



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 Community Climate Adaptation Plan, Spaxton 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 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 **Community Climate Adaptation Plan**, we found that locals were very keen to get involved with the Act to Adapt process!



Talk



Shape



Act

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.

Spaxton shared their concerns and priorities, which was used to form the draft Community Climate Adaptation Plan.

To enhance the collective input of ideas into Spaxton's Climate Adaptation Plan, a consultation was carried out.

SWT attended the **Spring Flower Show** to promote the plan to locals. An online survey was also provided to increase the accessibility of feedback.

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.

Priority actions

Each community has identified four unique adaptation priorities that best suit their needs. For Spaxton, these four priority actions are:

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

For each priority, the Community Climate Adaptation Plan outlines 5-6 focused adaptation actions that have been identified through Act to Adapt.

Information includes the 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 Spaxton's Climate Adaptation Plan, early actions have focused on enhancing local green spaces, particularly through engagement with a **local school**. Plans are in place to install planters and develop a longer-term relationship with the school, building on recent collaboration through the village Flower Show.

Flooding has been identified as a key priority within the plan; a specific site has been selected to explore challenges in more detail, with coordination underway between landowners, farmers, Highways, and the Somerset Rivers Authority. Practical actions have already been delivered, including **ditch clearance** over the autumn. Future measures, such as rainwater harvesting, are also being developed to improve resilience. Progress has been shared through the Local Community Network, and the community is beginning to formalise actions and funding applications!

The Poldens 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).

Useful links

[Act to Adapt - Spaxton](#)
[Act to Adapt Project](#)

[Adapt -e-Newsletter Sign Up](#)
[Climate Adaptation Toolkit](#)
[Somerset Rivers Authority \(SRA\)](#)

Contacts

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Thank you to those individuals who helped with the process, particularly Martin Brown and Scott Passmore.

Impacts

Although the initial £1,000 seed funding has not yet been drawn down, it has already supported the development of targeted proposals, including rainwater harvesting and school-based planting, which will help to deliver tangible environmental and educational benefits.

The community has strengthened its capacity to deliver climate adaptation through increased collaboration with local partners, including farmers, schools, and statutory bodies, while continuing a proactive approach to locally led action.