

Dry Weather and Drought in England

Local Resilience Forum Update on Drought Conditions in Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Last Updated 11 August 2026

This briefing provides an update on the current drought situation across the Environment Agency's Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Area, the potential impacts on communities, businesses, farming and the environment, and the actions being taken to manage pressures on water resources.

The Environment Agency's Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Area covers the following geographical areas: Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Rutland, Peterborough and parts of Cambridgeshire.

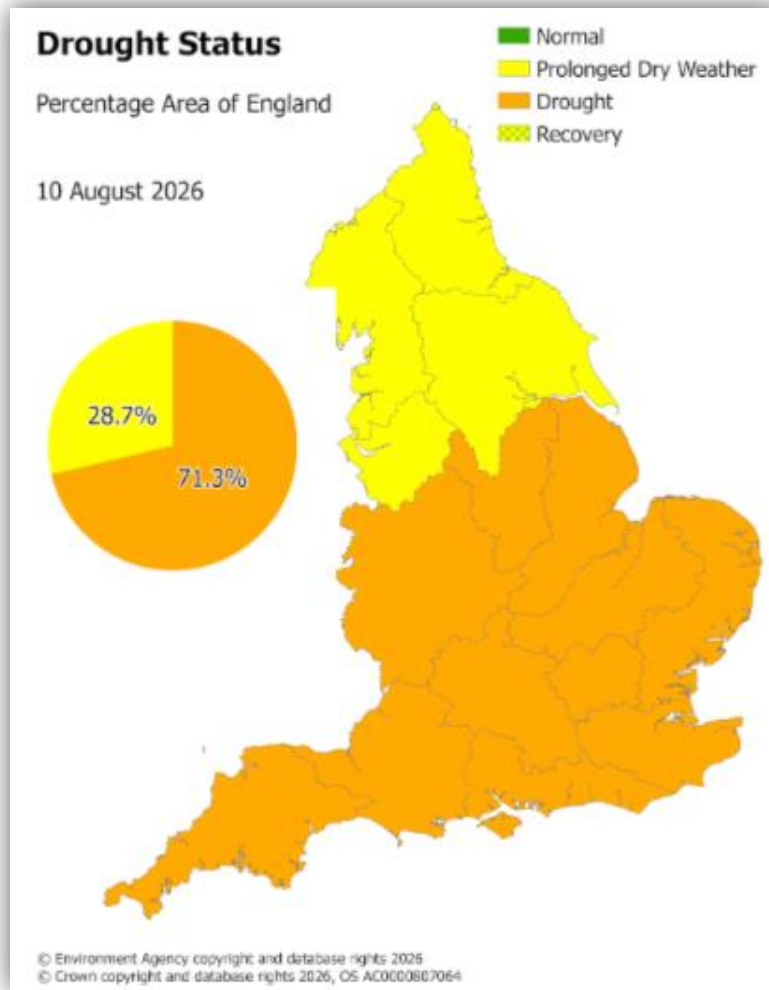
Key Messages

- Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire entered Drought Status on 10 August 2026, following an extended period of exceptionally dry weather.
- England experienced its driest July on record, with exceptionally low rainfall continuing into August and increasing pressure on water resources.
- Drought conditions are affecting water availability, agriculture, river flows, boaters, wildlife and habitats across the region.

Current Situation

Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Area entered Drought Status on 10 August 2026, following a prolonged period of exceptionally dry weather. The decision follows the driest July on record for England (records began in 1836) and an exceptionally dry start to August. River flows, groundwater and reservoir levels have continued to decline, increasing pressure on water supplies, agriculture and the environment. These conditions have developed over several months of below-average rainfall and continuing dry weather across the region.

Latest Environment Agency Drought Status Map



What This Means for Local Communities

Public water supplies remain available, but drought conditions are placing increasing pressure on water resources.

Agriculture, which plays a vital role in the local economy and food production, is facing challenges from reduced rainfall and increased demand for water. We are working closely with the water companies, National Farmers' Union and Internal Drainage Boards.

The environment is also being affected, with lower river levels, pressure on wildlife and habitats, deteriorating water quality, fish in distress, blue-green algae blooms and increased wildfire risk.

What We Are Doing

The Environment Agency has increased its response to drought conditions across Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Area.

Our actions include:

- Monitoring river flows, groundwater levels, rainfall and environmental conditions.
- Working with water companies to help safeguard public water supplies.

- Managing water abstraction in line with licence conditions, to protect rivers and the wider environment.
- Working with farmers and land managers to support resilience during drought conditions.
- Operating river transfer schemes to support water availability and manage water resources effectively.
- Increasing environmental monitoring and incident response activities to reduce impacts on wildlife and habitats.
- Working closely with partners across the region, including Internal Drainage Boards, water companies, farming organisations and local authorities, to coordinate our response and manage emerging risks.

How You Can Help

As trusted local voices, Local Resilience Forum partners play an important role in helping communities understand the challenges posed by drought conditions.

You can support by

- Sharing information from water companies and public bodies. Public support is vital in helping us, and our partners, manage water resources and protect the environment.
- Promoting water-saving measures at home and in businesses – by following water company guidance and the Consumer Council for Water's advice: [Save money and water - CCW](https://www.ccw.org.uk/save-money-and-water) / www.ccw.org.uk/save-money-and-water
- Help reinforce the message that people should stay away from operational locks, sluices and other water control structures, and report any vandalism or antisocial behaviour to the police and the Environment Agency. We are seeing an increase in vandalism at these sites across the country. During drought conditions, tampering with water control structures can release water from already stressed river systems, affecting wildlife, navigation and local communities.

Members of the public can report environmental incidents, including fish in distress, pollution events or other environmental concerns, to:

- Environment Agency's 24-hour Incident Hotline: 0800 80 70 60
- The gov.uk website: [Report an environmental problem - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/report-environmental-problem) / www.gov.uk/report-environmental-problem

Further Information

Further information on drought conditions and the Environment Agency's response can be found through Environment Agency drought updates and guidance on GOV.UK.

We will continue to monitor conditions closely and provide further updates as the situation develops. Thank you for your continued support in helping raise awareness of drought conditions and the impacts across Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Area.