Drought

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East Anglia Area Drought Project Manager
12 July

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What is a Drought?

Droughts are natural events which occur when a period of low rainfall creates a shortage of water.

We identify 3 main types of drought which may occur separately or together:

- Environmental drought
- Agricultural drought
- Water supply drought

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Stages of Drought

- Normal
- Prolonged Dry Weather
- Drought
- Severe Drought
- Recovering

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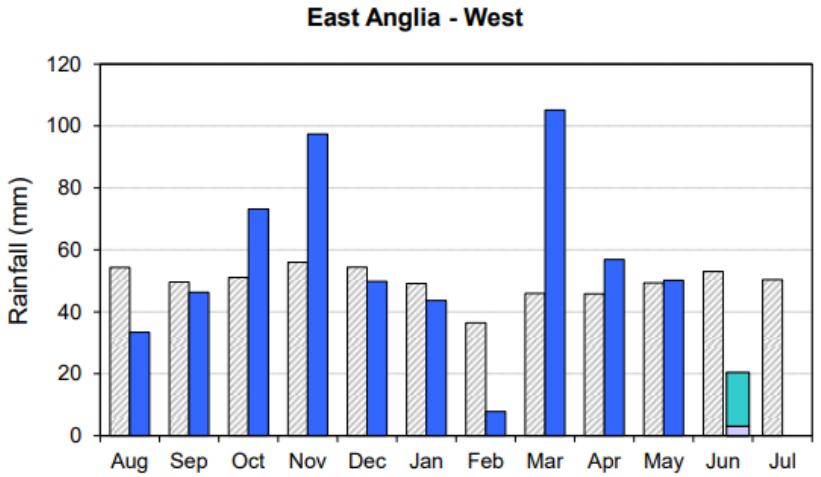
Triggers

- Rainfall
- Soil moisture deficit
- Surface water flows
- Groundwater levels
- Abstraction restrictions
- Ecology
- Environmental incidents
- Public water supply reservoir status



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Our role in Drought?

We deliver three key duties:

- Monitor & report
- Manage water availability
- Respond to environmental incidents

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Monitor and Report

- Declare drought status
- Water situation reports
- Social media
- Radio and television interviews
- Drought update briefings and calls

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Manage water availability

- Abstraction licence system
- Cessations
- Formal restrictions – Section 57s
- Farm inspections & patrols
- River Augmentation Schemes
- Drought Permits

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Respond to environmental incidents

- Incident hotline - **0800 80 70 60**

- collapsed or badly damaged river banks
- damage or danger to the natural environment
- dead fish or fish gasping for air
- flooding from main rivers or the sea
- people taking water illegally from rivers, streams, canals or underground sources such as wells
- incidents at Environment Agency-regulated waste sites
- main rivers blocked by a vehicle or fallen tree causing risk of flooding
- poaching or illegal fishing
- pollution to water or land
- unusual changes in river flow

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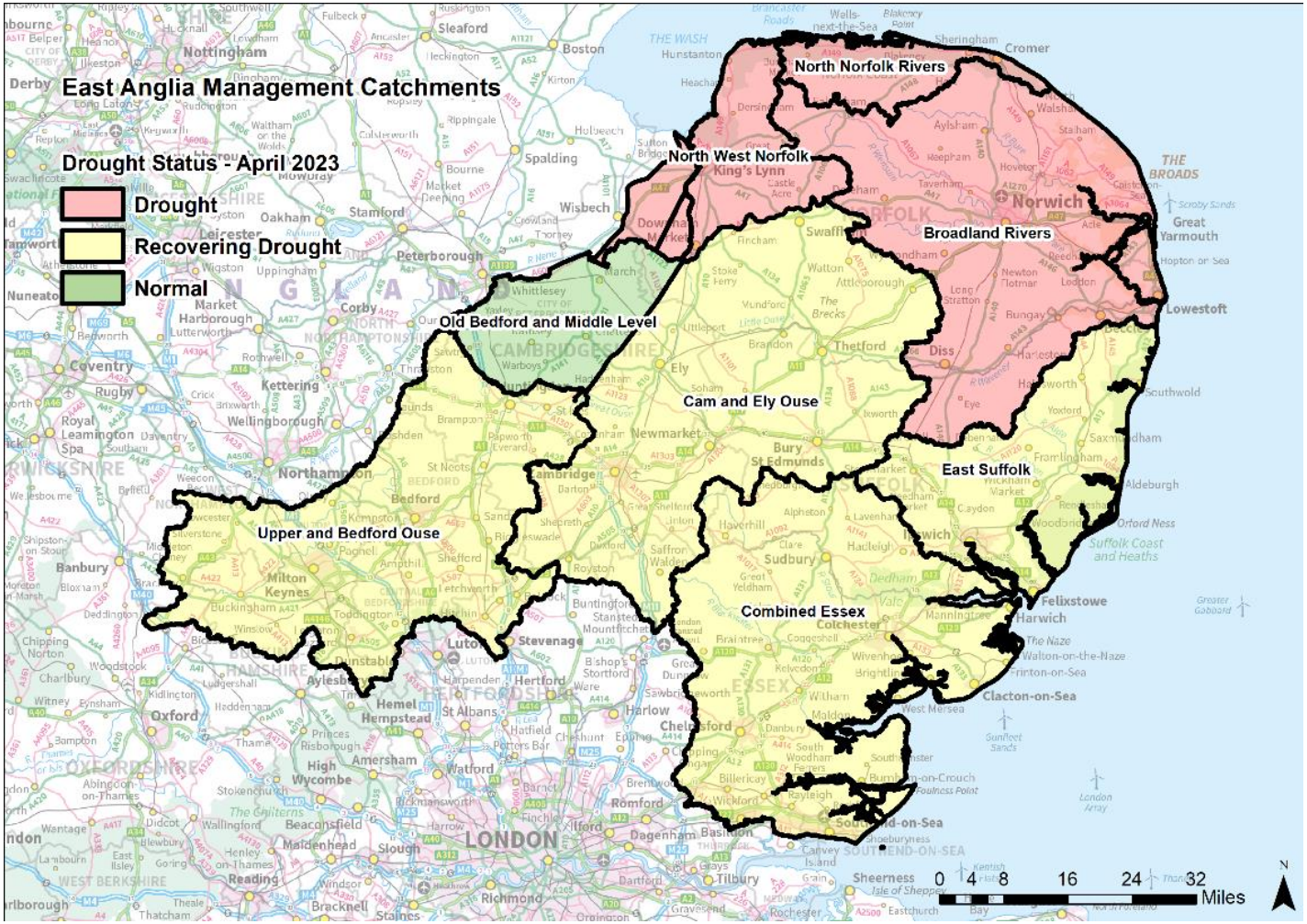
Current Situation



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Looking Ahead

"It depends upon the weather"

Hot and dry – situation likely to deteriorate

Cool and wet – situation likely to be stable

Winter rainfall vital for groundwater recharge

Climate change

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How you can help

- We can all do our part to use water wisely and manage this precious resource, and there are useful water saving tips for us all at Waterwise.
- Abstraction licence holders should check their pre-agreed terms and conditions for taking water and follow our cessation advice
- We encourage the public to report sightings of fish in distress or other impacts on the environment by calling our Incident Hotline: **0800 80 70 60**

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Contacts

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