



Somerset
Wildlife Trust

Act to Adapt

Funded by
Somerset
Rivers Authority

Spaxton Case Study

Case Study: July 2025

21 January 2025 - 26th July 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 Spaxton 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 community groups and the Parish 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

Beginning with a Climate Adaptation Workshop event at The Village Hall in Spaxton and 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 consultation was carried out. SWT attended the Spring Flower Show to promote the plan to locals, as well as providing an online survey to increase the accessibility of feedback.



Act

In July 2025, SWT and the Parish Council launched the Spaxton Climate Adaptation Plan to the community. The launch took place at the Spaxton Summer Flower Show.

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 Spaxton, these four strategies include:

1. Improving and increasing green spaces
2. Adapting to flooding
3. Local empowerment and planning
4. Building local climate knowledge and action

For each theme, the Climate Adaptation Plan outlines 5-6 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 Spaxton can progress the plan, including enhancing biodiversity by developing communal areas for planting trees and creating wildlife trails, providing places for children to play, seating areas and dog parks for residents to come together. Establishing community led initiatives is seen as key to developing and promoting projects, using the Spaxton website and newsletters to share updates.

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, Minehead, 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 Spaxton has developed excellent communication between local groups, residents and the Parish Council. Following the launch of the plan a £1,000 fund (provided by the SRA) will kickstart the plan into action!

The events held so far have brought together residents, community groups, the Parish Council and SWT's Climate Adaptation Team to talk about Somerset's climate change projections, discuss the concerns and need for adaptation in Spaxton.

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

[Act to Adapt - Spaxton](#)
[Somerset Rivers Authority \(SRA\)](#)

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

Contacts

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