

# Climate Adaptation Plan



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**UNDER HAMDON  
PARISHES  
2025**

Funded by



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**The climate emergency poses many threats to Under Hamdon Parishes. Winters are becoming warmer and wetter, increasing flooding risks. Hotter and drier summers are increasing the risk of droughts, heatwaves and wildfires.**

**Adapting to these changes is urgent and essential to reduce the impacts on our buildings, infrastructure, wildlife, green spaces and the daily life of Under Hamdon Parishes' residents.**

Through collaborative events, residents from Ash, Martock, Kingsbury Episcopi, South Petherton, and Stoke Sub Hamdon have identified four key themes for how Under Hamdon Parishes should adapt to the changing climate:



## **Improving and increasing green spaces**



## **Adapting to flooding**



## **Building local climate knowledge and action**



## **Influencing local planning and development**

The resulting plan:

- reflects the priorities of Under Hamdon Parishes' community
- outlines adaptation actions under each key theme
- gives guidance on taking action
- highlights the co-benefits of each priority, such as improving water quality or health and wellbeing



Explore this plan to discover the actions you and your community can take to adapt to climate change. Your support and contributions will be vital to ensure we can build a better adapted, resilient and connected future for Under Hamdon Parishes. See what other communities are doing at: [www.somersetwildlife.org/act-to-adapt](http://www.somersetwildlife.org/act-to-adapt)



Ash & Martock Nature

**To find out how you can get more involved contact:  
Ash & Martock Nature**

**Dr Andrew Clegg - [ac@asclegg.co.uk](mailto:ac@asclegg.co.uk)**

**Gareth Isaac - [garethisaac2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:garethisaac2003@yahoo.co.uk)**

# INTRODUCTION

Since November 2024, local residents from across Ash, Martock, Kingsbury Episcopi, South Petherton, Stoke Sub Hamdon and Somerset Wildlife Trust have been working together to address the following challenge:

## "How can we help Under Hamdon Parishes adapt to climate change?"

The impacts of the climate emergency are already unfolding. Sea levels are rising and flooding, extreme heat, droughts and wildfires are all likely to happen more often in Somerset. Thankfully, there are lots of ways that communities can act together to be better prepared for the changes and build a positive future where people and nature can thrive. Climate change is already impacting Under Hamdon Parishes; there is an urgent need to adapt.



Somerset Wildlife Trust has been raising awareness of adaptation and encouraging communities across the county to develop plans. In a unique collaboration with Under Hamdon Parishes, we started developing a locally tailored Climate Adaptation Plan.



Beginning with a Climate Adaptation Workshop event at The George Inn, Martock, the '[Act to Adapt](#)' process has brought together residents, community groups, councillors and Somerset Wildlife Trust's [Climate Adaptation](#) team, to:

- Talk about climate change projections for Somerset
- Discuss the need for adaptation in Under Hamdon Parishes
- Co-create a bespoke climate adaptation plan, using the [Climate Adaptation Toolkit](#) for communities

We have also highlighted the adaptation benefits of each priority, and additional 'co-benefits'. These include mitigating climate change or supporting biodiversity to demonstrate how they will support Under Hamdon Parishes in becoming better adapted and more resilient to our changing climate. Wider parishes are welcome to join the plan.





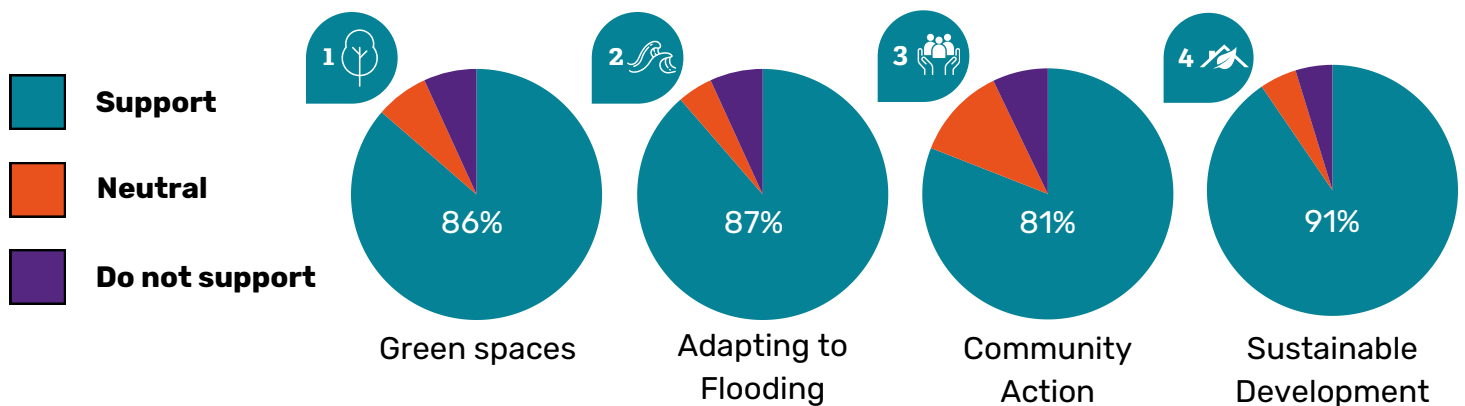
# SHAPING UNDER HAMDON PARISHES PLAN

Following our initial events, we compiled the adaptation priorities and actions suggested by participants, and turned these into a Draft Climate Adaptation Plan for Under Hamdon Parishes. To ensure that the plan better reflects the needs and priorities of Under Hamdon Parishes, we organised a consultation period to gather feedback on the existing priorities and ideas for new adaptation actions from more residents.



In February and March 2025, we held two in-person consultations where residents learnt more about climate adaptation, read the draft plan, and helped shape the full plan by completing a survey and sharing their ideas. For those unable to attend these events, we also had an online survey and opportunities to provide more detailed feedback by email.

49 respondents also provided feedback on how strongly they **support** each priority:



Survey respondents reported which of the adaptation priority areas they felt were most important for Under Hamdon Parishes. The results showed a strong support adapting to flooding, with 55% of respondents feeling this is the biggest priority.

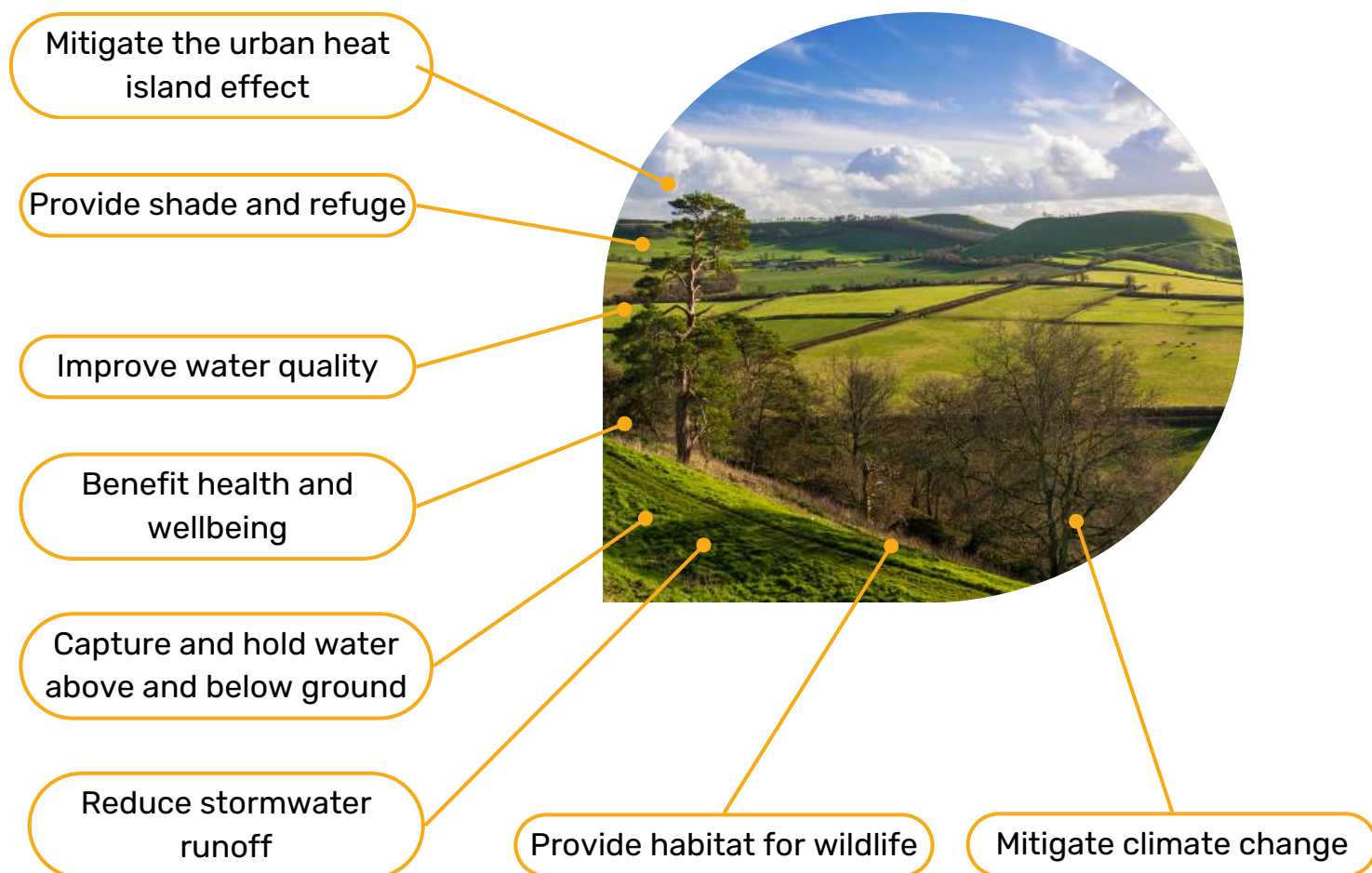
*See Appendix I for more information about consultation responses.*

To ensure this plan stays flexible and best serves the Under Hamdon Parishes, residents should have regular opportunities to suggest additions, changes and improvements. If you have any suggestions for the plan, get in touch at: [ac@asclegg.co.uk](mailto:ac@asclegg.co.uk) and [garethisaac2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:garethisaac2003@yahoo.co.uk)

# 1. IMPROVING AND INCREASING GREEN SPACES



Actions to improve and increase green spaces could provide the following adaptation benefits and co-benefits to the local community:



# 1.1 - Identify and protect existing trees



Where:	Who:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Throughout the parishes</li></ul> <p>Community suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eastfield</li><li>• Stapleton road</li><li>• East street drove</li><li>• Guildings drove</li><li>• Mill brook</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parish Councils</li><li>• National Highways</li><li>• Somerset Council tree officers</li><li>• Woodland Trust</li><li>• Ash and Martock Nature Recovery Group</li><li>• Kingsbury Wildlife Group</li><li>• South Petherton's Tree and Wildlife Group (TWiG)</li><li>• Martock Gardening Society</li><li>• Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT)</li></ul>



## **How:**

**Map trees with existing protection orders:** Identifying and recording protected trees helps ensure their preservation while guiding future planting strategies. By mapping trees with Tree Preservation Orders, veteran and ancient trees and those in Conservation Areas, the community can better protect these valuable assets and plan complementary planting that enhances existing tree coverage.

**Consult with heritage organisations:** Understand the historic and cultural values of the heritage sites by collaborating with Historic England. Work together to identify which trees can be protected.

**Survey and prioritise trees for protection:** Work with local arborists, ecologists, and community groups to conduct a tree survey across the parishes. Identify trees with high ecological, historical, or cultural value, such as veteran trees, habitat-rich species, or those providing flood resilience.

**Raise awareness among communities:** Launch educational campaigns to inform residents about the importance of tree protection for climate adaptation, biodiversity, and flood mitigation. Organise workshops for parish councils and community groups to explain the Tree Protection Order process. Develop an easy mechanism, such as an online form or helpline, for community members to nominate trees for protection.

**Build community and volunteer networks:** Recruit volunteers to monitor tree health and report threats. Launch a citizen science project to map and monitor trees across the parishes. Encourage community members to contribute to ongoing data collection and tree maintenance efforts.

**Protect and promote orchard sites:** Implement measures to safeguard known orchard locations. Work with local nature groups to monitor these sites and develop guided walks during flowering seasons to raise awareness. Install informational signs explaining the importance of these orchards and why they are unique to educate the community.

**Monitor and review:** Set clear targets for the number of Tree Protection Order applications submitted and approved annually. Conduct regular progress reviews and update the tree inventory to reflect any changes. Share success stories and progress updates with the community to maintain engagement and support for the initiative.



## **Useful links:**

1. [Managing and caring for trees - Tree Council](#)
2. [Tree Preservation Orders - GOV.UK](#)
3. [Tree Preservation Orders - Historic England](#)
4. [British trees - Woodland Trust](#)
5. [Somerset Tree Strategy - Somerset Council](#)



## 1.2 - Implement tree and hedge planting strategies



Where:	Who:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Throughout the parishes</li> </ul> <p>Community suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hills Orchard recreation ground</li> <li>Bracey Road recreation ground</li> <li>Maintain trees for junction of burrow hill view</li> <li>Maintain trees for hills lane</li> <li>Coat road north</li> <li>Martock Christian fellowship car park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish councils</li> <li>National Highways</li> <li>Somerset Council tree officers</li> <li>Reimagining the Levels</li> <li>Woodland Trust</li> <li>Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)</li> <li>Ash and Martock Nature Recovery Group</li> <li>Kingsbury Wildlife Group</li> <li>South Petherton's Tree and Wildlife Group (TWiG)</li> <li>Martock Gardening Society</li> <li>Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT)</li> <li>Volunteer tree officer</li> </ul>

## How:

**Identify suitable planting locations:** Work with the parish councils, local landowners, and community groups to identify areas suitable for tree and hedge planting. Consider parks, streets, school grounds, and unused land. Assess the carbon impact of planting trees: planting trees on peatland may produce more carbon due to the drying effect. Conduct soil and drainage surveys to ensure chosen locations are appropriate for long-term tree growth.

**Develop a planting plan:** Create a comprehensive plan that outlines where different tree and hedge species will be planted. Choose a variety of native trees like Hazel, Rowan, Crab apple, and Hawthorn that are well-suited to the area's climate and soil conditions. Consult with local arborists or horticultural experts to ensure the best selection for each location, taking into account drainage issues and flood risk management. Exploring funding options for each plan.

**Create a community orchard:** Identify a suitable location for a community orchard. Work with local experts to select appropriate fruit tree varieties that will thrive in the area's climate.

**Conduct a water management study:** Collaborate with hydrologists and environmental scientists to study how different tree species affect water management and flood risk in the area's specific context. Use this information to inform tree selection and placement.

**Engage the community:** Organise volunteer planting days to involve residents in the tree planting efforts. This can help build community ownership and ensure long-term care of the trees. Provide training on proper planting techniques and aftercare. Create educational materials and signage explaining how different tree species contribute to water management and flood risk reduction.

**Establish maintenance plans:** Develop long-term maintenance plans for all trees. This should include watering schedules, pruning, and monitoring for pests or diseases. Assign responsibilities to council staff, community groups, or volunteers.

**Monitor and evaluate:** Regularly assess the health and growth of newly planted trees, as well as their impact on local drainage and flood risk. Use this information to refine future planting and maintenance strategies.

**Promote wildlife:** Raise awareness of the nature benefits in planting trees, e.g., how woodland supports wildlife. By highlighting the positive impacts for fauna, tree planting activities may invite further local engagement.



## Useful links:

1. [More trees - BANES case study](#)
2. [Free trees for schools and communities - Woodland Trust](#)
3. [Tree planting advice - Woodland Trust](#)
4. [Managing and caring for trees - Tree Council](#)



## 1.3 - Establish community-managed green spaces



Where:	Who:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish owned land</li> <li>• Stoke Road recreation ground</li> <li>• Kingsbury recreation ground</li> <li>• Ash millennium wood</li> <li>• Ash recreation ground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish councils</li> <li>• Parish schools</li> <li>• Youth clubs</li> <li>• Martock parish council environmental panel</li> <li>• Ash and Martock Nature Recovery Group</li> <li>• Kingsbury Wildlife Group</li> <li>• Martock Gardening Society</li> <li>• South Petherton's Tree and Wildlife Group (TWiG)</li> <li>• South Petherton allotment group</li> <li>• Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT)</li> <li>• Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)</li> </ul>

## How:

**Plan wildlife corridors:** Identify and map all small green spaces within the village. Implement coordinated planting schemes using native species, bulbs, and shrubs to improve biodiversity. Install wildlife features like bird and bat boxes, bug hotels, and small ponds where appropriate. Create continuous wildlife corridors between these spaces by planting hedgerows or wildflower strips along connecting routes.

**Organise community green space clean-ups:** Plan regular events to maintain and improve green areas. Coordinate with parish councils to provide necessary tools and organise volunteers.

**Create wild areas in playing fields:** Identify portions of existing playing fields suitable for rewilding. Plant native wildflowers and shrubs to enhance biodiversity. Install informational signs explaining the importance of these wild spaces to educate the community.

**Protect and promote orchard sites:** Implement measures to safeguard known orchard locations. Work with local nature groups to monitor these sites and develop guided walks during flowering seasons to raise awareness. Run practical orchard management workshops to train community members. Install informational signs explaining the importance of these orchards and why they are unique to educate the community.

**Engage with schools:** Contact local school administrators to discuss enhancing outdoor learning spaces and playgrounds. Organise meetings with teachers, students, and parents to gather ideas and support. Engage youth through events, such as nature trails and creating bug hotels.

**Develop an educational programme:** Develop a scheme where students can earn badges for eco-friendly actions. Include interactive lessons on local ecosystems that include hands-on activities, such as building bug hotels, and field trips to nearby nature reserves. Partner with TeamWilder to incorporate tree planting activities and pond creation projects into the programme.

**Host workshops on urban greening and biodiversity:** Organise a monthly series of talks featuring guest speakers, such as Somerset Wildlife Trust representatives, local landscape architects, and climate scientists.

**Monitor via assessments:** Partner with organisations to assess the vulnerability of land to the changing climate, such as soil conditions. Monitor biodiversity levels, ensuring invasive populations are kept to a minimum.



## Useful links:

1. [Free trees for schools and communities - Woodland Trust](#)
2. [Community ownership of green spaces - MyCommunity](#)
3. [How to grow climbers and wall shrubs - RHS](#)
4. [How UK cities are getting greener - Greenpeace](#)



## 1.4 - Promote climate resilient management of green spaces



Where:	Who:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stoke road recreation ground</li> <li>• Kingsbury recreation ground</li> <li>• Ash millennium wood</li> <li>• Ash recreation ground</li> <li>• The George</li> <li>• Martock Youth Centre</li> <li>• Eastfields</li> <li>• Hills Lane</li> <li>• Steppes Meadow junction with North Street</li> <li>• Steppes Meadow</li> <li>• Whellers Meadow</li> <li>• Bracey Road Recreation Ground</li> <li>• Stapleton Road, junction with B3165</li> <li>• Cedar Court, junction with North Street</li> <li>• Corner of Martin Close/North Street</li> <li>• Great Western Industrial Estate</li> <li>• Old Market</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish councils</li> <li>• Martock parish council environmental panel</li> <li>• Ash and Martock Nature Recovery Group</li> <li>• Kingsbury Wildlife Group</li> <li>• Martock Gardening Society</li> <li>• South Petherton allotment group</li> <li>• South Petherton's Tree and Wildlife Group (TWiG)</li> <li>• Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT)</li> <li>• Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC)</li> </ul>

## How:

**Organise guided village nature walks:** Plan quarterly walks connecting existing green spaces, led by knowledgeable residents. Focus walks on identifying adaptation opportunities, gathering community improvement ideas, and building understanding of local wildlife habitats. Document suggested improvements to feed into future adaptation projects.

**Develop sustainable mowing practices:** Implement reduced mowing schedules for verges and grassy banks to support wildflower growth and biodiversity. Introduce scything as an eco-friendly alternative to mechanical mowing in suitable areas. Create clear signage explaining the benefits of these practices to residents.

**Establish natural cooling zones:** Work with the Parish Council to designate areas of the Recreation Ground for natural shade development. Plant native trees and create wild areas that provide cooling benefits while helping to slow water flow during heavy rainfall.

**Reduce chemical usage:** Phase out weedkiller use across parish-managed areas. Support natural hedgerow development by allowing hedges to grow out, providing better habitats for wildlife and improved natural screening.

**Address hard surfacing:** Launch a community campaign inspired by the Dutch 'Operation Steenbreek' (stone breaking) to encourage replacing unnecessary paving with green spaces. Provide guidance on permeable alternatives and the benefits of natural surfaces for flood prevention and cooling.

**Create community management schemes:** Establish a framework for community groups to take greater ownership of local green spaces. Support initiatives for biodiversity enhancement and food growing projects. Develop clear guidelines that balance community needs with climate resilience.

**Build local expertise:** Organise workshops on climate-resilient land management techniques. Partner with local conservation groups to provide training on biodiversity-friendly maintenance. Create a knowledge-sharing network among community volunteers.

**Monitor and evaluate:** Track changes in biodiversity and temperature in managed areas. Document the effectiveness of different approaches and share successes through parish communications. Use feedback to refine management strategies.



## Useful links:

1. [Green Infrastructure Framework - Natural England](#)
2. [Futureproofing Urban Parks and Greenspaces for Climate Resilience - UWE](#)
3. [Urban Regeneration and Greenspace Partnership - Forest Research](#)
4. [Creating Habitable Towns and Cities Fit for the Future - Natural England](#)



## 1.5 - Create climate resilient wildlife-friendly areas in churchyards



Where:	Who:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All Saints churchyard, Martock</li><li>• St Martin's church, Kingsbury Episcopi</li><li>• Holy Trinity, Ash</li><li>• St Mary's, Stoke Sub Hamdon</li><li>• St Peter &amp; St Paul's church, South Petherton</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parish councils</li><li>• Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT)</li><li>• Diocese of Bath and Wells</li><li>• Ash and Martock Nature Recovery Group</li><li>• Kingsbury Wildlife Group</li><li>• South Petherton's Tree and Wildlife Group (TWiG)</li><li>• Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC)</li></ul>

## How:

**Explore Wilder Churches:** Use resources from Wilder Churches (link provided below), which is a partnership initiative between Somerset Wildlife Trust and the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Through Wilder Churches, create a wildlife management plan and utilise poster templates to promote wildlife to the public.

**Involve the community:** Engage parishioners, local schools, and community groups in the project. Organise workshops or events to teach volunteers about wildlife gardening and habitat creation. Hold these workshops in the churches to act as appropriate exemplars. Encourage community participation in planting, building features like insect hotels, and ongoing maintenance.

**Work with church authorities:** Collaborate with clergy and church management to secure permissions and integrate wildlife-friendly practices into regular churchyard maintenance. Use the Eco-Church Scheme for a framework. Provide them with guidance on reducing mowing in designated areas and avoiding the use of pesticides or herbicides.

**Install interpretive signage:** Place educational signs in churchyards to inform visitors about the wildlife-friendly areas, the species they support, and the role of biodiversity in climate adaptation. Include QR codes linking to further resources or ways to get involved. Raise awareness of the nature benefits in planting trees, e.g. how woodland supports wildlife. By highlighting the positive impacts for fauna, tree planting activities may invite further local engagement.

**Encourage wildlife planting:** Promote leaving areas wild, creating deadwood piles, and growing diverse native plants. Encourage ideas such as planting species-rich mini-meadows using local wildflower seeds, installing bee hotels and hedgehog highways, creating a small pond or birdbath for varied habitats, and allowing some weeds to flourish for insects. For biodiversity-boosting garden advice, contact [teamwilder@somersetwildlife.org](mailto:teamwilder@somersetwildlife.org).

**Monitor and maintain the habitats:** Establish a group of volunteers to regularly check and maintain the habitats. Monitor the presence of key species and overall biodiversity improvements. Use this data to adjust management practices and share progress with the community (and other churches).



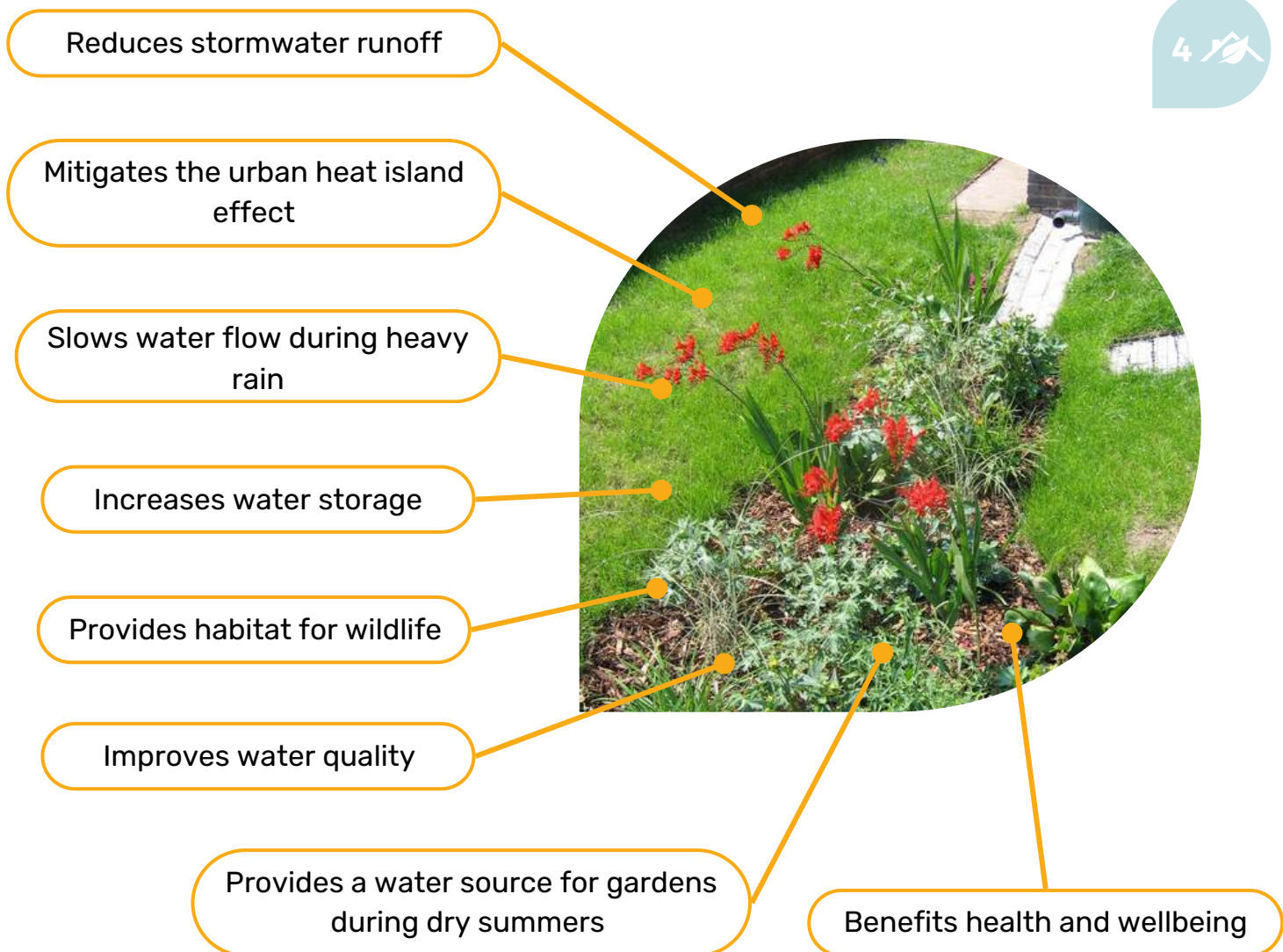
## Useful links:

1. [Wilder Churches - Somerset Wildlife Trust](#)
2. [Creating a management plan - Somerset Wildlife Trust](#)
3. [How to look after your church in wildlife-friendly ways - Eco Church](#)



## 2. ADAPTING TO FLOODING

Actions to reduce flooding risks could provide the following adaptation benefits and co-benefits to the local community:





## 2.1 - Promote and strengthen community flood response



Who:

- Parish councils
- Flood wardens
- Environment Agency (EA)
- Somerset Prepared
- Communities Prepared
- Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA)
- Local Community Networks (LCNs)
- Emergency Volunteers Action Group (EVAG)
- National Highways
- Met Office

## **How:**

**Strengthen community flood warden scheme:** Recruit and train volunteer flood wardens from the local community, with a focus on succession planning to ensure younger members join the team. These individuals can act as key points of contact during flood events and help disseminate information about flood preparedness.

**Working with agencies:** Work with the Met Office to establish or improve local flood warning systems. Ensure that alerts are widely accessible and understood by the community. Partner with County Highways to improve signage, road closure systems and warden presence during flood events.

**Create educational resources:** Develop a range of educational materials about flood resilience measures for both residents and businesses. These could include leaflets, online resources, and video guides covering topics such as property-level flood protection, emergency planning, and insurance considerations. Organise workshops, talks, and hands-on events to educate residents about flood responses.

**Organise community workshops:** Host regular workshops and information sessions to educate residents and business owners about flood risks and response measures. Invite experts to share knowledge and demonstrate practical flood protection techniques.

**Create a flood resilience demonstration area:** Set up a public space showcasing various flood resilience measures, such as permeable paving, rain gardens, and property-level protection. Use this as an educational tool for the community.

**Conduct regular emergency planning exercises:** Organise and carry out flood scenario exercises involving local emergency services, the council, and community representatives to test and improve flood response plans.

**Set up a communication system:** Establish a reliable method to alert residents during flood events, such as a phone tree, text message system, or door-to-door checks by volunteers. Ensure communication methods are accessible to those with hearing, vision, or mobility impairments.

**Install flood depth information for drivers:** Create clear messaging for drivers showing water depth. Create simple maps of flood-risk roads with alternative routes to distribute locally and share on community social media during heavy rainfall events.

**Collaborate with Somerset businesses:** Identify and reach out to local businesses with expertise in water management or flood resilience. Organise a forum to discuss potential water retention strategies suitable for the area's specific needs.



## **Useful links:**

1. [Prepare against flooding - Somerset Rivers Authority](#)
2. [Prepare for flooding - GOV.UK](#)
3. [Check for flooding - GOV.UK](#)

## 2.2 - Maintain drains, gullies and watercourses



Where:	Who:
<p>Community suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Madey Mill stream - cleared to the 303</li> <li>• Hurst brook (culverts)</li> <li>• Stapleton cross</li> <li>• Fold Hill lane (culverts), particularly triways estate</li> <li>• Coat grove, cobdens rhyne</li> <li>• Long orchard way estate (culverts)</li> <li>• Western brook</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish councils</li> <li>• Flood Wardens</li> <li>• Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium</li> <li>• Somerset Council</li> <li>• Wessex Water</li> <li>• National Farmers Union (NFU)</li> <li>• Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG SW)</li> <li>• Neighbouring parishes</li> <li>• Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA)</li> </ul>

## **How:**

**Develop a comprehensive drainage maintenance plan:** Create a detailed plan outlining all drainage systems, including street drains, culverts, and rhynes. Map these systems and identify areas prone to blockages or flooding. Organise regular checks of the main culvert system.

**Establish regular maintenance:** Implement routine clearing schedules for blocked drains, with increased frequency for high-risk areas. Coordinate with local council services or contractors to ensure consistent execution to clear ditches and streams with wildlife and biodiversity in mind. Develop systematic approaches for keeping rhynes clear of debris, working with landowners and environmental agencies to preserve ecological value.

**Improve landowner engagement:** Work with farmers and landowners to better maintain drainage ditches and create additional flood storage/wetland areas where appropriate. Establish clear communication channels and explore collaborative maintenance approaches despite funding constraints for statutory drainage duties.

**Foster community involvement:** Organise awareness campaigns about the importance of drain maintenance. Encourage residents to report issues and participate in appropriate maintenance activities. Consider employing a dedicated lengthsman to oversee drain and tree maintenance, including a feasibility study examining their potential responsibilities, whether the position could be shared between parishes, expected costs, and how they would integrate with existing council services.

**Coordinate with flood risk management:** Ensure that drainage maintenance efforts are aligned with broader flood risk management strategies. Liaise regularly with the Environment Agency and other relevant bodies.

**Monitor and evaluate effectiveness:** Implement a system to track the frequency and effectiveness of maintenance activities. Use this data to refine the maintenance schedule and identify areas requiring more attention.

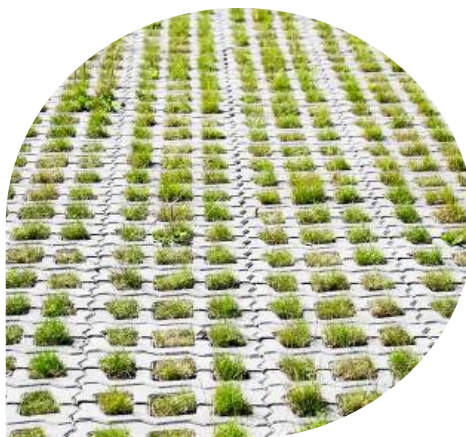
**Review and update regularly:** Conduct annual reviews of the drainage maintenance plan, incorporating lessons learned and adapting to any changes in local conditions or best practices.



## **Useful links:**

1. [Drainage and wastewater management plan - Wessex Water](#)
2. [Drains and gullies - Somerset Council](#)

## 2.3 - Implement rainwater collection and sustainable drainage systems



Where:	Who:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Private residences</li><li>• Local supermarkets car parks</li><li>• Council-owned car parks</li><li>• Stoke road recreation ground</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parish councils</li><li>• Somerset Drainage Board Consortium</li><li>• Wessex Water</li><li>• Somerset Council<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Somerset Local Planning Authority (LPA)</li><li>◦ Local Lead Flood Authority (LLFA)</li></ul></li></ul>



## How:

**Develop a SuDS strategy:** Create a comprehensive plan for implementing Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) across the area, identifying priority areas and potential projects. Ensure SuDS requirements are being met. Consult with local water management experts and the Environment Agency to ensure the strategy aligns with broader flood management plans.

**Install rain gardens:** Identify suitable public spaces for rain garden installation. Develop guidelines and planting recommendations specific to the area's climate and soil conditions. Create demonstration rain gardens in high-visibility areas to showcase their effectiveness and aesthetic value.

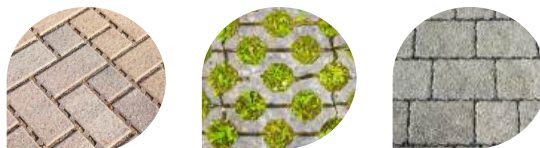
**Promote residential solutions:** Develop information packs for homeowners on creating rain gardens, including design tips, plant suggestions, and maintenance advice. Organise workshops to teach residents how to install their own rain gardens. Consider offering incentives or grants for implementation.

**Establish water harvesting initiatives:** Partner with local businesses and organisations like Wessex Water to promote and distribute water butts through bulk purchasing deals. Create awareness campaigns about water harvesting benefits. For new developments, consider larger underground rainwater collection tanks, green roofs, and grey water systems for toilet flushing.

**Encourage permeable surfaces:** Develop resources promoting permeable paving options. Create information packs for developers, businesses and homeowners on available options and benefits. Consider incentives for retrofitting existing impermeable surfaces. Discourage the paving over of gardens with impermeable materials.

**Target new developments:** Work with planning departments to require SuDS integration in all new developments. Provide developers with resources and guidance on effective implementation. Consider expedited planning approval for projects exceeding SuDS requirements.

**Engage and monitor:** Organise public events and exhibitions to educate residents about SuDS benefits. Use social media and local press to share success stories and implementation tips. Implement tracking systems to assess effectiveness and impact on local flood risk and water quality. Use this data to refine strategies and demonstrate success to the community and potential funders.



## Useful links:

1. [How to install a water butt - B&Q](#)
2. [How to build a pond - The Wildlife Trusts](#)
3. [Pond creation toolkit - Freshwater Habitats Trust](#)
4. [Permeable paving - PavingExpert](#)
5. [Sustainable drainage systems - Susdrain](#)



## 2.4 - Support vulnerable residents during flood events



Who:

- Parish councils
- Flood wardens
- Environment Agency (EA)
- Somerset Prepared
- Communities Prepared
- Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA)
- Local Community Networks (LCNs)
- Emergency Volunteers Action Group (EVAG)

## How:

**Establish a centralised emergency information hub:** Create a secure, centralised digital and physical storage system for all emergency-related information and plans. Use existing facilities like the Parish Council website or emergency response centres as physical backup locations.

**Establish a community flood helpline:** Collaborate with LCNs to set up a dedicated helpline for vulnerable residents during flood events. Train a team of volunteers to staff the helpline and create a database of vulnerable individuals requiring priority support.

**Create a vulnerable residents' register:** Work with local councils and community groups to identify residents who may need extra support during floods, such as the elderly with consideration given to dementia, people with disabilities, or those with limited mobility. Maintain an up-to-date, secure, and GDPR-compliant register with contact details and specific requirements.

**Develop and distribute flood preparedness kits:** Provide vulnerable residents with flood kits containing essentials such as waterproof bags for important documents, flashlights, emergency contact numbers, and basic first aid supplies. Include information on flood safety and evacuation procedures tailored to their needs.

**Coordinate with emergency services and local authorities:** Work with emergency services to create a clear plan for assisting vulnerable residents during flood events. Share the register with them in a secure manner and ensure they know the locations of high-priority residents. Regularly update them on changes to the list.

**Set up a communication system:** Establish a reliable method to alert vulnerable residents during flood events, such as a phone tree, text message system, or door-to-door checks by volunteers. Ensure communication methods are accessible to those with hearing, vision, or mobility impairments.

**Raise awareness and build resilience:** Host community events or workshops to educate vulnerable residents about flood risks and preparation. Provide advice on securing their homes, creating personal emergency plans, and accessing local flood warnings.

**Review and update plans regularly:** Conduct post-flood reviews to assess the effectiveness of support efforts and identify areas for improvement. Update the vulnerable residents' register, flood response plans, and volunteer training accordingly. Involve the community in these reviews to ensure continuous improvement.



## Useful links:

1. [Prepare for flooding - GOV.UK](#)
2. [Prepare against flooding - Somerset Rivers Authority](#)
3. [Check for flooding - GOV.UK](#)
4. [Useful information about Somerset flooding - Sustainable Rivers Authority](#)

## 2.5 - Coordinate parish-wide flood management



Where:	Who:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martock - Water Street, Stoke Road, Parrett Works, Church Street, Hurst Lane, Sparrow's Corner, Stapleton Crossroads, Coat road at Coat</li> <li>• South Petherton - West Street</li> <li>• Between Coat and Kingsbury</li> <li>• Gawbridge</li> <li>• Dead lands lane, East Lambrook</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish councils</li> <li>• Flood Wardens</li> <li>• Somerset Council</li> <li>• Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA)</li> <li>• Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)</li> <li>• National Farmers Union (NFU)</li> <li>• Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium</li> <li>• Environment Agency (EA)</li> <li>• Somerset Drainage Board Consortium</li> <li>• Wessex Water</li> <li>• Sustrans</li> <li>• Met Office</li> </ul>

## How:

**Identify key flood-prone areas:** Work with local authorities, hydrologists, and environmental experts to assess flood-prone areas and map sites where natural flood management (NFM) techniques would be most effective. Prioritise areas upstream of communities, near rivers, or in locations with frequent surface water flooding.

**Clarify parish council flooding responsibilities:** Work with Somerset Council, Emergency Services, and Environment Agency to document each organisation's specific flood response roles and responsibilities. Create a clear framework outlining the parish council's exact duties before, during, and after flood events. Develop a simple reference guide for councillors and residents that explains who to contact in different flooding situations.

**Develop a natural flood management plan:** Create a detailed plan that outlines appropriate NFM techniques for each location, such as planting floodplain woodlands, restoring wetlands, re-meandering rivers, or creating leaky dams. Include timelines, budgets, and measurable outcomes to ensure accountability and effectiveness.

**Develop flood plains and water storage areas:** Conduct a survey of the upper catchments to identify natural floodplain areas and potential sites for water storage. Research historical pond and marsh locations using old maps and local knowledge. Work with landowners to implement sensitive farming practices in flood-prone areas, restore drained wetlands, and create new water retention features. Promote garden pond creation through community workshops and demonstration sites.

**Encourage property-level resilience measures:** Provide guidance and potentially financial incentives for residents and businesses to implement property-level flood protection measures, such as flood barriers, non-return valves, and waterproof wall treatments.

**Establish controlled flooding areas:** Identify appropriate locations for controlled flooding areas. Consult with flood management experts to design these areas effectively. Engage with local communities to explain the purpose and benefits of these measures.

**Establish regular maintenance schedules:** Work with local councils and volunteers to develop a maintenance schedule for natural flood defences. Tasks could include removing blockages, checking the integrity of leaky dams, or managing vegetation to ensure continued functionality.

**Monitor and evaluate effectiveness:** Set up monitoring systems to measure the impact of NFM measures, such as water level gauges, biodiversity surveys, or soil condition assessments. Use this data to evaluate the success of the interventions and make adjustments as needed.



## Useful links:



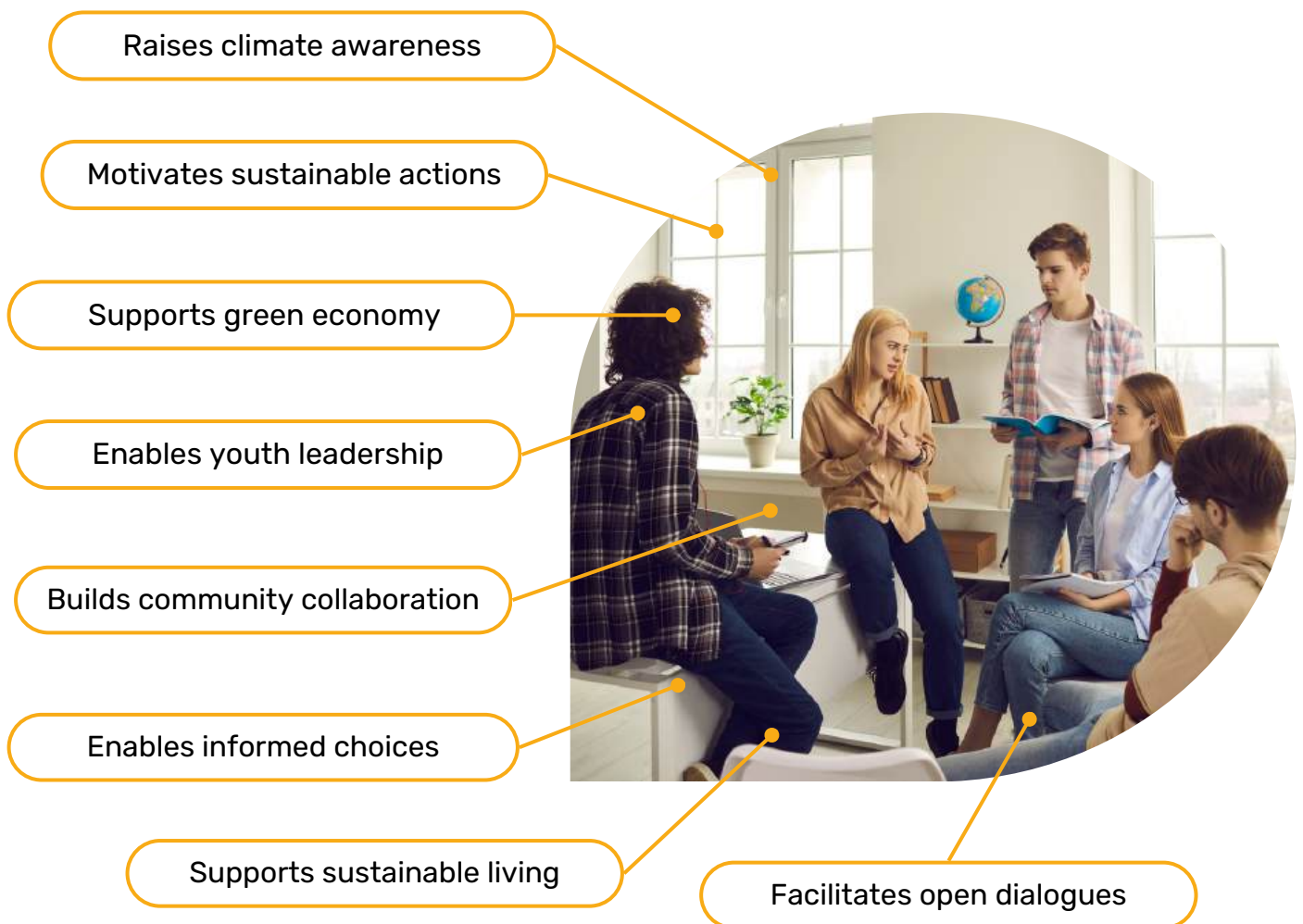
1. [Prepare for flooding - GOV.UK](https://gov.uk)
2. [Prepare against flooding - Somerset Rivers Authority](https://somerset-rivers-authority.org.uk)
3. <https://fwagsw.org.uk/hills-to-levels/>
4. [Check for flooding - GOV.UK](https://gov.uk)
5. [Useful information about Somerset flooding - Sustainable Rivers Authority](https://sustainable-rivers-authority.org.uk)



# 3. BUILDING LOCAL CLIMATE KNOWLEDGE AND ACTION



Building local climate knowledge and action in Under Hamdon Parishes could provide the following adaptation benefits and co-benefits to the local community:



## 3.1 - Partner with educational institutions



Who:

- Schools
  - Martock primary school
  - Ash primary school
  - Kingsbury primary school
  - South petherton primary school
  - Stoke Primary School
  - Stanchester secondary academy
- Youth clubs
  - Martock
  - Community youth project
- Brownies & Guides
- Scouts
- Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT)

## **How:**

**Establish an Education-Climate Partnership Group:** Form a dedicated group comprising representatives from local schools, the Parish Council, and environmental experts to oversee educational climate initiatives. Develop educational programmes and resources for local schools and youth organisations to engage young people in climate issues and solutions.

**Implement climate adaptation projects in schools:** Work with schools to create climate-resilient gardens or outdoor learning spaces. Support the installation of water butts, rain gardens, or other sustainable drainage features on school grounds.

**Engage nurseries in climate activities:** Develop simple, age-appropriate activities for young children, such as growing plants or creating wildlife habitats. Provide resources and training for nursery staff on incorporating climate themes into early years education.

**Organise climate action idea competitions:** Launch an annual competition for young people to submit innovative climate action ideas for Under Hamdon Parishes. Establish different age categories to ensure participation across all school levels.

**Promote citizen science projects:** Research existing citizen science projects relevant to climate change and local environmental issues. Adapt these projects for local implementation or develop Under Hamdon Parishes-specific projects.

**Develop a climate champions programme:** Establish a programme where students can become 'Climate Champions' in their schools. Provide training and resources for these champions to lead climate initiatives and educate their peers.

**Create inter-school climate networks:** Facilitate regular meetings or events where students from different schools can share their climate project experiences and ideas.

**Implement a 'Green Schools' certification scheme:** Develop a local certification scheme that recognises schools' efforts in climate education and adaptation. Establish criteria for certification and provide support for schools to achieve their 'Green School' status.

**Engage with higher education institutions:** Partner with nearby colleges or universities for mentorship programmes, where older students can guide pupils in climate projects.



## **Useful links:**

1. [Education is Key to Addressing Climate Change - United Nations](#)
2. [Organisations that can Help You Take Action - Let's Go Zero](#)
3. [Schools Climate Action Planner - Transform Our World](#)

## 3.2 - Form climate action groups across connected villages



Who:

- Parish councils
- Ash and Martock Wildlife Recovery Group
- Martock Gardening Society
- Martock parish council's environmental panel
- South Petherton's Tree and Wildlife Group (TWiG)
- Kingsbury Wildlife Group
- Flood Wardens
- Reimagining the Levels
- Somerset Climate Action Network (SCAN)

## **How:**

**Establish a parish climate network:** Create a coordinated team across Under Hamdon parishes to build relationships and share resources. This collaborative approach ensures consistent messaging and efficient knowledge sharing between villages. This could be achieved by setting up a Climate and Nature sub-group of the LCN.

**Develop an environmental champions programme:** Identify and support passionate individuals who can serve as climate champions within their parishes. Provide training and resources to help them lead local initiatives and inspire others. Create friendly inter-village competitions to encourage participation and celebrate successes.

**Build strong partnerships:** Connect with existing community groups, including parish councils, Women's Institutes, and local schools. Use these networks to share information and coordinate activities across the area. Partner with neighbouring parishes to amplify impact and share resources.

**Coordinate lobbying efforts:** Work together to engage MPs Sarah Dyke and Adam Dance on key environmental legislation like the Climate and Nature (CAN) Bill, water pollution, and sustainable housing development. Organise collective responses to consultations and policy proposals affecting the area.

**Create transport and biodiversity networks:** Collaborate with neighbouring parishes to develop area-wide sustainable transport solutions and active travel routes. Work together to establish and protect biodiversity corridors connecting green spaces across parish boundaries.

**Establish regular communication:** Set up monthly inter-parish climate meetings to share updates and coordinate actions. Create a shared online platform or newsletter to keep all parishes informed of activities and opportunities. Use existing village halls and community spaces for regular gatherings.

**Monitor and celebrate success:** Track progress on joint initiatives and celebrate achievements together. Share success stories through local media and community networks to inspire wider participation. Use feedback to refine and improve collaborative efforts.



## **Useful links:**

- [1. Climate Action Plan for Parish and Town Councils - Friends of the Earth](#)
- [2. Tackling Climate Change - National Association of Local Councils \(NALC\)](#)
- [3. UK100 Toolkit—Creating a Climate Action Influencing Strategy](#)
- [4. Top 5 Tips for Successful Political Lobbying in the UK - Westminster Insight](#)
- [5. Greener Transport Network to Provide Highways for Wildlife - GOV.UK](#)



## 3.3 - Create networks for knowledge sharing



Where:	Who:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-person communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Community centres</li> <li>◦ Local libraries</li> <li>◦ Farmers' markets and local events</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Online communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Community websites</li> <li>◦ Social media platforms, e.g. Facebook groups (Martock Chat), NextDoor</li> <li>◦ Email newsletters</li> <li>◦ Online forums and groups</li> <li>◦ Local news websites</li> <li>◦ WhatsApp (i.e. flood wardens)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish Councils</li> <li>• Flood Wardens</li> <li>• Ash and Martock Wildlife Recovery Group</li> <li>• South Petherton's Tree and Wildlife Group (TWiG)</li> <li>• Martock Gardening Society</li> <li>• Kingsbury Wildlife Group</li> <li>• Local Community Networks (LCNs)</li> <li>• Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC)</li> </ul>

## **How:**

**Collaborate to create a communications plan:** Form a working group of local council members, community leaders, and communication experts to oversee climate communication strategies. Ensure consistent messaging across all parishes.

**Develop a climate digital hub:** Create a comprehensive online platform to serve as a central resource for climate-related information. Include sections for local news, events, educational resources and links to environmental groups.

**Create physical information points:** Establish information hubs in accessible locations like libraries and community centres. Maintain regularly updated displays with leaflets, posters and contact details for local environmental initiatives.

**Share local knowledge:** Encourage experienced residents to share practical advice about flood protection measures like air brick covers with newcomers in vulnerable areas. Document and share this local wisdom through parish magazines and community newsletters.

**Establish regular communications:** Develop a consistent schedule of updates through parish magazines, e-newsletters and social media. Create a monthly roundup of local climate action news and upcoming events.

**Train community climate ambassadors:** Recruit and support volunteers to serve as climate knowledge-sharers within their local areas. Provide them with resources and regular updates to share with neighbours.

**Create feedback channels:** Set up clear ways for community members to provide input and suggestions. Use both digital methods like online forms and traditional approaches like suggestion boxes in village halls.

**Monitor and evaluate:** Regularly assess how well information is reaching different community groups and adapt methods based on feedback.



## **Useful links:**

1. [Climate Resilience Demonstrator - Digital Twin Hub](#)
2. [University of Local Knowledge](#)
3. [National Data Strategy Monitoring and Evaluation Framework - GOV.UK](#)
4. [Climate Ambassadors - Climate Ambassadors](#)
5. [Government Functional Standard - GovS 011: Communications - GOV.UK](#)

## 3.4 - Support vulnerable groups through community skill-sharing



Who:

- Martock Christian Fellowship
- Martock Community group
- Youth groups
- Farmer's market
- Local Community Networks (LCNs)
- Age UK Somerset
- Local faith groups
- Village halls committees
- Library services
- Schools
- Community groups

## **How:**

**Establish a Climate Awareness group:** Form a dedicated group comprising council members, local experts, and community representatives to oversee and coordinate climate awareness initiatives in Under Hamdon Parishes. Identify and support passionate individuals who can serve as climate action champions.

**Create 'cool spaces':** Work with local buildings like libraries and community centres to establish designated cooling areas during heatwaves. Install air conditioning powered by renewable energy where possible. Ensure these spaces are accessible and welcoming to all community members.

**Develop a skills register:** Create a database of local residents with relevant skills and knowledge who are willing to support others. Include expertise in areas like sustainable gardening, energy efficiency, and natural cooling techniques.

**Organise public education events:** Host regular workshops and talks on climate adaptation, focusing on practical skills and local solutions. Ensure events are accessible and held at varying times to enable wider participation.

**Build support networks:** Connect vulnerable residents with neighbours and community volunteers who can check on them during extreme weather events. Create phone trees or WhatsApp groups for quick communication.

**Promote intergenerational learning:** Partner with schools and youth groups to facilitate knowledge sharing between different age groups. Encourage young people to help older residents use digital tools for weather warnings and emergency updates.

**Share resources effectively:** Create simple, clear guides on preparing for extreme weather events. Distribute through existing community networks and ensure materials are available in various formats.



## **Useful links:**

1. [The Climate Coalition](#)
2. [Energy & Utility Skills Register \(EUSR\)](#)
3. [Public Seminar Series - Department of Education](#)
4. [Intergenerational England](#)

# 4. INFLUENCING LOCAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Influencing local planning and development in Under Hamdon Parishes could provide the following adaptation benefits and co-benefits to the local community:



Enhances climate resilience

Fosters collaboration

Facilitates communication

Involves the community

Supports sustainable living

Reduces heatwave impacts

Reduces flooding risks

Promotes environmental stewardship





## 4.1 - Improve resilience of existing housing to climate changes



When:	Who:
TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Somerset Council</li><li>• Centre for Sustainable Energy</li><li>• Local MPs</li><li>• Local residents</li></ul>

## How:

**Establish a Sustainable Housing Working Group:** Form a dedicated group comprising local council members, housing experts, environmental professionals, and community representatives to oversee and coordinate housing improvement initiatives and explore funding options.

**Create an online information hub:** Develop a dedicated section on the parish council website or local climate action platform for housing improvement resources. Include easy-to-understand guides on different retrofitting options, their benefits, and approximate costs. Provide case studies of local homes that have successfully implemented improvements, including details on energy and cost savings.

**Organise regular information-sharing events:** Host monthly or quarterly talks on various aspects of sustainable home improvements, inviting local and national experts to present. Arrange 'open home' events where residents who have implemented sustainable measures can showcase their improvements to neighbours. Organise practical workshops on topics such as draught-proofing, insulation installation, or setting up water conservation systems.

**Develop a retrofitting programme:** Create an information pack on energy efficiency and water conservation measures suitable for local housing types. Research and compile a list of local certified contractors experienced in sustainable retrofitting. Partner with local colleges or training providers to develop courses in sustainable construction and retrofitting. Encourage local tradespeople to upskill in green technologies and techniques. Investigate potential funding sources or grants available for home improvements and create a guide for residents.

**Promote water conservation measures:** Partner with local suppliers to offer discounted water butts to residents. Develop a guide on installing and maintaining rainwater harvesting systems, tailored to local housing types. Create an information leaflet on simple greywater reuse systems that homeowners can implement.

**Develop a local green homes grant scheme:** Work with the council to establish a small grants programme for home sustainability improvements. Create a simple application process and clear criteria for eligible improvements. Showcase successful projects to encourage wider participation.

**Implement a community bulk-buying scheme:** Organise group-buying initiatives for common retrofitting materials or technologies to reduce costs for residents. Negotiate with suppliers for discounts on sustainable home improvement products.



## Useful links:

1. [Integrating Climate Adaptation: A toolkit for urban planners and adaptation practitioners - C40 Knowledge Hub](#)
2. [Glasgow City Region Case study - Sniffer](#)
3. [A Practical Guide to Climate-resilient Buildings & Communities - UN](#)
4. [Technical Guidance and Best Practice Guidance for adapting buildings to climate change - EU](#)
5. [Adapting buildings guidance - Climate Just](#)



## 4.2 - Lobby for climate-resilient new developments



When:	Who:
TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Somerset Council</li><li>• Centre for Sustainable Energy</li><li>• Local MPs</li><li>• Local house builders</li><li>• Developers</li><li>• Planning officers</li><li>• Somerset Local Planning Authority (LPA)</li></ul>

## How:

**Establish a Sustainable Development Working Group:** Form a dedicated team of parish councillors, planning experts, environmental professionals, and community representatives to lead efforts for climate-resilient developments, focusing on sustainable transport and brownfield sites.

**Audit climate resilience in planning processes:** Research current planning regulations to determine what climate adaptation measures can legally be required or encouraged. Meet with planning officers to identify existing climate resilience considerations and where gaps exist. Create a reference document outlining opportunities to strengthen climate adaptation requirements within the current planning framework and potential policy improvements.

**Update Local Plan Environmental Standards:** Draft comprehensive updates incorporating mandatory requirements for renewable energy systems, enhanced insulation, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), and green infrastructure. Develop clear enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance. Align with Somerset's Local Plan targets through to 2028.

**Reform planning fees for climate-positive projects:** Work with Somerset Council to develop a tiered fee structure that reduces or waives pre-application advice and planning application charges for projects with climate adaptation or biodiversity benefits. Create clear guidance on qualifying criteria and application process. Promote the incentive scheme to encourage more climate-resilient development proposals.

**Create a Sustainable Building Guide:** Develop a practical guide featuring local case studies and international best practices. Include specific guidance on implementing green and blue infrastructure like rain gardens, water harvesting systems, and green roofs.

**Establish Green Infrastructure Guidelines:** Create clear requirements for green spaces, sustainable drainage systems, and green/sponge roofs in new developments. Include standards for solar panel installation and wildlife-friendly design features.

**Ensure Community Engagement:** Facilitate regular consultations on planning policy changes. Create accessible feedback channels and incorporate residents' views into development decisions.

**Monitor and Evaluate Progress:** Track climate-resilient features in new developments through regular assessments. Conduct annual reviews of planning policy effectiveness and adjust requirements based on outcomes.



## Useful links:

1. [How to respond to planning applications: an 8-step guide - Campaign to Protect Rural England](#)
2. [Influencing the planning process \(England\) - Commons Library](#)
3. [Information requirements for planning applications - Somerset Council](#)
4. [A practical guide to climate-resilient buildings & communities - UN](#)
5. [Technical guidance and best practice guidance for adapting buildings to climate change - EU](#)
6. [Adapting buildings guidance - Climate Just](#)

## 4.3 - Integrate climate adaptation into Neighbourhood Plans



When:	Who:
TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Somerset Council</li><li>• Current Neighbourhood plans<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Martock Parish Council</li><li>◦ South Petherton Parish Council</li></ul></li></ul>



## How:

**Review neighbourhood plan status and climate content:** Compile an inventory of all local neighbourhood plans, noting which are completed, in progress, or planned. Assess existing plans for climate adaptation measures, identifying strengths and gaps. Create a simple database to track the status of implementation and opportunities to incorporate stronger climate resilience provisions during updates or new plan development.

**Work with Neighbourhood Plan groups:** Connect with local groups developing or reviewing Neighbourhood Plans. Share climate adaptation priorities and evidence to help inform their policies. Organise workshops to discuss how climate risks could affect their parish and what adaptation measures would be most effective.

**Review existing policies:** Examine current Neighbourhood Plan policies to identify opportunities to strengthen climate adaptation. Look for areas where adaptation measures could compliment existing community priorities around green spaces, development, and local character.

**Develop climate-focused policies:** Create clear, practical policies that support adaptation measures such as sustainable drainage, green infrastructure, and nature-based solutions. Ensure these policies are specific enough to influence planning decisions while remaining flexible enough to accommodate future climate impacts.

**Build evidence base:** Gather local climate impact data and adaptation opportunities to support policy development. Use information from Somerset's Climate Risk Assessment and local flood records to demonstrate the need for adaptation measures.

**Engage the community:** Host consultation events to gather residents' views on climate risks and adaptation priorities. Use interactive maps and visual materials to help people understand how climate change might affect their area and what adaptation measures could look like.

**Coordinate with authorities:** Work closely with Somerset Council's planning department to ensure Neighbourhood Plan policies align with local and national planning frameworks. Seek advice on policy wording to ensure it is effective and enforceable.

**Monitor and review:** Establish a process to regularly review how well climate adaptation policies are working in practice. Use this information to refine policies during plan updates and share learning with other parishes developing their Neighbourhood Plans.



## Useful links:

1. [Martock Neighbour plan - Somerset Council](#)
2. [South Petherton Neighbourhood plan - Somerset Council](#)
3. [Woodland Trust - Creating a neighbourhood plan](#)
4. [Woodland Trust - Neighbourhood Planning](#)
5. [MDPI - Climate Change, Adaptation Planning and Institutional Integration: Literature Review and Framework](#)



## 4.4 - Engage with parish councils on climate resilience policies



When:	Who:
TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parish councils</li><li>• Flood Wardens</li><li>• Ash and Martock Wildlife Recovery Group</li><li>• Martock Gardening Society</li><li>• South Petherton's Tree and Wildlife Group (TWiG)</li><li>• Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA)</li><li>• Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)</li><li>• Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT)</li></ul>

## **How:**

**Establish a Parish Climate Working Group:** Form a coordinated team across the Under Hamdon parishes to develop shared climate resilience approaches. This centralised group will ensure consistent communication and efficient resource sharing between parishes.

**Create inter-parish knowledge exchange:** Set up regular meetings between parish councils to share successful climate initiatives and lessons learned. Use existing parish halls and community spaces for workshops focusing on local climate impacts and solutions.

**Develop parish-specific action plans:** Work with each parish council to create tailored climate resilience strategies that reflect local conditions and priorities. Include practical steps for enhancing natural flood management and improving biodiversity.

**Research nature-based solutions:** Explore opportunities for natural flood management, including the potential for beaver reintroduction in suitable locations. Collaborate with Somerset Wildlife Trust and other experts to assess feasibility and benefits for water management and wildlife.

**Build community support:** Organise parish-level consultations to gather resident input on climate initiatives. Use parish newsletters and notice boards to share updates and success stories. Create simple feedback mechanisms for residents to contribute ideas and concerns.

**Coordinate funding:** Identify and coordinate applying for climate-related grants, partnering with organisations as needed. Discuss local parish councils using the precept process to raise funds for climate adaptation work. Share expertise and resources for funding applications between parishes. Create templates for climate project proposals that can be adapted for different funding streams.

**Establish monitoring systems:** Develop simple ways for parishes to track the progress of their climate initiatives. Use existing parish meetings to review and update climate actions. Share successful approaches through the parish network.



## **Useful links:**

1. [Knowledge Exchange Concordat - Knowledge Exchange UK](#)
2. [Guide to Producing Town & Parish Plans - East Suffolk](#)
3. [Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change in the UK - British Ecological Society](#)
4. [Find Government Grants - GOV.UK](#)

## 4.5 - Coordinate with landowners and agencies on adaptation measures



Who:

- Environment Agency (EA)
- Natural England
- Internal Drainage Board (IDB)
- Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA)
- Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT)
- Somerset Drainage Board Consortium
- Wessex Water
- National Trust
- National Highways
- Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)
- Parish Councils
- Flood Wardens
- Landowners
- Farmers

## How:

**Establish a working relationship with landowners:** Work with local farmers and landowners to identify opportunities for natural flood management and habitat creation. Discuss potential sites for additional flood storage or wetland areas. Foster open dialogue about sustainable farming practices and their role in climate adaptation. Support farmers in accessing green finance opportunities through organisations like FWAG.

**Document and report issues:** Create a systematic approach to recording drainage and waterway maintenance concerns. Share detailed reports with relevant authorities, including the Environment Agency and Somerset Drainage Board Consortium, highlighting areas where statutory duties are not being met due to funding constraints.

**Explore natural solutions:** Investigate opportunities for leaky dams along waterways to reduce flow rates while creating valuable wildlife habitats. Consult with environmental experts to ensure these measures benefit both flood management and biodiversity. Consider the potential for beaver reintroduction as a natural solution to water management, working with relevant agencies to assess feasibility.

**Address agricultural impacts:** Engage with farmers about the effects of maize production on soil erosion and water runoff. Share information about alternative crops and farming methods that could improve soil health and water retention. Support farmers in accessing relevant environmental grant schemes and incentives.

**Build partnerships:** Develop strong working relationships with key organisations including local MPs, particularly given some with farming background and understanding of agricultural challenges. Work together to lobby central government for both subsidies and clear guidelines on sustainable land management practices.

**Create communication networks:** Establish regular forums for landowners and agencies to discuss challenges and solutions. Use these networks to share information about funding opportunities, best practices, and successful adaptation measures.

**Monitor and evaluate:** Keep records of implemented measures and their effectiveness. Use this evidence to support future funding applications and demonstrate the value of collaborative approaches to climate adaptation.



## Useful links:

- [1. Natural Flood Management Programme - GOV.UK](#)
- [2. Guiding Principles for Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans - GOV.UK](#)
- [3. Nature-based Solutions for the Water Sector - Sweco UK](#)
- [4. Building Partnerships for Nature's Recovery - GOV.UK](#)



# CONCLUSION

**This plan shares the priority actions for helping Under Hamdon Parishes thrive through our changing climate.**

Some can happen quickly, like planting trees, to give an instant adaption boost. Other actions, such as shaping planning policies, are longer-term projects that will significantly enhance Under Hamdon Parishes's adaptation and preparedness.

Every action in this plan will also bring many other benefits to Under Hamdon Parishes. These "co-benefits" include:

- Improving community health and wellbeing
- Making space for wildlife
- Mitigating climate change

By working on these actions together, you can also strengthen community links, which is vital for making the parishes well-adapted and resilient.



Under Hamdon Parishes's Climate Adaptation Plan should be seen as a living document, at the starting point of a wider process. The plan should:

- Be reviewed regularly
- Be updated as needed
- Reflect the changing climate and the changing priorities and needs of Under Hamdon Parishes's community

By staying flexible, and continuing to listen to Under Hamdon Parishes's residents, the plan can best guide the community in adapting to climate change.

## Now it is time to act!

**Everyone can play a role in making Under Hamdon Parishes better adapted to climate change. Wider parishes are welcome to join.**

**To find out more about how you can get involved in implementing this plan, contact [ac@asclegg.co.uk](mailto:ac@asclegg.co.uk) and [Garethisaac2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Garethisaac2003@yahoo.co.uk)**

# Acknowledgements

**Thank you to everyone who shared their ideas to create such a positive and ambitious Climate Adaptation Plan for Under Hamdon Parishes.**

If you are concerned about your individual preparedness to emergency events, check out [Somerset Prepared](#) for detailed advice and support.

For adaptation funding explore the SRA's [Community Flood Action Fund](#).



**Published February 2025, Review Date February 2026**



**Ash & Martock Nature**

**Team  
Wilder**

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This work is generously funded by the Somerset Rivers Authority.



### **Disclaimer**

*The links provided in this document are intended to serve as information and advice, and do not reflect a recommendation from Somerset Wildlife Trust, or our partners and funders, for particular companies, products or services.*

# Consultation responses to improving green spaces



Residents highlighted the importance of preserving significant trees and creating wildlife-friendly spaces in churchyards across Under Hamdon Parishes. They specifically advocated for protecting mature trees, while noting concerns that Tree Protection Orders alone might create a negative enforcement narrative. Community members stressed that protection should consider both amenity value and biodiversity benefits, particularly for veteran trees that provide crucial wildlife habitat despite potentially being misshapen.

Local groups like South Petherton's Tree and Wildlife Group (TWiG) emphasised the need for coordinated action to enhance the many small green spaces around villages through tree planting, bulb planting, nest boxes and creating wildlife corridors. Recent nature restoration projects in Martock were highlighted as successful examples that could be expanded to other sites, with Somerset Wildlife Trust providing valuable support. The potential for creating more ponds, especially in recreation grounds, was suggested alongside offering affordable native tree saplings to residents for their gardens.



Residents expressed concerns about seasonal challenges, noting that autumn leaves can block drains while wildlife can destabilise land. They suggested organising community walks to improve understanding of local environments and generate ideas for improvements. Ecological diversity, sustainable land management, and collaboration with other organisations were seen as priorities, with suggestions to identify parish-owned land that would benefit most from enhancement. The importance of engaging parish councils and improving communication between all authorities was consistently mentioned.

Community members emphasised the value of hedgerows for supporting wildlife and creating corridors across parishes. They suggested mapping existing green assets and conducting audits to understand the current situation in each parish. Concerns were raised that some parishes might lack the necessary structures or volunteers to participate fully in climate adaptation initiatives. Residents also called for reduced chemical usage in green space management, though they highlighted the need to understand current practices before making changes, and sharing successful approaches from elsewhere.



Protecting agricultural land was a priority for many respondents, who opposed building on arable land needed for crops. They stressed the importance of keeping footpaths accessible and clear, while suggesting the possibility of repurposing vacant or degenerate industrial spaces as new green areas. The community showed strong support for tree and shrub planting, improving hedges, and creating connected wildlife-friendly spaces throughout the parishes, with churches and churchyards specifically highlighted as valuable sites for adaptation actions.



# Consultation responses to reducing flood risks



Residents across Under Hamdon Parishes emphasised the importance of local responsibility for drain maintenance, with many highlighting that keeping drains clear is essential for flood prevention. They noted that recent flooding has been exacerbated by blocked roadside gutters, with frustration expressed about local councils refusing to accept responsibility while county authorities cite lack of funds. Community members suggested organising volunteer groups to clear drains near homes and in villages, while stressing the need to ensure volunteers are properly insured and authorised to carry out such work on behalf of parish councils.

Community feedback highlighted the need for improved drainage maintenance with calls for clearing ditches from debris, dredging waterways, and creating new floodplains. Many respondents stressed that maintenance must be carried out when required, not just seasonally, and emphasised that flood risk reduction measures must be properly maintained by authorities with the appropriate funding. Some suggested investigating the feasibility of employing a shared lengthsman to maintain drainage systems, while others called for better coordination between parish councils and agencies like Somerset Council, the Police, Fire and Rescue Service, and the Environment Agency.



The link between flood management and land use was strongly emphasised, with many residents opposing new housing developments on flood-prone areas. They noted that "water has to go somewhere" and expressed concern about the impact of housing estates on local hydrology. Natural approaches to flood management were favoured, including planting more trees, creating hedges, and implementing "leaky ponds" to absorb water or slow it down. Some specifically mentioned diverting rainwater off roads, particularly along Foldhill Lane and the route from Martock to Printworks.

Implementation of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and rainwater collection received strong support. Residents acknowledged that while much of this falls under the remit of planning authorities, local communities could investigate potential sites for rain gardens and check the extent to which SuDS are already required in new developments. Some questioned the specific mention of supermarkets in largely rural communities, suggesting a broader approach might be more appropriate. There were also calls to ensure rainwater harvesting approaches protected existing wildlife habitat and created new opportunities for biodiversity.



Respondents suggested a broader approach to extreme weather events, not just flooding, with some calling for the priority to be renamed "adapting to extreme weather events" to include disruption from high winds and heatwaves. Community members also raised the importance of providing better information to drivers about flood water depth and nearby ditches to prevent vehicles becoming stranded. The connections between flooding and food security were noted, with some residents already working with the area's flood coordinator and expressing interest in further collaboration with flooding teams.

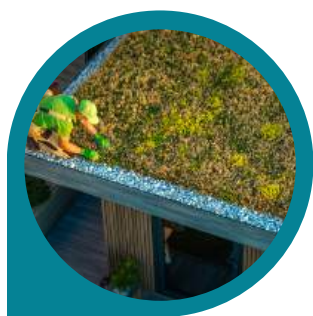
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## Consultation responses to community action



Residents emphasised the value of regular open meetings similar to the initial gathering at The George, with many supporting the establishment of community hubs that could provide expertise and emergency supplies. Some participants shared experiences from Glastonbury and Crewkerne where they had successfully established processes allowing local citizens to discuss and decide on issues affecting them, such as food security. Recent flooding in South Petherton highlighted the practical need for such hubs, with reports that when the old people's home was flooded, including its laundry facilities, residents were left without clean clothing.

Education was consistently identified as a crucial element of community action, with respondents strongly supporting initiatives to educate families, children, parents, businesses, and public bodies about climate adaptation. Many expressed that this was "brilliant" and "essential to educate future generations." However, some noted the challenge of limited public interest, suggesting a need to better publicise the reasons for action. Local village markets were mentioned as potential venues for increased visual information, helping to raise awareness of what needs to be done.



Community members stressed the importance of considering local knowledge when developing action plans. They called for regular meetings and workshops open to all residents on specific topics relating to the Plan, ensuring broad participation and inclusion of diverse perspectives. Some expressed concerns about the uneven representation of parishes in climate action teams, noting that while the aspiration for collaborative action was good, not all areas had the same level of involvement or capacity at this stage.

Feedback highlighted the practical challenges of implementing community action effectively. Some respondents pointed out that many of the recommended actions would require high-performing groups with significant knowledge, expertise, time, and community connections. There were suggestions to focus initially on parishes that were keen and had capacity, allowing others to join as they became able, while being mindful of costs and the challenge of finding sufficient volunteers.



Inclusivity was identified as a key consideration, with recommendations to ensure vulnerable groups and their carers were included in community action plans, particularly with consideration given to dementia-friendly initiatives. Some respondents noted omissions in the list of schools included in parish areas, suggesting that comprehensive outreach would require careful mapping of all relevant institutions and stakeholders. The comments reflected a community eager to act but mindful of the need for realistic, inclusive, and well-coordinated approaches.

# Consultation responses to influencing planning



Residents emphasised concerns about flood risk and inappropriate development, with many calling for a halt to building on flood plains. A recent incident local to Norton-Sub-Hamdon demonstrated the hazards where trees and plants on high banks typical of the area slid onto roads, blocking access. This highlighted the interconnection between development, land management, and climate impacts. Residents called for clearer guidelines regarding planning, suggesting that Somerset Council should reduce fees for pre-planning advice when proposals include climate adaptation and biodiversity improvements.

Community members expressed the need for better communication about planning proposals. While acknowledging that information systems exist, respondents noted that details don't always filter through to everyone affected. Suggestions included using local newsletters to raise awareness across the community regarding developments. Residents emphasised the importance of local authorities understanding their role in addressing the climate emergency, which was described as "the biggest one we face," and called for more collaborative meetings between residents, the River Authority, and government bodies.



The need to balance housing needs with climate resilience was highlighted, with support for building local housing for local people to help them onto the housing ladder or access decent rental accommodation, but with careful consideration of flooding implications. Respondents wanted to see more emphasis on recycling water, better insulation, use of solar panels, and wildlife considerations such as swift bricks, nature corridors, and more green space instead of concrete. Some specifically noted that "Climate Adaptation" is already included in the Martock Neighbourhood Plan, suggesting this could be built upon and extended.

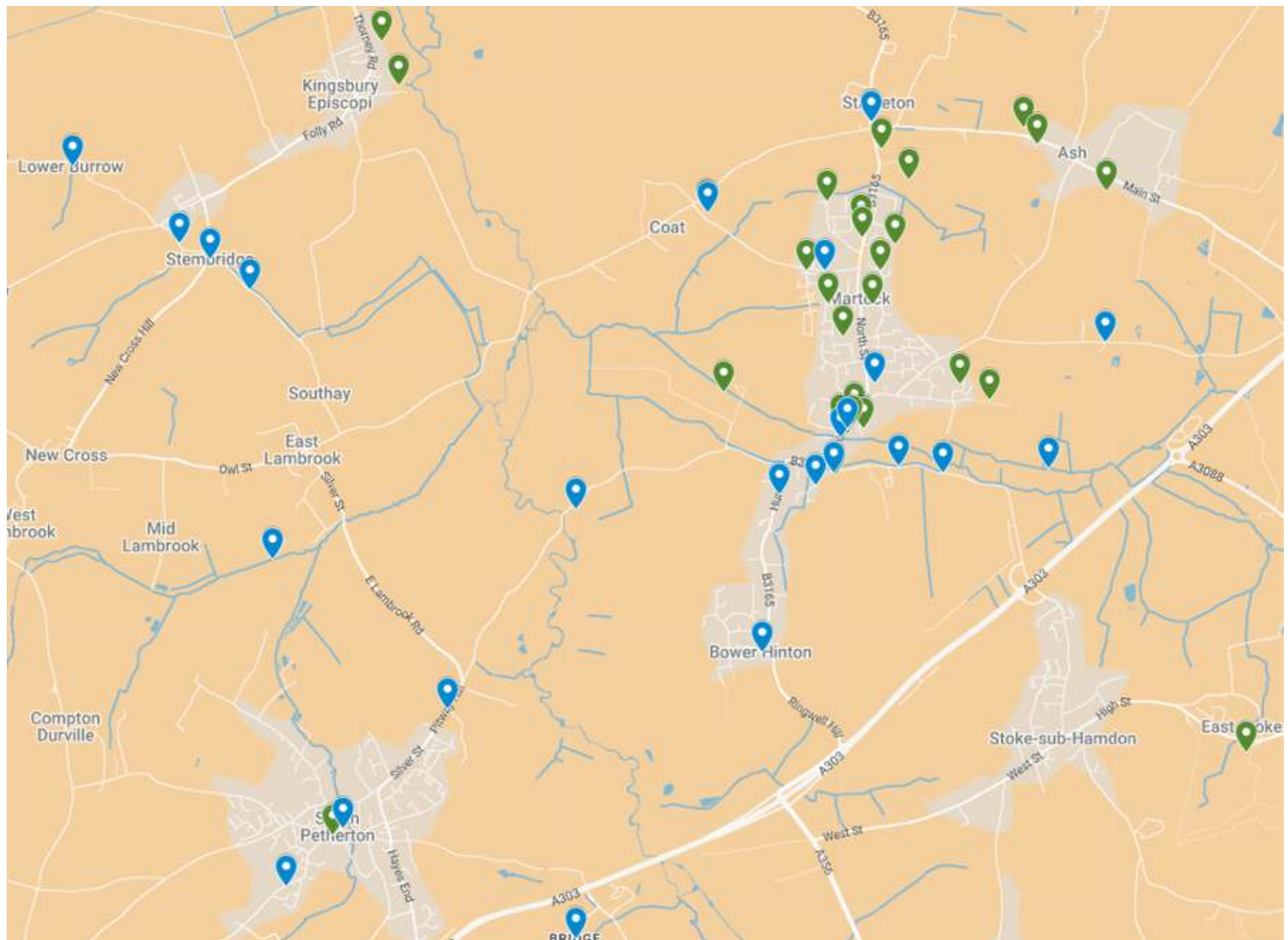
Feedback included practical suggestions for effectively influencing planning. Some residents called for parish councils to receive new or refresher training provided by the planning authority to help them evaluate planning developments effectively. Others suggested bidding for financial assistance should be a key action, given the significant resources required. Community education was also proposed, with workshops or webinars to equip residents with knowledge about policies such as Biodiversity Net Gain and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), enabling them to advocate for stronger environmental protections.





Many respondents pointed out that while local action is important, much of the responsibility falls under the remit of government, local authorities, and expert NGOs, whose leadership should be more clearly expressed, along with their willingness to fund required measures and work collaboratively with the Under Hamdon Parishes. Some suggested that the terms of reference should be narrowed, such as changing "Improve existing housing" to "Improve resilience of existing housing to climate changes" to provide clearer focus. Respondents also recommended reviewing existing neighbourhood plans and determining which are completed, in use, or planned, to avoid duplication of effort.



# Adaptation Map



Key:

-  Priority 1 - improving and increasing green spaces.
-  Priority 2 - reducing flooding risks.