

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 Community 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 **Community 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 at Martock Farmers Market and South Petherton Library 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 priorities that best suit their needs. For the Under Hamdon Parishes, these four priority actions are:

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

For each theme, the Community 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'.

Update: April 2026

Since the launch of Under Hamdon Parishes' Climate Adaptation plan, parish representatives have met to outline plans and distribute the £1,000 seed funding equally between parishes who applied.

Within the parishes, this seed funding has contributed to the priority of **improving and increasing green spaces** through actions such as: installing swift boxes, planting fruit trees, and improving green space infrastructure such as information boards. Work has also begun on a Tree Survey to identify and protect existing trees, an important action highlighted by residents within the plan.

The Under Hamdon Parishes' Climate Adaptation Plan has been shared with community actors and interested parties such as local parish councils, councillors and libraries, helping to **build local climate knowledge**. Facilitation of local action is continuing through planned meetings and partnerships with groups such as the Trees and Wildlife Group South Petherton.

Under Hamdon Parishes are a part of **10 Somerset communities** that are in the process of completing or implementing their Community Climate Adaptation Plan! Our aim is to facilitate Community Climate Adaptation Plans for every community in Somerset.

This case study is intended to raise awareness of climate adaptation and community actions to adapt. If you would like to find out more, please contact the Climate Adaptation team (details below).

Impacts

The process for the Under Hamdon parishes has strengthened collaboration between the parish communities, local group, town councillors and residents. This has continued post-launch and has encouraged the development of new partnerships.

The initial seed funding of £1,000 has been distributed between parishes, used in each toward the identified priority action of improving and increasing green spaces within the local area.

Useful links

[Act to Adapt - Under Hamdon Parishes](#)
[Act to Adapt Project](#)
[Ash & Martock Nature](#)

[Act to Adapt - eNewsletter Sign Up](#)
[Climate Adaptation Toolkit](#)
[Somerset Rivers Authority \(SRA\)](#)

Contacts

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