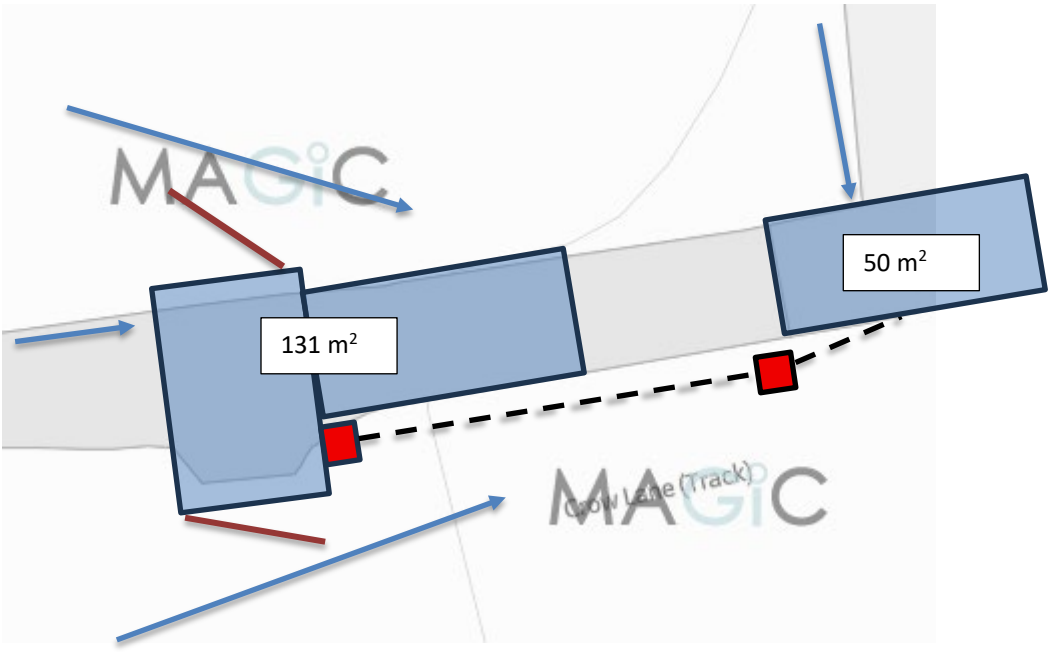
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Date: 28 August 2026

Author: Neil McWilliams, Somerset Council, Service Manager (Operations).

Appendix



Donyatt	
Field access and track improvements	
Proposals: • Improve surface of existing access and track to farmland • Lay a hard-wearing surface that cambers to nearby drains to reduce silt and inert material washing into drainage systems • Ensure access area caters for large farm machinery • Camber field access so any runoff goes into sediment traps or ditches • Install livestock proof field gates that include a flood deflector on the base that can remain closed when field access not required	
	
New concrete surface	
New field gate with flood deflector	
Existing highway drain and pipe	
Existing overland flows/ ditches	

