Somerset Rivers Authority

SRA Annual Report 2024 - 2025

We reduce the risks and impacts of flooding across Somerset

Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) is a unique partnership

Our partners work together to reduce flooding and achieve more for Somerset

Partner organisations are all represented on the SRA Board, providing governance, strategic direction and accountability

Somerset Council
Cllr Mike Stanton (**Chair**)
Cllr Mike Caswell
Cllr Simon Coles (until December 2024), replaced by Cllr Nick Cottle
Cllr Dixie Darch (until October 2024), replaced by Cllr Nick O'Donnell
Cllr Harry Munt (until May 2025), replaced by Cllr Steve Ashton
Cllr Ros Wyke

Axe Brue Internal Drainage Board
Jeff Fear (until April 2025), replaced by Trevor Whitcombe
Andrew Gilling

Parrett Internal Drainage Board
Tony Bradford (**Vice-Chair**)
Rebecca Horsington

Environment Agency
Ian Withers

Natural England
Claire Newill

Wessex Regional Flood & Coastal Committee
David Jenkins (served until July 2024, returned January 2025), replaced in the interim by Dr Rachel Gavey

Wessex Water
Matt Wheeldon

Foreword by SRA Chair Councillor Mike Stanton

I'm pleased to introduce the tenth annual report of Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA). The SRA is a unique partnership, the only rivers authority in the country. Nowhere else do partners work quite like we do in Somerset to reduce the risks and impacts of flooding. This annual report gives you details of what we did in Somerset between the start of April 2024 and the end of March 2025.

It's just over ten years since Somerset Rivers Authority was launched as a partnership on 31 January 2015. The big triggers for the SRA's creation were the destructive summer flooding of 2012, then the devastating winter flooding of 2013-14. People living in Somerset, people working in Somerset, people visiting Somerset, people travelling through Somerset, all wanted more to be done to 'stop all this ****** flooding' - to quote a common sentiment of the time. We have not been able to stop flooding in Somerset, no one will ever be able to stop flooding in Somerset, but a decade on, more has been done. More than 260 extra schemes and activities have been funded through the SRA, that would not otherwise have happened, and more than £45 million extra has been spent or allocated to ongoing projects.

What has sustained us? In past decades, Somerset had many post-flood initiatives. All were for a while enthusiastically pursued, before they ran into the ground like water into a Mendip swallett... Initiatives like the Parrett Catchment Project which ran from 2000 to 2007 were good and full of ideas. But they did not last.

In the tenth anniversary year of the SRA, we can reflect upon the reasons for our relative longevity, beyond our partners' determination to work together as the SRA: Somerset Council, the Axe Brue and Parrett Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs), the Environment Agency, Natural England, Wessex Regional Flood & Coastal Committee, Wessex Water. A lot is owed to the strength of our original design. We are properly funded by council tax payers (although the value of that funding is diminishing

each year, as it is not index-linked). We serve the whole of Somerset, not just one catchment. We have our own Memorandum of Understanding and Constitution and public Board meetings where people can come and ask us questions. There are sometimes awkward questions but that is how it should be. In January 2025, it pleased us greatly to welcome a delegation visiting from Lincolnshire to learn more about the SRA. In the dark wet days of 2014, Somerset looked to Lincolnshire for lessons. It is encouraging to feel that other places now look to us.

You will find in this report much continuity between the SRA ten years ago and now: dredging, major and minor flood defence improvements, modelling, investigations, moves to get water off roads and into drains. But there are also some changes of emphasis. I have become more convinced of the importance of dealing with water as close as possible to where it lands, especially as flash flooding has become much more of an issue across Somerset. In January 2025, for example, more than 120 properties were flash-flooded in Chard, Ilminster and South Petherton. I know from listening to victims of flooding across Somerset that climate change has sometimes frighteningly intensified downpours. You will see in this report some measures we have funded to incentivise people to hold more water back where it falls: these include natural flood management schemes, planting 'trees for water', inspecting Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), distributing water butts in Chard, and drawing up climate adaptation plans in the city of Wells and several towns and villages.

There are increasingly tight financial constraints on what the SRA as a partnership can achieve. As I said above, we are privileged to have ringfenced funding, but it is tied to the levels it was in 2016-17, and just over £3million a year goes considerably less far than it used to. This is one reason why we have increased our efforts to help you deal with water yourselves as close as possible to where it affects you in Somerset. Hence, for example, our investment in localised flood warning systems, grants for training and equipment, workshops about responsibilities and plans, and our new Community Flood Action Fund.

It has been very heartening to see your responses to initiatives such as this. Because, underlying everything I have touched upon in this introduction, you, the people of Somerset, are what sustains the SRA. We are grateful for your continued support. I trust that you will find this report about our combined activities useful and informative. If you have any questions or comments, please get in touch.

At a glance: SRA 2024-25

£2.8m EXTRA

spent across Somerset by Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) on flood risk reduction, resilience and adaptation, Community Fund launched

of Somerset places benefit, major projects part or wholly-funded include Bridgwater Tidal Barrier, River Brue modelling

River Parrett dredging combines water injection dredging and traditional methods to remove channel and bank silt build-ups

Dunball Sluice refurbishment completed, plans advance for completing major River Sowy – King's Sedgemoor Drain Enhancements Scheme with outfall works, bank raising

Natural Flood Management schemes and activities at more than 50 places countywide, funding for Somerset Beaver guidance, and peat trial

of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) at new developments, 33 flooding hotspots investigated around Taunton and across Somerset, Chard gets 506 water butts

get extra maintenance to reduce flood risks, A38 Blackbird Bends bridge is desilted and flood study completed, design work begins on Burtle scheme

Climate adaptation plans in Poldens, Under Hamdon, Glastonbury, new Moor Association starts, communities get equipment grants, better flood warning systems

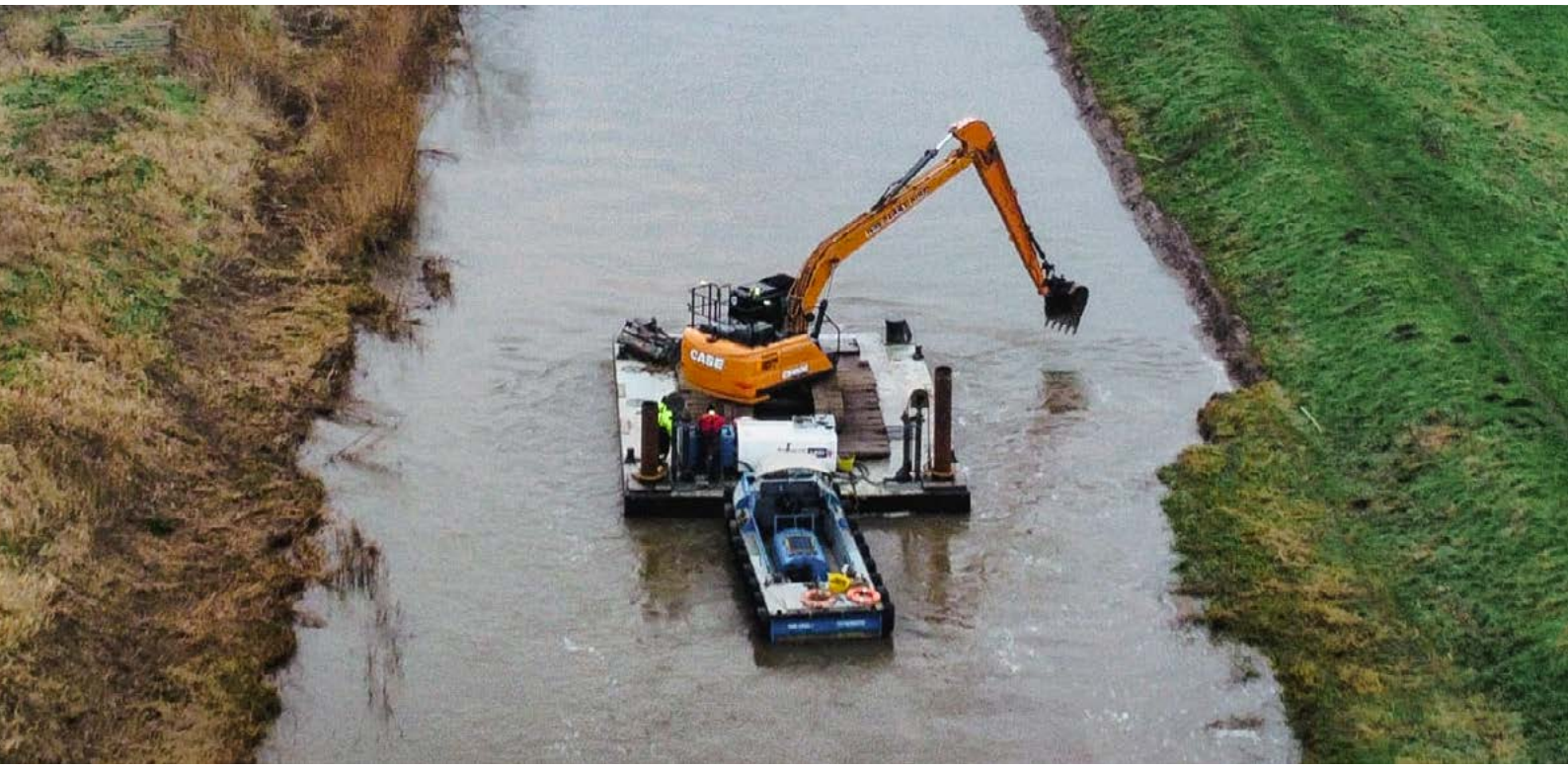
supported by SRA community engagement officers, with events including flood drop-ins and cafes, workshops, roadshows, assemblies and lessons for 1175 schoolchildren

Workstream 1: Dredging & River Management

In 2024-25, Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) spent £1,140,000 on Dredging and River Management. Most of the projects in this section are complex, so generally take more than a year to deliver. Some are wholly funded by the SRA, some part-funded.

Dredging and silt-monitoring

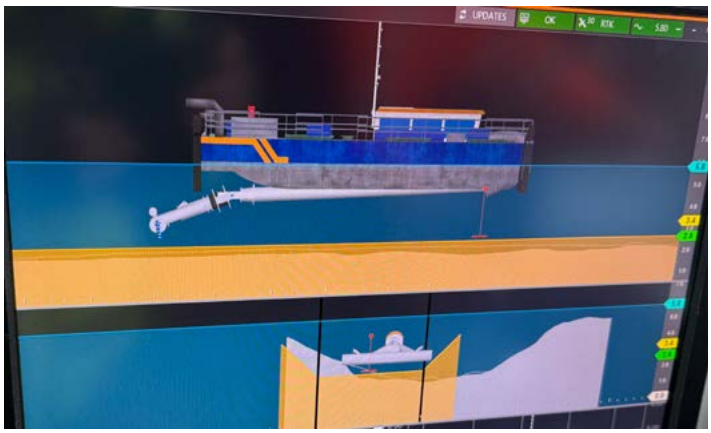
In January 2025, 4 kilometres (2.5 miles) of the River Parrett between Burrowbridge and Northmoor Pumping Station was dredged with a Water Injection Dredging (WID) vessel and an excavator mounted on a floating platform in the river. These watercraft and their crews worked together to remove around 23,655 cubic metres of silt and dense vegetation from the banks of the river (enough to cover all 5.83 acres of Somerset Cricket Club's County Ground with a 1-metre depth of silt).



This innovative combination of activities was organised for the SRA by the Parrett Internal Drainage Board (IDB), working with SRA partners and contractors Van Oord and WM Longreach, following on from a successful trial with the same participants in January 2024.

The method developed is that the excavator scoops accumulated sediments and plants from the so-called 'shoulder' of the river, then it drops them down into the central part of the channel. Along that channel, the WID vessel uses powerful jets of water to agitate and disperse the materials placed in its path, so they get washed out on the outgoing tide.

Above: Borr's water injection bar is raised for visitors from Lincolnshire. Below right: a screen in Borr's cabin shows the vessel's relation to the River Parrett's profile.



This combined dredging is done because the Parrett gets vast amounts of sediments coming in from the sea. (The Parrett has the second highest tidal range in the world). Massive quantities of sediments also get washed down through the Parrett's catchment, which covers nearly half of Somerset (including the River Tone which joins the Parrett near Burrowbridge). As these sediments gradually get stuck in bankside vegetation, they clot and strengthen, and get harder to erode. This mudding-up reduces the Parrett's cross-sectional area and its effectiveness as a flood channel evacuating water. Combined dredging helps to get the river back much closer to the profile that was achieved in the major £6million dredge of 2014. This reduces flood risks for people, properties, roads and land, particularly in the area around Moorland which was so badly hit in 2014.

Dredging is done in combination with a programme of silt monitoring twice a year since 2015. SRA partners have amassed a detailed panoramic picture of how sediments come, go and tend to stick around in the tidal section of the Parrett between Burrowbridge and the M5 bridge. Thus trends can be observed and target areas selected.

River Sowy - King's Sedgemoor Drain (KSD) Enhancements Scheme (Phase 1)

During 2024-25, the Parrett Internal Drainage Board (IDB) worked on plans for completing Phase 1 of the SRA's major River Sowy - King's Sedgemoor Drain (KSD) Enhancements Scheme. The IDB's project team focused on the two main tasks still needing to be done, firstly improving Chedzoy Tilting Weir and KSD Back Ditch outfall, secondly raising up to 1.8 kilometres of the left bank of the KSD.

Outfalls: the project team reviewed designs originally commissioned by the Environment Agency, fully inspected both structures, agreed some revisions to save money and ease construction, and got the necessary approvals (a complex process) for works to start at the end of April 2025. At Back Ditch, replacing both headwalls and installing a tidal flap. At Chedzoy, replacing a culvert, inlet headwall, and tilting weir, with a new outfall with tidal flap and raising an existing Public Right of Way to achieve a level defence line along this stretch of the KSD.

KSD: after doing a ground investigation and a topographic survey, the team modelled different ways of getting sections of the left bank up to the required height, again to save money and ease construction, and began getting the necessary approvals (again, a complex process to ensure compliance with relevant laws). Put simply, the plan now is to excavate material from the landward side of the bank, and put enough of this material on top of the bank to allow for settling and consolidation. Thus, large volumes of material will not need to be dumpered in from further afield at far greater cost and environmental impact. The team is hoping to get works underway and completed in the second half of 2025.

Background: The River Sowy is also known as the Parrett Flood Relief Channel. It was created between 1969 and 1972, to take excess water away from the River Parrett near Aller, downstream of Langport. Water flows into the Sowy through a sluice called Monk's Leaze Clyse near Combe north-west of Langport. It goes down via Beer Wall beneath the A372 near Othery to King's Sedgemoor Drain (KSD) near Greylake, then it re-joins the Parrett through Dunball Sluice, 22km (13.5 miles) after it went through Monk's Leaze Clyse.

Improving the Sowy-KSD system was a top target in Somerset's 20 Year Flood Action Plan, published in 2014. The SRA has been funding works since 2016. The main aim of Phase 1 Enhancements has been to increase the amount of water that can flow, in a controlled way, through the Sowy-KSD system, and thereby help to reduce flood risks for homes, businesses and roads across 150 square miles of the Somerset Levels and Moors.

SRA partners have also needed to ensure that legally-protected wetlands of international importance are not made less wet, because of more water being kept in river channels. For example, around 100 water level management control structures have been upgraded. These help to maintain and improve habitats.

Dunball Sluice

Helped by £650,000 from the SRA, the Environment Agency completed a major £9.7million refurbishment of Dunball Sluice. The sluice sits at the bottom end of the River Sowy-King's Sedgemoor Drain (KSD) system, north of Bridgwater. It is used by the Environment Agency to control flows between the KSD and the River Parrett, and thereby protect properties, businesses and internationally important habitats across the Somerset Levels and Moors.

A sluice was first built at Dunball in the 1790s. Since then it has taken various forms. In its present incarnation, it goes back to 1971 (below), built when the River Sowy was created (1969-72), so it could deal with more water coming down through the newly interlinked Sowy-KSD system.

More than 50 years on, many of the sluice's key mechanical, electrical, instrumentation, control and automation components were getting worn out. Their upgrading and replacing (below) has given the sluice another 25 years of operational life, just as the Sowy-KSD system is once again being enhanced. Specific works in 2024-25 included refurbishing the southern bypass channel (with tide-flap, penstock and tilting weir) and completely re-cabling and renewing sluice control systems.

Bridgwater Tidal Barrier

HM Treasury approved the Full Business Case for the Bridgwater Tidal Barrier in September 2024. The site is now expected to be operational by 2027. It will reduce flood risks to over 11,300 homes and 1,500 businesses.

The barrier is a £249million project led by the Environment Agency and Somerset Council, with contributions now totalling £3.32 million from the SRA and the now defunct Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership. These contributions particularly helped to accelerate the project's early development. It has three main elements:

- a Tidal Barrier across the River Parrett between Express Park and Chilton Trinity
- 4.3 kms (2.67 miles) of new flood defence banks and 2.8 kms (1.74 miles) of raised banks downstream at Chilton Trinity, Combwich and Pawlett
- fish and eel passage improvements at 12 sites upstream of the barrier

Good progress was made in 2024-25. Activities included:

- completing an access track to the barrier site and site compound, starting works to extend haul road access to downstream defences
- completing detailed designs for the barrier and downstream defences, drawing upon analysis of test pile driving data
- installing 834 pre-cast concrete piles on the Parrett's east bank, to support activities including heavy load-bearing
- installing piles on the Parrett's west bank, as part of flood bank improvements
- getting a big jack-up barge from Liverpool, to enable construction of a cofferdam, that is an enclosure pumped dry to allow for installing piles for the barrier's foundations, and other works below water level
- archaeological works, community drop-ins, school and college visits, sessions with local businesses.

Taunton Strategic Flood Alleviation Improvements Scheme

The main purpose of Taunton Strategic Flood Alleviation Improvements Scheme (TSFAIS) is to reduce flood risks to 1,031 properties arising from the River Tone and its complex network of tributaries. The SRA made contributions to TSFAIS between 2016-17 and 2020-21, including £65,000 of Growth Deal funding which came to the SRA via the now-defunct Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership.

During 2024-25, Somerset Council and the Environment Agency concentrated on one TSFAIS project: River Tone Left Bank Flood Defences – raising low spots from Frieze Hill to Town Bridge. Revised outline designs were completed in December 2024, after engagement and consultation with other SRA partners (Wessex Water, Natural England), landowners, the public, and organisations including National Grid, BT, and Wales & West Utilities.

It is generally agreed that special attention should be paid to areas where existing flood defences offer the lowest levels of protection, next to Clarence Street and the BT Exchange, and the former Poundstretcher site. Work has therefore now started on detailed designs for these two areas, in liaison with National Grid, BT, property developers and property owners. Sessions have been held with local people, for example at North Town Primary School (which will benefit from works being delivered).

River Brue modelling

In recent years, people living in parts of the lower catchment of the River Brue have endured an unhappy combination of very high flows of water and difficulties in getting agreements about works that would reduce the risks of flooding locally – while not increasing risks elsewhere.

In an attempt to break this combination-lock, Somerset Rivers Authority commissioned a fresh study of how much water the Brue conveys, and how water moves – and is moved – around its lowlands. New Brue modelling was completed in 2023.

In 2024, Somerset Council - as a partner in the SRA - agreed that it would lead a further project using this Brue modelling to investigate and appraise various possibilities. The council duly commissioned AW Water Engineering Ltd and WSP to act as consultants, and they started work in January 2025. Both these firms also worked on the SRA's Brue modelling.

The project team's main aims now are to get a better understanding of different scenarios in the Brue catchment, to test the pros and cons of possible interventions, and to develop viable recommendations for actions that could get local or national funding (or both).

Areas and subjects being looked at include silt removal and other methods of increasing watercourses' capacity for conveying water, structural improvements to flood defences, bank repairs and changes to operational procedures.

Somerset Council hopes to have recommendations ready by autumn 2025. SRA partners all recognise that Brue catchment flooding since 2023 has increased local people's interest in ways of successfully dealing with problems. Using the SRA's modelling will help to show how and where various improvements should work best and how any competing interests might be reconciled.

Division Rhyne desilting

Responding to prolonged flooding over the winter of 2023-24, the SRA gave Godney Parish Council a grant for reshaping 4.8 kilometres (3 miles) of the northern bank of Division Rhyne *(work pictured below)*.

The council was concerned about water levels in this rhyne staying persistently above the outlet clappers in bordering fields, thereby making it impossible for water in these fields to drain into the rhyne. In a bid to remedy this situation, the council got an emergency permit from the Environment Agency and hired a contractor to take silt from the centre of the rhyne and put it on the northern bank, from a point about 200 metres east of the Godney to Glastonbury road to the rhyne's confluence with the River Brue. The council has told the SRA that it would like more Brue catchment works to be done, of the kinds being assessed using the SRA's River Brue modelling *(see above, pages 11-12)*, so the benefits of this Division Rhyne project may be even more fully realised.

Siphons Appraisal

Investigations began into three of the 14 siphons known to exist in the Axe-Brue and Parrett catchments. Siphons are pipe structures which enable water to go underneath a river from one side to the other without entering the river itself. They are designed to ensure that large amounts of water, in a managed system, go where they are supposed to go. The consequences otherwise could be widespread flooding or - in drier times of year - a serious lack of water.

The Axe Brue Internal Drainage Board is using SRA funding to examine the three siphons judged to pose the biggest flood risks if they failed. One (called Swallows) goes under the River Brue about 1.5 miles north-west of Baltonsborough in the Watchwell Drove-Butt Moor area, one goes under the River Sheppey on the eastern edge of Lower Godney, one goes under the Old River Axe on the southern edge of Cross.

Sites were cleared of vegetation that was impeding access and inspection, and an experienced specialist contractor was appointed, as divers are needed for thorough siphon investigations *(as below at Swallows)*. An overall appraisal is expected to be completed in 2025, including recommendations for any further works needed.

Resetting the River Aller on Exmoor

A major floodplain reconnection project on the National Trust's Holnicote Estate near Selworthy has resulted in dramatic changes, part-funded by Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) and several others.

Inspired by innovative 'Stage 0' river restoration techniques pioneered in the US state of Oregon, in 2022-23 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.

Researchers from several Universities (Exeter, Loughborough, Nottingham, and Sweden's Umeå) have been monitoring subsequent changes in water flow, water quality and habitat. Initial findings published in October 2024 showed:

- higher ground water levels across the site, in some places by more than 1 metre
- increased lag times between rainfall and stormy surges of water, and an average 38% reduction in downstream flood peaks
- water cloudiness (turbidity) down by 41% following restoration
- lower levels of fine sediments further downstream
- aquatic habitat up by 1780%, from 0.18 hectares to 3.42 hectares

In summary: slowing and storing water is reducing flood risks for places downstream, such as historic Allerford and Bossington. Water is being cleaned, and a superb jumble of habitats created for plants and animals.

This big River Aller reset followed a series of smaller, local National Trust natural flood management works part-funded by the SRA. The National Trust also recently completed a 125-hectare extension of the Aller project upstream at Tivington Farm, part-funded by the SRA.

On 1 April 2025, for all these elements combined together, the National Trust was awarded the UK River Prize 2025 for catchment restoration.

Burnham-on-Sea desilting

Around 100 tonnes of silt and debris were removed from a stream which extends out of New Rhyne near The Drive in Burnham-on-Sea. This stream was struggling to cope with heavy culverted flows from roads, and from properties built in the 1960s. Clearance works *(below)* have improved the conveyance of water and reduced flood risks for around 30 properties and local businesses including a petrol station, caravan repairer and caravan dealer. The job was done, using SRA funding, by the Axe Brue Internal Drainage Board (IDB). Possible further improvements are being considered by the IDB to ensure long-lasting local benefits.

Desilting structures

Somerset Council budgets allow for bridges and culverts to be desilted when there is a threat to those structures. A danger, for example, of them being damaged because of the sheer volume and weight of material built up inside and around them.

Extra SRA funding allows for desilting works that benefit both structures *and* the watercourses flowing through them – and nearby roads, land and properties.

One structure was desilted in 2024-25 by Somerset Council. This was Hockholler Bridge, at the A38 Blackbird Bends, where work was done as part of long-running efforts to reduce flooding along a busy, important road. See also the report of an SRA-funded investigation into this area on page 34.

Workstream 2: Land Management including Natural Flood Management (NFM)

Somerset Rivers Authority funds many land management and Natural Flood Management (NFM) activities across Somerset. Various techniques are used, singly or in combinations designed to suit to local needs and conditions. All share the aim of reducing local flood risks, by slowing the flow of water down through catchments to vulnerable areas, in ways that work with nature. This workstream is led for the SRA by the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group SouthWest (FWAG SW).

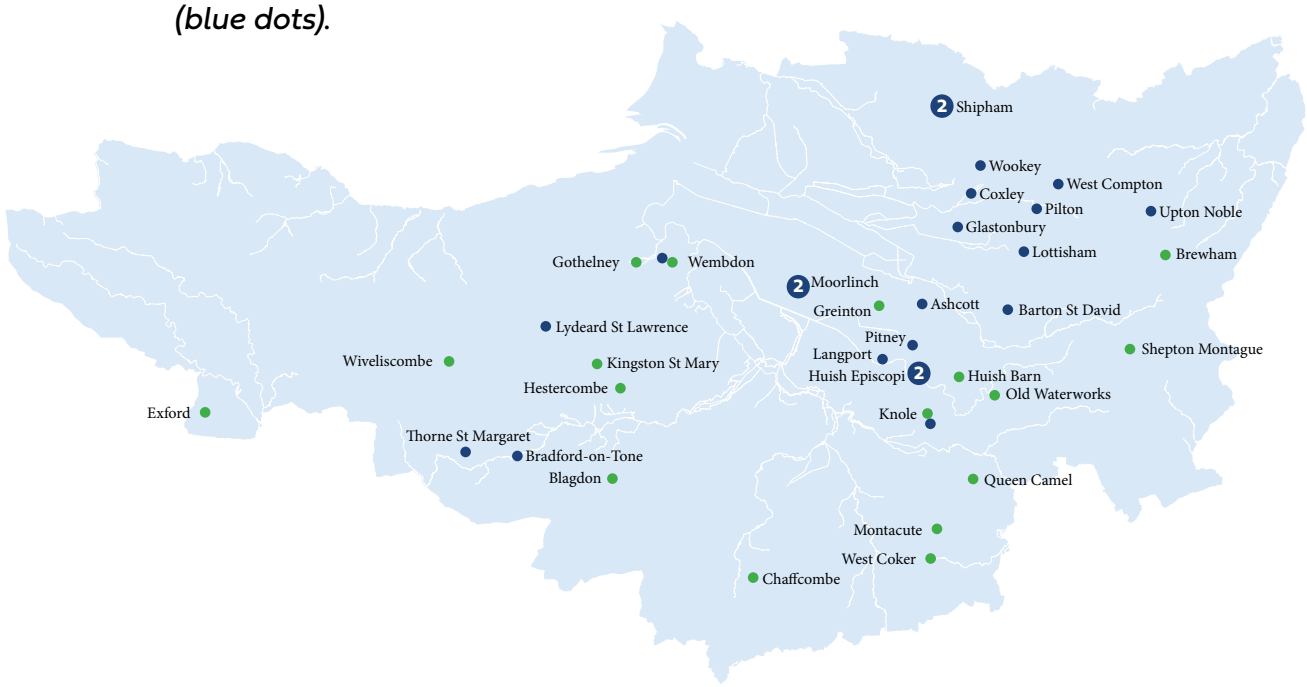
Above: new pond at Huish Barn

Activities since 2015 have generally gone under the popular local branding of Hills to Levels. As awareness of this initiative has spread across Somerset, and as flooding has been getting more intense and unpredictable, more people have been saying that they want to help reduce flood risks where they live. However, people have also been saying they lack technical expertise, knowledge and confidence. In 2022, therefore, the SRA agreed to fund some targeted assistance for people found to be highly motivated and activities judged to be effective.

A community sub-catchment enabling scheme was set up through FWAG SW, and the SRA Board topped up funding for this scheme in September 2024. Several of the projects described below have come about through communities working with one of the two officers employed by FWAG SW to help people turn ideas into action: namely Chaffcombe, Gothelney, Greinton, Kingston St Mary and Knole.

Other projects have come about more conventionally through FWAG SW advisors working with farmers and landowners. In several of these schemes, as part of thinking about dealing with the infiltration or runoff of rainwater as close as possible to where it falls, greater emphasis has been put upon the assessment and management of soil: matters such as soil type, soil structure, soil health, drainage, tillage and cover crops. Examples include Brewham, Kingston St Mary and Montacute.

The map shows the locations of the NFM schemes described below *(green dots)*, and also of the Trees for Water plantings described on pages 24-25 *(blue dots)*.



Twenty-four NFM schemes were completed across Somerset during 2024-25, the highest number since 2018-19. Schemes were:

Blagdon Hill, Blagdon Green, River Tone catchment. A leaky pond (20 metres by 10 metres) was created to store water that is now diverted via a brash dam and pipe from a tributary ditch of the Sherford Stream, then released via another pipe back into said ditch. These new features are on land owned by the registered charity known as Village Hall and Playing Field Pitminster and Angersleigh.

Brewham, Bridge Farm, Brue catchment, the first phase of a proposed two-part scheme. To begin with, dying ash trees have been felled and hazel trees coppiced to make a series of flow spreaders placed to help slow the flow of water across a field and down through an area of hillside woodland straight into the River Brue. Three grey willows have also been planted to help stabilise sections of woodland badly eroded by torrential flows. A second phase envisages creating two leaky ponds in the field.

Woodlands, uphill of Chaffcombe, Upper Isle - River Parrett catchment, a pond has been created in the corner of a field near Knapps Lane to store water at a low spot where water was converging from steep fields above. The pond is 13 metres wide and 18 metres long, and up to 1.3 metres deep. It has a leaky letterbox outlet pipe to allow a low flow out of the pond, but also to allow water levels to rise during periods of heavy rain. This extra storage helps to slow the flow of water and reduce flood risks downstream to a village that in recent years has suffered more frequent and more severe flash flooding.

The Old Waterworks between Lytes Cary Manor and Charlton Mackrell, River Cary catchment, a former pumping station built in 1895. A scheme funded by Natural England and Somerset Rivers Authority, branching out from a large pond created in 2021, in a 5-hectare field next to the River Cary. At this historically important site, four big scrapes with connecting channels were created to help reduce flooding and produce a new wetland for wildlife. This job was done using a Liebrecht rotary ditcher imported from the USA by the RSPB: the only machine of its kind in the UK *(pictured on the back cover of this report)*. A digger was also used to smash old underground drainage pipes, fill in low areas and build up banks around parts of the field's edge. The results of all this work were seen soon after its completion, during downpours in October 2024, when water levels in the Cary rose and the river bifurcated and flowed through the field for an extra 620 metres, just as analysis of its historic paleochannels had suggested that it would. These channels can be seen in the landowners' drone shot at the top of this page. Similar events are expected to occur on average five times every winter, helping to hold back and store flood water. FWAG SW believe there are "significant opportunities to replicate this within the immediate vicinity should landowners be receptive to such interventions". One such case has been at Huish Barn: see below.

Land at Huish Barn, Huish Road, near Somerton, River Cary catchment. A wetland area has been created on land next to the River Cary, to help reduce flood risks downstream by slowing the flow of water across the river's flood plain and using it to store more water. Existing field drains were removed to force water to flow overland, then a 65 by 50 metre pond was dug out *(as seen on page 16)*. Additionally, earth moved during the making of this pond was spread over land outside of the flood plain. This spreading was done to reduce the land's gradient so that water also flows more slowly over this land and more water can be stored. A further benefit is that the new wetland area is a better habitat for wildlife.

More photographs of these schemes, and many others featured in this annual report, can be seen in the Flood Risk Work section of the Somerset Rivers Authority website.

Above: Higher Thorne Farm ponds (left) before, (right) after, first, second, third, in order.

Higher Thorne Farm, Exford, Middle Barle - Upper Exe catchment. One pond was re-created, two enhanced, on a farm with steep land above Exford, near the B3224, so they could store and hold back water. The first pond - at the farm's highest point, near a spring - was increased in size from a volume of 240m^3 to 600m^3. The second and middle (where a pond used to be) went from zero to 450m^3, the third and lowest from 150m^3 to 1750m^3. As well as deepening, works involved regrading banks, creating bunds, installing outlets, and erecting fencing to exclude livestock but allow access for future pond de-silting. Funding was split half and half between the SRA and South West Water.

Greinton, King's Sedgemoor Drain catchment, a scheme to help reduce the flow of water which was overflowing down a track on the north side of the village towards properties and the A361 through Greinton. This stretch of road has had 11 recorded incidents of flooding since 2012. One of FWAG SW's SRA-funded community advisors worked closely with Greinton Parish Council and a local contractor on interlinked moves to improve water management, including clearing and bunding an old pond so that water could flow through a new culvert into another pond, ditch and stream clearing and building up banks. Greinton's parish clerk told the SRA: "While this project is just one of many efforts to mitigate flooding in our village, we already see significant progress in reducing water flow and subsequent flooding, helping to keep our community safe and better prepared."

Kennel Bottom, Hestercombe House, West Monkton parish upstream of Cheddon Fitzpaine, Allen Brook (Maiden Brook) - River Tone catchment. Six felled ash trees from Hestercombe were used to create three leaky dams to slow heavy flows of water down through a combe towards the Hestercombe car park and beyond that down towards Cheddon Fitzpaine and Maidenbrook where West Monkton Parish Council has reported homes and roads flooding. A further scheme is being considered by Hestercombe in West Combe to the west of Kennel Bottom. Hestercombe's head gardener has thanked the SRA and FWAG SW for "a great project which should prove to have a tremendous impact upon the local community".

Kingston St Mary, Park Farm, Yarford, tributary of Back Stream, Tone catchment. Following a suggestion made by the owner of Park Farm to one of FWAG SW's SRA-funded community sub-catchment enabling officers, an old pond was reinstated to help slow peak flows of flood water, down towards Pickney Lane and Cross Keys.

This area was highlighted as a concern by Kingston St Mary Parish Council, after flooding in December 2023. Works included coppicing and removing trees and their roots from the site of the pond, removing land drains, excavating, and designing and fitting a leaky outlet to the pond, to allow for more control over storage and flows.

Manor Farm and St Benedict's Farm, Knole, King's Moor Main drain - Yeo - Parrett catchments, two interlinked schemes involving two neighbours, devised with support from the Parrett Internal Drainage Board and SRA-funded officers at FWAG SW, following flooding in Knole over the winter of 2023-24, and the formation of Knole Flood Group.

A pond on a flow pathway leading into the village from the west was desilted and expanded to create more capacity for holding flood water, and a leaky outlet was installed to allow for greater control of water levels. A bund was also created to push water off a neighbouring field into the pond and a secondary ditch was piped into the pond. The pipe's trench created a cambered area that also drains into the pond. Downstream from the pond and along a public footpath, ditches were cleared, a new crossing was built and a trash screen was installed to stop debris accumulating in Knole's drainage network.

Works done during 2024 were subjected later that year to some severe tests. During storm Bert on 22 November 2024, Knole Flood Group wrote to FWAG SW and the SRA to say: "We have proved beyond doubt that the new pond has been effective in flood prevention."

Abbey Farm, Montacute, Wellhams Brook - River Parret catchment. Five interlinked schemes, improving upon works done in early 2016, when the Meeds Valley at Abbey Farm became one of the first places in Somerset to benefit from grants awarded through Hills to Levels. Hills to Levels was then funded through the SRA's share of Growth Deal money given by the now-defunct Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership. The Meeds Valley is a horseshoe of hills, with springs running into a central ditch, with water flowing down to Montacute, on to Martock and into the River Parrett at Gawbridge Mill. Works done there in 2016 included desilting one pond, digging out and recreating two historic ponds, clearing out the central ditch and installing a series of dams of different sorts.

Following a recent review of all these measures by FWAG SW, five schemes were recommended and carried out. They included maintaining and enhancing existing leaky dams; creating additional dams using large oak timber; repairing a culvert headwall with local stone and improving a track crossing above; building a large timber hibernaculum from locally-felled alder trees to stabilise the headwater area of a spring; and increasing the capacity of a pond and its outlet, clearing silt and weed, making new ponds in a wood, and felling trees to act as flow spreaders within that wood. To save money, a considerable amount of this work was done by the farm's owners, family and friends. FWAG SW say all these measures have cumulatively reduced peak flows and thereby reduced local flood risks. To help manage water storage during periods of heavy rain, Abbey Farm's owners have worked closely with local flood wardens, who are very active in the Wellhams Brook area.

Camel Hill Farm, Queen Camel, River Cary catchment. A leaky pond was created to store water running down a steep track from the farmyard, then release it slowly during periods of high flow. The pond measures 15m^2. It has an average depth of 0.5 metres and gently sloping edges. The farmer and FWAG SW say the pond has been working well, with a good amount of water collecting during periods of heavy rain and then receding a couple of days later, most likely due to freely-draining stony soil. It's the third pond at Camel Hill Farm to have been funded through Hills to Levels. The first in 2017-18 was funded via the SRA using Growth Deal money from the now defunct Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, the second by the SRA.

Higher Hill Farm, Shepton Montague, River Pitt catchment, a small scheme developed after several episodes of flooding in Shepton Montague over the last five years, with an especially bad burst in May 2023. Here the basic aim was to reduce the amount of water running down a road into the village. So a swale was created with a bund to hold water, along with a concrete cross-track drain and a sleeper with a pipe in the middle of the sleeper to take excess water from the field, a new ditch and a concrete gully.

Land opposite Gothelney Hall, Charlynch Road, Spaxton parish, Perrymoor Brook to River Parret catchment. A farm track was raised up to field level and sloped from west to east, and three cross drains were built into the track, to get water to soak away into the field, instead of running down onto Charlynch Road, blocking drains with debris and causing flooding. Initial results have been very promising. A track inspection during heavy rain in February 2025 showed no water running down towards Charlynch Road (highlighted previously as a flooding hotspot by flood wardens and Spaxton Parish Council). The farmer has also created a buffer strip in the field to the west of the track, which has further helped to lessen runoff down towards Perrymoor Brook and the vulnerable area of Perry Green.

Land next to south side of A39 Quantock Road, Wembdon, Cannington Brook - River Parrett catchment. Two interlinked schemes, which began life as a highways referral of a site known for surface water flooding. Somerset Council's Highways Department asked FWAG SW to investigate opportunities to improve drainage flows and hold back more water in ditches and an existing pond, while at the same time improving access between an agricultural field and a very busy road. A multi-faceted plan was duly drawn up - and carried out - to clear and enhance ditches, reduce land water runoff and pressure on road gullies, increase the capacity of a pond, and generally make this high-risk site safer for farm vehicles and passing traffic.

Sleights Lane, West Coker, Sutton Bingham Stream – River Yeo catchment, chunky lengths of timber and brash were used to create a flow spreader, and some lengths of live hazel were laid across a route long known locally for channelling large fast volumes of water down towards West Coker's High Street, which is also a busy stretch of the A30. Drains and culverts there have previously been overwhelmed and properties affected during and after periods of heavy rain. To help reduce the risks of road and home flooding, this scheme was developed by FWAG SW working together with West Coker Parish Council, Somerset Council's Highways Department and two local farmers. It also included some tree planting and hedge-gap filling. It's the first of a series of land management and natural flood management measures planned around the village to reduce flooding.

Withycombe Farm, Wiveliscombe, tributary of Hillfarrance Brook, Tone catchment. Three schemes: 1) vegetation clearance and the partial desilting of a disused and heavily sedimented reservoir in a steep-sided valley upstream of Wiveliscombe, along with investigations into difficult outlet problems; 2) installation of a water control outlet to an old mill pond *(left)*, along with timber flow spreaders in places where water flows down into the pond; 3) re-grading and re-profiling of a farm access track (and public footpath) down which torrents of water flowed in heavy rain, and the creation of a bigger deeper silt trap to the side of this track where more water is now diverted and contained and its erosive power reduced. The aim of all these schemes was to hold back and better control water at several points where it naturally converged, and so reduce flooding on the B3227 downhill from the farm, and waterlogging on Wiveliscombe recreation ground. All schemes have been observed to work effectively during heavy rain, also thereby benefitting Withycombe Farm's buildings and business, and public access.

Highways referrals

The point of 'highways referrals' is to assess whether road flooding problems could be reduced through better management of land nearby. It may, for example, be possible to work with a landowner to reduce the amount of water running off from a field or track down on to a highway. In 2024-25, the schemes at Gothelney, A39 Quantock Road and West Coker described previously began life as 'highways referrals'. *West Coker pictures below show parts of the problem and an initial measure taken.*

Places visited by FWAG SouthWest advisers in 2024-25 included: **Barton St David**, Barton Road; **Batcombe**, Saite Lane; **Bruton**, B3081 Milton Clevedon; **Chard**, St Mary's Close; **Chilton Cantelo** (x3), Bridgehampton Road, Cypress House Road and Hinton; **Chipley**, Milverton Road; **Crewkerne**, Cathole Bridge Road; **Enmore**, No Place Lane; **Ilminster**, Station Road; **Knole**, Stone Mead Lane; **Maperton**, Clapton Lane; **Middlezoy**, Shepherds Drove, Thorngrove; **Monksilver**, bridleway 307248 / 137214; **Otterhampton**, Stockland Bristol Road; **Shepton Montague**, Francombe Lane; **Sutton Montis**, Rectory Hill and Church Hill; **Wembdon**, Skimmerton Lane / A39; **West Coker**, Font Lane.

Extra soil and land management visits

Better soil husbandry helps to reduce the run-off of surface water. Keeping soil in good health also brings obvious benefits to farmers. So SRA funding allows for some specific visits focused on soil condition and land management issues to be made by FWAG SW advisers.

Places visited in 2024-25, here listed by catchment, included: **River Cam**, The Newt (Emily Estate) near Bruton; **River Cary**, Westcombe Farm near Somerton; **Doniford Stream**, The Crowcombe Estate, Quantocks, and Stogumber, Higher Vexford Farm; **Somerset Frome** - Emblems Farm, Friggle Street, near Frome; **River Parrett**, Brympton D'Evercy estate near Yeovil; Perrins Hill Farm, Tintinhull; **River Sheppey**, Downside, New Row Farm; **River Tone**, Park Farm, Kingston St Mary; Volis Farm, Kingston St Mary (Cothelstone / Toulton area); Bindon Farm, Langford Budville; Lower Marsh Farm and Pyrlands Farm, Upper Cheddon; Shopnoller, West Bagborough.

Top: Millfield pupils at Langport. Below right: Paddington Farm, Glastonbury.

Trees for Water Action Fund

Trees for Water is an SRA-backed Fund for tree and hedge planting that helps people across Somerset to reduce local flood risks arising from surface water run-off. The project is led by Reimagining the Levels, working with the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group SouthWest (FWAG SW). It's designed to suit small sites where local knowledge and expert analysis suggest that planting will make a difference.

Planting is usually carried out by landowners and teams of enthusiastic volunteers, many now very experienced, quite a few still learning. Twenty schemes went ahead in 2024-25, plus two part carried over from 2023-24 (Lottisham, Upton Noble). In total, they planted 2,464 trees, 2,920 shrubs, and 564 metres of hedgerow. To guard where need be against chomping by livestock and wildlife, 832 metres of fencing was also provided.

Trees for Water places in 2024-25:

Ashcott, Potato Cottage, Station Road; **Barton St David**, Broadclose Way; **Bradford on Tone**, Bradford Court; **Coxley**, Coxley Playing Field; **Glastonbury**, Paddington Farm, Maidencroft Lane; **Huish Episcopi (x2)**, Merricks Farm, Park Lane, also Woodstock Farm, Pibsbury; **Knole**, Woodlands, Bineham; **Langport**, North Moor, land behind Moor Close; **Lottisham**, Rookery Farm; **Lydeard St Lawrence**, Pyleigh House Farm; **Moorlinch (x2)**, The Lookout, Greinton Road, also Tapmoor; **Pilton**, Platterwell Acres, Platterwell Lane; **Pitney**, Glebe Farm, Woodbirds Hill Lane; **Shipham (x2)**, Lyppiatt, Lippiatt Lane, also Yew Tree Farm Cottage; **Thorne St Margaret**, Rewe Farm; **Wembdon**, Perry Croft, Perry Green; **West Compton**, Knowle Ground; **Wookey**, Field off Castle Lane, Fenny Castle; **Upton Noble**, Bellerica Farm.

From top clockwise: *Coxley playing field, Pilton, Barton St David, Glastonbury, Tapmoor, Barton St David.*

Somerset Beaver guidance and recommendations

This project began life in 2021 as a Somerset Beaver Strategy. The SRA Board judged that as more beavers were likely to end up inhabiting parts of Somerset, it would make sense to agree well-informed, evidence-based, science-led plans for managing them. An SRA grant was therefore given to the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group SouthWest (FWAG SW), who commissioned Somerset Wildlife Trust to produce a strategy. Since then, a lot has happened. Locally, for example, Natural England confirmed in 2022 that beavers were living in the Avon and Somerset Frome. Colonies there are now reckoned to form probably the third largest wild beaver population in England. Nationally, in 2022, beavers were given European Protected Species status in England. And at the end of February 2025, Natural England was given permission to issue licences for the wild release of beavers in England.

Developments such as this significantly changed the context in which Somerset Wildlife Trust was working. After formal discussions with interested parties in May 2024, and a wider public consultation was concluded in the autumn, it was decided to re-badge and re-organise the strategy as Guidance and Recommendations. Part 1 would focus on the legal frameworks that now exist, Part 2 on actions that people and organisations in Somerset could take to help communities, land managers and beavers co-exist successfully. ***Somerset Beaver Co-existence and Management: Guidance and Recommendations*** was duly published by Somerset Wildlife Trust in May 2025.

Somerset Levels and Moors peat trials

One landowner took part in an SRA-funded trial scheme of payments for the preservation and restoration of peat on the Somerset Levels & Moors. The trial was organised by the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group SouthWest (FWAG SW). It covered nearly 100 acres on Lang Moor near Westonzoyland and ran from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Many other landowners said they would have liked to join in but involvement in other environmental schemes meant they could not.

The SRA agreed to fund this trial because areas of wet low-lying peaty land can act as a buffer against flooding. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) was also keen for lessons to be learned so that Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMs) can "reward farmers and land managers for producing public goods", such as preventing carbon dioxide (CO_2) loss from lowland peat.

FWAG SW's concluding report highlighted various factors and issues such as the need for "a conducive interface" between farmers, Moor Associations, Internal Drainage Boards and the Environment Agency.

Workstream 3: Urban Water Management

The main aims of the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Urban Water Management workstream (W3) are to reduce local flood risks and make places better to live and work. Activities in 2024-25 funded or part-funded by the SRA included 37 inspections of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), 33 investigations into local flood hotspots, the distribution of 506 water butts in Chard, and Chard reservoir works.

SuDS Inspections

In 2024-25, as in previous years, a lot of close attention was devoted in this workstream to examining Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) at new developments.

When it rains, SuDS help to control the run-off of water from hard surfaces like roads, roofs and pavements. SuDS use techniques inspired by nature – such as permeable paving and plants and ponds – to absorb water and hold it back as close as possible to where it comes from.

SuDS can make places greener and more attractive, healthier for people and better for wildlife, with less pollution. *(Below: SuDS parkland at Norton St Philip).*

In June 2024, the SRA Board agreed to give Somerset Council an extra £42,000 so that SuDS inspections could continue until the end of the 2024-25 financial year. Funding given previously (£313,000 in total since 2020) had been expected to run out at the end of September.

Very few formal SuDS inspection processes are in place across England. This situation is expected to change when Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) is implemented. This implementation had been expected to happen by the end of the 2024-25 financial year, but a new date is currently unknown. As things stand, Somerset is ahead in checking new developments.

The SRA and its partners want to ensure that SuDS are built in accordance with the exact designs that were approved by local planning authorities, and that they work as they are meant to work. Inspectors check schemes for compliance against 16 different criteria.

At most places, it is generally found that SuDS features are installed in accordance with approved drawings and specifications. Where problems are found, Somerset Council has the power to enforce changes.

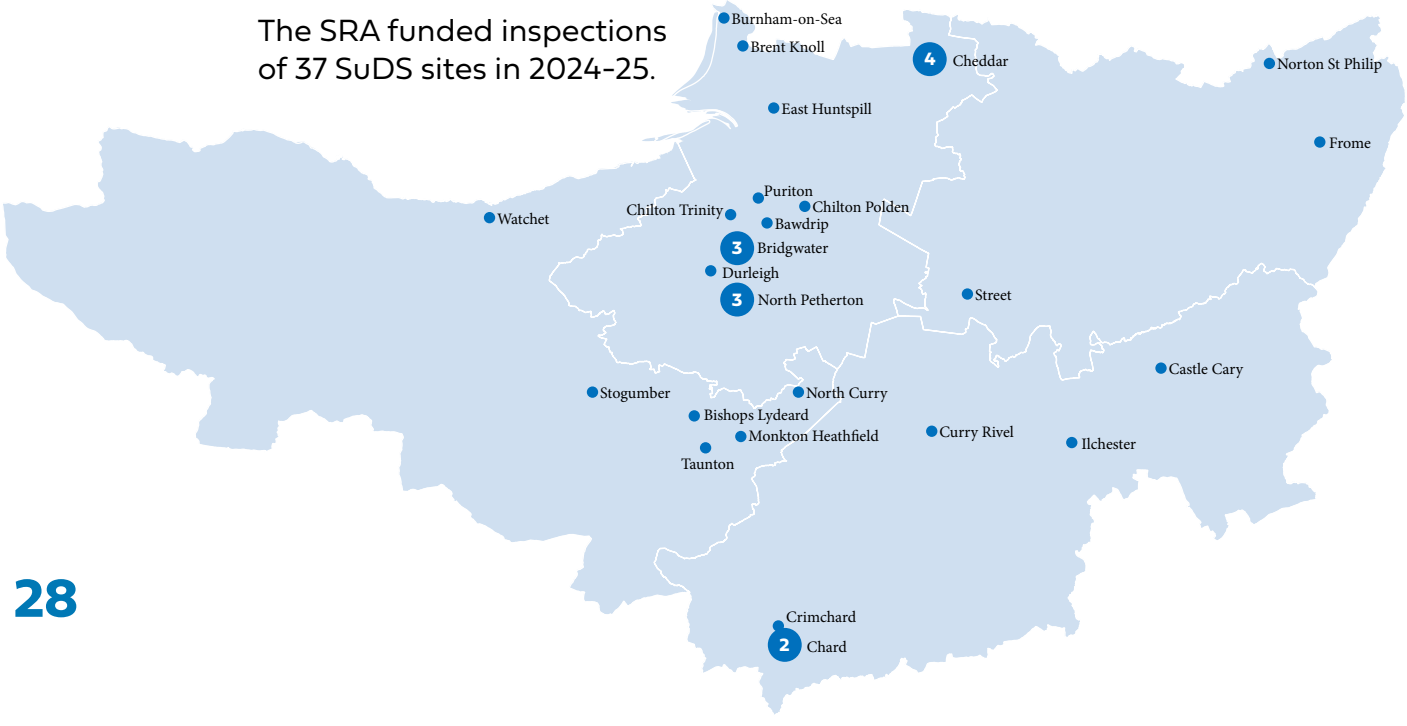
Left: balancing pond at Carrots Farm, North Petherton. Right: headwall pipe measuring at Wayside Farm, Castle Cary.

As in previous years, special attention is paid to handover arrangements for future maintenance, which is vital for effective SuDS operation. Records are kept of private management and maintenance companies.

All sites inspected continue to be added to a SuDS register for Somerset, using mapping software. One purpose of this mapping is to enable future monitoring, especially of whether maintenance is being carried out by companies exactly as developers pledged during the process of getting planning permission. The monitoring process also allows for residents to raise concerns about SuDS features.

A useful source of information about SuDS in Somerset is a website funded by the SRA, which includes Somerset-specific SuDS design standards: https://www.somerset-suds.co.uk

The SRA funded inspections of 37 SuDS sites in 2024-25.



Here are the 37 inspection sites listed by former district council area:

Mendip

Frome, Cherry Grove; **Norton St Philip**, High Street; **Street**, Amberleigh, Isaacs Close.

Sedgemoor

Bawdrip, New Road, Bawdrip; **Berrow**, Rosetree Farm Paddock; **Brent Knoll** (x2), Brent Street (EG Carter) and Brent Street (Coln Residential); **Bridgwater** (x3), Bower Farm, and Gerber Foods site, Wembdon Road, and Willstock Village, Phase 2; **Burnham on Sea**, Golf Links Road; **Cheddar** (x4), Steart Bushes, Wedmore Road, and Steart Farm, and land north of Helliers Lane (Bellway Homes), and Hythe Wood, Helliers Lane (David Wilson Homes); **Chilton Polden**, Hayne Walk; **Chilton Trinity**, land at former brickworks; **Durleigh**, Queenswood Reservoir, Luxborough Road; **East Huntspill**, New Road; **North Petherton** (x3), Batts Farm, Newton Road, and Carrots Farm, and Willstock Village Phase 3B; **Puriton**, Woolavington Road.

Somerset West and Taunton

Bishops Lydeard, Taunton Road, West Phase 2; **Monkton Heathfield**, The Hatcheries; **North Curry**, Near Taunton, Residential Development; **Stogumber**, The Butts, Station Road; **Taunton**, Ruskin Close; **Watchet**, Lorna Doone Park.

South Somerset

Castle Cary (x2), Backhouse, east of Station Road, and Wayside Farm, Station Road; **Chard** (x2), Coker Way-Wyatt Way, Furnham Road, and land off Tatworth Road; **Crimchard**, Blackdown Heights; **Curry Rivel**, Westfield; **Ilchester**, land north of Dragonfly Close.

Chard Reservoir

During 2024-25, preparations were made for a scheme designed to help protect the dam at Chard Reservoir from extreme future flooding. A full ecological survey was undertaken and a small number of self-seeded trees along the dam's crest were removed or cut back to allow for the building of a new wall. This wall will reduce the risk of the reservoir failing and benefit nearly 1,000 properties from Chard down to Muchelney. Other works include culvert reconstruction and re-grading the Anglers' car park.

This reservoir scheme is being led by Somerset Council, which owns Chard Reservoir, and part-funded by Somerset Rivers Authority. The scheme's designers are Stillwater Associates, the main contractors Kier.

Chard Urban Run-off Butts

Free water butts were offered to people in selected parts of Chard, to try to reduce the amount of water running off from gutters on people's homes into Chard's drainage networks. Wessex Water led this scheme, working together with Somerset Council, Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA), Chard Town Council and Chard Area Resilience Group (CARG).

In a trial first phase in 2023 (covered in the SRA Annual Report 2023-24), 74 free water butts were ordered from and delivered by Wessex Water.

In a second bigger phase which started in August 2024, 987 properties were sent letters offering water butts, 506 were ordered and delivered by Wessex Water to 282 households.

One reason why Chard has flooded badly in recent years is that too much surface water has been running over land and overwhelming Chard's drainage networks. These networks consist of road drains, culverted watercourses, surface water sewers and combined sewers. Combined sewers take rainwater that runs off from gutters, drains and roads, as well as wastewater from homes and businesses.

Water butts drained down to lower levels or completely emptied out before periods of heavy rain have stored water that would otherwise have flowed into Chard's drainage networks. Further measures to reduce the risks of surface water flooding are being considered by SRA partners and Chard residents. Meanwhile, in a £1.3million project designed to address historic problems with sewer flooding during periods of heavy rain, Wessex Water has been installing larger pipes in the Furnham Road / Glynswood area of Chard.

Local flood risk management measures

A partnership project designed to reduce local flood risks across Somerset by investigating problems, assessing possible remedies and taking action. It's led by Wessex Water and Somerset Council as partners in Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA), and funded by the SRA (75%) and Wessex Water (25%). Somerset Council contributes staff time.

In 2024-25, the project's first year, 22 flooding issues were looked at. At five locations - in Bridgwater, Chedzoy, Highbridge, Taunton and Wellington – problems were dealt with through business-as-usual activities or separate external projects.

Three places were judged to require bigger, more co-ordinated measures. So three individual schemes were brought forward for joint funding by Wessex Water and the SRA, through the SRA's Enhanced Programme of works for 2025-26, at Penarth Road and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Bridgwater, Lower Keyford in Frome, and Watchet town centre.

Investigations are continuing at 14 places within Bridgwater, Chard, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Creech St Michael, Drayton, Fiddington, Taunton, Wellington, Wiveliscombe, Wookey, Woolston and Yeovil.

These places all have problems which could benefit from being addressed by more than one organisation. SRA funding that enables a range of SRA partners to work together on local priorities is intended to produce better, more integrated results for local people and local environments.

Taunton Flood Action Plan

The aims of this project are to better co-ordinate the management of flood risks from all sources around Taunton and to boost investment in measures to reduce those risks. The project is jointly funded by Somerset Rivers Authority and SRA partners Wessex Water and Somerset Council. It's led by Wessex Water and Somerset Council. Other partners involved include the Environment Agency and Network Rail.

In 2023, WSP were appointed as consultants to review the large number of existing plans, strategies, models, assessments, schemes and projects that currently relate to Taunton and water, to help identify and analyse gaps and problems, develop an integrated catchment model, and produce costed recommendations for action.

The SRA agreed to part-fund this project because it wanted, in line with its remit, to open up new ways for people to work together, get more funding and spend it efficiently on local priorities.

In February 2025, the project team completed Phase 4 of this project. This involved analysing problems at 11 flooding hotspots within the following areas, especially with surface water, and checking the modelling's predictions of flooding against historical occurrences:

- Bathpool
- Cheddon Fitzpaine
- Creech St Michael North
- Creech St Michael South
- Kingston St Mary
- Kingston St Mary (north)
- Kingston St Mary (south) to Nailsbourne
- Kingston Stream to Taunton railway station
- North Town and Firepool
- Norton Fitzwarren East
- Norton Fitzwarren West
- Ruishton
- Trull and Staplehay

Phases 5-7 will consist of developing a longlist and then a shortlist of options and drawing up a plan for possible mitigations (which may or may not be implemented depending upon a range of factors). This project is due to be completed by the end of March 2026.

Workstream 4: Resilient Infrastructure

In the Somerset 20 Year Flood Action Plan, drawn up in 2014, two of the six main objectives were about making the county's infrastructure more resilient. They urged that access should be maintained for people and businesses travelling within Somerset or through the county.

This imperative was picked up in the new Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Strategy for 2024-34, the second of whose five objectives is to "Maintain access and connections during times of flood for communities and businesses across Somerset". The SRA therefore deals with flooding along highways as well as waterways.

Enhanced maintenance of road drainage structures

Two programmes of enhanced maintenance were organised for the SRA by the Somerset Council Highways Department during 2024-25. These programmes helped to keep roads open, make them safer, preserve access for communities, and safeguard properties from flooding.

Gully emptying

SRA funding enabled Somerset Council's Highways Department to give 20,329 of the highest-risk gullies across Somerset a second round of emptying, six months after their first council-funded clearout.

More information about these gullies will be in the SRA website version of this annual report.

Drain jetting

Seventy drains were jetted for the SRA in 2024-25, by former district council area as follows: 10 in Mendip; 1 in Sedgemoor; 33 in Somerset West and Taunton; 26 in South Somerset. Under existing budgets, the Highways Department has in recent years only been able to afford to jet drains when a bad blockage has occurred. SRA funding has allowed for earlier preventative maintenance at locations known to suffer problems with flooding. Selections of drains for jetting are made using local knowledge and professional judgement. Sites are listed below by parish. In some cases, jetting was combined with CCTV surveying.

Sedgemoor

Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge, 5 Blytheway, Burnham on Sea.

Mendip

Baltonsborough, Muchelney Road; **Cranmore,** Dallimore Lane (SRA jetting & CCTV); **Frome,** Blatchbridge to Frome, West Woodlands; **Glastonbury,** Chilkwell St (SRA jetting & CCTV); **Lydford on Fosse,** A37 Fosseway (SRA jetting & CCTV); **North Wootton,** Stocks Lane; **Norton St Philip,** Hassage Farm Lane, Faulkland; **Rode,** Straight Lane; **Street,** Brooks Road (SRA jetting & CCTV); **West Pennard,** Edgarley Road (SRA jetting & CCTV).

Somerset West & Taunton

Ash Priors, Hillside Cottage (SRA jetting & CCTV); **Bishop's Hull,** Shutewater Hill; **Brompton Regis (x3),** B3190 Robbery Gate, Bury Ford and Withiel Lane; **Brushford,** Ellersdown Lane; **Cutcombe (x3),** Luckwell Bridge, Steart Lane, Thorne Lane; **Dulverton (x4),** B3222 Battleton, B3222 Dulverton, B3223 Highercombe, A396 Machine Steep; **Exford (x2),** Muddicombe and Wellshead; **Exmoor,** B3358 Simonsbath; **Exton (x2)**, A396 Bridgetown, Exton Lane; **Minehead (x2),** Periton Road and Spring Gardens; **Oake,** Broom Lane; **Selworthy,** Selworthy; **Skilgate (x2),** Frogwell and Lowtrow Cross; **Timberscombe,** Cloud Steep; **Trull,** Southwell Close; **Williton,** Minehead to Williton Road; **Winsford (x2),** Ash Lane, Howtown Lane; **Wootton Courtenay (x2),** Burrow Road, New Road; **Unrecorded parish** - B3227 Wiveliscombe-Milverton Road.

South Somerset

Babcary, Gingers Acre, Perry Hill; **Beercrocombe,** Stocks Lane, Ashill; **Castle Cary,** North Street (SRA jetting & CCTV); **Charlton Mackrell (x3),** Broadway Road and George Street, both in Charlton Adam, and near Cooks Cary Farm, Ilchester Road; **Combe St Nicholas,** Whiteway (SRA jetting & CCTV); **Compton Dundon (x3),** near Brook Barn Cottages, B3151 Somerton Road – Castlebrook, and near Wineberry Cottage, B3151 Littleton Road; **Drayton,** School Street (SRA jetting & CCTV); **Henstridge (x2),** A357 Ashwalk, A357 Stalbridge Road; **Kingsdon,** Henley Road; **Lovington,** Junction Hornblotton - Green Road (SRA jetting & CCTV); **Merriott,** Church Street; **North Barrow,** North Barrow Road; **North Cadbury,** A359 Junction Cary Road - High Road; **Queen Camel,** next to Wales House, Blackwell Road, Wales; **Shepton Montague,** Cattle Hill; **Somerton,** A372 Langport Road; **Sparkford (x2),** Rectory Lane, Weston Bamfylde, and near Westacre, Sparkford Road, South Barrow; **Stocklinch,** Stoney Lane; **Tintinhull,** Vicarage Street and School Close; **Yeovilton,** Bridgehampton Road.

CCTV surveys

SRA-funded CCTV surveys have been done in Combwich (Brookside Road), Milverton (the complete Milverton flood relief culvert) and Nether Stowey (junction of St Mary Street and Banneson Road) to address local flooding problems and local concerns about the conditions of culverted watercourses. Accurate information enables Somerset Council's Flood & Coastal Management team to pinpoint issues and (where need be)

to encourage the owners of watercourses and structures to fulfil their responsibilities for them. Somerset Council's Highways Department is to look at the need for further investigations and possible culvert repairs in St Mary Street, Nether Stowey.

Robins Lane, Burtle

A scheme to reduce flooding along Robins Lane in Burtle, which has a long history of problems caused by two undersized culverts and a dilapidated roadside ditch. Environmental surveys of the site were completed in summer 2024. Work on a detailed design began in February 2025, led by the Axe Brue Internal Drainage Board as a partner in the SRA.

A38 Blackbird Bends

An A38 *Blackbird Bends Catchment Assessment: Hydraulic Modelling and Options Report* was completed in September 2024. Funded by Somerset Rivers Authority, this report was commissioned by Somerset Council from consultants WSP. Its purpose: to study why part of this road between Taunton and Wellington – one of the busiest and most important roads in Somerset – is so prone to flooding. It is, for example, expected to flood in the kind of rainstorm that has a 50% chance of happening every year.

The diagnostic picture is complicated by catchment modifications made by people since at least the late 19th century (such as weirs and sluices), farming practices (such as livestock grazing), and coarse geological features (such as pebbles and cobbles). However, the main causes of flooding around the A38 bridge near the garden centre are now well understood, thanks to this new report. Put simply, channel capacity downstream of the bridge is limited by several factors, notably a build-up of materials that enables agricultural vehicles to move between fields. This means less water can flow downstream of the bridge, so it backs up, and there's a rise in water levels upstream of the bridge and along about 280 metres of the Hockholler Stream. This rise leads to overtopping at a low point along the right bank of the Hockholler Stream, and water then flows through the garden centre towards the A38. Further upstream, Hockholler Stream overflows on its left bank. Haywards Water mostly overflows on its right bank. In bigger storms, these flows combine and directly flood the A38 bridge.

WSP propose several ideas for reducing flooding. These include building a flood embankment, increasing capacity under the bridge, removing channel sediment, creating a bypass channel, and creating storage areas to hold back water upstream.

The SRA funded de-silting under the bridge in 2024-25, as a temporary measure to increase its capacity. Somerset Council is considering future possibilities, which will depend upon a range of factors such as funding and co-operation with landowners.

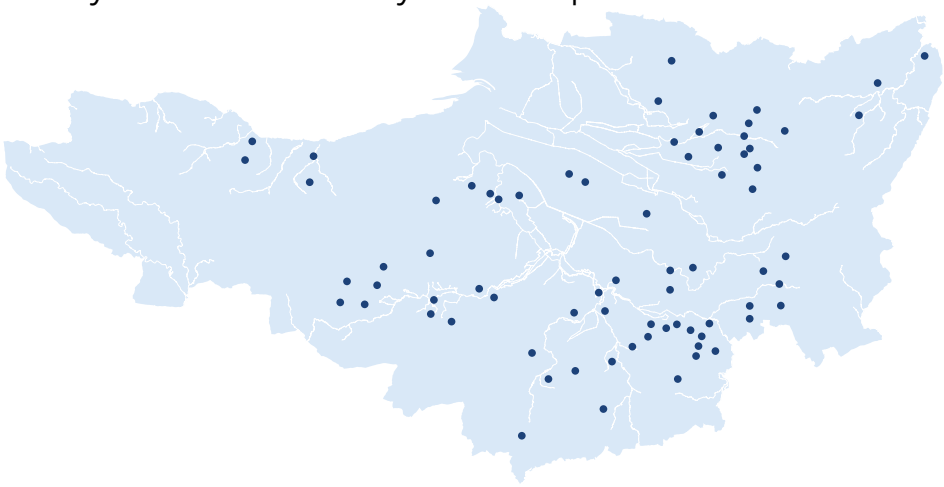
Workstream 5: Building Local Resilience

This workstream helps to deliver the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Strategy 2024-34 by concentrating mostly on 'working with communities' and 'building resilience, encouraging adaptation'. These themes took many forms in 2024-25, through a wide range of events, educational initiatives, and the encouragement of various practical moves. These moves included getting grants for training and equipment, drawing up plans for adapting to the water-related impacts of climate change, and creating very localised early flood warning systems.

Support for Somerset communities at risk of flooding largely revolves around three main questions:

- If there was a flood tomorrow, could you respond well?
- Do you understand and monitor how water flows in your landscape and know how to deal with any issues that present themselves?
- Is there anything you can do to help reduce your future flood risk?

With these questions in mind, SRA community engagement officers Bel Deering and Paul Elliston *(pictured left)* had a busy year, supporting 74 communities, too many to name individually on the map.



The places are: Alhampton, Baltonsborough, Batcombe, Bridgehampton, Bridgwater, Buckland Dinham, Chard, Cheddar, Chedzoy, Compton Pauncefoot & Blackford, Cotford St Luke, Coxbridge, Coxley, Cranmore, Creech St Michael, Croscombe, Dean, Drayton, Edington, Evercreech, Galhampton, Glastonbury, Godney, Greinton, Ham (near Ruishton), Henlade, Ilminster, Isle Abbotts, Kingston St Mary, Knole, Lamyatt, Langford Budville, Langport, Lower Somerton, Marston Magna, Martock, Milverton, Minehead, Misterton, Monksilver, Montacute, Muchelney, Mudford, North Cadbury, North Wootton, Nunney, Nynehead, Oake, Perry Green, Pitcombe, Pitney, Podimore, Queen Camel, Rimpton, Rode, Seavington, Shapwick, Shepton Mallet, South Cadbury & Sutton Montis, South Petherton, Sparkford, Spaxton, Stoney Stratton, Taunton, The Charltons, Timberscombe, Trull, Wedmore, Wells, Wembdon, West Camel & Urgashay, Williton, Yarlington and Yeovilton.

Ever since the SRA was launched in 2015, a crucial purpose of this workstream has been to help people who have been flooded. Not during a flood or in the immediate aftermath of a flood: that kind of emergency response is the role of organisations such as Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, the Environment Agency and Somerset Council, sometimes working with volunteers. The SRA comes in more when people are taking stock, individually and together, reflecting and wanting to move forwards. So it was in 2015-16 that months of work went into Community Resilience Plans in places worst affected by the floods of 2013-14. So, still, in 2024-25 the SRA has offered steady, longer-term support to people in Croscombe, Shepton Mallet, Chard, Ilminster, and South Petherton, all places recently hit by bad flooding. With Local Community Networks in Dowsborough (Williton), Minehead and Watchet, Shepton (Shepton Mallet), Taunton, Wellington and Wiveliscombe, and in Chedzoy, South Cadbury and Sutton Montis, and Stoke St Michael, SRA staff worked with Somerset Council's Emergency Planning, Response and Recovery team to run workshops about developing Community Emergency Plans.

Above: events in Stoke St Michael (left) and Minehead (right).

Across Somerset the SRA has sought to foster greater understanding of local flood risks. Firstly, through encouraging better knowledge of the ways that local watercourses actually behave, especially with climate change bringing more intense rain and putting greater strain on drainage and river systems. Secondly, through promoting accurate expectations about the maintenance of watercourses, especially about who is responsible for doing what. The ambition is to try to get problems dealt with promptly. So, for example, communities across Somerset have been encouraged to map watercourses and surface water flow pathways. Workshops have been held about the so-called 'riparian' rights and responsibilities that come with owning watercourses, and structures such as drains and culverts, in Cranmore, Edington and Wells and at Somerset Wildlife Trust's offices at Avalon Marshes. Many communities have also been urged to think about changes that they would like to see made, or that they could make themselves, and to learn more about matters such as Property Flood Resilience.

The SRA's community engagement officers represent the SRA within the Somerset Prepared partnership. In 2024-25, they took leading roles in refreshing the Somerset Prepared website and organising the annual Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Conference. Held in November, this conference attracted 150 delegates to Bridgwater. Attendees heard a keynote address about flooding from Mary Long-Dhonau OBE (popularly known as 'Flood Mary') and took part in interactive sessions about aspects of community resilience. Sessions led by the SRA covered riparian rights and responsibilities and the SRA's new Community Flood Action Fund *(see page 45). Below: 'Flood Mary'.*

Somerset Prepared also held five smaller 'roadshows', organised by and featuring the SRA, in Bickenhall, Mark, Monksilver, Queen Camel and Shepton Mallet. These events gave people chance to talk to relevant agencies (Environment Agency, Emergency Volunteer Action Group, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, Avon & Somerset Police, Wales & West Utilities, Somerset Wildlife Trust and FWAG SW). They were combined with workshops for new and already-active community flood wardens: 120 attended. *Below right: Bel Deering presents a Somerset Prepared community resilience award to Nunney Parish Council.*

Primary school activities: (above) beware what you might find in flood water; (left) a Chedzoy map; (right) a leaky dam game.

In addition, the SRA's community engagement officers enjoyed interacting with 1175 primary school children, through assemblies and workshops held to raise awareness of flooding, flood risks and safety. These sessions drew upon resources specially prepared with Somerset Council's Curriculum & Topic Lead officer. Schools visited were Bradford & Nynehead CE (VC), Curry Mallet, Creech St Michael C of E, Enmore, Herne View C of E, Kingsbury Episcopi, Kingsmoor, Martock C of E, Meare Village, North Town, Oake, St Margaret's CEVA, West Pennard C of E, and Willowdown. At Strode College, 33 students attended a talk.

The SRA sponsored an exhibition called 'Under the Surface' at the Somerset Rural Life Museum in Glastonbury. This marked the 10th anniversary of the Somerset floods of 2013-14 by showing photographs from Matilda Temperley's sold-out publication *Under the Surface: Somerset Floods*, alongside previously unpublished colour photographs taken by her during the winter of 2013-14 and newly commissioned images. *Pictured above left: Matilda Temperley.*

Associated events at the museum included 'The Future of Water in Somerset' which had speakers from Wessex Water, Somerset Rivers Authority, and FWAG SW and questions from the audience. There were also trials of Flood Cafés, safe and caring places for people affected by flooding to share experiences, and several family workshops on flooding themes. Subsequently a Flood Café was held in Wells, and further family-friendly workshops were run at Somerton and Langport libraries.

SRA staff attended the Stoke St Gregory EnviroFair *(above, with SRA Manager David Mitchell)*; provided community engagement support to projects in other SRA workstreams; helped with Somerset Council flood investigations; and attended Local Community Network meetings.

Preparations began during 2024-25 for several potential future projects, including the development of new online resources about flooding, of analytical measures to help identify communities in most need, and of possible ways of enabling flood wardens to close roads to stop people driving through them and endangering themselves and others. Taking inspiration from the SRA Strategy 2024-34, efforts have also begun to establish a catchment-based approach to community resilience in the area around the River Alham *(where Paul Elliston is pictured below on a fact-finding walk in Lamyatt)*.

Grants for training and equipment

Six grants for flood-related training and equipment were funded by Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) in 2024-25. These grants were awarded through the Somerset Prepared partnership, which includes the SRA. Applicants pay 20% of the total costs of a project: an SRA grant covers the remaining 80%. Grants were given in 2024-25 to:

Greinton Parish Council, for a 50-metre (165 feet) drain inspection system, with an HD camera and a distance counter to locate drain blockages. The system is operated by local volunteers. They gather evidence, which the parish council then reports to relevant authorities (such as Somerset Council's highways department). The main aims are to save on the cost of employing contractors, get blockages cleared more quickly, and so reduce flood risks. It's one of a series of moves being made by Greinton Parish Council *(see also page 19)*. The council's bid was developed in discussion with Somerset Council's Flood and Coastal Team. Greinton Parish Council is open to requests from other communities to borrow this drain inspection equipment.

Pitcombe Parish Council, for flood protection equipment. Pitcombe was hit by flooding in May 2023.

Rotary International, for flood sacks and other household flood protection equipment for distribution by volunteers to vulnerable householders across Somerset.

Somerset Prepared, for the hire of a Flood Mobile by Mary Long-Dhonau ('Flood Mary') at the annual Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Conference, which was held in Bridgwater in November 2024 *(see page 37)*.

Three Villages Flood Group (Mudford Chilton Cantelo & Ashford), for hi-viz gear *(modelled left)*, head torches, and first aid kits for new flood wardens.

Wedmore Parish Council, for flood kits, walkie talkies, Personal Protective Equipment, and emergency lighting. (A defibrillator was separately funded). Wedmore updated its emergency plan in 2024; this equipment will help to improve its flood preparedness.

Community flood warning systems

In 2024-25 this project went well. Since it began in 2019, with SRA officers working together with communities and Environment Agency specialists, its purpose has been to create very localised early flood warning systems, beyond the scope of mainstream alerts. Why? Because in 'rapid response' catchments where water levels can soar with heavy rain, subsequent flooding can endanger people's lives. Carefully selected sites have therefore been kitted out with flood gauges and other equipment linked to online dashboards so that people in vulnerable areas can monitor what is going on, get alerts and get prepared.

In 2024-25, the network continued to expand. River level gauges were fitted in the catchments of the Sheppey (Kilver Court) and Cam (West Camel, Bridgehampton and Yeovilton), to complement existing installations in Mendip, south Somerset and west Somerset.

A new web platform has been developed to host data from all these gauges - *and more*. It allows for the addition of official Environment Agency - *and* community-based - rainfall gauges and other instruments. This facility opens up opportunities for better community emergency plans, better understanding of catchments and better identification of possible measures that could reduce flood risks.

Twenty-eight flood wardens and community representatives have been trained on this new online platform - which has in its turn spurred further initiatives. Local people have developed spin-off projects to add further rain gauges; used a data driver approach to improve flood forecasting from rainfall intensity gauges alone; created WhatsApp channels to share data with a wider audience; and taken steps towards a collaboration with an app provider which could enable individual households to set their own bespoke alerting levels.

Sample feedback: "even though it's going to rain tonight, I'm going to be able to sleep, because I can trust the gauge to alert me if need be", and "when I look back over the year since we flooded, I can't believe how far we've come".

Usually staff at SRA partners are ineligible for awards but the most nominations sent in to the 2024 Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Conference were for the Environment Agency officer responsible for the technical delivery of this project: Gareth Varney *(pictured with Somerset's Deputy Lord Lieutenant Robert Drewitt)*. Gareth was given a Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation for his outstanding contribution to community resilience in Somerset.

Adapting to the water-related impacts of climate change

The third Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) objective in the SRA Strategy 2024-34 is to "increase the resilience of people, places and the environment to flooding, while adapting to climate change". This objective reflects both a long SRA engagement with adaptation efforts and a recognition that, in future, different ways of doing things will have to be seriously considered, and gradually and thoughtfully acted upon.

Between 2019 and 2023, the SRA and the EU's Interreg 2 Seas programme jointly funded an initiative called Adapting the Levels. As its name suggests, this concentrated on the Somerset Levels and Moors. In March 2023, the SRA Board agreed to fund a follow-up to this called Adaptations & Associations on the Somerset Levels and Moors, to involve more people and organisations. (Associations refers to Moor Associations: see page 44). In March 2024, the SRA Board agreed to a further follow-up called Adapting Somerset, delivered by Somerset Wildlife Trust, now casting ambitions across a wider area.

In 2024-25, progress was made with both follow-up initiatives. In each place taking part, the aim has been to work together with local people on producing a bespoke climate adaptation plan, with themes and priorities for action chosen by local people. These have generally included matters such as influencing local planning and development, improving and increasing green spaces, sharing knowledge, raising awareness, and doing useful things like tree planting and installing green roofs and walls. All plans have also had chapters about flooding.

A 58-page plan for Glastonbury was published in August 2024, its flooding section urging eight actions including:

- installing water butts in residential areas and on public buildings
- creating rain gardens and ponds
- replacing public paved surfaces with permeable alternatives
- rainwater harvesting around business parks

A 59-page Polden Hills plan followed in September 2024, its flooding section urging six actions including:

- promoting water retention solutions
- implementing natural flood management techniques
- improving drainage infrastructure
- enhancing community flood resilience

Top left: Martock workshop; bottom left, Polden enthusiasts with Somerset Wildlife Trust's Act to Adapt team; right, Glastonbury's plan.

In February 2025, a 45-page draft plan was published for the Under Hamdon Parishes (including Ash, East Lambrook, Martock, Kingsbury Episcopi, South Petherton and Stoke sub Hamdon). Its flooding section urged five actions:

- promoting and strengthening community flood response
- maintaining drains, gullies and watercourses
- implementing rainwater collection and sustainable drainage systems
- supporting vulnerable residents during floods
- co-ordinating parish-wide flood management

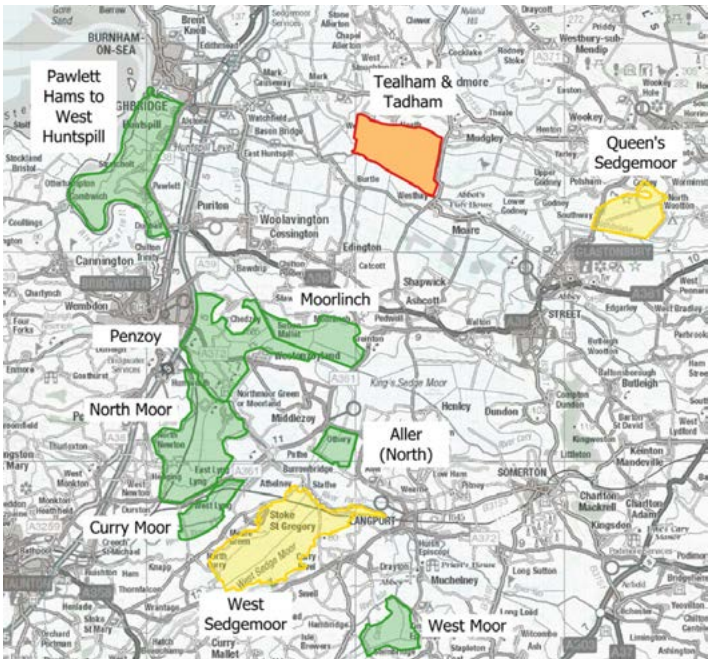
Work also began in 2024-25 - as part of Adapting Somerset - on plans for Wells and Spaxton. Preparations began for Frome.

Practical follow-up activities to plans have included workshops at Bridies Farm, Glastonbury, teaching people how to create rain gardens, harvest rainwater and build green roofs using upcycled materials. In the Polden Hills, Shapwick Parish Council has been planting trees and swards of wildflowers for natural flood management, and Catcott Primary School has created a climate-resilient garden with trees, shrubs, vegetables, and herbs to help manage flows of water.

All plans are available via the Act to Adapt section of the Somerset Wildlife Trust website, which is regularly updated and has a large amount of inspiring and helpful information.

Moor Associations

Somerset now has 10 Moor Associations, formal groupings of local farmers and landowners. In 2024, West Sedgemoor joined West Moor, Tealham and Tadham Moor, Moorlinch, Curry Moor, Aller Moor (North: Beer Wall to Aller Drove), North Moor, Penzoy, Queen's Sedgemoor, and Pawlett Hams to West Huntspill as the latest member of a growing family (which also now has three relatives over the border in North Somerset). All 10 Somerset associations *(their areas shown mapped below)* have been supported by Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA), chiefly through the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group SouthWest (FWAG SW).



Moor Associations exist for two main reasons. Firstly, to help their members find new ways of working together for their mutual benefit. Associations offer greater collective buying power, more machinery sharing, better grazing arrangements, improved farmland infrastructure and more formal chances to build-up and scale-up consensus. Secondly, following on from that, it is much easier for other organisations to engage with broadly united local associations instead of dozens of individuals. More of what people want can get done quicker.

In 2024-25, the SRA continued to fund administrative support for Moor Associations because many initiatives now underway on the Somerset Levels are predicated on their existence. For example, the ambitious Greater Sedgemoor Landscape Recovery project being led by the RSPB partly depends for its prospects of success upon working with committed blocks of landowners. Moor Associations were one big reason why in May 2024 around 40 senior civil servants from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) came on a fact-finding mission to the Somerset Levels & Moors. In January 2025, a new Board of Moor Associations was created, to share ideas and provide mutual support.

New SRA Community Flood Action Fund for Somerset

In December 2024, Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) launched a Community Flood Action Fund (CFAF). CFAF's purpose is to provide small grants - between £3,000 and £20,000 - for works to reduce flooding in Somerset.

CFAF is aimed at not-for-profit organisations. Applicants who may apply include town and parish councils, parish meetings, charities, social enterprises and community benefit societies.

The SRA's goal in setting up CFAF is to help people with good local knowledge of flooding problems take practical actions with obvious benefits that can be achieved quite quickly. Why? Because local people know most about water flows and blockages, and one of the main themes in the SRA's Strategy 2024-34 is working with communities across Somerset to reduce the risks and impacts of flooding.

For CFAF's first year of operation, the SRA Board agreed to allocate £200,000. Applications for grants are considered quarterly. The first deadline for bids was in February 2025. In this round, seven applicants were successful, getting grants totalling just over £77,000. All were parish councils: Cotford St Luke, Creech St Michael, Long Sutton, Stoke St Mary, West Buckland, West Camel, West Monkton.

CFAF has so far proved very popular. Its introduction was part of wider efforts to update some of the workings of the SRA as a partnership and accord with the new SRA Strategy 2024-34. So, for example, the SRA also revised its processes for producing and agreeing an annual Enhanced Programme of works. Moves included new criteria, new forms, new scoring mechanisms. One result of these shifts was that Exmoor National Park Authority was invited for the first time to apply for a grant, and it got one for a proposed River Barle restoration at Simonsbath *(below)*.

Financial Summary 2024-25

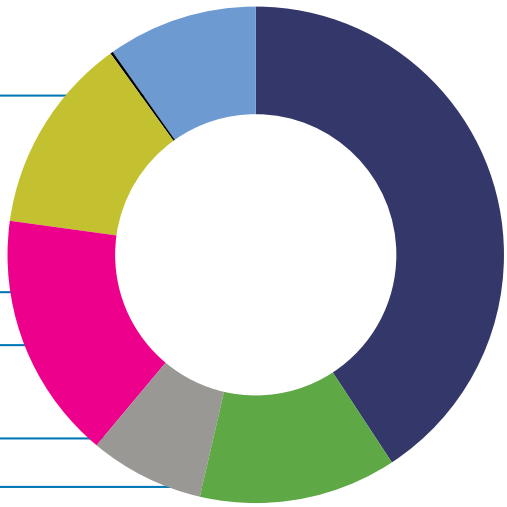
Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) gets annual funding from two sources. Firstly, council tax. In the 2024-25 financial year, £3,059,000 came via Somerset Council (equating to £14.65 for a Band D household). Secondly, the Parrett and Axe Brue IDBs each gave £10,000. Local Partner Funds thus totalled £3,079,000.

In March 2024, the SRA Board moved extra funds out of contingency and set an overall budget of £3,659,000. This included £2,751,600 for the SRA's 2024-25 Enhanced Programme of works, £310,000 for four full-time staff, a part-time Technical Adviser post, administration and overheads; and £597,000 for contingency. The 2024-25 Enhanced Programme contained 16 schemes and activities, some with numerous individual elements. Two schemes were added during the year, with grants of £216,500. All Enhanced Programme works are designed to advance Somerset's 20 Year Flood Action Plan and SRA Strategy 2024-34.

Spending of Local Partner Funds in 2024-25

Many actions and initiatives are completed within one financial year. Some require longer-term research, design, planning and implementation. The tables below show all of the Local Partner Funds held by the SRA at the beginning of the 2024-25 financial year and the SRA's total actual spending during that year.

2024-25 SPENDING BY WORKSTREAM	TOTAL	%
Dredging and River Management	£1,140,000	40.71
Land Management	£362,000	12.93
Urban Water Management	£210,000	7.5
Resilient Infrastructure	£452,000	16.15
Building Local Resilience	£359,000	12.82
SUB TOTAL	**£2,523,000**	
SRA Core Work & Development	£5,000	0.18
SRA Administration & Staffing	£272,000	9.71
TOTAL	**£2,800,000**	



LOCAL PARTNER FUNDING 2024 - 2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY	ALLOCATED FUNDS AT START OF 2024-25 FINANCIAL YEAR £	SPENT IN 2024-25 £	ALLOCATED FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD TO 2025 ONWARDS £
TOTAL	**6,932,000**	**2,800,000**	**4,132,000**

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all Somerset Rivers Authority partners and contractors who contributed to this report. Text and all images © 2025 by Somerset Rivers Authority and its constituent members and delivery partners: except for photos used courtesy of View It 360 in the centre of the bottom row of the front cover, Godney Parish Council p. 12, James Beck and National Trust Images on p.14, Ann Ayton and Adam Foster p.18, Victoria Haddock of South West Heritage Trust bottom left and right p.38, Three Villages Flood Group p.40. We shall be happy to correct any omissions.

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