



Somerset
Wildlife Trust

Act to Adapt

Funded by



Burnham on Sea and Highbridge

Case Study

Case Study: July 2025

21 May 2024 - 15 March 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 Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge 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!



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.

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 was launched in March 2025 during the 'Brue Green Pathways Celebration event' in conjunction with 'Our Highbridge' and SWT at the town's Morland Hub. Town councillor Lesley Millard provided an overview and support for the project.

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 Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge, these four strategies include:

- 1. Improving and increasing green spaces**
- 2. Managing climate adaption projects with funding**
- 3. Sharing knowledge on climate adaptation**
- 4. Linking climate risks to local policies**

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'.

Adaptation plan update: July 2025

Following the launch of the plan the residents have been quick to act. To ensure green spaces are enhanced, the Growing Group is continuing to work with the Town Council to create sustainable planting, with the Green Team creating an adopt a tree strategy. The aim is to increase the trees and shrubs throughout the town with the Town Council also set to explore sponsorship of flower beds.

Making sure the activities are shared with the community has been key with displays present at the Eat Festival and a Facebook group created to act as a centre for information, advice and events. There has also been work with schools to create events that students can organise for themselves.

Future Work

Across Somerset other communities are also on their Act to Adapt journey creating and implementing tailored Climate Adaptation Plans. These include: Glastonbury, Minehead, Wells, Spaxton, 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.

Impacts

The process for Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge has allowed for excellent communication between local groups and residents, where a £1,000 fund (provided by the National Lottery Climate Action Fund and the HPC Community Fund) will kickstart the plan into action!

The workshops at the Morland Community Hub and Burnham-On-Sea and Highbridge Town Council brought together residents, community groups, town councillors and SWT's Climate Adaptation Team to talk about Somerset's climate change projections. 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-Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge](#)

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

Contacts

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