

# Climate Adaptation Plan



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**FROME  
2025**

Funded by

**Somerset**  
Rivers Authority

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The climate emergency poses many threats to Frome. Winters are becoming warmer and wetter, increasing flooding risks. Hotter and drier summers are increasing the risk of droughts, heatwaves and wildfires.

**Adapting to these changes is urgent and essential to reduce the impacts on our buildings, infrastructure, wildlife, green spaces and the daily life of Frome's residents.**

Through collaborative events, residents from Frome have identified four key themes for how Frome should adapt to the changing climate:



## Improving and increasing green spaces



## Adapting to extreme weather



## Sharing knowledge and raising awareness



## Planning and development for nature and food

The resulting plan:

- reflects the priorities of Frome's community
- outlines adaptation actions under each key theme
- gives guidance on taking action
- highlights the co-benefits of each priority, such as improving water quality or health and well-being



Explore this plan to discover the actions you and your community can take to adapt to climate change. Your support and contributions will be vital to ensure we can build a better adapted, resilient and connected future for Frome.

See what other communities are doing at: [www.somersetwildlife.org/act-to-adapt](http://www.somersetwildlife.org/act-to-adapt)

**To find out how you can get more involved contact:**

**Matt Mellen - [mmellen@frometowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:mmellen@frometowncouncil.gov.uk)**

**Climate Action Lead**

**Frome Town Council**

**FrOme**  
TOWN COUNCIL

# INTRODUCTION

Since May 2025, local residents from Frome and Somerset Wildlife Trust have been working together to address the following challenge:

**"How can we help Frome adapt to climate change?"**

The impacts of the climate emergency are already unfolding. Sea levels are rising and extreme weather events such as flooding, extreme heat, droughts and wildfires are all likely to occur more frequently in Somerset. Thankfully, there are lots of ways that communities can act together to be better prepared for the changes and build a positive future where people and nature can thrive. Climate change is already impacting Frome; there is an urgent need to adapt.



Somerset Wildlife Trust has been raising awareness of adaptation and encouraging communities across the county to develop plans. In a unique collaboration with Frome, we started developing a locally tailored Climate Adaptation Plan.



Beginning with a Climate Adaptation Workshop event at the Cheese and Grain, the '[Act to Adapt](#)' process has brought together residents, community groups, councillors and Somerset Wildlife Trust's [Climate Adaptation](#) team to:

- Talk about climate change projections for Somerset
- Discuss the need for adaptation in Frome
- Co-create a bespoke climate adaptation plan, using the [Climate Adaptation Toolkit](#) for communities

We have also highlighted the adaptation benefits of each priority and additional 'co-benefits'. These include mitigating climate change or supporting biodiversity to demonstrate how they will support Frome in becoming better adapted and more resilient to our changing climate.





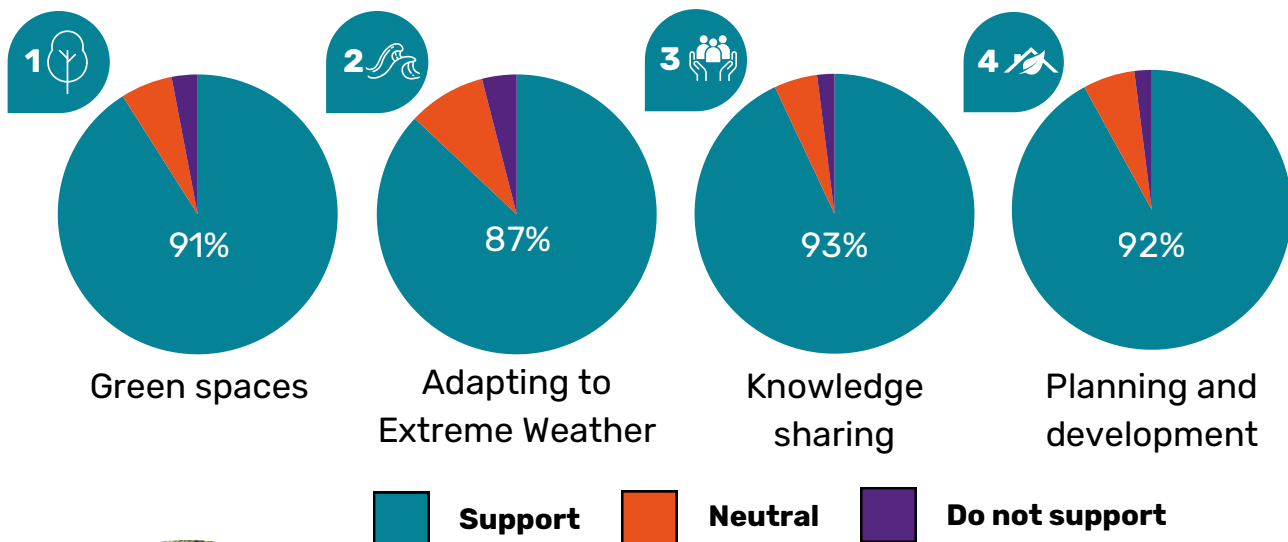
# SHAPING THE FROME PLAN

Following our initial events, we compiled the adaptation priorities and actions suggested by participants and turned these into a Draft Climate Adaptation Plan for Frome. To ensure that the plan better reflects the needs and priorities of Frome, we organised a consultation period to gather feedback on the existing priorities and ideas for new adaptation actions from more residents.



In June 2025, we held two in-person consultations where residents learnt more about climate adaptation, read the draft plan and helped shape the full plan by completing a survey and sharing their ideas. For those unable to attend these events, we also had an online survey and opportunities to provide more detailed feedback by email.

49 respondents also provided feedback on how strongly they **support** each priority:



Hugh McKechnie / River Frome at Freshford Mill / CC BY-SA 2.0

Survey respondents reported which of the adaptation priority areas they felt were most important for Frome. In order from most to least important, these were:

1. Improving and increasing green spaces (36%)
2. Planning and development for nature and food (28%)
3. Adapting to extreme weather (18%)
4. Sharing knowledge and raising awareness (18%)

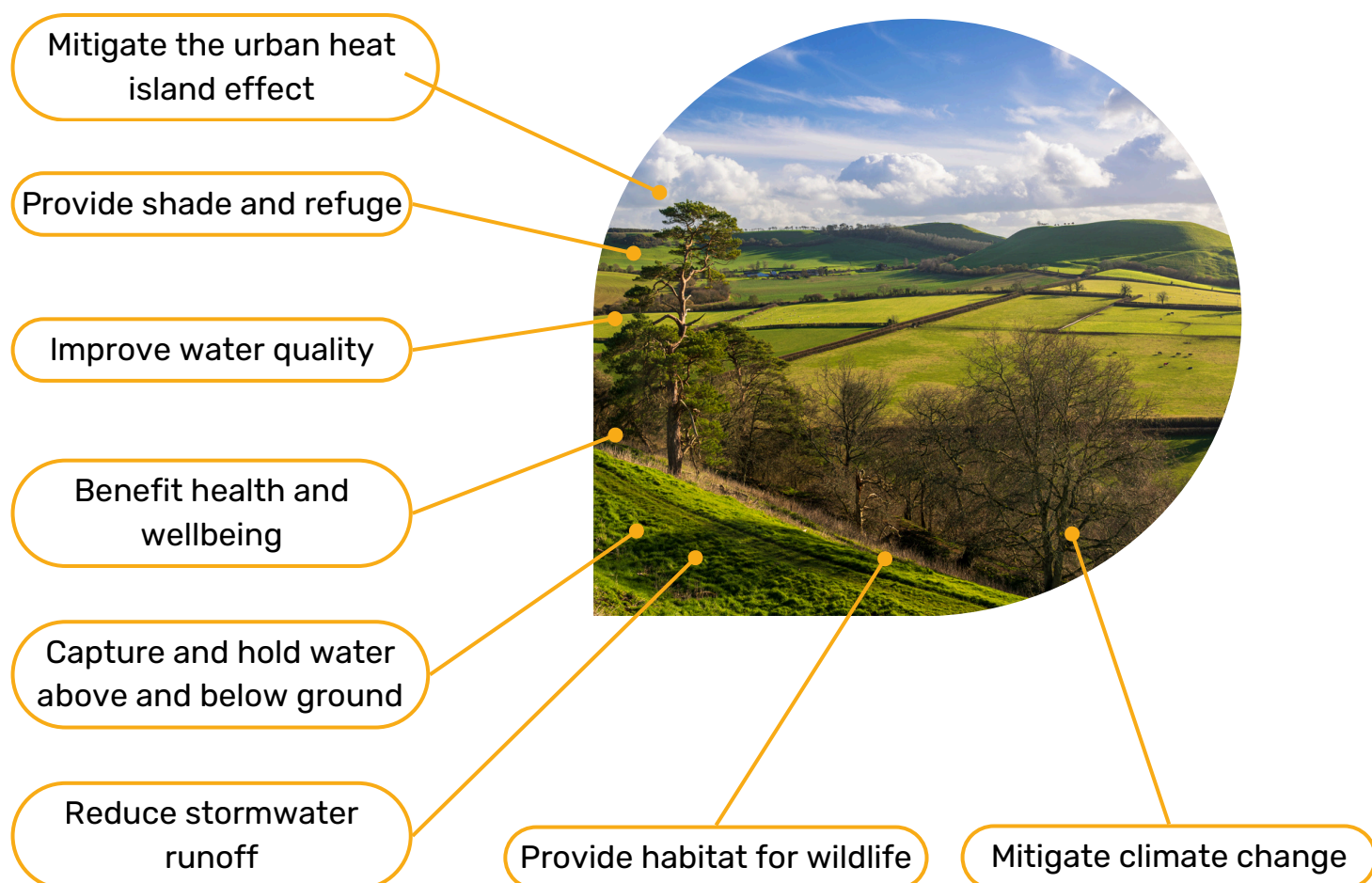
See Appendix I for more information about consultation responses.

To ensure this plan stays flexible and best serves Frome, residents should have regular opportunities to suggest additions, changes and improvements. If you have any suggestions for the plan, get in touch: **Matt Mellen** - [mmellen@frometowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:mmellen@frometowncouncil.gov.uk)

# 1. IMPROVING AND INCREASING GREEN SPACES



Actions to improve and increase green spaces could provide the following adaptation benefits and co-benefits to the local community:



# 1.1 - Increase tree planting



| Where:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Who:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rodden Meadow</li> <li>• The Old Showfield</li> <li>• Cheese and Grain car park</li> <li>• Whatcombe Fields</li> <li>• School grounds</li> <li>• Egford Park</li> <li>• Victoria Park</li> <li>• Tower View</li> <li>• Packsaddle</li> <li>• Brunel Way</li> <li>• Streets and neighbourhoods</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frome Town Council</li> <li>• Frome Town Rangers</li> <li>• Somerset Council</li> <li>• Wild Bunch</li> <li>• Friends of the River Frome</li> <li>• Trees for Cities</li> <li>• Woodland Trust</li> <li>• Wilder Selwood</li> <li>• Forest of Avon</li> <li>• Avon Needs Trees</li> <li>• Reimagining the Levels</li> <li>• Frome Families for the Future</li> <li>• Tree Group Frome</li> <li>• Shared Earth Learning</li> <li>• FROGS Frome</li> <li>• Schools</li> <li>• Multi-Academy Trusts</li> </ul> |

## How:

**Identify suitable planting locations:** Work with local landowners and community groups to identify areas suitable for tree and hedge planting. Consider parks, streets, school grounds, unused land and car parks where trees can provide valuable shade and cooling.

**Develop a planting plan:** Create a plan that outlines where different tree and hedge species will be planted. Choose a variety of native trees like Hazel, Rowan, Crab apple and Hawthorn that are well-suited to the area's climate and soil conditions. Focus particularly on areas identified by the community as priorities, including car parks for shading and new housing developments for greening infrastructure. Consult with local arborists or horticultural experts to ensure the best selection for each location, taking into account drainage issues and flood risk management.

**Create a community orchard:** Identify a suitable location for a community orchard. Work with local experts to select appropriate fruit tree varieties that will thrive in the area's climate. Establish a community group to manage and maintain the orchard and develop guidelines for fruit harvesting and distribution.

**Conduct a water management study:** Collaborate with hydrologists and environmental scientists to study how different tree species affect water management and flood risk in the area's specific context. Use this information to inform tree selection and placement.

**Engage the community:** Organise volunteer planting days to involve residents in the tree planting efforts. This can help build community ownership and ensure long-term care of the trees. Provide training on proper planting techniques and aftercare. Create educational materials and signage explaining how different tree species contribute to water management, flood risk reduction, air quality improvements and cooling benefits.

**Establish maintenance plans:** Develop long-term maintenance plans for all trees. This should include watering schedules, pruning and monitoring for pests or diseases. Assign responsibilities to council staff, community groups or volunteers.

**Monitor and evaluate:** Regularly assess the health and growth of newly planted trees, as well as their impact on local drainage, flood risk, air quality and cooling effects. Use this information to refine future planting and maintenance strategies.



## Useful links:

1. [Community tree project](#) | [Forest of Selwood](#)
2. [Free trees for schools and communities](#) | [Woodland Trust](#)
3. [Tree planting advice](#) | [Woodland Trust](#)
4. [Managing and caring for trees](#) | [Tree Council](#)





## 1.2 - Build and enhance climate-resilient wildlife spaces



| Where:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Who:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Broadway Community Garden</li><li>• Old Showfield</li><li>• Rodden Meadow</li><li>• Egford Park</li><li>• Whatcombe Fields</li><li>• School grounds</li><li>• Milk Street Green</li><li>• Brunel Way</li><li>• The Roundhouse</li><li>• Private Gardens</li><li>• Churchyards</li><li>• Easthill Field</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frome Town Council</li><li>• Wild Bunch</li><li>• Somerset Wildlife Trust</li><li>• Frome Seed Library</li><li>• Shared Earth Learning</li><li>• FROGS Frome</li><li>• Frome Families for the Future</li><li>• Meadow in My Garden</li><li>• Housing Associations</li><li>• Friends of Easthill Field</li></ul> |

## How:

**Identify suitable locations for wildlife spaces:** Work with local landowners and community groups to identify areas suitable for creating or enhancing climate-resilient wildlife habitats. Consider parks, school grounds, churchyards, green corridors and private gardens where microhabitats can be established to support both wildlife and climate adaptation.

**Create microhabitats for water management and cooling:** Design and implement small-scale habitats that serve dual purposes of supporting wildlife whilst providing climate benefits. Install features such as shallow scrapes, seasonal ponds and rain gardens that catch and store water during heavy rainfall. Create rock piles, log stacks and dense shrub plantings that provide shade and natural cooling whilst offering shelter for wildlife.

**Enhance existing wildlife habitats:** Assess current green spaces and identify opportunities to make them more climate-resilient whilst better supporting local wildlife. This could include reducing mowing frequencies to allow wildflower meadows to develop, creating diverse planting schemes with native species and establishing wildlife corridors that connect fragmented habitats across the community.

**Promote wildlife-friendly gardening:** Partner with TeamWilder ([teamwilder@somersetwildlife.org](mailto:teamwilder@somersetwildlife.org)) and the Wild Bunch to encourage residents to create wildlife-friendly gardens that also provide climate benefits. Promote leaving areas wild, creating deadwood piles and growing diverse native plants. Encourage ideas such as planting species-rich mini-meadows using local wildflower seeds, installing bee hotels and hedgehog highways, creating small ponds for varied habitats and allowing some areas to flourish naturally for insects.

**Engage the community:** Organise volunteer days to involve residents in creating and maintaining wildlife spaces. Provide training on wildlife gardening techniques and habitat creation. Create educational materials and signage explaining how wildlife-friendly spaces contribute to climate adaptation through water management, temperature regulation and biodiversity support.

**Establish maintenance plans:** Develop long-term management plans that balance wildlife needs with climate resilience. This should include seasonal management activities, monitoring schedules and guidelines for maintaining the delicate balance between intervention and allowing natural processes.

**Monitor and evaluate:** Regularly assess the effectiveness of wildlife spaces in supporting both biodiversity and climate adaptation goals. Monitor wildlife usage, water retention capabilities and temperature regulation benefits. Use this information to refine future habitat creation and management strategies.



## Useful links:

1. [Team Wilder](#) | [Somerset Wildlife Trust](#)
2. [Futureproofing green spaces for climate resilience PDF](#) | [University of the West of England Bristol](#)
3. [Creating micro-habitats](#) | [Live to Plant](#)



## 1.3 - Create and enhance community-led green initiatives



| Where:                                                         | Who:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Across Frome</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frome Town Council</li><li>• Frome Medical Practice</li><li>• Health Connection</li><li>• Frome Families for the Future</li><li>• Sustainable Frome</li><li>• Somerset Wildlife Trust</li><li>• Future Shed</li><li>• Wild Bunch</li><li>• Everyone Needs Pockets</li><li>• Community Bike Project</li><li>• Reimagining the levels</li><li>• Forest of Selwood</li><li>• Heal Rewilding</li><li>• 42 Acres</li><li>• Green and Healthy Frome</li><li>• Meadow in My Garden</li></ul> |

## How:

**Plan wildlife corridors:** Identify and map all small green spaces within the community. Implement coordinated planting schemes using native species, bulbs and shrubs to improve biodiversity. Install wildlife features like bird and bat boxes, bug hotels and small ponds where appropriate. Create continuous wildlife corridors between these spaces by planting hedgerows or wildflower strips along connecting routes.

**Create wild areas in playing fields:** Identify portions of existing playing fields suitable for rewilding. Plant native wildflowers and shrubs to enhance biodiversity. Install informational signs explaining the importance of these wild spaces to educate the community about their climate and wildlife benefits.

**Promote community gardening initiatives:** Support grassroots gardening efforts including guerrilla gardening in town centres and other underutilised spaces. Encourage residents to take control of local green spaces at the community level, transforming neglected areas into productive wildlife habitats and food-growing spaces.

**Establish demonstration sites:** Designate specific green spaces as demonstration sites showcasing climate-resilient wildlife habitats. These areas can serve as living examples of what's possible, featuring diverse native plantings, water management features and wildlife-friendly design. Use these sites for educational visits and community workshops.

**Host workshops on urban greening and biodiversity:** Organise regular talks featuring Somerset Wildlife Trust representatives, local landscape architects and climate scientists. Include practical sessions on creating wildlife-friendly spaces that provide climate adaptation benefits.

**Engage with Team Wilder:** Partner with Team Wilder ([teamwilder@somersetwildlife.org](mailto:teamwilder@somersetwildlife.org)) to provide expert guidance on creating wildlife-friendly spaces that support climate adaptation. Access their resources on habitat creation and native plant selection.

**Monitor via assessments:** Partner with organisations to assess land vulnerability to climate change. Monitor biodiversity levels, ensuring invasive populations are kept to a minimum whilst tracking the effectiveness of wildlife corridors in supporting both species diversity and climate resilience.



## Useful links:

1. [Community ownership of green spaces | MyCommunity](#)
2. [How to create a wildlife garden | Royal Horticultural Society](#)
3. [How UK cities are getting greener | Greenpeace](#)





## 1.4 - Build soil health



| Where:                                                                                                                            | Who:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parks</li><li>• Private Gardens</li><li>• Meadows</li><li>• Fields around Frome</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frome Town Council</li><li>• Frome Town Council Rangers</li><li>• Loop Compost</li><li>• Homeowners</li><li>• Local Landowners</li><li>• Somerset Wildlife Trust</li><li>• Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group</li></ul> |

## How:

**Develop community composting systems:** Expand existing composting initiatives like Loop Compost to create more community composting opportunities throughout Frome. Establish additional composting sites and collection points across the town. Encourage schools to divert food waste into composting programmes, creating valuable soil amendments whilst reducing waste going to landfill.

**Create town-wide mulching programme:** Use local green waste to create mulch for community spaces, ensuring no soil is left bare. Coordinate with the council's grounds teams to collect grass clippings, pruned branches and autumn leaves to create natural mulch. Distribute this mulch to community gardens, public green spaces and residents' gardens to improve soil health and water retention.

**Engage with local landowners:** Partner with local farmers and landowners to promote regenerative agricultural practices that build soil health and carbon storage. Work with partner organisations to organise workshops and farm visits to demonstrate techniques such as cover cropping, reduced tillage and diverse crop rotations. Support landowners in accessing funding and advice for transitioning to more sustainable farming methods.

**Establish demonstration sites:** Create demonstration areas showcasing healthy soil practices. These sites can display different mulching techniques, composting methods and soil-building approaches. Use these spaces for educational workshops and community learning opportunities.

**Promote no-dig gardening:** Encourage residents to adopt no-dig gardening techniques that preserve soil structure and encourage beneficial soil organisms. Provide training on mulching methods, composting and natural soil improvement techniques that support both plant health and climate resilience.

**Monitor soil health improvements:** Partner with local environmental groups and agricultural organisations to assess soil health improvements across community spaces. Track metrics such as soil organic matter, water retention capacity and biodiversity of soil organisms.

**Continue building community knowledge:** Organise workshops on soil health, composting techniques and sustainable gardening practices. Partner with local experts and organisations to share knowledge about building resilient soils that can better cope with climate extremes whilst supporting healthy plant growth and wildlife.



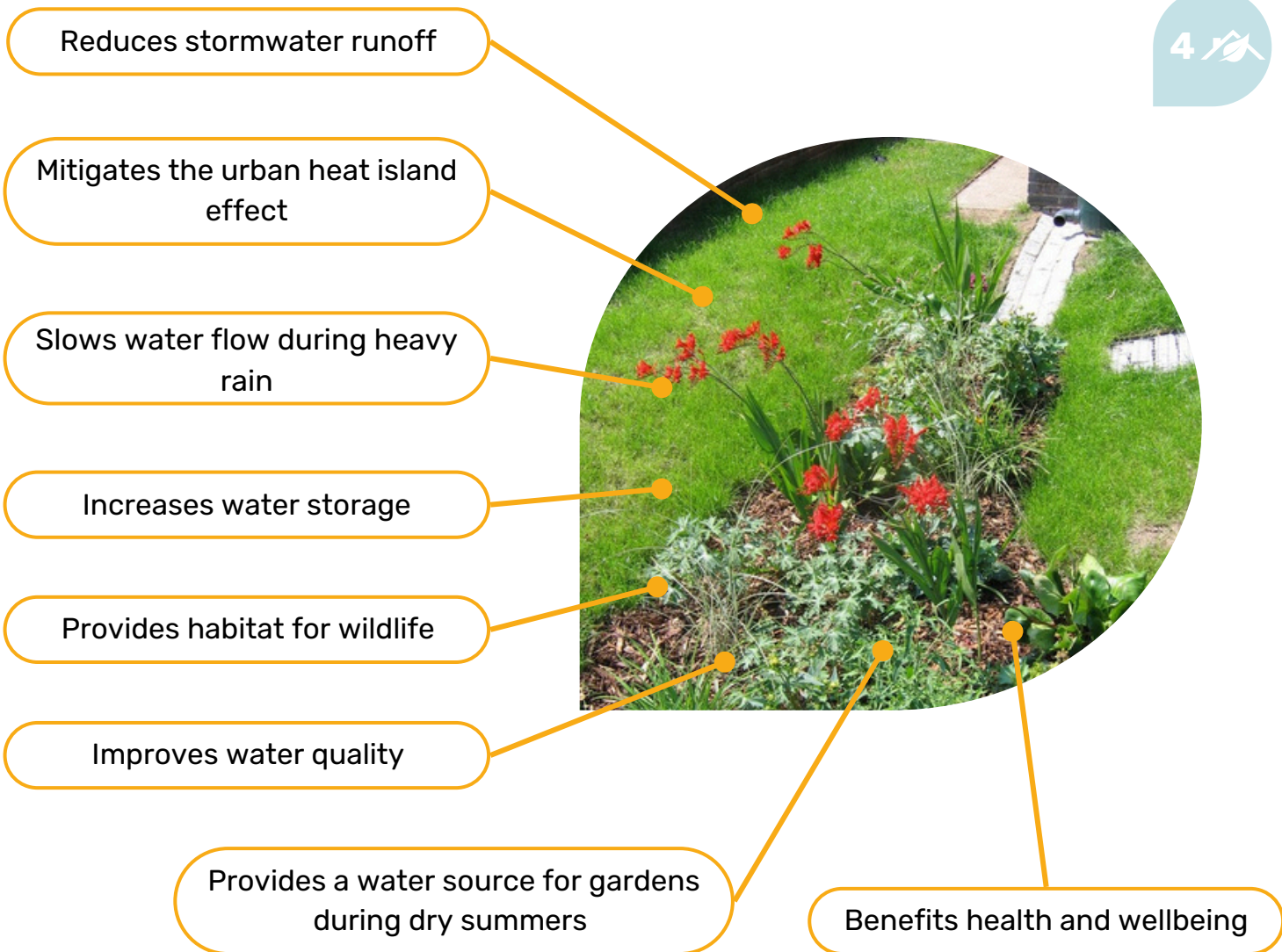
## Useful links:

1. [Improving soil health](#) | [Royal Horticultural Society](#)
2. [Improving soil health](#) | [GrowVeg](#)
3. [Guide to no-dig gardening](#) | [Gardeners World](#)

# 2. ADAPTING TO EXTREME WEATHER

*Flooding, Drought and Storms*

Actions to reduce extreme weather risks could provide the following adaptation benefits and co-benefits to the local community:



## 2.1 - Improve drainage infrastructure



| Where:                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Who:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flood risk areas</li><li>• Rodden Meadow</li><li>• Adderwell</li><li>• The Dippy</li><li>• Welshmill</li><li>• Lower Innox</li><li>• Whatcombe Fields</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frome Town Council</li><li>• Somerset Council</li><li>• Somerset Highways</li><li>• Somerset River Authority</li><li>• Housing associations</li><li>• Large landowners</li><li>• Owners of industrial estates</li></ul> |

## **How:**

**Develop a drainage maintenance plan:** Create a detailed plan that outlines all drainage systems in Frome, including street drains, culverts, and watercourses. Map these systems and identify areas prone to blockages or flooding. Organise regular checks of the main culvert system. Engage professional surveyors or drainage experts to assess the condition of culverts and identify any areas requiring repair or upgrade.

**Establish regular clearing schedule:** Implement a routine maintenance schedule for clearing blocked drains, with increased frequency for high-risk areas. Coordinate with local council services or contractors to ensure consistent execution. Develop an 'adopt a drain' scheme where community members take responsibility for keeping local drains clear of debris.

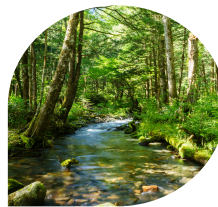
**Design infrastructure for future climate conditions:** Ensure new drainage infrastructure is designed to cope with projected increases in rainfall intensity and frequency. Incorporate climate projections into all planning decisions regarding drainage improvements. Plan for adequate capacity that considers future development and climate change impacts.

**Maintain and enhance watercourses:** Develop systematic approaches for maintaining watercourses whilst preserving their ecological value. Work with the Environment Agency and local landowners to ensure proper maintenance of rivers and streams. Design watercourse management plans that consider future climate conditions and increased water flows.

**Integrate sustainable drainage systems:** Build infrastructure that includes sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), renewables and rainwater harvesting tanks as standard in all new developments. Promote retrofitting of existing properties with water butts, permeable paving and rain gardens to reduce pressure on formal drainage systems.

**Engage with the community:** Organise awareness campaigns to educate residents about the importance of keeping drains clear. Encourage community involvement in reporting issues and, where appropriate, in maintenance activities through 'adopt a drain' initiatives.

**Monitor and evaluate effectiveness:** Implement a system to track the frequency and effectiveness of maintenance activities. Use this data to refine the maintenance schedule and identify areas requiring more attention. Conduct annual reviews of the drainage maintenance plan, incorporating lessons learned and adapting to any changes in local conditions.



## **Useful links:**

1. [Drainage and wastewater management plan | Wessex Water](#)
2. [Drains and gullies reporting | Somerset Council](#)
3. [Community Adopt-a-Drain Case Study | Keevil Village](#)





## 2.2 - Encourage rainwater harvesting and use



| Where:                                                                                                     | Who:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Homes</li><li>• Businesses</li><li>• Community buildings</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frome Town Council</li><li>• Somerset Council</li><li>• Somerset Prepared</li><li>• Wessex Water</li><li>• Sustainable Frome</li><li>• Friends of the River Frome</li><li>• Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA)</li><li>• Homeowners</li><li>• Gardeners</li><li>• Facilities managers</li></ul> |

## How:

**Apply to Wessex Water's Watermark Town programme:** This programme provides support and up to £5,000 funding, local data, marketing materials and expert support. Commit to promoting 'Raising Awareness' activities and implementing at least three 'Taking Action' activities over 12 months to achieve official Watermark Town status.

**Promote residential water harvesting:** Establish a community water butt scheme through Wessex Water's Rain Savers programme, which provides free water butts and expert advice. Provide installation support and guidance on connecting multiple water butts to increase storage capacity. Encourage residents to harvest rainwater from roofs, sheds and other structures for garden irrigation during dry periods.

**Create community water storage:** Develop community reservoirs and larger-scale water storage facilities to capture rainwater during periods of high rainfall for use during heatwaves and drought conditions. Explore opportunities for underground storage systems and above-ground community tanks that can serve multiple households.

**Install rain gardens and sustainable drainage:** Promote the creation of rain gardens in public spaces and private gardens to capture and slowly release rainwater whilst providing wildlife habitat. Work with Wessex Water's Rain Savers programme to implement sustainable drainage systems throughout Frome to manage surface water runoff and reduce flooding risk.

**Encourage greywater systems:** Raise awareness about greywater recycling systems that capture water from sinks, showers and washing machines for reuse in gardens and toilet flushing. Conduct water audits of council and community buildings to identify water-saving opportunities and prevent wastage.

**Create new water features:** Develop lakes, ponds and water features throughout the town that serve multiple purposes: water storage, wildlife habitat, cooling during hot weather and community amenity spaces. Design these features to capture and store rainwater whilst enhancing the town's natural environment.

**Build community knowledge:** Organise workshops through Wessex Water's Water Drop-In sessions and education services. Promote water-saving campaigns like 'Save Water, Save Money' to inspire community action and behaviour change whilst reducing household costs.



## Useful links:

1. [Guide to rainwater collecting in gardens](#) | [Royal Horticultural Society](#)
2. [Become a Watermark Town](#) | [Wessex Water](#)
3. [How to make a rain garden](#) | [Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust](#)



## 2.3 - Implement natural flood management techniques



| Where:                                                                                                                                                           | Who:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parks and green spaces</li><li>• Floodplains</li><li>• Housing estates</li><li>• The Dippy</li><li>• Adderwell</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frome Town Council</li><li>• Wessex Water</li><li>• Somerset Rivers Authority</li><li>• Friends of the River Frome</li><li>• Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group</li><li>• Environment Agency</li></ul> |

## How:

**Develop a natural flood management strategy:** Create a local water management plan that addresses the challenge of having too much water, too little water, or water in the wrong places. Work with hydrologists, ecologists and local environmental agencies to create a holistic plan for implementing natural flood management techniques across Frome and its surrounding catchment areas.

**Engage with local landowners:** Partner with farmers and landowners in the upper catchment areas to implement water management measures on their land. Encourage the creation of field ponds, wetland areas and buffer strips that slow water flow and provide natural flood storage. Support landowners in accessing funding through Environmental Land Management schemes and other grant opportunities for natural flood management projects.

**Promote widespread pond creation:** Launch a "pond in every garden" campaign encouraging residents to create ponds of all sizes, from small container ponds to larger garden features. Provide guidance on pond design, installation and maintenance. Organise community pond-digging events and bulk purchasing schemes for pond liners and equipment. Emphasise how garden ponds contribute to local flood management whilst supporting wildlife.

**Implement rain gardens across the town:** Create demonstration rain gardens in public spaces to showcase their effectiveness in managing surface water runoff. Provide residents with guidance, plants and materials to create rain gardens in their own properties. Design rain gardens to capture water from roads, car parks and buildings, allowing it to soak away naturally rather than overwhelming drainage systems.

**Restore natural water flow patterns:** Work with the Environment Agency and local landowners to restore natural meanders to straightened watercourses. Create floodplain reconnection projects that allow rivers to flood safely in designated areas during high water events.

**Plant riparian vegetation:** Establish trees and shrubs along waterways to slow water flow, reduce erosion and provide natural flood management. Focus on native species like willow and alder that thrive in wet conditions and provide excellent flood management benefits.

**Monitor and evaluate effectiveness:** Implement monitoring systems to assess the impact of natural flood management measures on local flood risk and water quality. Use this data to refine and improve the strategy over time.



## Useful links:

1. [Natural Flood Management Resources](#) | [Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group](#)
2. [Natural flood management Case Studies](#) | [Somerset Rivers Authorities](#)
3. [How to build a pond](#) | [The Wildlife Trusts](#)



## 2.4 - Create wetland habitat



| Where:                                                                                      | Who:                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adderwell</li><li>• Rodden Nature Reserve</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rangers</li><li>• Volunteers from local conservation groups</li><li>• Friends of the River Frome</li></ul> |



## **How:**

**Develop wetland restoration plan:** Create a plan for establishing wetland habitats across Frome, utilising the recently purchased land for floodplain restoration as a flagship project. Work with wetland specialists, ecologists and hydrologists to design wetlands that provide multiple benefits including flood management, wildlife habitat, water quality improvement and carbon storage.

**Restore floodplain connectivity:** Use the purchased land to demonstrate how floodplains can be restored to their natural function. Create shallow scrapes, seasonal pools and permanent wetland areas that can store excess water during flood events whilst providing valuable habitat for birds, amphibians and aquatic plants year-round.

**Create diverse wetland habitats:** Design a variety of wetland types including reed beds, marshy grasslands and open water areas to support different species. Establish native vegetation including emergent plants, rushes and sedges that filter water naturally whilst providing food and shelter for wildlife. Plant wetland edge species that can tolerate varying water levels.

**Plant supportive tree cover:** Establish native trees around wetland margins including willow, alder and birch that thrive in wet conditions. Create woodland buffers that provide additional habitat whilst helping to manage water flow into and out of wetland areas.

**Design community access and education:** Create wetland areas that can be accessed and enjoyed by the community through boardwalks, viewing platforms and interpretation panels. Use these spaces for educational activities and community engagement whilst demonstrating the multiple benefits of wetland restoration for climate adaptation and wildlife.

**Engage local stakeholders:** Involve farmers, landowners and community groups in wetland creation projects. Provide guidance on creating smaller wetland features on private land that connect to the main restoration sites, creating a network of habitats across the local area.

**Monitor ecological benefits:** Establish monitoring programmes to track water quality improvements, carbon sequestration and biodiversity enhancement. Work with local wildlife groups and citizen scientists to record species using the new wetland habitats, from dragonflies and water beetles to birds and mammals.



## **Useful links:**

1. [Climate Resilience and Wetlands | Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust](#)
2. [Wetland restoration: for people and planet | Natural England](#)
3. [Creating wetlands | The Great Fen](#)

## 2.5 - Restore river functions



| Where:              | Who:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| All along the Frome | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environment Agency</li><li>• Somerset Council</li><li>• Friends of the River Frome</li><li>• Wessex Water</li><li>• Somerset Rivers Authority</li><li>• Environment Agency</li><li>• Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group</li><li>• Frome Families for the Future</li><li>• Wilder Selwood</li><li>• Frome Beaver watch</li></ul> |

## **How:**

**Restore natural water flow patterns:** Work with the Environment Agency and local landowners to restore natural meanders to straightened watercourses. Create floodplain reconnection projects that allow rivers to flood safely in designated areas during high water events. Remove artificial barriers and channelisation that forces water to flow too quickly through the town.

**Make room for the river:** Identify areas where rivers can be given more space to flow naturally during flood events. Work with landowners to set back flood defences and create areas where controlled flooding can occur safely without damaging properties. Design green corridors along waterways that provide natural flood storage whilst creating attractive community spaces.

**Implement water flow slowing measures higher in the catchment:** Install natural barriers such as leaky dams, fallen trees and woody debris that slow water flow during high rainfall events whilst allowing normal flow during dry periods. Create a series of features throughout the catchment that collectively reduce peak flows and flooding downstream whilst reducing fire risks during dry periods.

**Partner with river-focused community groups:** Collaborate with community groups to focus on river storage solutions and coordinate water management across the catchment. Work together to identify priority areas for intervention and share resources for implementing natural flood management techniques.

**Support beaver initiatives:** Explore opportunities to support beaver populations in appropriate locations within the catchment. Support Beaver watch groups. Study how beaver dams can help slow water flow, create wetland habitats and reduce downstream flooding.

**Create natural storage areas:** Develop off-channel storage areas and backwaters that can hold excess water during flood events. Design these areas to provide multiple benefits including wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and natural water treatment.

**Monitor river health and function:** Establish monitoring programmes to assess improvements in river flow patterns, water quality and ecological health. Track the effectiveness of restoration measures in reducing flood risk whilst enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services.



## **Useful links:**

1. [Restoring rivers | The Rivers Trust](#)
2. [River and floodplain management | Environment Agency](#)
3. [Restoring rivers to their natural state | Environment Agency](#)
4. [Holnicote in Somerset Case Study | National Trust](#)

# 3. SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND RAISING AWARENESS



Building local climate knowledge and action in Frome could provide the following adaptation benefits and co-benefits to the local community:

Raises climate awareness

Motivates sustainable actions

Supports green economy

Enables youth leadership

Builds community collaboration

Enables informed choices

Supports sustainable living

Facilitates open dialogues



## 3.1 - Create solution-focused communications to engage new audiences



| Where:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Who:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-Person Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Frome Town Hall</li> <li>◦ Local libraries</li> <li>◦ Farmers' markets</li> <li>◦ Local events</li> <li>◦ Local publications - Frome Times</li> <li>◦ Local Market</li> <li>◦ Radio - Frome FM</li> <li>◦ Television</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Online communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Community websites</li> <li>◦ Social media platforms</li> <li>◦ Email newsletters</li> <li>◦ Online forums</li> <li>◦ Local news websites</li> <li>◦ WhatsApp</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frome Town Council</li> <li>• Green and Healthy Frome</li> <li>• Future Shed</li> <li>• Frome Beaver Watch</li> <li>• Frome Families for the Future</li> <li>• National campaigners</li> <li>• Political parties</li> </ul> |



## **How:**

**Develop co-benefits messaging:** Create clear, positive communications that highlight how climate actions bring multiple benefits to daily life, such as improved air quality, reduced energy bills, enhanced local wildlife and stronger community connections. Use real local examples and success stories to demonstrate these benefits in action. Part of co-benefit messaging could be focussed on health benefits, there's lots of research on this at the moment, especially access to green space and value of woodlands to health and the economy.

**Create inclusive action plans:** Design simple, accessible action plans that show how everyone can contribute, regardless of age, ability, or background. Develop specific roles for different groups (families, businesses, schools, community groups) and provide clear, achievable steps that people can take immediately.

**Build inter-community networks:** Establish regular connections with neighbouring towns and villages to share experiences, resources and successful approaches. Organise joint events, create shared online platforms and develop exchange programmes where communities can learn from each other's climate initiatives.

**Shift to solution-focused narratives:** Move away from doom-and-gloom messaging to focus on opportunities, innovations and positive local changes. Highlight community successes, celebrate progress and frame climate action as an exciting chance to build a better future together.

**Establish beaver groups and wildlife watching:** Create community groups focused on local wildlife success stories. Use wildlife watching as a way to connect people with nature and demonstrate the positive impacts of environmental restoration.

**Develop storytelling networks:** Train community members to become effective storytellers who can share both local environmental successes and connect them to global movements. Create opportunities for people to share their own stories of positive change and environmental connection through community events, social media and local media partnerships.

**Engage non-traditional audiences:** Reach out to groups not typically involved in environmental action through their existing interests and meeting spaces. Partner with sports clubs, hobby groups, religious organisations and local businesses to bring climate conversations into spaces where people already gather.



## **Useful links:**

1. [Engaging audiences with Sustainability PDF | BBC](#)
2. [Communicating climate change to mass public audiences PDF | Climate Change Communication Advisory Group](#)
3. [Engaging the public on climate risks and adaptation PDF | Climate Outreach](#)
4. [Communication resources | Climate Outreach](#)



## 3.2 - Connect and support community groups



| Where:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Who:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-Person Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Frome Town Hall</li> <li>◦ Local libraries</li> <li>◦ Farmers' markets</li> <li>◦ Local events</li> <li>◦ Local publications - Frome Times</li> <li>◦ Local Market</li> <li>◦ Frome Radio</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Online communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Community websites</li> <li>◦ Social media platforms</li> <li>◦ Email newsletters</li> <li>◦ Online forums</li> <li>◦ Local news websites</li> <li>◦ WhatsApp</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frome Town Council</li> <li>• Frome Climate Action WhatsApp Group</li> <li>• Sustainable Frome</li> <li>• Frome Neighbourhood Network</li> <li>• One Zero</li> <li>• Wild Bunch</li> <li>• Fair Frome</li> <li>• Edventure</li> <li>• Future Shed</li> <li>• Frome Community Bike Project</li> <li>• Friends of the River Frome</li> <li>• Frome Families for the Future</li> <li>• Green and Health Frome</li> </ul> |

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## **How:**

**Form climate adaptation working groups:** Establish dedicated working groups focusing on key topic areas such as food security, planning responses, emergency preparedness and nature recovery. Recruit members with relevant skills and interests and provide each group with clear objectives and regular meeting schedules to maintain momentum.

**Build on existing neighbourhood networks:** Strengthen current community connections by adding climate adaptation focus to established groups. Use successful models like Transition Streets Frome as inspiration to create neighbourhood-level climate action, where residents work together on practical solutions within their immediate area.

**Improve coordination between community groups:** Create regular communication channels between different local organisations to share resources, avoid duplication and amplify collective impact. Establish quarterly coordination meetings and shared online platforms where groups can update each other on activities and collaborate on joint initiatives.

**Engage existing community groups:** Reach out to established organisations such as residents' associations, hobby groups, faith communities and sports clubs to incorporate climate themes into their existing activities. Provide tailored resources and support to help these groups integrate environmental action into their regular programmes.

**Develop neighbourhood climate advocates:** Recruit and train volunteer 'Climate Advocates' for each street or neighbourhood area to serve as local points of contact and coordination. These advocates can facilitate peer-to-peer conversations, organise small-scale local projects and connect residents with wider community initiatives.

**Create storytelling and communication networks:** Establish regular storytelling events and communication channels to share successes and inspire action across the community. Use local media such as community newspapers, radio stations and social media to amplify positive stories and practical advice from neighbourhood-level climate action.

**Organise regular community gatherings:** Schedule frequent informal meetings, creative workshops and social events that bring different groups together around climate themes. Include artistic and creative elements to make sessions engaging and accessible, building social connections that strengthen the community's capacity for collective action.



## **Useful links:**

1. [Community group resources | Somerset Community Action Groups](#)
2. [Somerset Climate Action Network](#)
3. [8 Strategies for connecting communities | Community Circles](#)
4. [Connect Somerset](#)





- Frome Town Council
- Edventure
- Schools
- Future Shed
- Transition streets
- Frome Young Person Coordinator

## How:

**Create community imaginarium sessions:** Organise creative visioning workshops where residents can collectively imagine and design their ideal climate-adapted community. Use visual tools, mapping exercises and storytelling to help people articulate their hopes for the future, creating a shared positive vision that motivates action and guides decision-making.

**Transition Street walks:** Engage residents in walking assessments of their immediate neighbourhoods to identify opportunities for hyper-local climate action. Train community members to spot potential improvements such as areas suitable for water butts, locations where paving could be replaced with green spaces and sites for community growing projects.

**Expand community engagement activities:** Develop diverse participation opportunities that appeal to different interests, schedules and abilities. Create multiple entry points for involvement, from one-off volunteer days to ongoing project leadership roles, ensuring everyone can find meaningful ways to contribute to the community's climate vision.

**Prioritise youth and children's involvement:** Design specific programmes and decision-making roles for under-30s and children, recognising their stake in future outcomes. Create youth climate councils, school partnership projects and intergenerational mentoring programmes that give young people genuine influence over community climate planning.

**Develop empowering education partnerships:** Collaborate with local organisations, schools and businesses to create positive, solution-focused climate education that emphasises opportunities rather than problems. Focus on practical skills, local success stories and achievable actions that help people feel confident and capable of making a difference.

**Establish sharing networks for practical solutions:** Create platforms and events for residents to share successful climate adaptations and sustainable living practices. Document and promote effective local innovations, from water-saving techniques to community resource-sharing schemes, making practical solutions visible and accessible.

**Secure funding for grassroots initiatives:** Research and apply for grants, community funds and partnership opportunities that can support resident-led climate projects. Develop simple application processes and provide support to help community groups access resources for implementing their vision of positive local change.



## Useful links:

1. [How do we achieve nature positive? A vision and targets for the UK residential and commercial development sector](#) | [npj Urban Sustainability](#)
2. [The Futures Toolkit](#) | [Government Office for Science](#)
3. [The Three Horizons Framework](#) | [New Philanthropy Capital](#)





## 3.4 - Run regular climate engagement events



| Where:                                                                                                                                                                                         | Who:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frome Town Hall</li><li>• Green spaces across town</li><li>• Welshmill Hub</li><li>• Silk Mill</li><li>• Trinity Church</li><li>• Key Centre</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frome Town Council</li><li>• Edventure</li><li>• Schools</li><li>• Future Shed</li><li>• Transition streets</li><li>• Frome Young Person Coordinator</li><li>• Frome Families for Future</li></ul> |

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## **How:**

**Establish regular community presence:** Set up weekly information stands at local markets, community centres and high-footfall areas to maintain consistent visibility and engagement. Create eye-catching displays with practical resources, local success stories and opportunities for people to get involved in ongoing climate initiatives.

**Design events for diverse audiences:** Develop targeted engagement approaches for different community groups, including school visits, workplace presentations and outreach to groups not traditionally involved in environmental action. Create welcoming spaces where people feel comfortable asking questions and exploring climate issues at their own pace.

**Create practical action resources:** Develop clear, accessible lists of home-based climate actions such as installing water butts, improving insulation and reducing energy use. Provide step-by-step guides, local supplier information and support networks to help people implement these changes successfully.

**Build ambitious community projects:** Organise events that inspire people to participate in larger-scale local climate initiatives. Present exciting, achievable visions for community transformation and provide clear pathways for people to contribute their skills, time or resources to making these visions reality.

**Establish network of community hubs:** Partner with existing venues such as community centres, cafes and cultural spaces to host regular climate-focused events. Create a culture of knowledge-sharing and collaboration across different locations, making climate engagement accessible throughout the community.

**Facilitate open dialogue sessions:** Organise regular forums, people's assemblies and discussion groups where residents can openly explore climate challenges and solutions. Focus on topics that directly affect daily life, such as food security, housing and local environmental changes, encouraging honest conversation and collective problem-solving.

**Develop effective storytelling approaches:** Train community members to share climate stories that inspire action rather than create despair. Focus on local successes, practical solutions and positive changes that demonstrate how individual and collective action can make a meaningful difference.

**Build consensus and strengthen connections:** Create collaborative processes to identify shared values and priorities around climate action, documenting areas of community agreement. Design events that strengthen neighbourhood relationships and provide tools for emotional resilience, recognising that climate engagement requires strong community support networks.



## **Useful links:**

1. [The power of in-person events: a case study in climate change engagement | Comms2point0](#)
2. [Five principles for good public engagement PDF | Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations](#)
3. [Engaging people in climate action | The National Lottery](#)



## 3.5 - Engage with schools



Who:

- Earth House
- Avanti Park School
- Christ Church CofE First School
- Hayesdown First School
- St Johns C of E First School
- St Louis Primary School
- Trinity First School
- Vallis First School
- Oakfield Academy
- Selwood Academy
- Frome College - Earth House
- Critchill
- Frome home ed group
- Young Somerset
- Home education groups
- Green and healthy Frome

## How:

**Establish an Education-Climate Partnership Group:** Form a dedicated group comprising representatives from local schools, the Parish Council and environmental experts to oversee educational climate initiatives. Develop educational programmes and resources for local schools and youth organisations to engage young people in climate issues and solutions.

**Implement climate adaptation projects in schools:** Work with schools to create climate-resilient gardens or outdoor learning spaces. Support the installation of water butts, rain gardens or other sustainable drainage features on school grounds. Research existing citizen science projects relevant to climate change and local environmental issues. Adapt these projects for local implementation or develop community-specific projects that contribute to wider environmental monitoring.

**Develop practical skills education:** Create hands-on learning opportunities that teach young people practical climate adaptation and sustainability skills. Include activities such as food growing, renewable energy projects and traditional crafts that build resilience and connection to the natural world.

**Design inspiring nature education programmes:** Develop curriculum content that helps children and young people fall in love with the natural world, creating emotional connections that motivate long-term environmental stewardship. Use local wildlife sites, seasonal changes and hands-on nature experiences to build understanding and appreciation.

**Organise family engagement events:** Create activities that bring children and parents together around climate themes, such as second-hand fashion events, repair cafes and local environmental celebrations. Use these events to extend climate education beyond the classroom and into family life.

**Develop climate champions programme:** Establish a programme where students can become 'Climate Champions' in their schools. Provide training and resources for these champions to lead climate initiatives and educate their peers across different age groups.

**Create inter-school climate networks:** Facilitate regular meetings or events where students from different schools can share their climate project experiences and ideas, building connections and shared learning across the educational community.

**Advocate for curriculum reform:** Work with schools and education authorities to integrate climate adaptation and nature recovery education into mainstream teaching. Focus on making environmental education accessible through plain English communication and practical, locally-relevant examples.



## Useful links:

1. [Education is key to addressing climate change | United Nations](#)
2. [Organisations that can help you take action | Let's Go Zero](#)
3. [Schools climate action planner | Transform Our World](#)
4. [Supporting student projects | WWF](#)

## 3.6 - Create emergency response plans and safe spaces



| Where:                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Who:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cheese and Grain building</li><li>• Frome Town Hall</li><li>• Frome Medical Practice</li><li>• Churches - Trinity, St John, Christchurch</li><li>• Badgers Hill?</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frome Town Council</li><li>• Frome Medical Practice</li><li>• Church groups</li><li>• Cheese and Grain team</li><li>• Frome Neighbourhood Network</li><li>• Sustainable Frome</li><li>• Sports clubs</li><li>• Emergency services</li></ul> |



## How:

**Develop community emergency infrastructure:** Create dedicated emergency hubs in each neighbourhood with backup power systems, emergency supplies and communication equipment. Work with local authorities to identify suitable buildings and establish agreements for their use during climate emergencies such as extreme weather events.

**Establish cooling and warming centres:** Designate and equip community spaces that can serve as refuges during extreme temperatures. Install renewable energy systems where possible to ensure these spaces remain operational during power outages and ensure they are accessible to people with mobility needs.

**Create neighbourhood emergency planning groups:** Organise regular community meetings to develop hyper-local emergency response plans tailored to each area's specific risks and resources. Use these gatherings to share skills, identify vulnerable residents who may need additional support and establish communication networks for emergency situations.

**Build community resilience supplies:** Encourage and support residents to maintain household emergency supplies including two weeks of food, water, battery-powered radios and essential medications. Organise bulk purchasing schemes and community storage facilities to make emergency preparedness more affordable and accessible.

**Develop emergency education programmes:** Create accessible information resources and training sessions covering essential emergency skills such as food preservation, water purification, basic first aid and home resilience improvements. Distribute clear, practical guidance on what to do during different types of climate emergencies.

**Plan for climate migration support:** Work with local authorities and community groups to develop infrastructure and support systems for people who may need to relocate due to climate impacts. Include temporary accommodation planning, integration support and resource sharing networks.

**Support vulnerable residents:** Establish neighbourhood care networks that regularly check on elderly, disabled or isolated community members during extreme weather events. Create buddy systems and ensure emergency plans include specific provisions for those who may need additional assistance.

**Strengthen community food security:** Develop local food hubs and community growing projects that can provide emergency food supplies during disruptions. Establish seed libraries, preserve food preparation skills and create networks for sharing resources during difficult periods.



## Useful links:

1. [Information for communities and community groups during an emergency | Government Website](#)
2. [Toolkit for community resilience from flooding in urban areas | British Red Cross](#)
3. [Information and training for neighbourhood emergency planning | Somerset Prepared](#)

# 4. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR NATURE AND FOOD

Influencing local planning and development in Frome could provide the following adaptation benefits and co-benefits to the local community:



Enhances climate resilience

Fosters collaboration

Facilitates communication

Involves the community

Supports sustainable living

Reduces heatwave impacts

Reduces flooding risks

Promotes environmental stewardship



## 4.1 - Review planning policies and lobby for climate resilient development



Who:

- Frome Town Council
- Somerset Council
- Sustainable Frome
- Local MP's

## How:

**Establish a climate planning working group:** Form a dedicated group comprising local residents, planning experts, environmental professionals and town councillors to systematically influence and guide planning decisions. Create clear terms of reference focusing on ensuring all new housing developments meet high climate resilience standards and support community adaptation goals.

**Develop climate resilience standards for new developments:** Create guidelines that require new housing to include features such as sustainable drainage systems, renewable energy, enhanced insulation and green infrastructure. Work with local planning authorities to integrate these standards into planning policies and ensure they become mandatory requirements rather than optional considerations.

**Create a planning application review system:** Establish a process to systematically review and respond to all planning applications using climate resilience criteria. Train working group members to identify key issues and provide detailed, evidence-based responses that highlight climate risks and propose solutions for improving development proposals.

**Advocate for retrofit support policies:** Lobby Somerset Council to develop policies and funding mechanisms that support existing residents to improve the climate resilience of their homes. Push for programmes that provide grants, technical assistance and bulk purchasing schemes for insulation, renewable energy and flood protection measures.

**Engage local expertise and citizen knowledge:** Draw on the skills and experience of local residents, including architects, engineers, environmental scientists and community groups with relevant knowledge. Create regular consultation opportunities where citizens can contribute their insights to planning policy development and share practical experience of living with climate impacts.

**Coordinate policy review across council levels:** Work collaboratively with Somerset Council to review existing planning and infrastructure policies. Identify gaps in current approaches, propose specific improvements and advocate for coordinated policy changes that address climate resilience at both local and county levels.

**Monitor and evaluate development outcomes:** Establish systems to track whether new developments are meeting climate resilience standards and achieving intended outcomes. Use this evidence to refine policies, hold developers accountable and demonstrate the effectiveness of climate-focused planning approaches to other communities and authorities.



## Useful links:

1. [How to respond to planning applications: an 8-step guide](#) | [Campaign to Protect Rural England](#)
2. [Influencing the planning process \(England\)](#) | [Commons Library](#)
3. [Information requirements for planning applications](#) | [Somerset Council](#)
4. [Adapting buildings guidance](#) | [Climate Just](#)

## 4.2 - Co-create a master plan for climate-resilient town and infrastructure



Who:

- Frome Town Council
- Somerset Council
- Field to Fork
- Sustainable Food Somerset
- Frome Food Network
- Frome Medical Practice
- Health Connection



## How:

**Create a town-wide climate resilience vision:** Bring together residents, businesses and community groups to collectively imagine and map what a fully climate-adapted Frome would look like in 2040. Use community workshops, creative visualisation exercises and collaborative mapping to develop a shared understanding of infrastructure needs, green corridors, energy systems and community facilities.

**Develop integrated infrastructure systems:** Design interconnected solutions that address multiple climate challenges simultaneously, such as combining flood management with urban cooling, renewable energy generation with community spaces and transport networks with green corridors. Focus on creating synergies between different infrastructure elements.

**Map community assets and climate risks:** Conduct community-led audits that identify existing resources, vulnerable areas and opportunities for improvement across the town. Engage local residents as expert mappers of their neighbourhoods, documenting everything from flood-prone areas to potential community growing sites.

**Design climate-smart transport and movement networks:** Plan walking and cycling routes that provide shade and flood resilience, while connecting key community facilities, employment areas and green spaces. Integrate electric vehicle charging, public transport improvements and active travel infrastructure as part of a mobility strategy.

**Plan community energy and resource systems:** Explore opportunities for neighbourhood-scale renewable energy generation, community energy storage, local food production networks and waste reduction systems. Consider how different areas of the town can specialise in different aspects of local resilience while sharing resources.

**Establish climate adaptation zones:** Identify different areas of the town that require specific approaches to climate resilience, such as flood-prone areas needing enhanced drainage, urban heat islands requiring cooling infrastructure or community hubs needing emergency response facilities.

**Create implementation partnerships:** Build relationships with local authorities, neighbouring communities, technical specialists and funding bodies to ensure the master plan can be delivered effectively. Establish governance structures that maintain community control while accessing necessary expertise and resources.



## Useful links:

1. [Practical guide: how to plan a garden city for climate adaptation | TCPA](#)
2. [A practical guide to climate-resilient buildings & communities | UN](#)
3. [Technical guidance and best practice guidance for adapting buildings to climate change | EU](#)
4. [Policy writing and community engagement for low carbon neighbourhoods | Neighbourhood Planning](#)

## 4.3 - Co-create local food resilience plan



Who:

- Somerset Council
- Field to Fork
- Vallis Veg
- Frome Food Network
- Farmers Market
- Vallis Farm
- Frome Medical Practice
- Health Connection

## How:

**Develop a food abundance strategy:** Work with the community to create an approach that moves beyond basic food security to establish genuine food abundance through diverse local production, sharing networks and preservation systems. Conduct a thorough community audit to identify all current food production happening across the town, including private gardens, allotments, community growing projects and commercial operations. Document what's being grown, seasonal patterns, surplus sharing arrangements and potential for expansion or connection between sites. Focus on creating multiple sources of fresh, nutritious food that can support the community through climate disruptions and supply chain challenges.

**Expand growing capacity in diverse spaces:** Identify and develop opportunities for food production in indoor spaces such as community buildings, schools and unused commercial properties, alongside outdoor growing in gardens, public spaces and underutilised land. Include innovative approaches such as vertical growing, hydroponics and seasonal growing structures.

**Balance food production with ecological priorities:** Create integrated land use approaches that combine food growing with biodiversity enhancement and rewilding initiatives. Design growing systems that support wildlife corridors, provide pollinator habitats and use regenerative practices that improve soil health and carbon storage.

**Establish water management for food resilience:** Develop water collection and storage systems specifically designed to support local food production during dry periods. Include rainwater harvesting, greywater systems and community water storage that can maintain growing operations when mains water supplies are restricted.

**Create community food networks:** Establish systems for sharing surplus produce, coordinating seasonal preservation activities and distributing food during emergencies. Include community kitchens, preservation workshops, seed libraries and knowledge-sharing networks that build collective food resilience skills.

**Plan for climate-adapted food production:** Research and trial food varieties that can thrive in changing local conditions, including heat-tolerant crops, flood-resistant growing methods and extended-season production techniques. Work with local growers to adapt traditional practices for climate resilience.

**Build food storage and processing capacity:** Develop community infrastructure for preserving, storing and processing local food production, including shared equipment, preservation facilities and distribution networks that can maintain food security during supply disruptions.



## Useful links:

1. [Somerset Food Resilience Map](#) | [Citizen's Advice Somerset](#)
2. [Local Food Growth Plan Report, outlining framework of actions for local authorities](#) | [Sustain](#)
3. [Advice and case studies on community projects for water management](#) | [ACRE](#)



## 4.4 - Create community farms and food growing education programmes



| Where:                                                                                                                                          | Who:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The land surrounding Frome</li><li>• Green spaces in Frome - e.g. Showfield</li><li>• Schools</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seed Library</li><li>• Vallis Farm</li><li>• Vallis Veg</li><li>• Local farmers</li><li>• Farm cluster members</li><li>• Field to Fork</li><li>• Frome Food Network</li><li>• Selwood Horticultural Society</li><li>• Frome Allotments Association</li></ul> |

## How:

**Establish community farms on public land:** Work with councils to identify and secure access to suitable public land for community farming projects. Negotiate agreements that allow long-term use of council-owned sites for food production, creating demonstration farms that can teach sustainable growing methods while producing food for local distribution.

**Develop food growing education:** Create educational programmes that combine practical growing skills with cooking knowledge. Include workshops on soil health, composting, seed saving, seasonal cooking and food preservation that build complete food literacy across all age groups.

**Integrate growing and cooking in schools:** Partner with local schools to establish school gardens linked directly to food technology and cooking lessons. Create curriculum connections where children grow ingredients they later cook with, building understanding of seasonal eating, nutrition and sustainable food systems.

**Promote agroecological farming methods:** Teach and demonstrate farming approaches that work with natural ecosystems, including companion planting, natural pest management, soil building and biodiversity enhancement. Share knowledge about regenerative practices that improve land health while producing food.

**Expand allotment provision and access:** Campaign for additional allotment sites and work to make existing allotments more accessible to new growers. Provide mentoring programmes that pair experienced gardeners with beginners and create shared plots where people can learn before taking on individual growing spaces.

**Create mobile growing education programmes:** Develop outreach initiatives that bring food growing education directly to communities, including travelling workshops, pop-up growing demonstrations and garden consultation services that help people start growing in their own spaces.

**Establish food growing networks:** Connect individual growers, community groups and institutional land managers to share resources, knowledge and surplus produce. Create regular gatherings, online forums and skill-sharing events that build a supportive community of local food producers.

**Advocate for local food policy changes:** Work with local authorities to review planning policies and community strategies to better support local food production. Include provisions for community growing in local plans and ensure new developments include space for food production.



## Useful links:

1. [How to build and maintain a relationship with your local authority](#) | [Advice Services Alliance](#)
2. [Network of community food projects across Somerset](#) | [Somerset Community Food](#)
3. [Community market garden running free growing skills and cooking classes](#) | [Frome Field 2 Fork](#)
4. [Providing lessons on permaculture principles to local schools](#) | [Frome Valley Growing Project](#)





# CONCLUSION

**This plan shares the priority actions for helping Frome thrive through our changing climate.**

Some can happen quickly, like planting trees, to give an instant adaption boost. Other actions, such as shaping planning policies, are longer-term projects that will significantly enhance Frome's adaptation and preparedness.

Every action in this plan will also bring many other benefits to Frome. These "co-benefits" include:

- Improving community health and wellbeing
- Making space for wildlife
- Mitigating climate change

By working on these actions together, you can also strengthen community links, which is vital for making the parishes well-adapted and resilient.



Frome's Climate Adaptation Plan should be seen as a living document, at the starting point of a wider process. The plan should:

- Be reviewed regularly
- Be updated as needed
- Reflect the changing climate and the changing priorities and needs of Frome's community

By staying flexible and continuing to listen to Frome's residents, the plan can best guide the community in adapting to climate change.

## Now it is time to act!

**Everyone can play a role in making Frome better adapted to climate change.**

**To find out more about how you can get involved contact:**

**Matt Mellen ([mmellen@frometowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:mmellen@frometowncouncil.gov.uk))**

**Climate Action Lead for Frome Town Council**

# Acknowledgements

**Thank you to everyone who shared their ideas to create such a positive and ambitious Climate Adaptation Plan for Frome.**

If you are concerned about your individual preparedness to emergency events, check out [Somerset Prepared](#) for detailed advice and support.

For adaptation funding explore the SRA's [Community Flood Action Fund](#).



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## Contact

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**Climate Action Lead**  
**Frome Town Council**

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### **Disclaimer**

*The links provided in this document are intended to serve as information and advice, and do not reflect a recommendation from Somerset Wildlife Trust, or our partners and funders, for particular companies, products or services.*

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## Consultation responses to green spaces



Although residents recognise that Frome already has a range of green spaces, there is strong support for expanding and enhancing these areas through community-led initiatives. Responses highlighted the importance of creating more community gardens, food-growing spaces, and sites for outdoor activities, with a focus on educating younger generations about nature and sustainability. Planting more trees and wildflowers, supporting climate-resilient planting, and encouraging local food production were commonly suggested.

There were also concerns around the long-term management, accessibility, and inclusivity of green spaces. Residents stressed the need for proper maintenance and community ownership to ensure spaces remain clean and welcoming. Suggestions included appointing local guardians and making spaces accessible for all users, including children and dog walkers. Concerns were raised about ongoing housing development reducing green space, with calls for stronger planning requirements, including tree planting and biodiversity measures.



## Consultation responses to flooding risks



There were varied levels of awareness around flooding risk, with some residents noting limited personal experience but recognising it as a growing issue in specific areas. Responses highlighted concerns about increased surface water flooding linked to new development, hard surfacing, and blocked drainage systems. Participants stressed the importance of maintaining drains and gullies and ensuring new housing is carefully planned to avoid flood-prone areas and incorporate effective mitigation measures.

There was strong support for nature-based and preventative approaches to flood management. Suggestions included sustainable drainage systems, permeable surfaces, rainwater harvesting, and restoring wetlands and river corridors to Slow the Flow. Respondents emphasised the need to work at a catchment scale with landowners, alongside greater support for households to adapt. There was also interest in community-led initiatives and clearer integration of flood resilience into planning and development decisions.



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## Consultation responses to knowledge sharing



There was strong support for increasing awareness and engagement around climate adaptation, with particular emphasis on working with schools and young people. Residents highlighted the importance of embedding local environmental learning into education, alongside creating opportunities for children and families to get involved through events and activities. Respondents also noted the need to make information accessible and ensure communication reaches a wider audience beyond those already engaged.

Although Frome benefits from a range of existing events and initiatives, there is a clear desire to expand and diversify engagement approaches. Suggestions included using social media, local media, and community networks to share information, alongside more inclusive participation opportunities. Responses highlighted the importance of targeting underrepresented groups, collaborating with local organisations and businesses, and providing clear, action-focused messaging to empower individuals to take part in climate adaptation efforts.



## Consultation responses to planning and development for nature and food



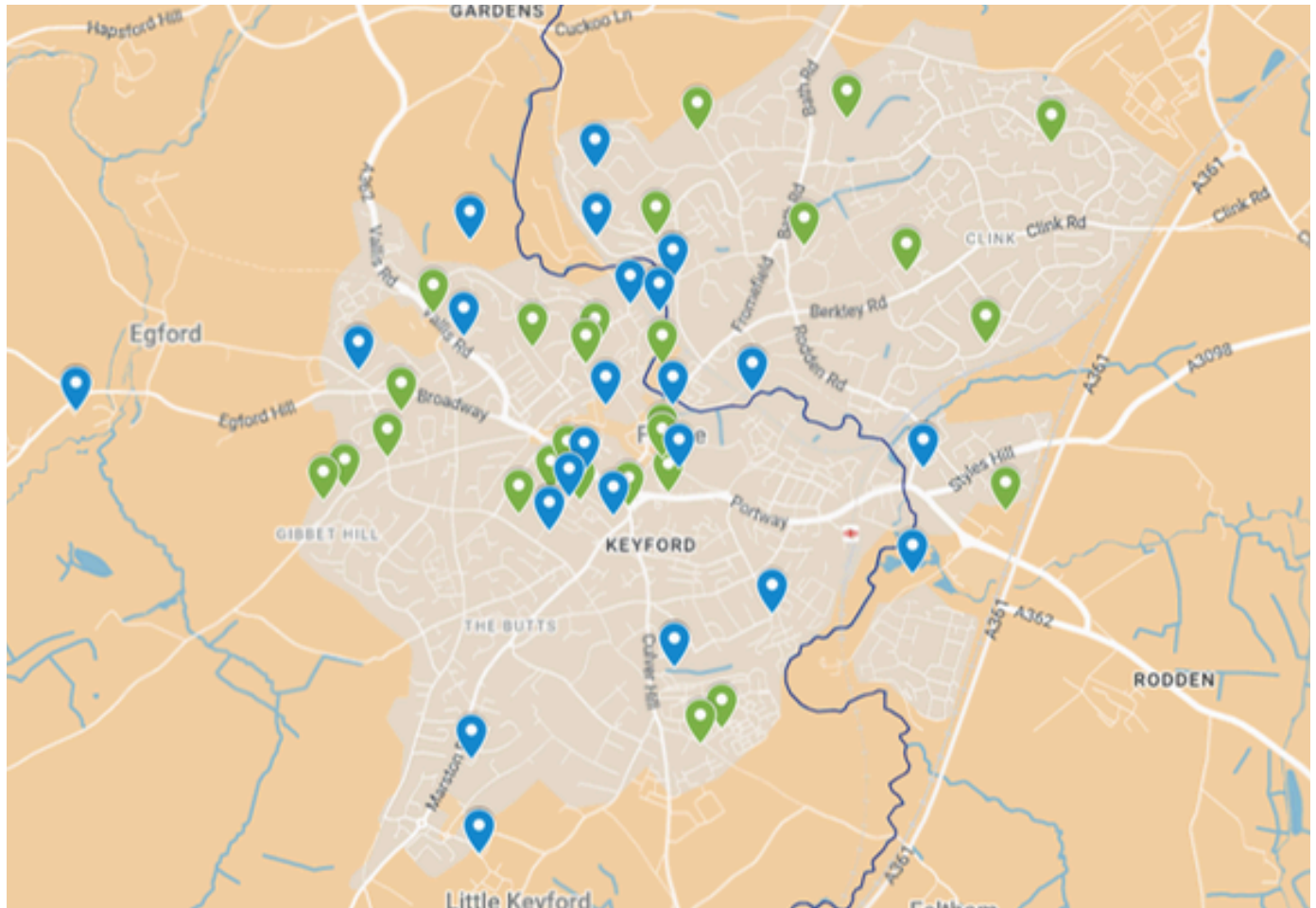
There was strong support for increasing local food production and integrating nature into planning and development. Residents highlighted the need for more allotments, community growing spaces, and education around food growing and cooking, particularly for families and those with limited access to outdoor space. Concerns were raised about development pressures on farmland and habitats, with calls for stronger planning policies to protect green space, retain features such as hedgerows, and prioritise sustainable, nature-friendly design.

Although there is clear enthusiasm for local food and nature-based approaches, responses emphasised the importance of making these accessible and viable for all. Suggestions included supporting small-scale growers and improving local supply chains. Respondents also highlighted the need to work collaboratively with farmers, schools, and local organisations, while ensuring planning decisions balance housing needs with long-term environmental resilience and food security.





## Adaptation Map



Areas suggested by residents:

-  Priority 1 - Improving and increasing green spaces.
-  Priority 2 - Reducing flooding risks.