



**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 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.

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 **Community 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 Community 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 priorities that best suit their needs. For Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge, these four priority actions are:

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 priority, 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'.

### Adaptation plan update: April 2026

Following the launch of the plan the residents have been busy growing their group, fostering partnerships and implementing action strategies. The initial seed funding has been used, in part, to facilitate the joining of three community groups with the **Burnham and Highbridge Green Team**, which are: Friends of Berrow Beach, Friends of Burnham Beach, and Berrow Conservation Group.

Towards improving and increasing green spaces, the Green Team is continuing to work in collaboration with the Town Council, creating a community garden and developing a map of local green spaces. This collaboration has also helped to link climate risks to local policy. The Green Team has also set up a **Foster a Tree** project, with trees to be planted by volunteers this autumn.

The group continues to **share knowledge on climate adaptation** through running stalls at local events, developing partnerships, launching a Facebook group to share information and advice, and working with schools to create events that students can organise themselves.

Burnham on Sea and Highbridge 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 Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge brought together residents, community groups, and town councilors, working in collaboration to co-create their community climate adaptation plan. These local collaborations have continued to grow and expand since the launch, facilitated by the £1,000 seed funding.

The plan continues to shape and advise a number of local actions and partnerships. Projects towards the priorities laid out in the plan are continuing in collaboration with the Town Council, Somerset Council and local organisations such as Green Wedmore.

## Useful links

[Act to Adapt - Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge Act to Adapt Project](#)

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

## Contacts

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