



**Somerset**  
Wildlife Trust

# Act to Adapt

Funded by  
**Somerset**  
Rivers Authority

## Glastonbury Case Study

Case Study: September 2024

9th October 2023 - 24th August 2024

### 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), Glastonbury are the first community to go through the entire Act to Adapt process

### The process

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

In August 2024, SWT launched Glastonbury's Climate Adaptation Plan to the community. St. John's Baptist Church was hired out to unveil the plan, where local groups were invited to also showcase their incredible work. The turnout and feedback were both outstanding, including a positive appraisal from the local MP (Sarah Dyke). 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 Glastonbury, these four strategies include:

1. Planting more trees and plants
2. Adapting to flooding
3. Installing green walls and roofs
4. Engaging with local planning

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

The community in Glastonbury has been really busy setting the plans in place including: providing workshops at Bridies Farm to learn skills on: planting native trees and plants, creating rain gardens & installing water butts, looking at creative ideas to harvest rainwater and building and installing green roofs using upcycled materials. Funding is also available for extra volunteer days. Other projects underway are at the Red Brick Building, buying meadow seed to rewild verges and beds. Installation of semi-permeable membrane pathing for the round house project has been discussed and helping locals understand how they can reduce water in the sewers through communication initiatives.

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.

## Future work

Across Somerset other communities are currently on their Act to Adapt journey creating tailored Climate Adaptation Plans. These include: Burnham-on-Sea & Highbridge, 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!

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 Glastonbury 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 Glastonbury Launch event for the Climate Adaptation Plan has generated significant interest, already appearing in the local BBC News and gaining the most interactions from readers of a recent SWT e-Newsletter. Further afield, the Act to Adapt process has been acknowledged across Britain's Wildlife Trusts, where it was used twice as a wonderful case study for climate adaptation at the annual Federation Conference for The Wildlife Trusts.

## Useful links

[Climate Adaptation Toolkit](#)

[Act to Adapt - Glastonbury Act to Adapt project](#)

[Somerset Rivers Authority \(SRA\)](#)

[Climate Adaptation Toolkit e-Newsletter](#)

[Sign Up](#)

[e-Newsletter Sign Up](#)

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