Act to Adapt
The Poldens

Supporting communities across Somerset to adapt to climate change through a series of collaborative events

Talk — Shape — Act

Shaping a plan for your community

Share your ideas for how the Poldens can adapt to Climate Change!
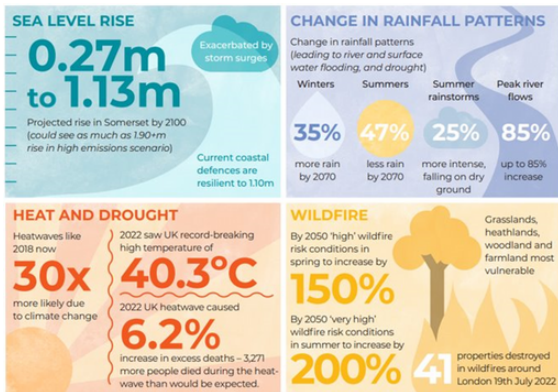
What is Adaptation?

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

Adaptation can seek to limit or avoid harm, or explore beneficial opportunities.

Why do we need to Adapt?

SEA LEVEL RISE

0.27m to 1.13m

Exacerbated by storm surges

Projected rise in Somerset by 2100 (could see as much as 1.90+m rise in high emissions scenario)

Current coastal defences are resilient to 1.10m

CHANGE IN RAINFALL PATTERNS

Change in rainfall patterns (leading to river and surface water flooding, and drought)

Winters	Summers	Summer rainstorms	Peak river flows
35% more rain by 2070	**47%** less rain by 2070	**25%** more intense, falling on dry ground	**85%** up to 85% increase

HEAT AND DROUGHT

Heatwaves like 2018 now **30x** more likely due to climate change

2022 saw UK record-breaking high temperature of **40.3°C**

2022 UK heatwave caused **6.2%** increase in excess deaths – 3,271 more people died during the heatwave than would be expected.

WILDFIRE

By 2050 'high' wildfire risk conditions in spring to increase by **150%**

By 2050 'very high' wildfire risk conditions in summer to increase by **200%**

41 properties destroyed in wildfires around London 19th July 2022

Grasslands, heathlands, woodland and farmland most vulnerable

The process

Talk

A workshop to bring local people together to talk about areas at risk from climate change impacts and potential solutions to adapt.
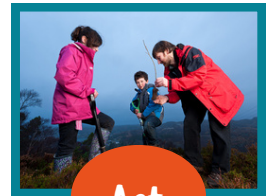
This is a community-wide effort — every voice and idea is valuable to feed into a climate adaptation plan.

Shape

Through online and in-person opportunities, residents will get a chance to provide feedback and suggest other actions to be included in the climate adaptation plan.

This will ensure the plan is shaped by local voices and knowledge.

Act

The climate adaptation plan will be launched with an event, bringing residents together to act and implement as many adaptations as possible!

The plan will:
- Guide future action
- Help to track progress
- Offer advice

This will ensure adaptations provide the greatest benefit to the community.

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Somerset Wildlife Trust

SCAN ME TO LEAVE FEEDBACK ONLINE

Team Wilder

Funded by **Somerset Rivers Authority**

1 - Improving and increasing green spaces

Actions

1.1 - Protect and enhance existing green spaces

1.2 - Create shade and water management solutions

1.3 - Launch community tree-planting initiatives

1.4 - Promote sustainable gardening practices

1.5 - Collaborate with local farms for sustainable land use

1.6 - Implement urban greening projects

Benefits

Mitigates urban heat island effect

Provides shade and refuge

Improves water quality
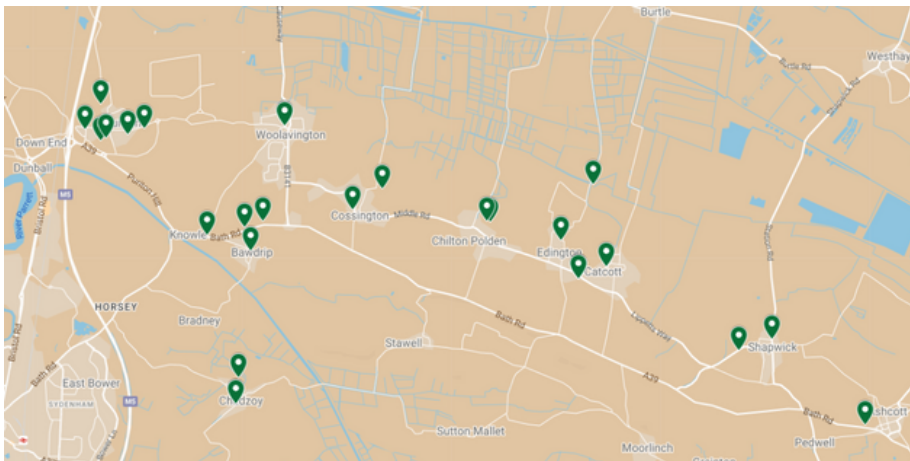
Benefits health and wellbeing

Captures and holds water above and below ground

Reduces stormwater runoff

Provides habitat for wildlife
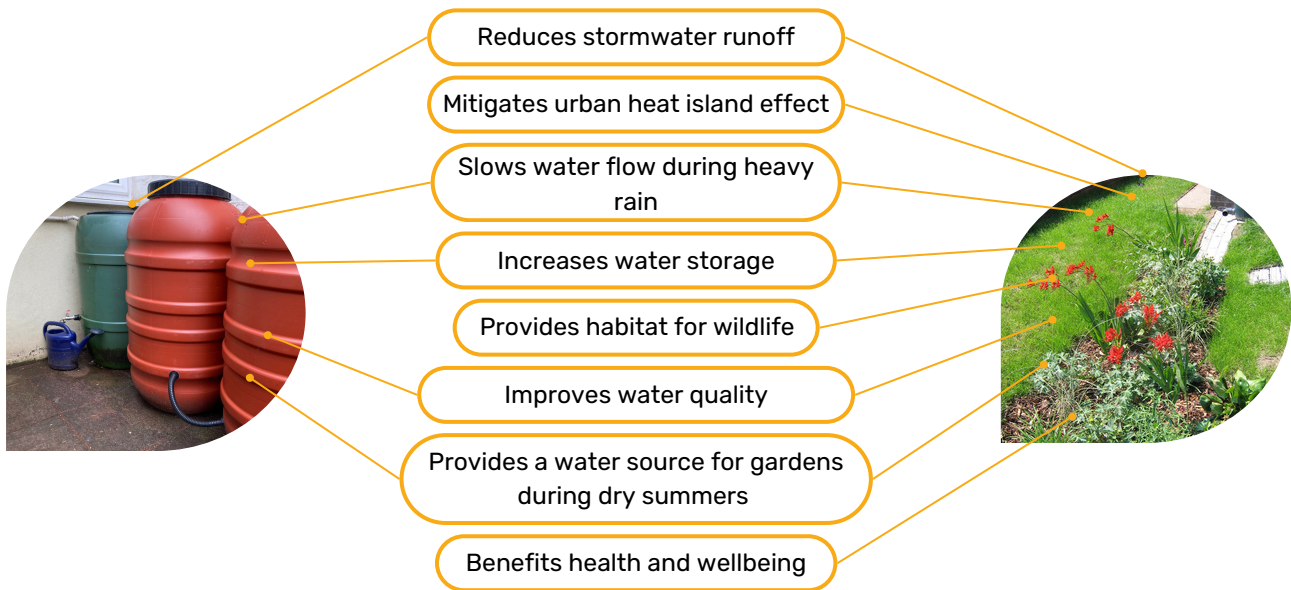
Mitigates climate change

Locations

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2 - Reducing flooding risks

Actions

2.1 - Develop upstream water management solutions

2.2 - Promote water retention solutions

2.3 - Implement natural flood management techniques

2.4 - Improve drainage infrastructure

2.5 - Encourage sustainable land management

2.6 - Enhance community flood resilience

Benefits

- Reduces stormwater runoff
- Mitigates urban heat island effect
- Slows water flow during heavy rain
- Increases water storage
- Provides habitat for wildlife
- Improves water quality
- Provides a water source for gardens during dry summers
- Benefits health and wellbeing

Possible projects

Here are some ideas for projects suggested by local residents:

"Install and Maintain SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems)"

"Slow the Water Flow, e.g., Wiggly Rivers"

"Install Household Water Butts"

"Collect Water in River Catchments"

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3 - Sharing knowledge and raising awareness

Actions

3.1 - Foster local knowledge-sharing

3.2 - Utilise community spaces for information sharing

3.3 - Engage local businesses and organisations

3.4 – Partner with educational institutions

3.5 – Utilise local events and shows

3.6 - Enhance digital engagement

Benefits

Raises climate awareness

Motivates sustainable actions

Supports green economy

Enables youth leadership

Builds community collaboration

Facilitates open dialogues

Supports sustainable living

Enables informed choices

Possible projects

Here are some ideas for projects suggested by local residents:

"Appoint an Environmental Warden in each Village"

"Promote Individuals to Monitor Wildlife (through the INaturalist App)"

"Set Up Mini Climate Change Workshops at Villages & Schools"

"Organise a Communication System that explains what to do in the event of a Heatwave or Flooding"

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4 - Local empowerment and community planning

Actions

4.1 - Strengthen parish council involvement

4.2 - Improve community communication systems

4.3 – Engage with local organisations

4.4 - Develop community emergency plans

4.5 - Create a network to support vulnerable individuals

4.6 - Enhance local environmental policies

Benefits

Enhances community resilience

Supports economic growth

Reduces climate risks

Fosters stakeholder engagement

Amplifies advocacy efforts

Enables informed decisions

Promotes public health

Supports local innovation

Possible projects

Here are some ideas for projects suggested by local residents:

"Community Support for Younger Generations"

"Set Up a Community Climate Action/Resilience Group"
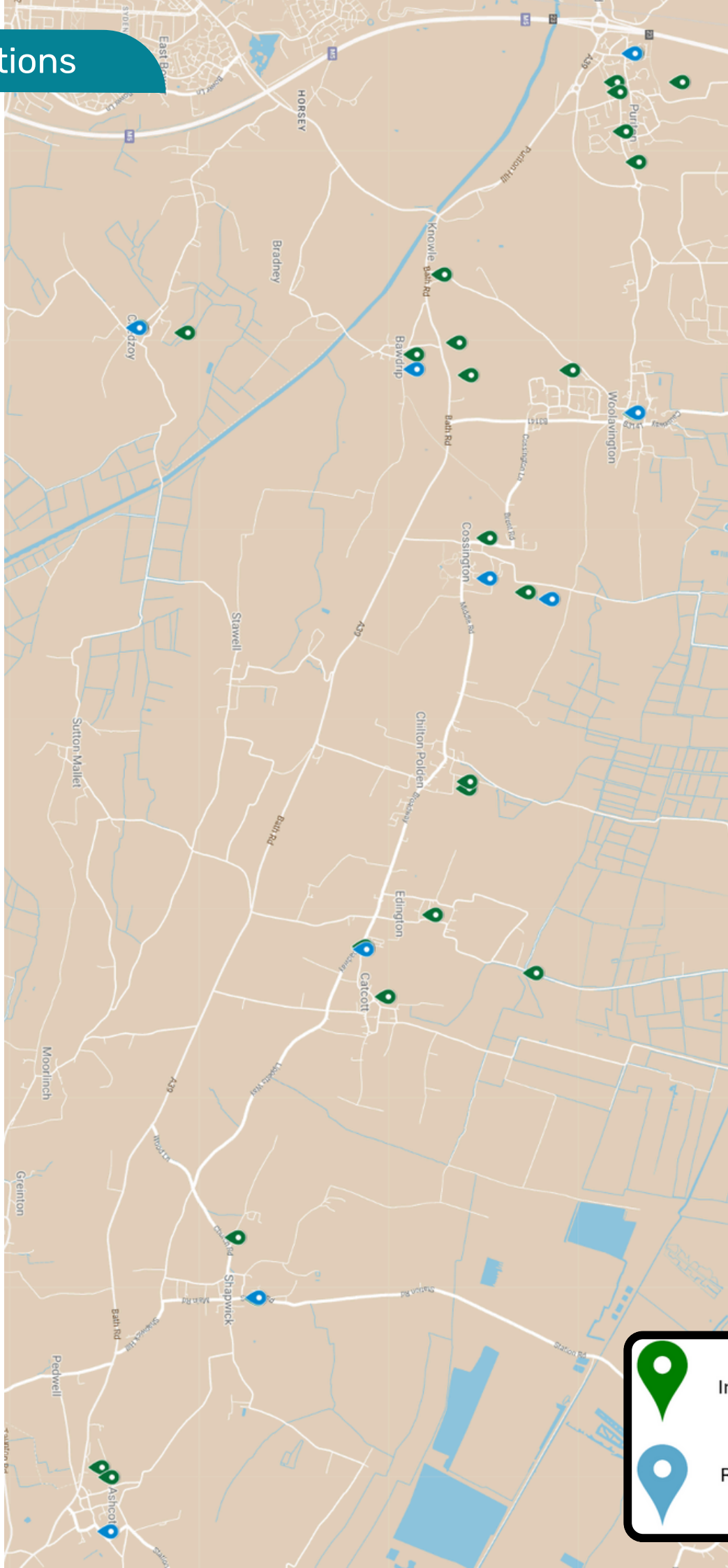

"More Feedback on Planning Applications"

"Increase Awareness of Vulnerable Individuals who may need Assistance in Heatwave or Flooding Events"

Locations

Improving and Increasing Green Spaces

Reducing Flood Risks