



Essex  
County  
Council

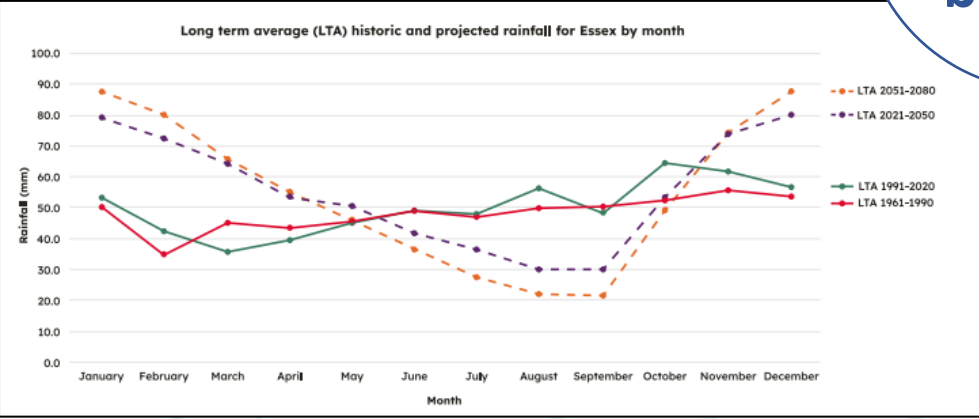
Environment and  
Climate Action

# Our Water Challenge

Lucy Shepherd  
Climate Adaptation and Mitigation



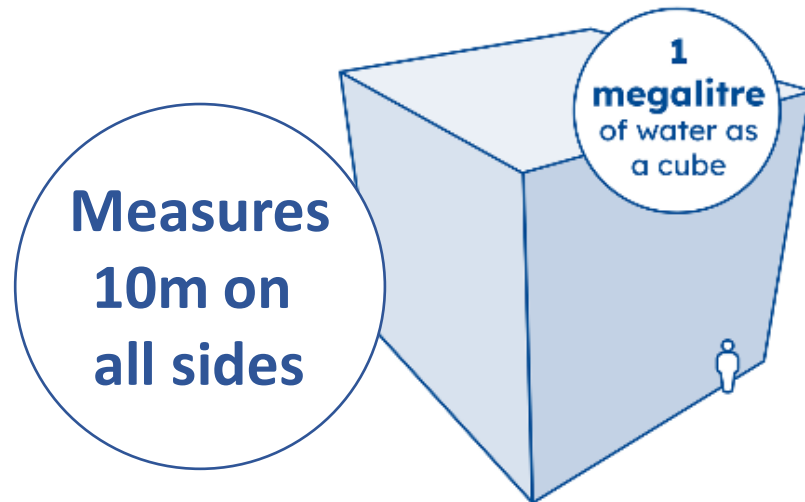
# Flooding – More Frequent



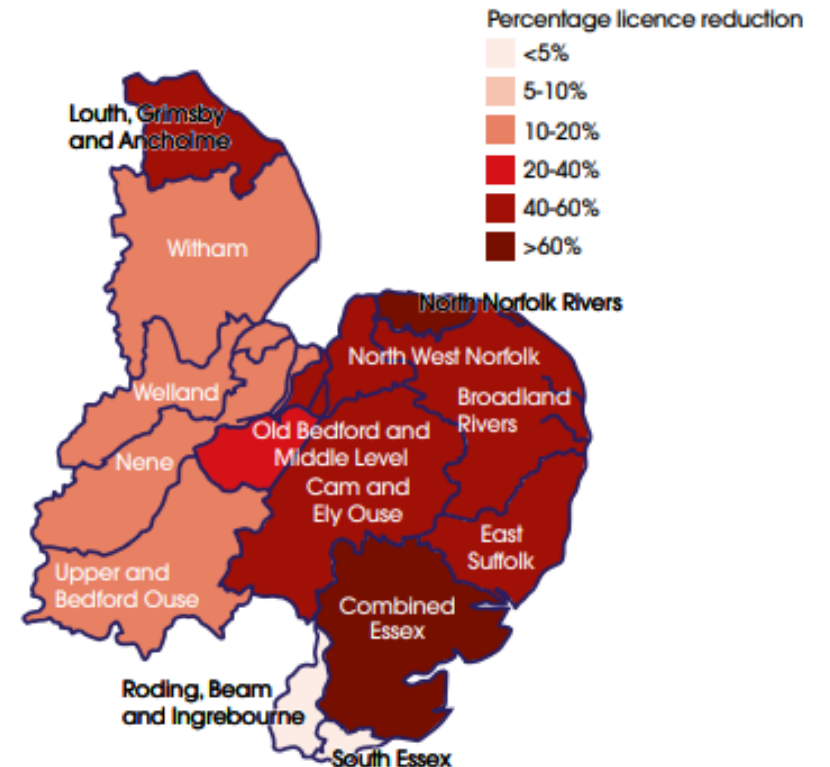
# Water Supply – In Deficit

Public Water Supply is in deficit with projected growth, climate change and environment needs.

- Water Resources East states that Eastern England faces projected *total* water shortages of 800 ml/d (the equivalent of a third of current water use in the region).
- Anglian Water public water supply 477ml/d deficit by 2050
- Essex County public water supply 147.5 ml/d deficit by 2050



For regional agriculture in an ‘enhanced’ environmental scenario (protecting flow for recovery of the most environmentally sensitive sites):

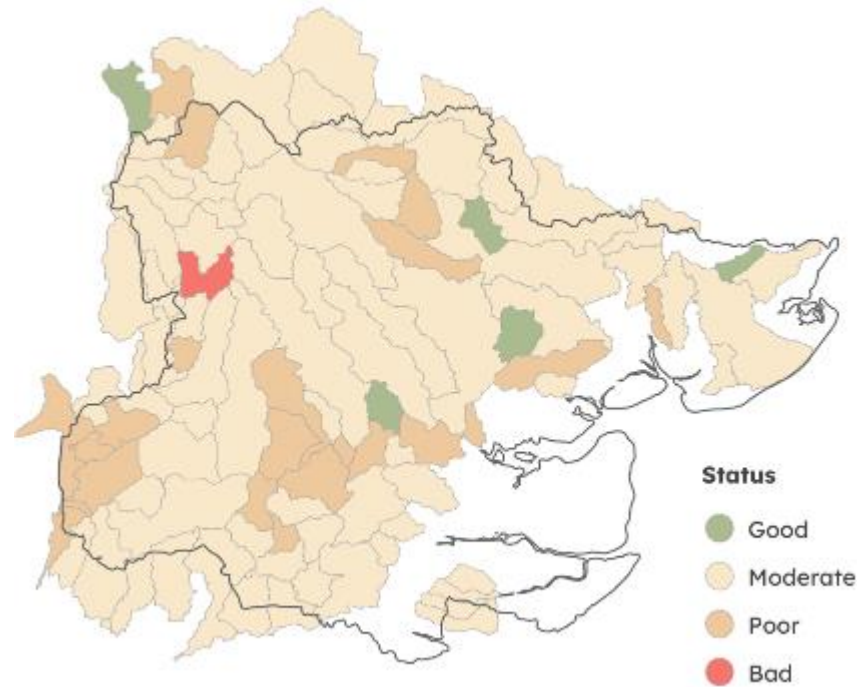




# Water Quality – Poor

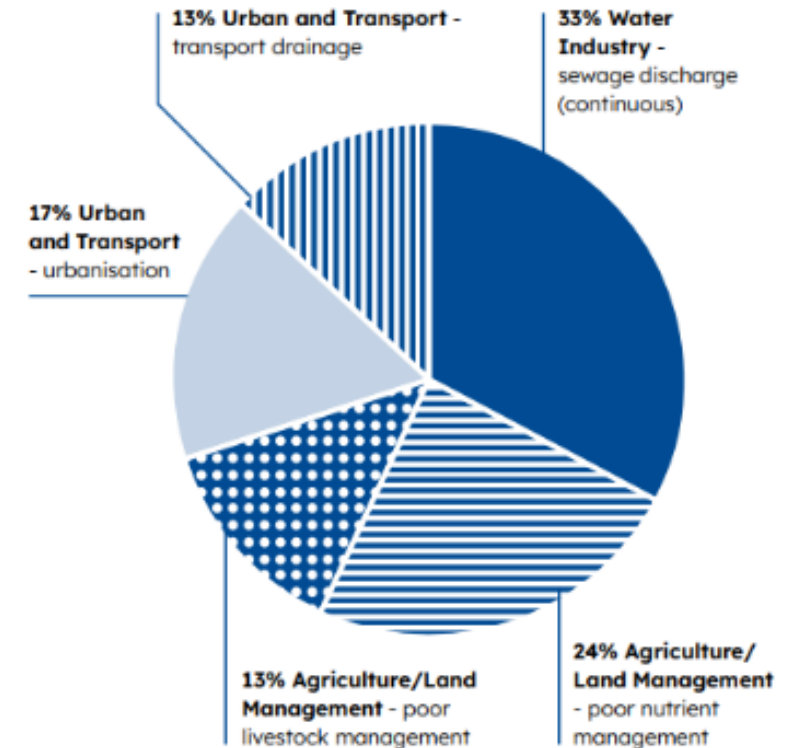
5 out of 91 water bodies in Essex (5%) achieve 'GOOD' status (England 16% overall)

18 out of 91 water bodies in Essex (20%) are POOR status (England 17% overall)



Water body status

Top known reasons for not meeting good ecological status in Essex

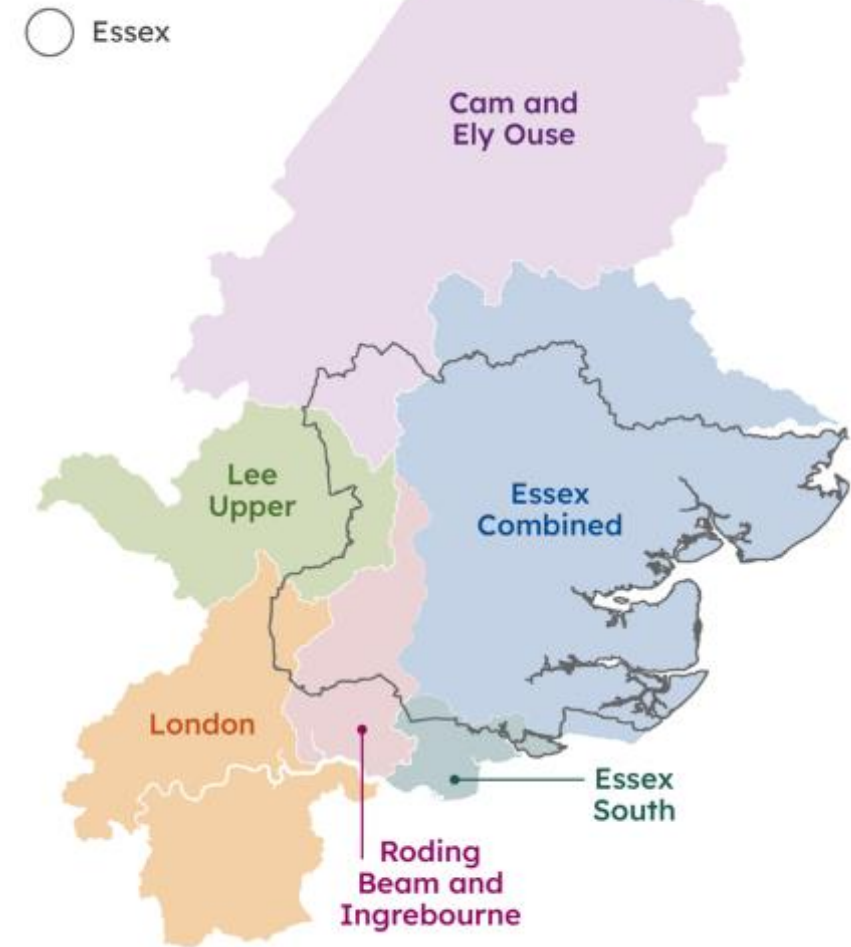


# Need for collaboration

- Lack of public understanding
- Spilt responsibilities
- Multiple causes/problems
- Planning and flood management further complicates
- Regional Plans also now in place



Water company boundaries



Wider catchment boundaries

# Public Concern



The pollution of rivers increased by 30% in the past 2 years as one of Essex residents top environmental concerns



84% of people did not know Essex was in a seriously water stressed area

95% of people were unaware of the target to reduce public water use by 20% by 2038.



58% of people felt they didn't know water shortage was an issue because they are not informed

# Water Strategy for Essex



**Essex Water Strategy** document and recommendations launched 20 **March 2024**

Key:  **Leading**  **Supporting**



**Engagement Campaign** involving new microsite water explorer to get everyone 'water literate' and drive behaviour change

Link to [Essex Water Your Future](#)



Key data from our water companies and partners to be tracked and published on our **Essex Open Data** portal

**Low Water  
Hanningfield  
Reservoir**





# 30 Recommendations

- Multi-sector across 3 consistent themes:
  - ✓ Reduce Demand
  - ✓ Change Land Use
  - ✓ Alternative Supply Options
- Linked to existing government targets and requirements
- Stressing the need for cross sector collaboration and nature-based solutions
- Highlighting where system change will have benefits for water
- Making the case for water across other climate adaptation communications, projects and strategies



Canvey Island  
Rain Garden



Harlow Leaky  
Dam



TEXT VERSION | ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

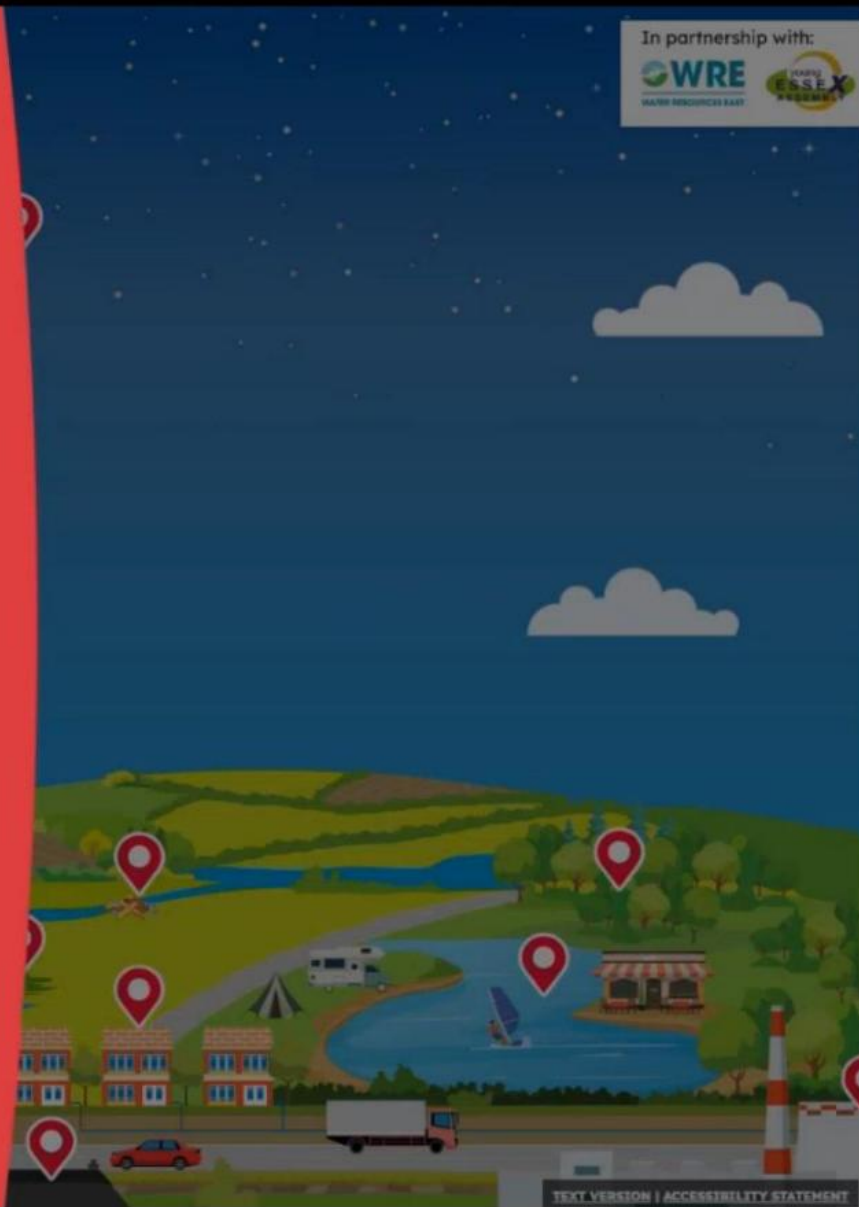


# Essex Water Your Future

Your interactive guide to the water challenges for Essex.  
Find out how we can solve them together.

START EXPLORING NOW

In partnership with:



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