

UK Drought print news coverage, January 2018

WEATHER

Warning of drought threat in South East

By Tom Bowden
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

London and surrounding counties face a drought this summer unless the amount of rain increases significantly in the next three months, the Environment Agency warned.

Groundwater and reservoir levels are well below normal after two consecutive winters of low rainfall. Southern Water said "exceptionally low rainfall" prompted its decision to ask the Environment Agency for permission to pump water from Kent rivers to top up Bewl Water reservoir,

SPECIAL REPORT

Drenched by the wrong type of rain

Despite recent downpours, parts of the UK are being warned to expect water shortages this summer. By Tom Bowden

Following the Christmas holiday season and a dry start to January, it may come as a surprise to learn that parts of the country are expected to face a drought this year unless it rains significantly more than usual over the next two to three months.

The Environment Agency has issued a warning that parts of the country are expected to face a drought this year unless it rains significantly more than usual over the next two to three months.

The agency says that in the last few weeks, the total amount of precipitation over the past two years in the south-east has been less than the long-term average for the period October to March in the south-east of the year or equivalent water levels in the reservoirs and groundwater stores.

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It is noted in reservoirs and in groundwater that people have in the south-east of the country. The amount of water in the reservoirs and groundwater stores is well below normal after two consecutive winters of low rainfall. Southern Water said "exceptionally low rainfall" prompted its decision to ask the Environment Agency for permission to pump water from Kent rivers to top up Bewl Water reservoir,

What happens in a drought... and how to help avoid one

Watering off reserves
Remember to turn off the taps for watering your lawn in a drought. It's better to let the grass die than to waste water.

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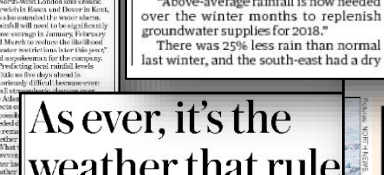


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Summer drought warning for south-east after dry autumn

Water supplies are well below normal, officials warned yesterday. Stuart Sampson, water manager at the Environment Agency (EA), said: "Despite the recent wet weather at the end of December, we had a dry end to the autumn with rainfall much lower than average in the south-east of England."

"Above-average rainfall is now needed over the winter months to replenish groundwater supplies for 2018."

There was 25% less rain than normal last winter, and the south-east had a dry

Drenched UK 'might still see a hosepipe ban'

Five flood alerts yesterday in Kent after the deluge from Storm Eleanor.

Water supplies are usually replenished in the south-east in October to March period as rainfall in the spring and summer is normally absorbed by the ground.

But last winter the start to the winter was unusually dry and November was all much drier than usual.

Environment Agency figures say that between October 2016 and March 2017 south-east England got 78 per cent of the long-term average rainfall while last October it got just 27 per cent.

However last month's storms meant that rainfall in the south-east in December was 126 per cent above average.

Environment Agency water manager Stuart Sampson said: "Groundwater and some reservoirs are below normal levels."

Hosepipe bans were last in place in 2012.



Claim's drought of order

A WATER company claims it is heading towards a drought as its customers face flood alerts.

Southern Water said "exceptionally low rainfall" since 2015 led it to ask for a drought permit from the Environment Agency.

It will allow them to pump water from Kent rivers to top up Bewl Water reservoir.

Five flood alerts are already in force in Kent.

Southern Water said: "Bewl currently holds less than 43% of its maximum 31 billion litres capacity."



Hosepipe ban looms for rain-lashed Britain

Months, areas in the south-east could face hosepipe bans to limit water use.

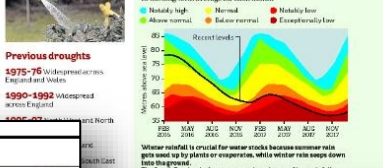
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Southern Water said: "Bewl currently holds less than 43% of its maximum 31 billion litres capacity."

Reservoirs are running low because of a "prolonged period of dry weather".

The Environment Agency said it was considering the application.

The spokesman said the dry weather was concentrated in the south-east, and started in winter 2016.



Water chiefs' bid to reduce risk of a hosepipe ban

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As ever, it's the weather that rules the British plot

As dry winter might mean a hosepipe ban, while a wet spring will bring more slugs and snails. Matthew Appleby looks at trends 2018 and predicts a good year for saffron, nematodes and shrimps.

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