

Under Hamdon Parishes Case Study

Case Study: August 2025

19th November 2024 - 8 February 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.

Funded by the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA), communities in Ash, Martock, Kingsbury Episcopi, South Petherton, and Stoke Sub Hamdon have come together through the Act to Adapt process to build a bespoke Climate Adaptation Plan!

The process

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



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.



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

In November 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.



The plan was launched in February 2025. The launch was supported by Ash & Martock Nature and all the local Under Hamdon parishes. The turnout and feedback from the community throughout the process has been outstanding,

The plan was then handed to the communities 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 the Under Hamdon Parishes, 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 the plan can be progressed. Residents highlighted the importance of preserving significant trees and creating wildlife-friendly spaces in churchyards across the Under Hamdon Parishes. Suggestions included organising community walks to help improve understanding of local environments and generate ideas for improvements. Community members stressed the importance of considering local knowledge when developing action plans, calling for regular meetings and workshops open to all residents ensuring broad participation and inclusion.

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, Minehead, Glastonbury, Polden Hills, Wells and Frome. The process is well underway with SWT aiming to facilitate Climate Adaptation Plans for every community!

An important feature of the plans is 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 the Under Hamdon parishes has allowed for excellent communication between the communities, local groups and residents, where a £1000 fund (provided by the SRA) will kickstart the plan into action.

The initial workshop at The George Inn in Martock brought together residents, community groups, town councillors, Ash & Martock Nature and SWT's Climate Adaptation Team to talk about Somerset's climate change projections and discuss the need for adaptation. 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 - Under Hamdon Parishes Act to Adapt](#)

[Ash & Martock Nature](#)

[Climate Adaptation Toolkit e-Newsletter](#)

[Sign Up](#)

[e-Newsletter Sign Up](#)

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