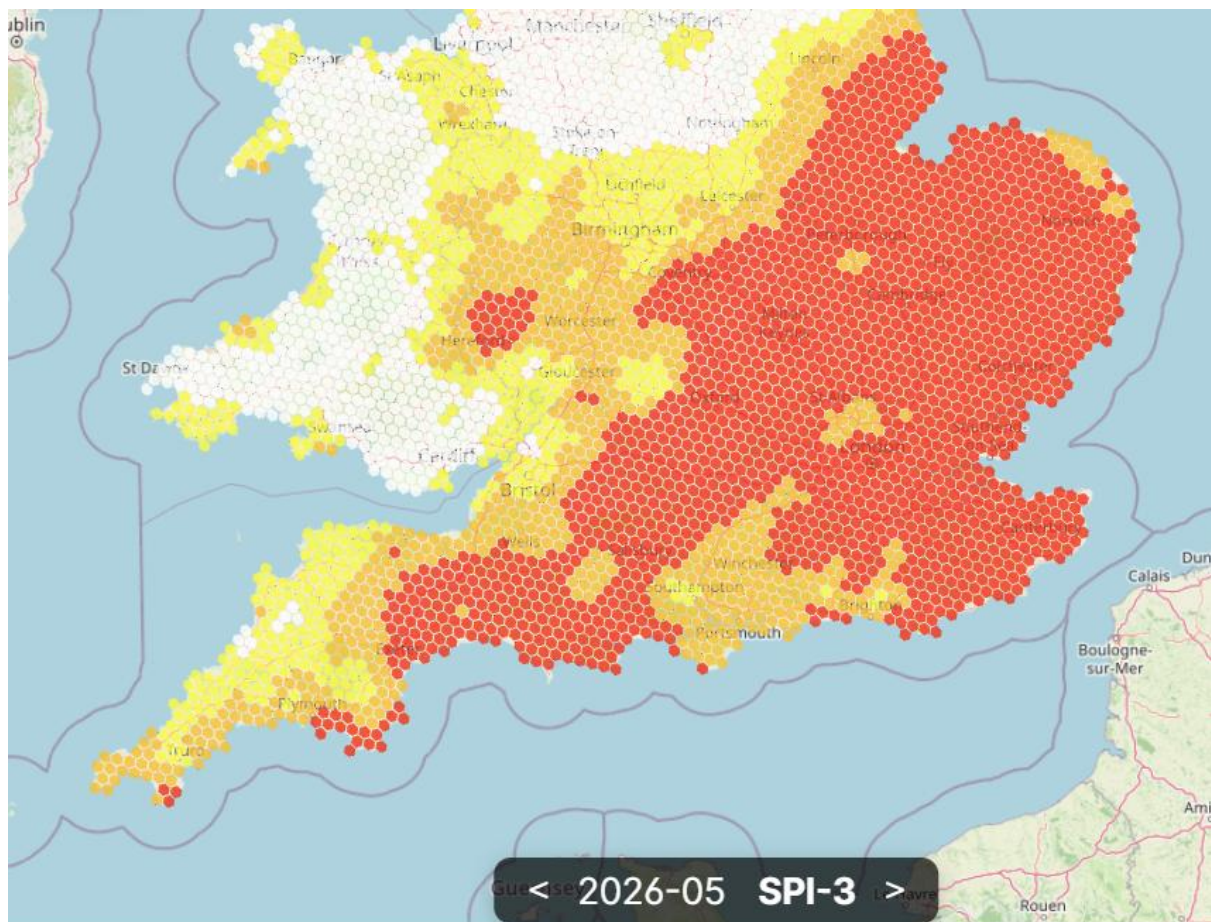
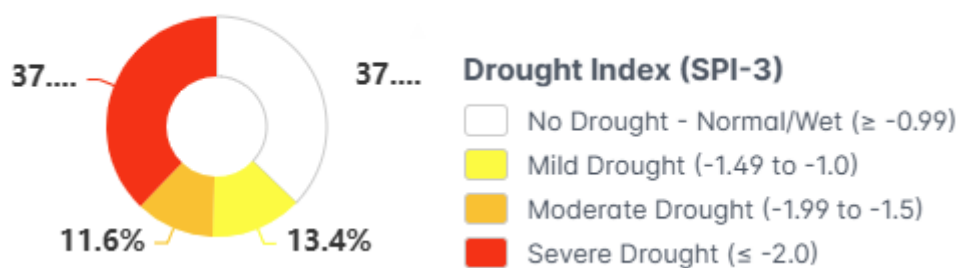


Drought in the UK 2026

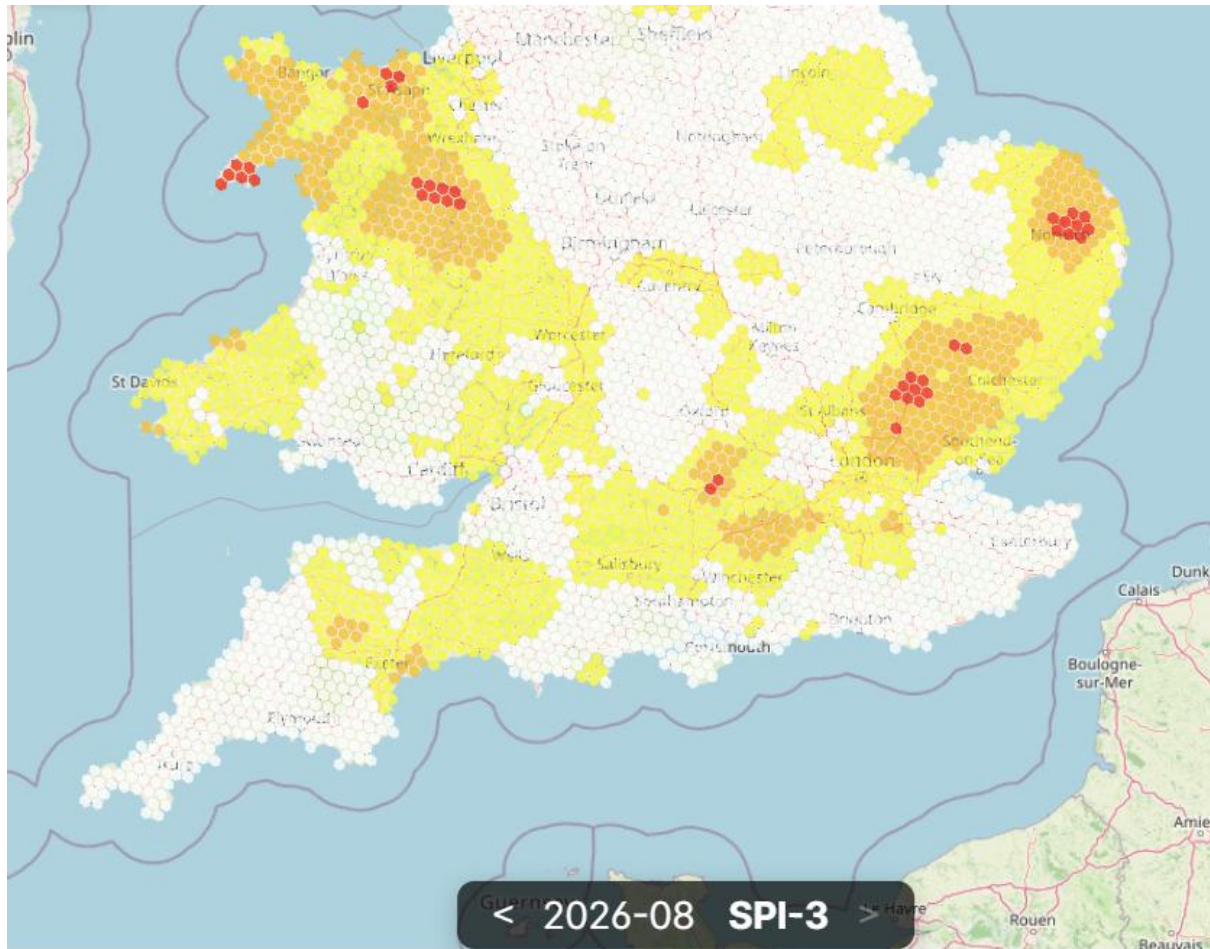
After one of the most prolonged periods without rainfall in many years, we are still experiencing the effects of drought. The map below shows the areas affected in Southern England in May this year. It is a real-time platform based on 45 years of Standardised Precipitation Indices (SPI) laid out in a hexagonal grid. The map can be found at [UK Drought Map — Interactive Drought Monitoring & Climate Intelligence](#). The system was devised by Alper Dincer, a UK-based geospatial engineer, entrepreneur, and climate-tech innovator working at the intersection of Earth observation, spatial analytics, and environmental decision support.



Population by Drought Level



As of August 2026, there were still signs of continuing drought in our region, as well as elsewhere in Southern England.

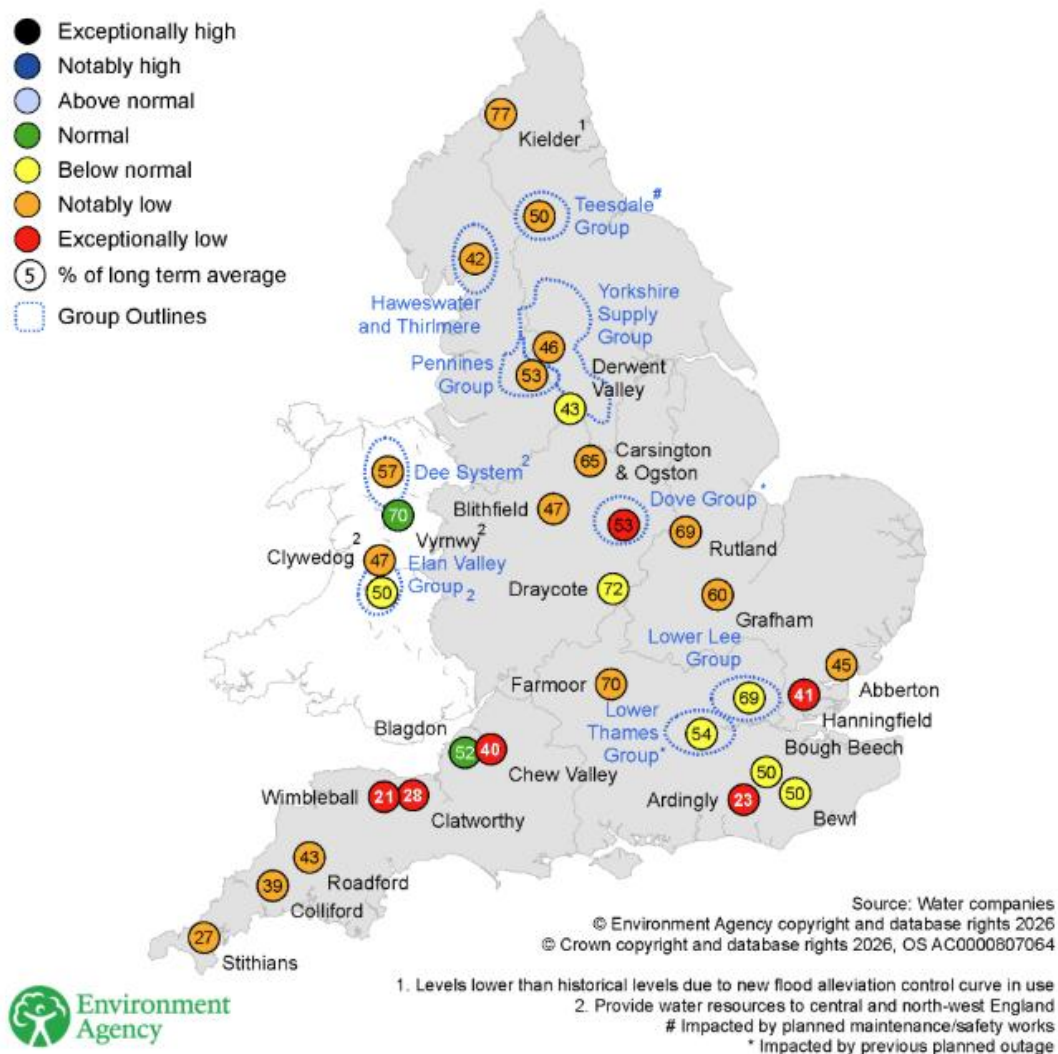


Further significant rainfall is going to be needed to return to normal water resource conditions for many water companies. Long term average (LTA) rainfall across the UK remains around half of what we would expect for the month of September this year. It has left our reservoirs depleted.

Water demand is relatively stable as a result of cooler temperatures, rainfall and the implementation of Temporary Use Bans. It remains above expected levels in some areas. (The Cheddar lake is relatively full at present.)

Public water supply reservoir and groundwater storage continue to decline for several water companies, although for some the rate of decline has slowed. Further significant rainfall is needed to return to normal water resource conditions for many water companies.

Uk reservoir levels at the end of September 2026



Drought is featured as a risk facing England on the [National Risk Register](#), and we will likely experience more frequent and severe droughts in the future due to our changing climate.

An international five-tier drought scale, ranges from D0 (abnormally dry) to D4 (exceptional drought) and is used to assess drought intensity and impacts on agriculture, water supply, and ecosystems. We are still in mild to moderate drought, where soil moisture remains decreased, causing challenges for crop growth. Farmers may notice reduced yield, especially for those depending heavily on irrigation.

October is one of the UK's most unpredictable months. The transition from the relatively settled late-summer pattern to the stormy autumn pattern can be dramatic. October 2026 could deliver anything from a warm, golden 'second summer' under persistent high pressure, to the first significant Atlantic storms of the season.