



**Somerset**  
Wildlife Trust

# Act to Adapt

Funded by  
**Somerset**  
Rivers Authority

## Wells Case Study

Case Study: August 2025

20th October 2024 - 11 October 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), the community in Wells has 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 the Wells Environment Network (WEN), local officials, community groups and the Town Council. Our initial contact 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 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.



Act

The plan will be officially launched in conjunction with WEN at the Wells Eco Week (11-20 October 2025). The plan has been supported by local MP Tessa Munt. Turnout and feedback from the community throughout the Act to Adapt process has been outstanding.

Following the launch the plan will be handed to the community so that they can begin to implement the outlined adaptation strategies.

## Adaptation strategies

Each community has identified four unique adaptation themes that best suit their needs. For Wells 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 Wells can progress the plan, residents raised the need for more public rights of way, better linking of pathways and cycle routes (e.g., between Wells and Cheddar) and recreational areas within green spaces. Locals also recognised the importance of enhancing habitats to support wildlife in Wells, involving schools and locals in these efforts. Supporting efforts to reduce hard, impermeable surfaces in both residential areas and community spaces was viewed as important by residents to better assist water absorption and flood mitigation.

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, 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).

## Useful links

[Climate Adaptation Toolkit](#)  
[Act to Adapt - Wells Act to Adapt project](#)  
[Wells Environment Network](#)

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

## Contacts

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Also a major thank you to those individuals who helped with the process, particularly Denise Denis, Sarah Powell and Maddy Milnes.

## Impacts

The process for Wells has allowed for excellent communication between local groups and residents, where a £1000 fund (provided by the SRA) will kickstart the plan into action!

The initial workshop at Wells Town Hall brought together residents, community groups, town councillors, WEN and SWT's Climate Adaptation Team to talk about Somerset's climate change projections and discuss the need for adaptation in Wells.

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.