# Item 10 Appendix 1: Draft 2027-28 SRA Enhanced Programme project summaries for SRA Board meeting on 4 December 2026

## River Parrett maintenance: Extended Water Injection Dredging, upper bank dredging and silt monitoring

*Grant*: £1,300,000
Workstream 1 (Dredging and River Management)

A proposal to fund maintenance dredging and silt monitoring along 4.48 miles (7.2 kilometres) of the River Parrett downstream of Burrowbridge to the M5 bridge. Such works last went down to the M5 bridge in January 2021. Works since then have largely concentrated on the river between Burrowbridge and Northmoor Pumping Station because this is where most sediments are deposited, as incoming tides mix with outgoing flows.

A bigger SRA dredging grant than usual is being proposed for 2027-28 so that works can once again be done down to the M5 bridge, targeting sections which most restrict flow. This would bring three main additional benefits. Firstly, it would further reduce flood risks for properties in the Northmoor area. Secondly, it would further help to reduce the risks of agricultural damages, which tend to be worst from spring and summer floods (as seen in 2012). Thirdly, it would create better possibilities for managing flows of water around the Somerset Levels.

Works would be led for the SRA by the Parrett Internal Drainage Board (IDB), acting under a Public Sector Co-operation Agreement (PSCA) with the Environment Agency. (The Environment Agency has permissive powers to work on main rivers such as the Parrett, if it chooses to do so for the public good. In situations where another body wishes to carry out works on main rivers, a PSCA can be agreed).

The overall aim is to increase how much water can be conveyed by the Parrett, as part of the same key system as the River Sowy and King's Sedgemoor Drain.

The Parrett is a river with highly dynamic tides. Enormous volumes of sediments flow in from the sea and from the Parrett's big catchment, which is roughly 478 square miles in size, or 770 square kilometres. When sediments build up along the river's channel, there is less space left for water, and this lessened capacity can have bad consequences for the area through which the Parrett flows. Since the devastating floods of 2013-14, a lot of dredging has been done to increase and then maintain the Parrett's capacity.

Having greater capacity in the Parrett helps to delay the running of spillways and the filling up of moors, and to create possibilities for earlier pumping. The systemic effects of dredging thus serve to reduce flood risks for around 1,300 homes and businesses, and around 7,500 hectares of land, including 5.3 miles (8.5 kilometres) of A-roads (A372 Bridgwater-Westonzoyland, A372 Langport, A361 Othery-Athelney, A378 Wrantage), 30 miles (48 kilometres) of minor roads and 5 miles (8km) of main

line rail network. Such effects also help to bring peace of mind to people. (People's mental health can be a long-lasting issue in areas that have flooded: hence see also the proposal for a Post-flood mental health support network on pages 11-12).

As is usual since successful trials were run in January 2024, the IDB intends to deploy a Water Injection Dredging vessel in combination with an excavator mounted on a floating pontoon in the river. These craft and their crews would shift solidified sediments from the central parts of the river's channel and the higher parts of its banks. Moving along the river, the WID vessel would pump out high volumes of water, targeted at build-ups of sediments identified through regular silt monitoring and channel surveys (funded by the SRA and organised by the Parrett IDB). Sediments would be forced off the riverbed and then dispersed through natural processes, downstream as the tide goes out. The excavator would move material from upper bank sections and place it in the path of the WID vessel, also for washing out to sea on the outgoing tide.

This process takes advantage of the Parrett's own tidal power, and consistently shifts significantly large amounts of silt and dense vegetation. It also accords with the Environment Agency-Parrett IDB PSCA and its concomitant Water Injection Maintenance Dredging - Environmentally Acceptable Protocol, that allows for working in the Parrett between 1 December and 28 February and specifies that mobilised sediment deposits should be dispersed on ebb tides and not deposited on land.

In September 2025, the SRA Board agreed in principle to keep funding Water Injection Dredging for another five years (2026-27 to 2031-32).

**Main river maintenance**

*Grant*: £300,000
Workstream 1 (Dredging and River Management)

A proposal for the SRA to fund for a third successive year quite a large amount of maintenance work along the rivers Brue, Parrett and Tone and across their catchments.

In 2025-26, ten packages of extra SRA-funded main river maintenance work were done by the Environment Agency; in 2026-27, the Parrett and Axe Brue Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) is doing more than 20.

The IDBs would like to continue in 2027-28, because main river maintenance across the Somerset Levels & Moors helps to reduce flood risks and to mitigate the impacts of drought. The IBDs' plan is once again to employ local contractors - previously approved for IDB watercourse work - while liaising with Environment Agency staff as regulators and as useful sources of knowledge and encouragement.

The maintenance works proposed would primarily consist of vegetation clearance, weed cutting and tree clearance, but opportunities might also be taken when on sites

to carry out other small-scale restorative activities. Within the constraints of the SRA funding allocated, the focus would be on key watercourses that have not been maintained in recent years and other watercourses that are critical for the impact they can have on flooding. The aim is to ensure that clear and effective routes are available for conveying and evacuating water from the lower Somerset Levels & Moors. Being able to do this has shown its worth many times, before, during, and after cases of flooding and near-flooding.

This particular strand of SRA activity began because the Environment Agency found it could no longer choose to maintain some sections of main rivers in Somerset, chiefly because of reduced resources and increased costs. In line with its historic remit of doing more to protect Somerset from flooding than would otherwise be affordable, the SRA therefore stepped in. The SRA was keen for communities, food production, infrastructure and the environment to benefit from continued protection while fair, long-lasting solutions could be explored for future main river maintenance arrangements.

**Bridgwater Tidal Barrier (contribution)**

SRA funding to date: £3.42million
*Grant*: £50,000
Workstream 1 (Dredging and River Management)

Bridgwater Tidal Barrier is a major project led by the Environment Agency and Somerset Council. It will help to protect more than 11,300 homes and 1,500 businesses. Significant progress is being made with its construction. For example, at the time of writing (26 November 2026), thousands of tonne of concrete have recently been poured into the Barrier's foundations at Chilton Trinity, while works are nearing completion on new flood defence banks and raised banks downstream at Chilton Trinity, Combwich and Pawlett. There will also be fish and eel passage improvements at 12 sites upstream of the barrier, the furthest up being Bradford-on-Tone beyond Taunton, and Ham Weir between East Lambrook and Martock. Other planned enhancements include a new cycle and foot bridge over the Parrett, and the creation of up to four hectares of wetland habitat and up to eight hectares of open water in borrow pits (pits from which suitable material has been taken for bank-raising). Links for walkers are to be established with the Parrett Trail, the South West Coast Path, and wetlands at Steart Marshes.

Most of the money for this major project – one of the biggest in the country – is coming from central government major project funding. However, some local match funding is required to secure the national funding. As in previous years, Somerset Rivers Authority is proposing to make a local contribution in recognition of the important role that Bridgwater Tidal Barrier will fulfil in protecting Somerset residents, homes and businesses.

In total in previous years, the SRA has contributed £3.42million towards the Barrier project, including £2million of Growth Deal funding that came through the SRA from the now-defunct Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership.

**Hills to Levels: Somerset Land Management and Natural Flood Management (NFM)**

*Grant*: £410,000
Workstream 2 (Land Management including Natural Flood Management)

Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) is proposing to keep funding a wide range of land management and natural flood management (NFM) activities across Somerset, as part of the multiple award-winning Hills to Levels project. Such works continue to have two main aims. Firstly, to reduce local flood risks for people, properties, businesses, and roads in upper and middle catchment areas. Secondly, to help protect vulnerable lower areas from flooding, by slowing the flow of water down through the catchments of the Tone, Parrett, West Somerset Streams and Somerset Exe, Brue, Axe and Somerset Frome.

Responding to referrals of cases from a range of sources, chiefly Somerset Council's Highways Department, its Flood and Coastal Management team, SRA staff, Wessex Water, parish and town councils and formally established flood groups. Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group South West (FWAG SW) advisers can choose to assist in cases where it is felt that better land management or natural flood management, or both, could help to reduce flooding, for example along roads because of run-off from fields. The SRA's view has always been that it makes sense to address causes as well as symptoms. An important part of the SRA's role is also to enable partners to work together on problems that go beyond organisations' usual limited remits. Several schemes are expected to stem from direct involvement with communities, for example from local people working together with FWAG SW's SRA-funded community NFM adviser. Attention is also paid to recommendations made in Somerset Council's post-flood Section 19 investigation reports.

For 2027-28 four main strands of activity are planned, all to be delivered for the SRA by FWAG SW.

**1.** Designing and implementing up to 20 small to medium scale NFM schemes to hold back water in upper and mid catchments and reduce peak flows of water down to vulnerable areas. This strand would include liaising with landowners and relevant organisations, going on site visits, mapping, getting permissions and consents, sourcing and dealing with contractors, and - where possible - attracting match funding.

**2.** Increasing the uptake of land and soil management techniques which improve the infiltration of water into the ground, reduce the run-off of water and lessen compaction and erosion. This strand would include providing a wide range of advice and conducting a variety of assessments and tests.

**3.** Monitoring all new and previously completed NFM schemes funded through the SRA to assess their ongoing effectiveness and build up an evidence base. Particular attention would be paid to communicating the importance of maintaining and reinstating features, as some schemes naturally tend to have a shorter life than, for instance, ones involving large amounts of concrete.

**4.** Developing an asset register of Hills to Levels NFM projects linking with other SRA Workstream 2 initiatives to support the spread of knowledge and flood resilience across Somerset.

Plans sometimes change for reasons beyond SRA partners' control, but examples of places currently expected to feature across all four strands are:

Barton St David, Blackford, Brent Knoll, Bruton, Chard, Chipley, Combwich, Crowcombe, Cudworth, Curry Rivel, Donyatt, Drayton, Evercreech, Forton & Tatworth, Frome, Henlade, Ilminster, Kingston St Mary, Knole, North Brewham, Merriott, Montacute, North Curry, Pitcombe, Shepton Mallet, Shepton Montague, Somerton, Sparkford, Stogumber, Sutton Montis, Taunton, Thorne St Margaret, West Coker, West Hatch, Williton, Wiveliscombe and Yeovil.

Hills to Levels is also funded through:

- Wessex Water's Enforcement Fund (Brue Headwaters), Partners Programme (Upper Tone 360), and the company's initiative to reduce phosphate through NFM;
- the Environment Agency's Cam Valley Headwaters project and Water Environment Improvement Fund (Hele Brook near Taunton);
- South West Water's Headwaters of the Exe scheme;
- and Bristol Water (Water Quality improvements through NBS and farm advice/support).

To make SRA funds go further, suitable opportunities for match funding schemes would be explored.

**Community sub-catchment Natural Flood Management (NFM) advice**

*Grant*: £115,000
Workstream 2 (Land Management including Natural Flood Management)

Two years more funding is proposed for a project that helps Somerset groups and communities turn ideas into action. This in-demand strand of Workstream 2 was first funded by the SRA in March 2022. It began because, in more and more places, SRA staff and partners were meeting highly motivated people who wanted to reduce their own local flood risks but lacked technical expertise, experience and confidence. To help establish which measures could work best, where they should be located, and how they should be designed and delivered, a project officer was duly employed through FWAG SW to provide technical input and support for effective sub-

catchment activities. The role has since developed to the extent that over the last two years, 78 places across Somerset have been involved.

Put simply, the community NFM adviser's main goal is to help people better understand their flooding problems and then do something about them. Activities may thus include site visits and catchment-walkovers, outlining possible options and funding opportunities, identifying important stakeholders and landowners, discussing ideas with interested parties, giving technical advice and guidance, and working with a range of colleagues to design and get NFM schemes installed and working well. There is close collaboration with SRA staff, SRA partners and many other relevant organisations.

Existing SRA grant programmes and a range of funds from other bodies are used to help deliver schemes.

Places the adviser is currently involved with include:

Brent Knoll, Buckland Dinham, Chard, Combwich, Curry Rivel, Donyatt, Fitzhead, Forton, Isle Brewers, Knole, Lower Henlade, Milborne Port, Milverton, Misterton, North Petherton, the Seavingtons, Somerton, South Petherton, Stoney Stratton, West Coker, West Hatch, West Monkton and Wiveliscombe.

**Somerset Trees for Water Action Fund**

*Grant*: £136,000
Workstream 2 (Land Management including Natural Flood Management)

Another two years of SRA funding is proposed for the popular Trees for Water Action Fund (TWAF) initiative, which helps communities across Somerset to reduce flood risks arising from surface water run-off flow pathways. The project is led by Reimagining the Levels (RtL), working in collaboration with the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group South West (FWAG SW). At the time of writing (26 November 2026), more than 160 planting schemes have gone ahead since TWAF was set up in 2020. Around 64,000 trees and shrubs have been planted by an enthusiastic squad of over 100 regular volunteers. Fifteen or so volunteers also work at RtL's nursery in Pitney (every Friday from November to April, less often but still regularly over the summer).

Trees for Water is designed to suit strategically important sites not large enough for capital grants from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and not special enough in conservation terms to concern Natural England. Landowners say they like it because it is bespoke, forward-thinking and un-bureaucratic.

As in previous years, it is anticipated that RtL will provide trees and shrubs (worth £8,000), while the value of volunteers' labour is judged to be £40,000. Planting is usually carried out by landowners and numerous volunteers. RtL and the National Lottery will put £2,000 towards tree nursery expenses.

The more trees, shrubs and hedges grow, the more they help to reduce water run-off.

After plantings, follow-up visits are made by RtL's tree officer or an experienced RtL volunteer. For the first couple of years, RtL provides replacement trees for any that perish.

The aim of monitoring is to ensure that lessons can be learned and shared about successful times and techniques for planting and aftercare, and furthermore so that the benefits arising from sites can be assessed over time.

**Frome Headwaters Natural Flood Management (NFM) Programme**

*Grant*: £50,000 (contribution)
Workstream 2 (Land Management including Natural Flood Management)

Further SRA funding is proposed for a project designed to reduce flood risks around Witham Friary and Frome by slowing and storing water in the upper headwaters of the River Frome in Somerset.

Phase 1 saw extensive Natural Flood Management (NFM) works delivered at Heal Somerset near Witham Friary in 2025-26, part-funded by the SRA, and significant NFM works funded by the Environment Agency at Long Ham nearer Frome.

To help the Environment Agency get to a position where these works could be complemented and extended across other nearby landholdings, in March 2026 the SRA gave the Agency a grant of £26,500. Activities since then have included engagement workshops involving local landowners and field assessments. The aim is to produce conceptual designs and catchment recommendations early in 2027.

In 2027-28, the Environment Agency would like to be able to make further progress towards delivering schemes "such as wetland creation, floodplain reconnection, ditch and drain modification, water retention features and other approaches that restore natural hydrological function". Monitoring of schemes would follow, to help with the planning of more schemes in future, with catchment-scale NFM opportunities that could attract large sums of national funding particularly in mind.

The Environment Agency has identified £50,000 of Local Water Environment Grant (LWEG) funding for the Frome Headwaters NFM programme in 2027-28. The SRA's proposed funding would thus match this. LWEG funding of £50,000 a year has also been allocated for 2028-29 and 2029-30, prompted in part by the expression of support that the SRA grant given this year represented (2026-27).

Other key partners include the Forest of Selwood and HEAL Somerset. They own or manage land locally and support the Frome Headwaters NFM programme.

**River Pitt Catchment: Aviaries Stage Zero NFM Project**

*Grant*: £80,112.45
Workstream 2 (Land Management including Natural Flood Management)

This proposal from Somerset Wildlife Trust is for Natural Flood Management (NFM) works on a 145-hectare estate in the headwaters of the River Pitt, south-east of Bruton. It is prompted primarily by some dramatic changes seen on the National Trust's Holnicote estate in West Somerset. Inspired by innovative 'Stage 0' river restoration techniques pioneered in the US state of Oregon, the National Trust filled in 1.2km of the River Aller, fixed 700 tonnes of local timber to the floodplain, planted 25,000 native trees and sowed 250kg of floodplain wildflower seeds. The result: an award-winning scheme (part-funded by the SRA and several others) that has reduced flood risks for places downstream, stayed lush and green in times of drought, cleaned water, and created a superb jumble of habitats for plants and animals.

Another foundation for this proposal is a Draft Aviaries Hydrology Restoration Report completed in November 2024 by the respected catchment management consultant Dr Peter Stone (who has also been involved with the HEAL Somerset works near Witham Friary mentioned above in the text for the Frome Headwaters NFM programme). Dr Stone's report found that surface water at The Aviaries was now largely confined within deepened channels, perched drainage ditches and artificial field drainage systems. Natural flow pathways had been disrupted, floodplain connectivity had been lost, and water was no longer able to move freely across the landscape as it would under natural conditions. This had reduced opportunities for temporary water storage during periods of high rainfall and increased the speed at which runoff water was conveyed through the River Pitt catchment.

The Section 19 investigation Report into Pitt Valley flooding in May 2023 said: "Upstream events have a significant impact downstream, and a holistic approach must be taken into account with Natural Flood Management solutions". The report recommended increased upstream storage, NFM, a whole catchment approach and attenuation and slowing flows of water before they reached communities.

Now - with the landowner's consent - Somerset Wildlife Trust would like to organise works in three areas at The Aviaries identified as priorities in Dr Stone's report. These works would include infilling and blocking ditches, bank breaching and lowering, creating shallow pilot channels, and using large timbers to create leaky barriers and spread flows.

Somerset Wildlife Trust has proposed a 12-month plan for 2027-28 comprising Baseline Assessment and Design Validation, Pre-Implementation Monitoring and Consents, Implementation and Monitoring and Post-Implementation Monitoring. This would be followed by an End of Project Review with recommendations for adaptive management, maintenance requirements and future monitoring priorities.

Project partners would include FWAG SW, The Forest of Selwood and the National Trust, specifically for its Holnicote experience. Somerset Wildlife Trust says the landowner would "incur costs associated with project design, construction, long-term management and the loss of productive agricultural land as areas are restored to wetter habitats". The Wildlife Trust adds that "lessons learned" would be "shared with landowners, partners and the wider Forest of Selwood Partnership network to support replication of Natural Flood Management and Stage Zero restoration approaches elsewhere in Somerset and the wider region".

**Highways asset upgrades at frequently jetted sites**

*Grant*: £250,000
Workstream 4 (Resilient Infrastructure)

A countywide programme of enhanced maintenance for road drainage systems known to be highly susceptible to flooding. Analysis shows that drains at 24 locations have been jetted six or more times since 2020. This indicates intrinsic problems that it would make sense to fix.

Somerset Council’s Highways Department's plan is to investigate these problems, possibly by excavating sites, and then either repair sections that have collapsed or make systems larger.

It is impossible to guarantee exactly what will happen where and when, because exact problems need to be identified, plans agreed with people such as landowners, and costs confirmed, but sites on the target list include: A371 Parsons Pen to B3151 Lower New Road (jetted 10 times), Oake Road (10 times), B3139 Combe Batch / Wells Road (9), B3227 Wiveliscombe Road (8), Bratton Seymour Road (8), A371 Holbrook Roundabout to Jack White's Gibbet (7), A371 Upper New Road (7), B3224 Exford to Wheddon Cross Road (7), Kingston Road (7), and B3135 Axbridge Road / Tweentown (7).

**Adapting Somerset**

*Grant*: £60,000
Workstream 5 (Building Local Resilience)

Further funding is proposed for a Somerset Wildlife Trust project to help increase resilience - and to help people and places adapt - to flooding and other risks linked to climate change. This project would follow on from Adapting the Levels, which was jointly funded by the EU and the SRA between 2019 and 2023, and SRA-funded initiatives called Adaptations and Associations on the Somerset Levels & Moors in 2023-24, and Adapting Somerset between 2024-25 and 2026-27.

SRA-funded climate adaptation plans have so far been produced for Glastonbury, the Poldens, Wells, Spaxton, the Martock area and Frome. An SRA-funded plan is (at the time of writing) being produced for Chard, and work has begun in Porlock.

In its latest iteration for 2027-28, this project would have four main strands:

**1 Community climate adaptation planning.** In collaboration with the SRA, Somerset Council, and the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group South West, Somerset Wildlife Trust would like to work with two more communities on plans that combine climate science with local knowledge. It is intended that places should be selected partly by calling upon information contained in a new SRA - Somerset Council Resilience Dashboard. This uses data from sources such as Somerset Intelligence, parish surveys, and water flow pathway maps to rank areas according to the risks they face and their resilience.

Initial awareness sessions would then be held to introduce climate projections and adaptation possibilities. Participants would be encouraged to identify local climate risks, combining their own historical local flooding knowledge with future climate data and, where available, real-time flood monitoring data from local telemetry installations. This mix of people's own experiences, science, and data is intended to help communities understand how local flood patterns may change and intensify.

Organised discussions then prioritise a range of local actions. Town and parish councils are helped to develop Climate Adaptation Plans, for example through public consultation exercises and events.

In areas that have already produced plans, 80% of session participants have said they feel more confident about taking local climate-related and flood resilience actions.

**2 Implementation seed funding.** A grant of £1,000 would be given to each of the two new communities taking part for flooding-related schemes and activities identified in Climate Adaptation Plans.

**3 Case studies.** Case studies would be produced to systematically document processes, plans and actions taken. Case studies would be shared through Local Community Networks, online platforms, and partner organisations. The aim is to gradually build up a library that may inspire other places across Somerset.

**4 Enhanced Climate Adaptation Toolkit (Version 2).** It is proposed to revise and update the Climate Adaptation Toolkit originally produced through Adapting the Levels in 2022-23, so that communities could develop Climate Adaptation Plans with minimal external support. Enhanced resources could include more flood-focused guidance, step-by-step planning templates, and materials designed to help people carry out practical schemes and activities to make places more resilient.

Regular networking between communities is proposed, online and in person, to help share knowledge and ideas, sustain people's interest and commitment, and inspire more places to take part.

**Post-flood mental health support network**

*Grant:* £48,500 over three years
Workstream 5

The distress caused by flooding can be horribly pervasive and long-lasting. Effects suffered may include trauma, depression, anxiety, disturbed sleep, loss of confidence. For years after, flood alerts or forecasts of heavy rain may bring prickles of fear to people who have had to move out of their homes, had possessions lost or damaged, or had problems with insurance - or no insurance.

When the SRA Strategy 2024-34 was being developed, such phenomena were often cited by SRA partners and others as a powerful motive for being involved with the SRA. The SRA's core purpose is to reduce the risks and impacts of flooding. In line with that core purpose, it is therefore proposed to fund over three years the setting-up of a Somerset post-flood mental health support network.

This proposal is also rooted in the SRA community team's experience of running flood cafes, with a facilitator from Glastonbury's Mental Health Network. Over the last two and a half years, at events in Chard, Glastonbury, Moorland, South Petherton and Wells, people affected by flooding have been discussing their thoughts and feelings and connecting with others. Over the last year, Dr Bel Deering (of the SRA's community team) has combined organising and attending these sessions with actively studying their impacts, through a Somerset Health Determinants Research Collaboration funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research.

Dr Deering's work as a Research Practitioner has shown benefits for individuals, communities and SRA partners and Somerset more generally. Put very simply (a full report is due next year), participants say that this initiative's blend of shared experiences, practical knowledge and mutual support has helped them to recuperate, move forward and build resilience. It has also been observed that stronger local networks and better access to support can help communities recover more quickly, and keep people more involved with flood groups and other issues related to emergency planning and local preparedness. Furthermore, the SRA, Environment Agency and Somerset Council have all gained new insights and ideas through hearing directly from people in the informal but serious setting of flood cafes, thereby strengthening future planning, engagement and response activities across Somerset.

The SRA and Somerset Council therefore propose to strengthen and extend this initiative in four main ways, none of which will duplicate any clinical treatment. The aim is to be practical, sensitive and relevant, and gradually build up a powerful and useful network.

**1. Flood wellbeing toolkit.** Resources co-produced with flood-affected people will explain common emotional responses, self-care, support for children and families, managing uncertainty, preparing for repeat events and accessing help. Accessible

materials will be available in digital and printable formats for residents, volunteers and frontline organisations.

**2. Flood Cafés.** Community groups in flood-affected areas will receive facilitation, practical guidance and small starter grants to establish or strengthen safe, welcoming sessions. Cafés will offer connection, shared learning, practical flood information and supported signposting rather than therapy.

**3. Volunteer training and support.** Community volunteers will receive Mental Health First Aid or appropriate equivalent training, plus role guidance, safeguarding, boundaries, referral information and opportunities for peer learning. Trained volunteers will not diagnose or provide clinical treatment.

**4. Flood mental health network.** A countywide partnership will connect communities with public health, health services, emergency planning, flood-risk organisations and voluntary-sector providers. It will improve signposting routes, share learning, maintain resources and support coordinated activation following flood events.

Effects will be measured through participation data, feedback, outcome measures, case studies, partner learning and Ripple Effects Mapping. The latter methodology will be used to identify wider results such as new partnerships, volunteers' progression, stronger flood groups and improved recovery co-ordination.

**Community Flood Action Fund**

*Top-up funding:* £200,000
Workstreams 1 to 5 (potentially)

The SRA launched a Community Flood Action Fund (CFAF) in December 2024. It has since attracted a lot of interest across Somerset. It offers small grants for works to reduce flooding directly to Somerset communities. The idea is to help people with good local knowledge of flooding problems take the initiative and get things done.

The Fund is aimed at not-for-profit organisations, such as town and parish councils, charities, social enterprises and community benefit societies. They are urged to concentrate on practical actions that can be achieved quite quickly, with obvious flood risk reduction benefits.

Application packs for CFAF grants of between £3,000 and £20,000 are available through the Grants section of the Somerset Rivers Authority website.

At the time of writing (26 November 2026), 22 grants have been given. So far, activities such as desilting and ditch clearing have proved most popular. Grants are awarded quarterly.