

World Heritage Site Advisory Board (WHSAB)
Workshop : Enabling Climate Adaption in Bath
Informal notes for FoBRA

Note: these are the not formal minutes of the meeting but are intended to give FoBRA members an insight to the main items discussed, including any points of relevance to residents.

The invitation list was comprehensive including the NT team, BathNES cabinet lead and officers, WHSAB and officers, Environment Agency, Wessex Water, BPT, Bathscape, Avon Wildlife Trust, Bath BID, Historic England, Universities, the Architect in Residence all represented. The workshop was attended by Jeremy Boss and Ceris Humphreys.

The workshop was hosted by BathNES and led by the National Trust (NT). This was based on the methodology the NT has used to assess the impact of climate change on all their NT properties / land and to determine what mitigating adaptations should be implemented. This was the first time this methodology had been adapted / applied to a whole City, which of course adds a high degree of complexity.

With recent storms and flash flooding, heart waves and wildfires the workshop timing was very relevant.

The workshop comprised following main sections:

Morning:

- 1: Observed impact – what are you seeing?
- 2: What can the data tell us – Hazard Maps
3. What is at risk in Bath

Afternoon:

4. Introduction to Climate Adaptation Pathways
5. Exercise to discuss pathways for two challenges facing Bath; a) Overheating in Buildings and b) Access to Green Spaces

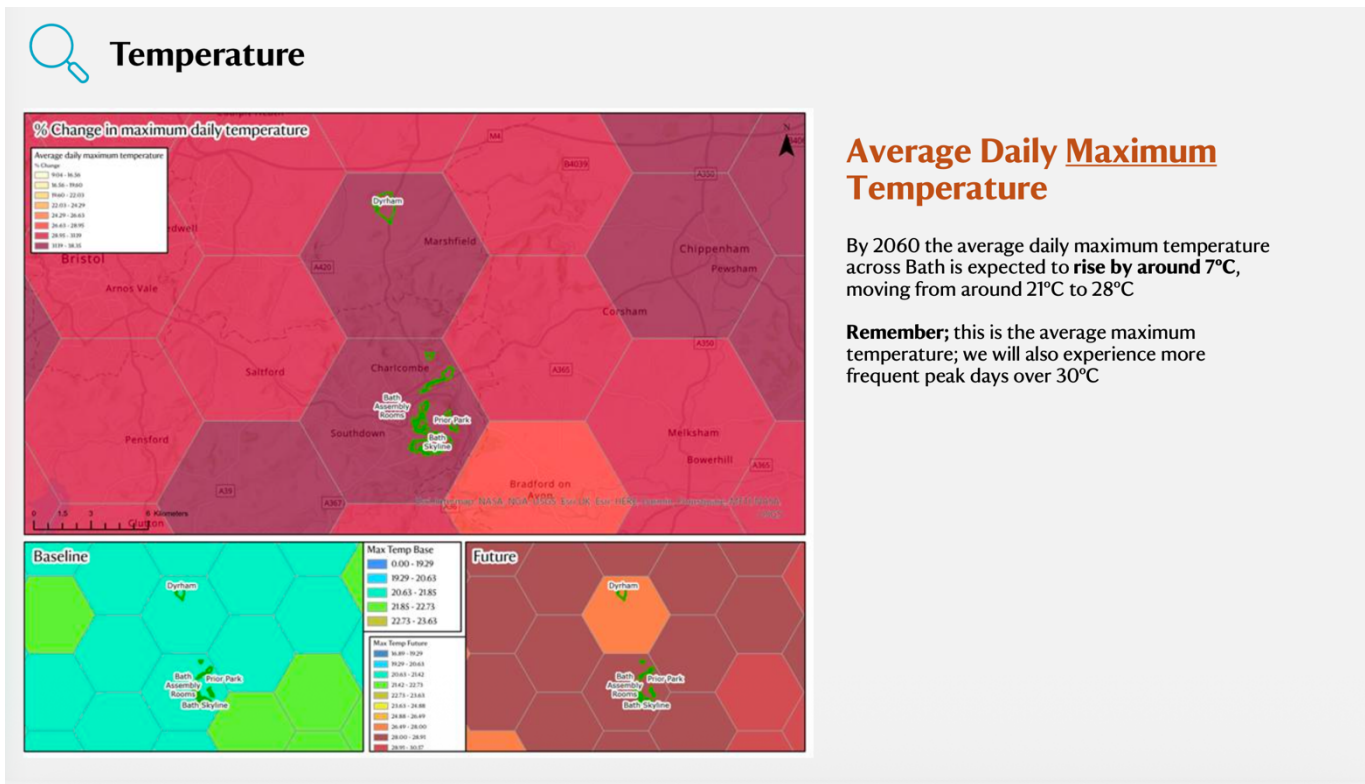
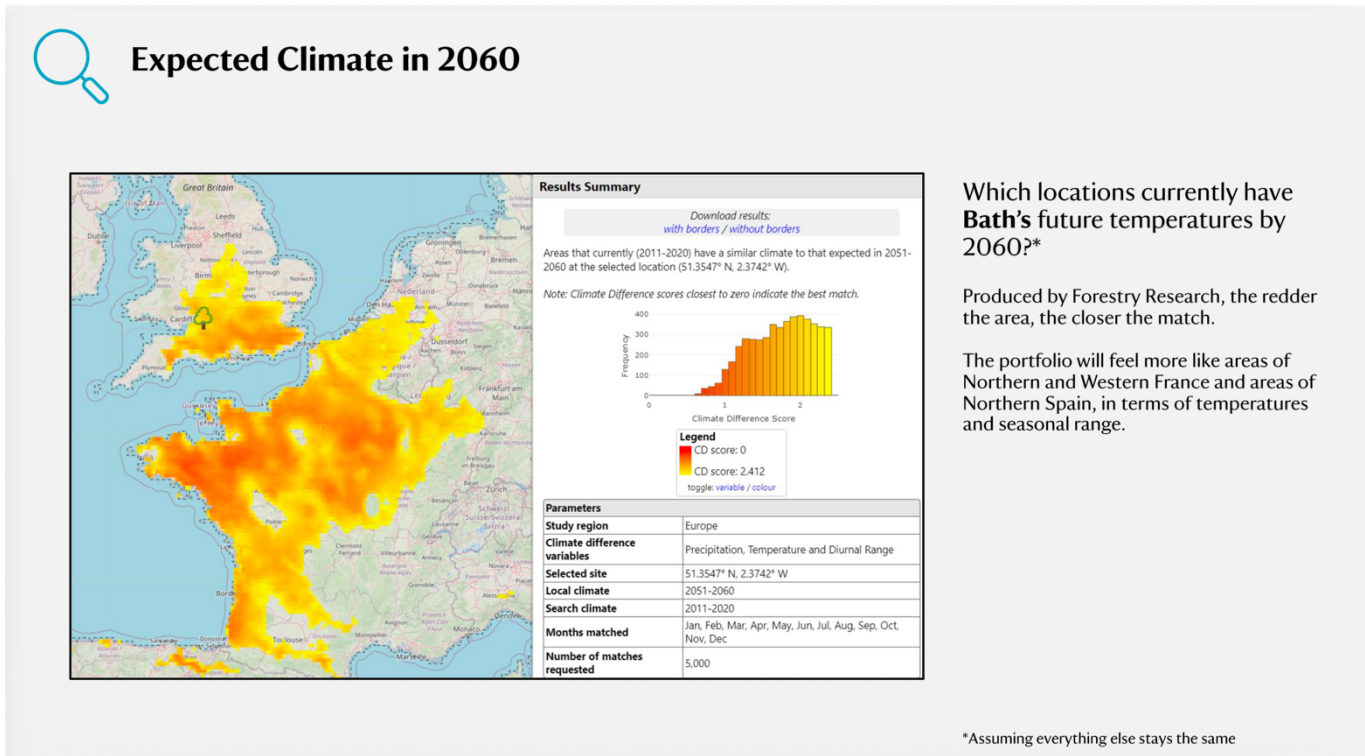
Next steps:

6. A statement of intent has been developed and organisations asked if they would be prepared to sign up to it. We would like to ask committee members if they are willing to endorse this statement.

The appendix shows an extract from the workshop with some of the key data that has been collected and makes predictions for Bath. This is intended to give you a flavour of the meeting.

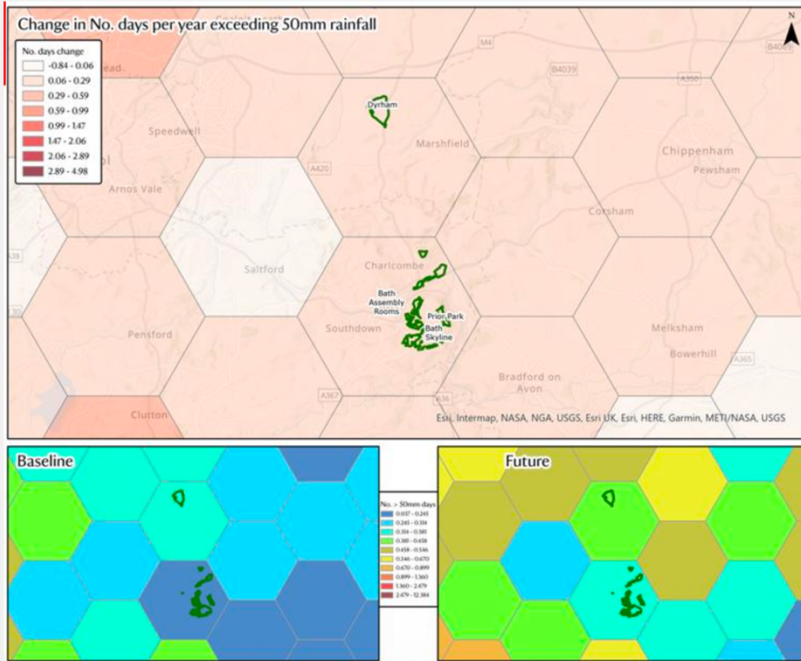
- I Extract of data analysis (expected climate, temperature, precipitation, flooding)
- II Climate Impact Assessment Summary
- III The Proposed Statement

Jeremy Boss
August 2026





Precipitation



Rainfall Days Exceeding 50mm

Though the increase in number of days of rainfall exceeding 50mm is likely to be low (<1 day per annum), the risk increases significantly with rises in global temperature.

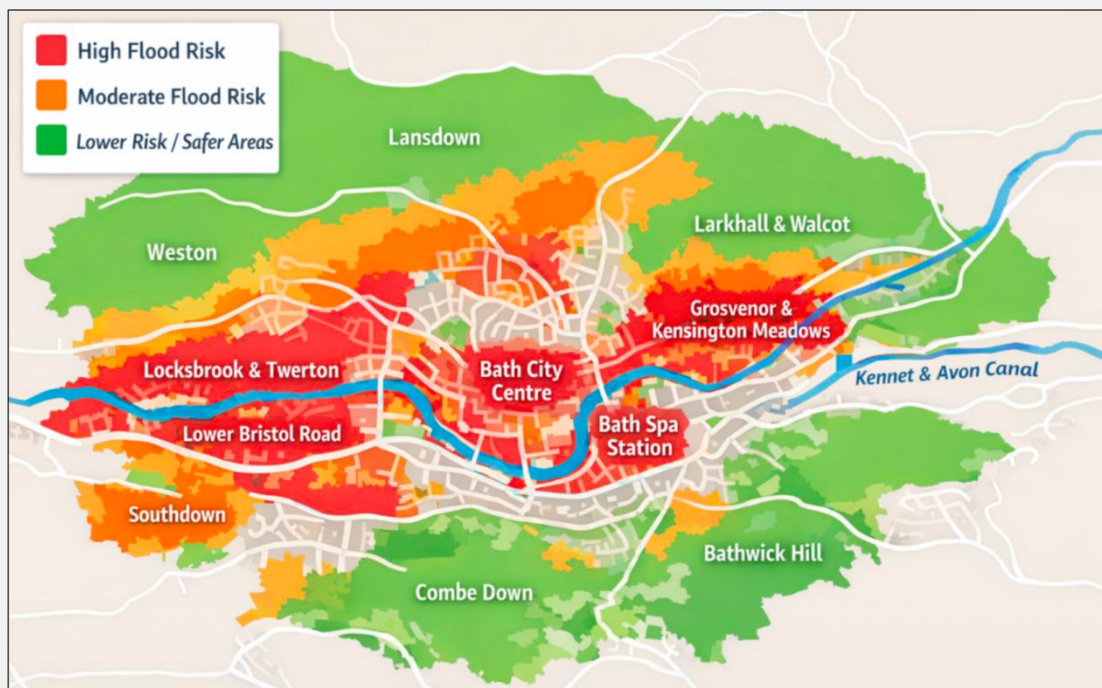
This increases the likelihood of impacts from surface run-off and flash flooding (also see subsequent slides on flooding), but also potential waterlogging, especially ground with poor drainage.

Additional Notes:

Depending on your receiving environment a 50mm rainfall event can be extremely impactful.



Flooding



AI generated map – representative image only!!!

Appendix II – Climate Impact Assessment Summary



Climate Impact Assessment: Summary

Summary of Portfolio's Most Significant Climate Hazards

Climate Hazard	Bath	Notes
Heat & Humidity	High	Projected increase in number of days over 30C (15+ per annum). Average maximum temperature projected to increase by approximately 7C, whilst average minimum temperature will increase by approximately 3C. City also highly vulnerable to urban heat island effect.
Drought	High	Projected increase in drought conditions. Shifting rainfall patterns, less consistent rain and more heavy rainfall that does not remain in the landscape
Flood	High	Despite flood prevention measures, Bath is highly vulnerable to river flooding. Further flood issues relating to heavy rainfall and Baths position in the landscape
Wildfire	High	High risk for prime conditions for the spread of wildfire e.g., extended periods of drought, dry conditions and less rainfall, however we need to understand human interaction with landscape to evaluate risk
Subsidence	High	High risk of impact from active landslide conditions
Storm Damage	Medium	Projected 10-15 annual occurrences of heavy precipitation, high winds over 27mph, wind driven rain impacting environment and infrastructure. Higher risk at more exposed areas like Landsdown Hill

This is based on the data, it needs to be overlayed with lived-experience and consideration of compounding risk

Appendix III- Draft statement of intent

We have taken your reflections from the beginning and end of the workshop, used AI to help synthesise themes, before editing slightly, to propose the following joint statement of intent, as the basis for future work together as organisations with a role in shaping the future of Bath:

“We share a commitment to advancing a coordinated, partnership-led approach to climate adaptation in the World Heritage City of Bath that embraces change and moves decisively from discussion to action. Recognising that no single organisation can address the challenges of climate change alone, we support the development of a shared and ambitious plan that brings stakeholders together to imagine, enable and deliver a climate-resilient World Heritage City.

Key priorities include strengthening collaboration, community engagement and accountability; improving understanding of climate risks, vulnerabilities and adaptation opportunities; improving planning and heritage frameworks to enable the adaptation and retrofit of historic buildings and public spaces, building on the success of the Green Heritage Homes partnership project; investing in nature-based solutions, green infrastructure and water management; and securing the leadership, resources and funding needed to deliver change.

Together, we will maintain momentum through ongoing partnership working, broaden participation to include underrepresented voices, and deliver practical, evidence-led actions that enable the World Heritage City of Bath to continue to be lived in and enjoyed by current and future generations.”