



Somerset
Wildlife Trust

Act to Adapt

Funded by
Somerset
Rivers Authority

Wells Case Study

Case Study: August 2025

20th October 2024 - 11 October 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), the community in Wells has come together through the Act to Adapt process to build a bespoke Community Climate Adaptation Plan.

The process

Before the public engagement began, SWT communicated with the Wells Environment Network (WEN), local officials, community groups and the Town 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

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 Climate Adaptation Plan, a series of consultations were carried out.

In November 2024 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 will be officially launched in conjunction with WEN at the Wells Eco Week (11-20 October 2025). The plan has been supported by local MP Tessa Munt. Turnout and feedback from the community throughout the Act to Adapt process has been outstanding.

Following the launch the plan will be handed to the community so that they can begin to implement the outlined adaptation strategies.

Adaptation strategies

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

1. Improving and increasing green spaces
2. Reducing flooding risks
3. Encouraging community-driven climate action
4. Co-ordinating emergency plans

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'.

Update: April 2026

Since the launch of Wells' Climate Adaptation Plan, the £1,000 seed funding has contributed to improving green space in Wells Recreation Ground through the creation and maintenance of flowerbeds. Volunteer community members planted local **drought-resistant and pollinator-friendly** wildflowers and installed educational signage which it is hoped will encourage further community-driven action.

Wells is also applying their strategy of partnering with educational institutions to encourage community driven climate action, as outlined in their plan. Cathedral School are now working with Reimagining the Levels, Somerset Rivers Authority and Wells City Council, on a planting project that will not only improve greenspace biodiversity but also reduce flood risks by contributing to **Slow the Flow** into a nearby stream.

WEN and Sustainable Wells have also formed a partnership to deliver a number of educational workshops to the community to increase capacity and understanding across all priorities.

Wells 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

The process for Wells has allowed for excellent communication between local groups and residents, which has continued post-launch.

The initial £1,000 seed fund has facilitated a community project towards the priorities.

The connections and communication brought about by the plan has continued to foster partnerships projects between community groups, local organisations, local and regional councils, residents and landowners.

Useful links

[Act to Adapt - Wells](#)

[Act to Adapt Project](#)

[Wells Environment Network](#)

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

[Climate Adaptation Toolkit](#)

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

Contacts

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