

East Anglia Drought Update September 2023 Briefing

22 September 2023

Recovery and looking ahead.

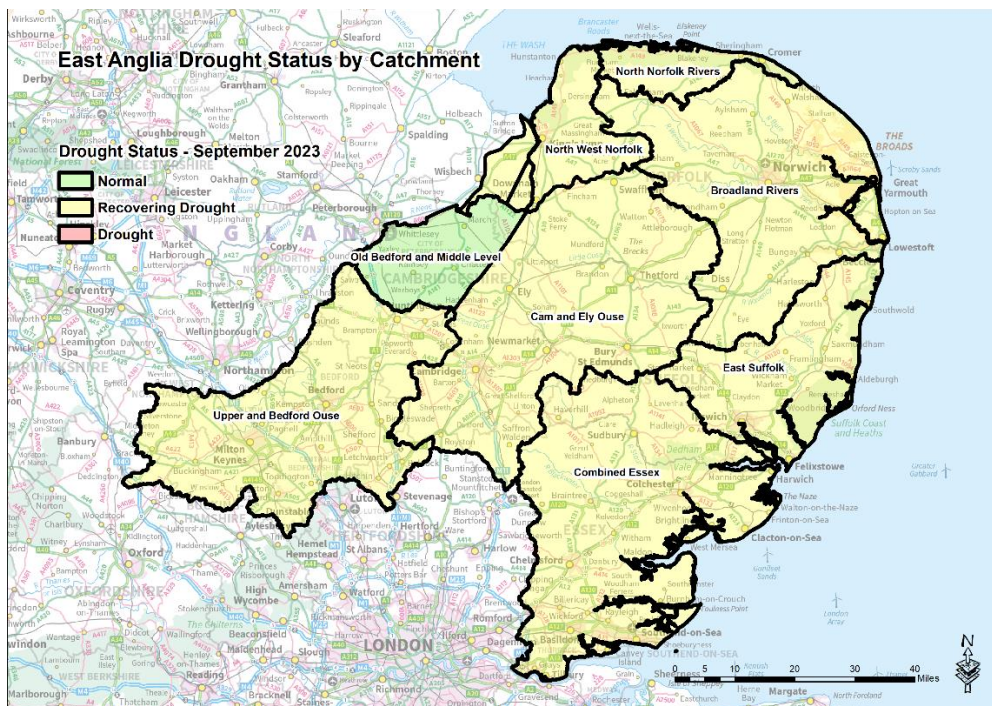
Summer 2023 saw a dry June followed by a very wet July before returning to an average August. This has seen a slowly improving picture across East Anglia Area and now allows us to move our Norfolk catchments from 'Drought' and into 'Recovering' status. Looking ahead we expect to see groundwater levels improving over the winter recharge season, alongside an improving ecological situation.

These catchments are in 'Recovering' status:

- North-West Norfolk
- North Norfolk
- Broadland Rivers
- Upper Bedford Ouse
- Combined Essex
- East Suffolk
- Cam and Ely Ouse

These catchments are in 'Normal' status:

- Old Bedford & Middle Level



Map of catchments in East Anglia

What does this mean?

Recovering status means our catchments have received enough effective rainfall to benefit the water environment. These catchments are expected to see improving conditions for surface water flows, groundwater levels and ecological recovery.

What are we doing?

Our teams continue to monitor and report on the situation, producing regular water situation reports available at www.gov.uk. We are working with abstractors to manage water availability in accordance with the pre-agreed terms and conditions on their licences. We are continuing to collect and analyse samples to monitor the ecological recovery from the effects of drought.

We will be reviewing our drought plans to ensure we provide effective response to future dry weather incidents.

Water companies

Water company reservoir levels have continued to improve over the summer and are on target for the time of year. No supply concerns due to drought are expected.

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.

We encourage the public to report sightings of fish in distress or other impacts on the environment by telephoning our 24hr Incident Hotline: 0800 80 70 60.

Kind regards

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More information can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency