

Minehead Case Study

20th June 2024 - 19th January 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 was part of the 'Somerset's Wilder Coast' project, generously funded by the National Lottery Climate Action Fund and the Hinkley Point C Community Fund.

The process

Before the public engagement began, SWT communicated with local officials, community groups and the Town Council. Our initial contact with Minehead was to ensure that the community was ready to enact a **Community Climate Adaptation Plan**, where 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 their draft Community Climate Adaptation Plan.



Shape

To enhance the collective input of ideas into the Community Climate Adaptation Plan, a series of consultations were carried out.

In August and September 2024, SWT attended two local events, the **Minehead Bay Festival & Climate Fair**, to promote the plan to locals. An online survey was also provided to increase the accessibility of feedback.



Act

In January 2025, SWT launched Minehead's Climate Adaptation Plan to the community at an event at the Beach Hotel. The event was attended by local **MP Rachel Gilmour**, showing her support for the plan. The turnout and feedback from the community were both outstanding,

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 Minehead, these four priority actions are:

1. Improving and increasing green spaces
2. Adapting to flooding
3. Encouraging community-driven climate action
4. Promoting sustainable development

For each priority, Minehead's Climate Adaptation Plan outlines 5-8 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 actions, as well as specifying 'where', 'when' and 'who'.

Update: April 2026

Since the Launch of Minehead's Climate Adaptation Plan, the £1,000 seed funding has contributed to improving a green space behind the local church with a local baby/toddler group, through the purchase of plants and benches, which has **encouraged education** around planting.

National flood management techniques were also explored as part of the plan's legacy, where a member of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West (FWAG SW) visited frequently flooded areas and advised on leaky dams. Water butts have also been a popular suggestion!

The community has established a **Green Action Group** who meet regularly to plan continued actions towards each strategy, and are looking to develop an online hub to facilitate further community engagement. Workshops and events are also being planned to increase local capacity for action. The community, facilitated by Minehead Coast & Development Trust, continues to foster collaborations through this work, including Minehead Town Council, FWAG SW, and local landowners.

Minehead is 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

Minehead's Climate Adaptation Plan has helped to strengthen collaboration between community groups, councillors (including the MP), residents and local organisations, which has continued since post-Launch.

The initial seed funding of £1,000 has gone toward an identified priority action and has encouraged knock-on impacts, such as further funding for a seed bank.

The community are continuing to develop their capacity and knowledge-base, such as through workshops, to implement NbS throughout Minehead.

Useful links

[Act to Adapt - Minehead](#)

[Act to Adapt Project](#)

[Minehead and Coast Development Trust](#)

[Act to Adapt - eNewsletter Sign Up](#)

[Climate Adaptation Toolkit](#)

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

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