

Somerset Wildlife Trust

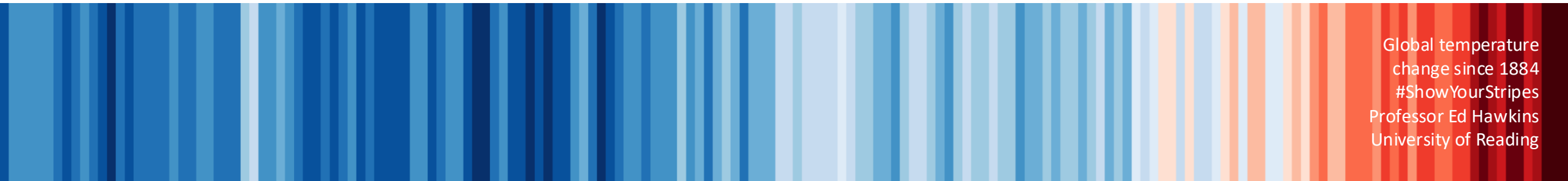
Act to Adapt

Somerset

Somerset Rivers Authority

COMMUNITY FUND

HPC Community Fund



Mitigation vs. Adaptation

Mitigation

Actions that limit long-term global warming by:

- reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- increasing the capacity of carbon sinks, e.g. through peatland restoration.





Adaptation

Adjusting to current impacts of climate change or planning for those that are projected.

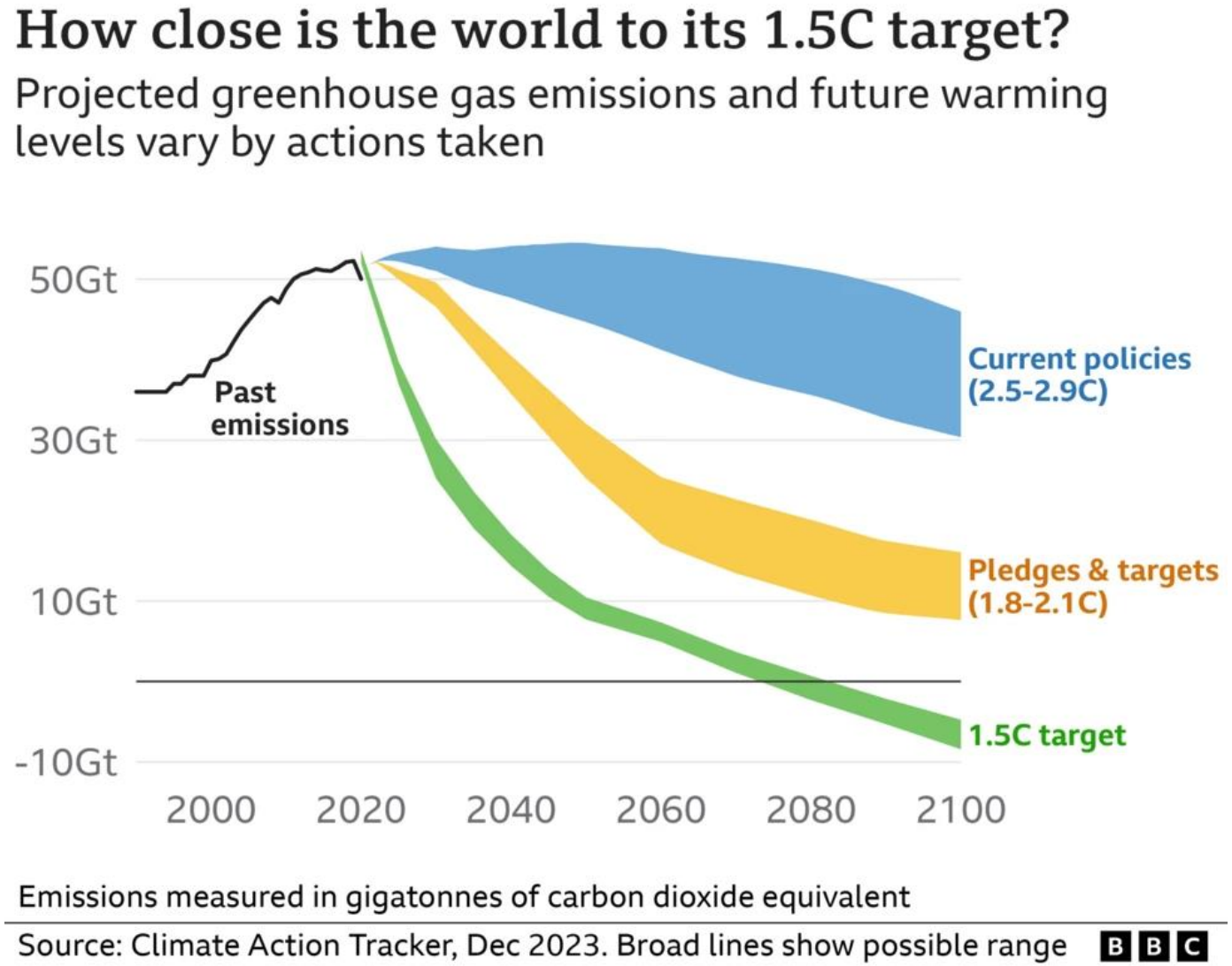
Adaptation can seek to moderate or avoid harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.





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Why we need to adapt



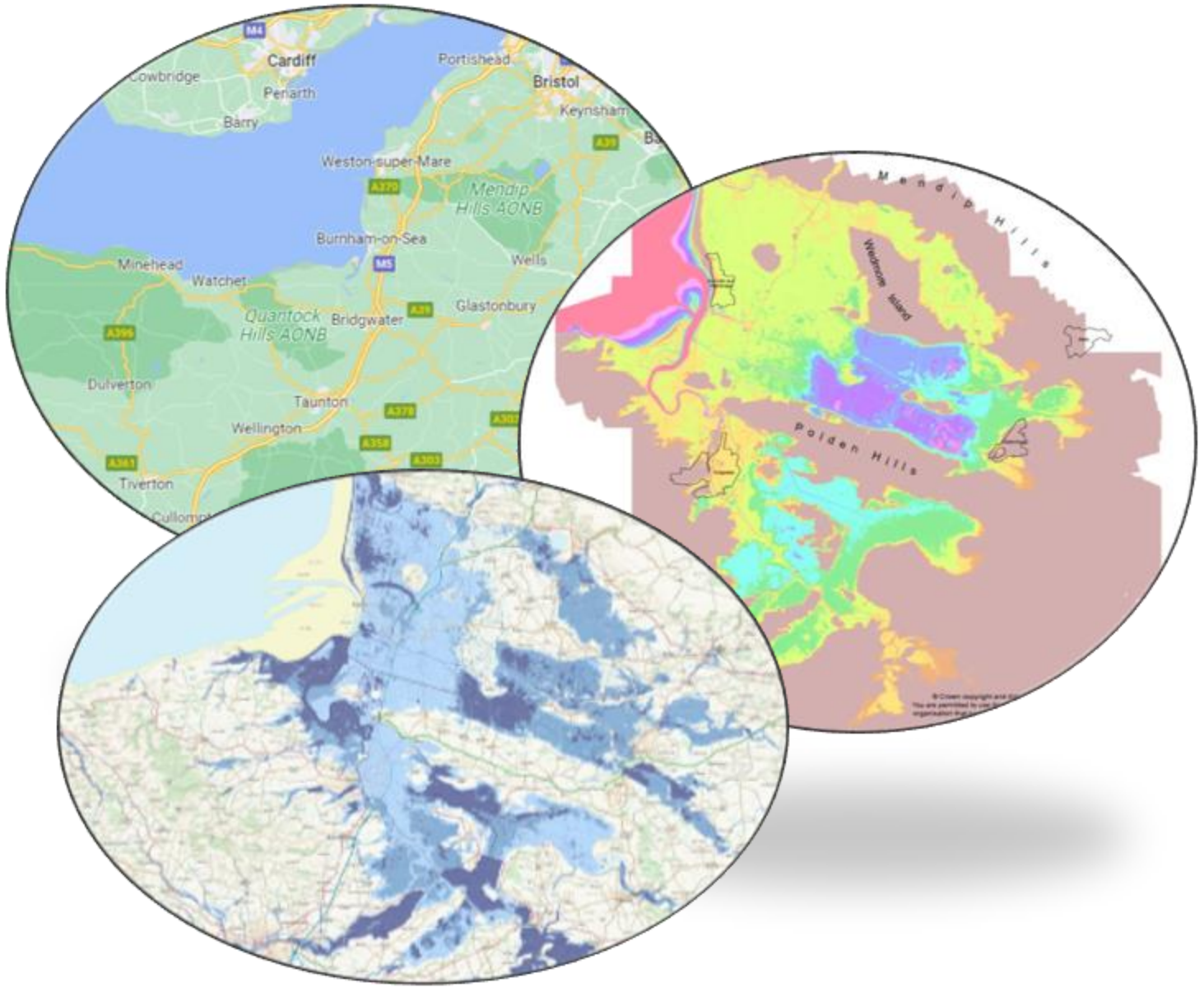
Climate guidance (CCRA, NAP3)

+2°C	+4°C
Prepare for 2°C	Assess the risks for 4°C

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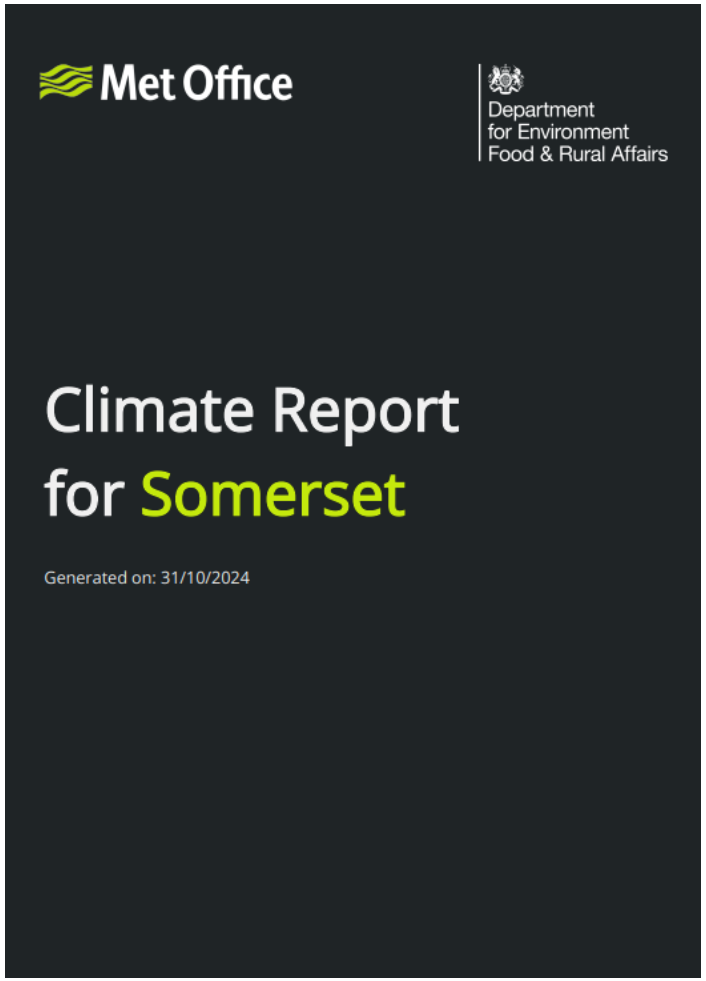
Why Community Adaptation?

- Somerset faces significant climate vulnerability: a long coastline, flood-prone lowlands, and socioeconomic pressures that limit adaptive capacity.
- Most climate action is top-down. Communities often feel powerless and lack accessible processes to develop their own adaptation strategies.
- Somerset Wildlife Trust stepped in to fill this gap.



UK Climate Projections (UKCP18)

- Produced by the Met Office
- Most robust climate projections for different emissions scenarios and warming levels
- Broken down to regional levels



https://themetoffice.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/506ff7d53c884badb0d8fd36d6280a91

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Heat, drought and wildfires

Summer max temps

Up to 40°C

at 4°C warming

Hot days (>30°C)

12-24 days

per year (currently 1)

Summer rainfall

50% less

at 4°C warming







Photo © **Andrew Tatlow** (cc-by-sa/2.0)

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Flooding risks

Winter rainfall increase

Up to 27%

at 4°C warming

Rainfall intensity

More intense storms

Flash flooding events







Act to Adapt

Our Process

Talk

Host a workshop to talk about climate risks and work towards creating a Draft NCAP.

Shape

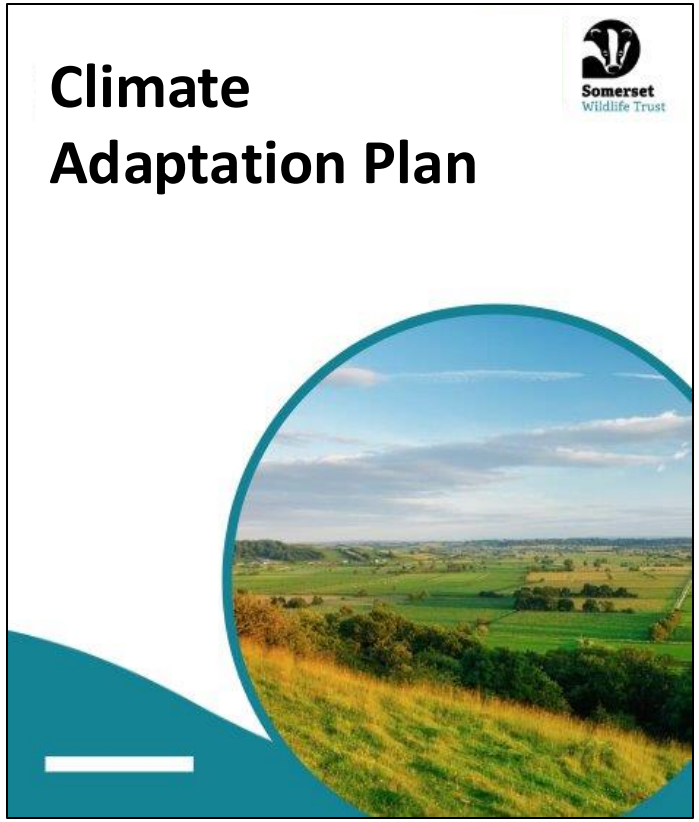
Consult with the local community on the current proposed climate strategies to shape the Draft NCAP.

Act

Act on the NCAP by hosting a launch event that promotes next steps.

Our Objective

To work with the local community to create a comprehensive **Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP)** that moderates climate harm and builds nature resilience.









Sustainable Wells

Practical Climate Adaptation Steps for Homes and Communities



A talk by Nick Pyatt
Climate Change Adaptation Consultant
7.00pm (doors open 6.30pm) Monday 24th August 2026, Wells Little Theatre
Reserve your seat:
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fourth-monday-meeting-tickets-1997503261025?aff=oddtdtcreator



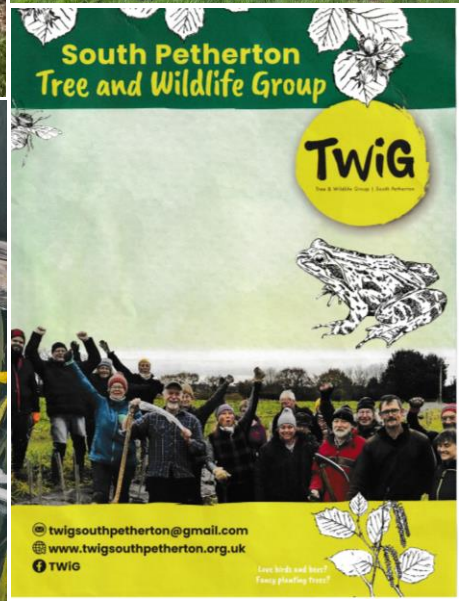


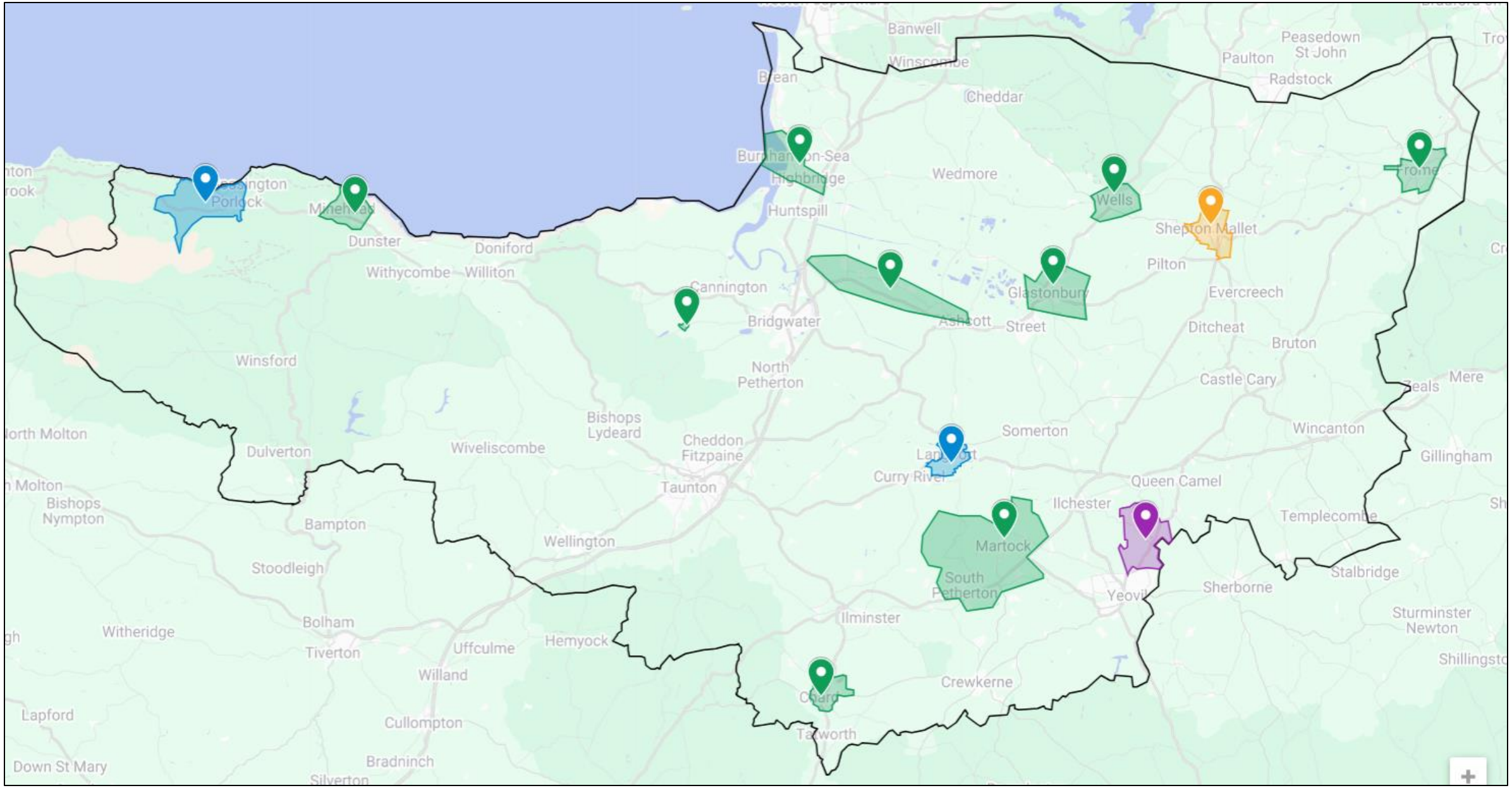






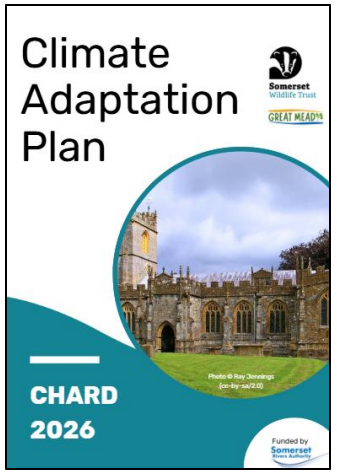


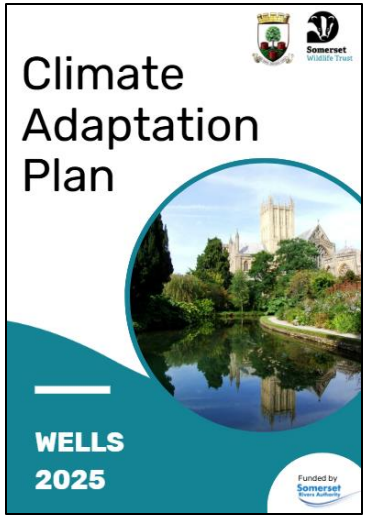


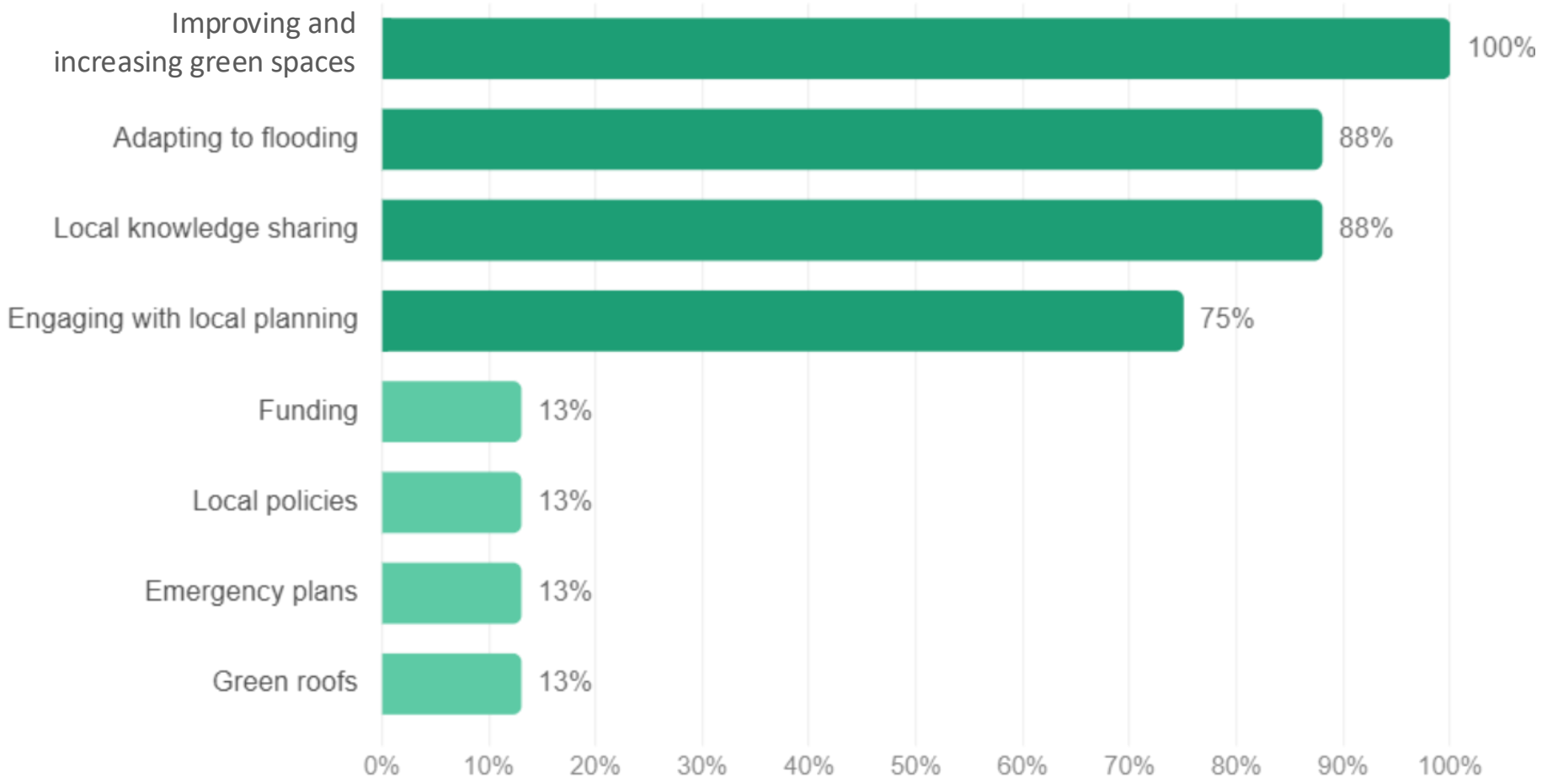


Plans are available to view at:
www.somersetwildlife.org/act-to-adapt

How communities want to adapt







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Impact at a Glance

1,800+

People Engaged

9

Climate Adaptation Plans Completed

13

Somerset Communities

£1,000

Seed Funding Per Community

Every plan is community-owned and designed to be a living document.

Engagement methods include public workshops, in-person consultations at local events like flower shows, and online surveys, ensuring we reach beyond the usual voices.

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Case Study: Minehead

Coastal community, West Somerset



147 People Engaged

24 Workshop Attendees

78 Consultation Responses

45 Launch Attendees

Community Priorities

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

Impact

A Green Action Group has been set up to implement the plan, meeting every other month and planning projects across West Somerset.

Community garden and seed library.

Minehead and Coast Development Trust now connecting with Town Council, FWAG, Flood Group and Somerset Council.

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Case Study: Glastonbury

Market town, Somerset Levels



169	28	80	61
People Engaged	Workshop Attendees	Consultation Responses	Launch Attendees

Community Priorities

1. Planting more trees and plants
2. Adapting to flooding
3. Installing green walls and roofs
4. Engaging with local planning

Impact

Workshops at Bridie's Farm are teaching residents to create rain gardens and green roofs.

The roundhouse semi-permeable pathways to reduce surface water runoff at Bridie's Farm is being used as a showcase space for adaptation.

Leaflet to every household on promoting water butts and green walls

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Climate Adaptation Summit

Connecting communities for horizontal knowledge sharing

What is it?

An annual event bringing together community leaders from across all Act to Adapt communities, and groups ready to start the journey.

A space where communities learn from each other directly, sharing what's worked, what hasn't, and building real connections across Somerset.



Why It Matters

Communities sustain momentum by staying connected to others on the same journey.

New communities hear directly from those who've been through the process.

Builds a growing network of climate adaptation leaders across Somerset.

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Next Steps

Embedding in policy
Act Together to Adapt in partnership with the University of Bristol, and Somerset Council and funded by the MACC Hub.

Scaling across the UK
Through accessible toolkits so communities can develop their own plans independently.

Growing across Somerset
Shepton Mallet, Langport and Porlock in progress and more communities requesting support.

How you can help

Help champion it.
Advocate for community voices in national adaptation policy.

Help embed it.
Support local authorities to recognise and integrate community adaptation plans into policy.

Help expand it.
Connect us with communities and organisations who want to replicate the process. Or adapt the process for your own projects.

Action Planning

20 Minutes - In your tables, decide on one adaptation action you could implement in your community. Work through and fill in the worksheet to develop and assess your plan.

Proposed Adaptation

Somerset Wildlife Trust — Act to Adapt Somerset

Description (What problem will you try to solve? How will you do this? Who does it help?)

How the solution rates against the following criteria (Rate 1-5. 1 = Poor, 5 = Excellent)

		Comments
Community Ownership *Will local people control this from design to long-term management?*	/5	
Climate Effectiveness *How much will this reduce vulnerability to climate impacts?*	/5	
Financial Sustainability *Can this survive without ongoing external funding?*	/5	
Local Capacity *Do people have the skills, time and resources to make this work locally?*	/5	
Equity & Inclusion *Does this reach the most vulnerable and share benefits fairly?*	/5	

Key resources needed (People, materials, permissions)

Who would champion this locally? (Name specific persons, groups or organisations)

Estimated Cost

- ◯ 0-£500
- ◯ £500 - £2,000
- ◯ £2,000 - £4,000
- ◯ £4,000-£5,000

Time to Implement

- ◯ Under 3 months
- ◯ 6-12 months
- ◯ 3-6 months
- ◯ 12+ months

Biggest risks to success

How to overcome these

Co-Benefits (health, nature, jobs, cohesion, etc.)

Feedback

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How can I get involved?

- Create a personal Adaptation Plan using the Adaptation Toolkit.
- Explore plans on the Act to Adapt website and see if your community has one to get involved in.
- Create a Climate Adaptation Plan for your community. For support, email teamwilder@somersetwildlife.org
- Found out more at **www.somersetwildlife.org/act-to-adapt**

