

Minehead Case Study

20th June 2024 - 19th January 2025

Summary

Through the Act to Adapt process, Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT) is supporting communities across Somerset to adapt to climate change. By creating and implementing a Climate Adaptation Plan, the community can proactively respond to climate threats in their local area whilst simultaneously building community, supporting local wildlife, and increasing wellbeing.

This work is part of the 'Somerset's Wilder Coast' project, generously funded by the National Lottery Climate Action Fund and the HPC Community Fund.

The process

Before the public engagement began, SWT communicated with local officials, community groups and the Town Council. Our initial contact with Minehead was to ensure that the community was ready to enact a **Climate Adaptation Plan**, we found that locals were very keen to get involved with the Act to Adapt process!



Talk

SWT organised a set of workshops to engage the community in climate-led discussions. Using a Climate Adaptation Toolkit that outlines **Nature-based Solutions (NbS)**, locals were informed of the current climate issues and provided with general information on adaptation techniques. The community then shared their concerns and priorities, which was used to form the draft Climate Adaptation Plan.



Shape

To enhance the collective input of ideas into the Climate Adaptation Plan, a series of consultations were carried out.

In August and September 2024 SWT attended two local events to promote the plan to locals, as well as providing an online survey to increase the accessibility of feedback.



Act

In January 2025, SWT launched Minehead's Climate Adaptation Plan to the community at an event at the Beach Hotel. The event was attended by local MP Rachel Gilmour, showing her support for the plan. The turnout and feedback from the community were both outstanding,

The plan was then handed to the community so that they could begin to implement the outlined adaptation strategies.

Adaptation strategies

Each community has identified four unique adaptation themes that best suit their needs. For Minehead, these four strategies include:

1. Improving and increasing green spaces
2. Adapting to flooding
3. Encouraging community-driven climate action
4. Promoting sustainable development

For each theme, the Climate Adaptation Plan outlines 5-8 focused adaptation strategies that have been identified through Act to Adapt. Information includes the benefits and co-benefits, useful links, and examples of how to carry out the strategy, as well as specifying 'where', 'when' and 'who'.

Future work

Suggestions have already been made on how Minehead can progress the plan, including events teaching kids about nature, creating nature trails and encouraging forest school play. Residents also value protecting local wildlife and proposed the creation of green corridors by linking existing spaces, allowing species to move freely. They encouraged leaving parts of gardens wild to support biodiversity and expanding woodland areas for nature and community enjoyment. The town's strong community spirit was recognised as a powerful tool for climate action and putting plans in place.

Across Somerset other communities are also on their Act to Adapt journey, creating and implementing tailored Climate Adaptation Plans. These include: Burnham-on-Sea & Highbridge, Spaxton, Wells, Glastonbury, Polden Hills, the Under Hamdon parishes and Frome. The process is well underway with SWT aiming to facilitate Climate Adaptation Plans for every community!

An important feature of the plans are that they are never finalised, communities can update and alter the plan according to their changing priorities and current climate issues.

SWT's wider objective is to share the Climate Adaptation Plan outside of Somerset, providing a case study for groups to use and apply to their community. If you would like to find out more on the plan, contact the Climate Adaptation team (details below).

Impacts

The process for Minehead has allowed for excellent communication between local groups and residents, where a £1000 fund (provided by the National Lottery Climate Action Fund and the HPC Community Fund) will kickstart the plan into action!

The workshop at Minehead Community Centre brought together residents, community groups, town councillors and SWT's Climate Adaptation Team to talk about Somerset's climate change projections and discuss the need for adaptation in Minehead. By sharing the key themes and priority adaptation actions chosen, residents were able to be a part of co-creating a bespoke Climate Adaptation Plan.

Useful links

[Climate Adaptation Toolkit](#)
[Act to Adapt - Minehead Act to Adapt project](#)
[Minehead and Coast Development Trust](#)

[Climate Adaptation Toolkit e-Newsletter Sign Up](#)
[e-Newsletter Sign Up](#)

Contacts

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