Blueprint for Water evidence submission to the House of Lords Environment and Climate Change Committee Inquiry into Drought Preparedness

24th November 2025

This response is on behalf of Blueprint for Water, part of nature and animal welfare coalition Wildlife and Countryside Link (Link).

Blueprint for Water[1] welcomes the opportunity to respond to this inquiry from the House of Lords Environment and Climate Change Committee into drought preparedness.

The UK is not sufficiently resilient to or prepared for drought. Reasons for this include:

- A largely reactive, short-term approach to drought management, that focuses largely on public water supply, and neglects both the environment and agriculture.
- A historic lack of investment in resilience, for example regarding water industry assets and infrastructure, meaning that this has not kept pace with the pressures of a changing climate. 19% of water is lost to leakage before it reaches customer taps.[2]
- The poor state of UK nature, meaning that the natural ecosystems we rely upon for protection from and resilience to events such as drought are being lost.
- A siloed approach to water management, whereby water availability is not considered sufficiently within water and land management decisions, and where land and water issues are not managed holistically. For example, the separate planning processes for and management of flooding and drought.

We need a more proactive, holistic approach to managing drought in England, to build both natural and industry resilience, and to reduce harmful impacts on public water supply, agriculture, and the environment. This approach must include:

- Updating national guidance to allow Temporary Use Bans to be used as drought management tools, earlier in the process, and in response to agricultural and environmental impacts as well as threats to public water supply.
- Removal of restrictions to water meter rollout through the upcoming water white paper and subsequent Water Reform Bill. Meter rollout should promote and make

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[1] Blueprint for Water is a unique coalition of environmental, water efficiency, fisheries and recreational organisations that come together to form a powerful joint voice across a range of water-based issues.
[2] Environment Agency. (2025). Water efficiency must become national priority says EA - GOV.UK

use of smart metering wherever possible, to help engage consumers with their water use.

- Sustained year-round engagement with consumers, businesses and communities on the importance of water efficiency.
- Greater use of nature-based and demand management solutions, to build environmental and industry resilience to water scarcity.
- Better use of environmental monitoring before, during and after drought events, drawing on the work of Natural England to develop site-based datasets to track drought impacts on wildlife (including fish).
- Ensuring that abstraction management is linked to the Land Use Framework, and that water availability is afforded sufficient weight in planning and development decisions. An integrated water management approach is required, working at catchment scale, to tackle issues holistically and deliver multiple wider benefits.

There will be critical opportunities to progress a more holistic, proactive approach to managing water and therefore building drought preparedness through the forthcoming water white paper, and subsequent Water Reform Bill.[3] Given the scale of the challenge presented by water scarcity, and the risk this poses across all sectors, Government must ensure that this is firmly within the scope of the Bill.

Blueprint for Water has previously submitted evidence to the Public Accounts Committee regarding resilience to extreme weather, and the Environmental Audit Committee regarding resilience to flooding. The Lords Environment and Climate Change Committee may be interested in these submissions, given their relevance to drought preparedness. We have therefore included links to these submissions within this evidence document.[4]

We would be pleased to discuss any of the points in this evidence submission further.

Questions

1. **What are the potential risks of increased drought in England to: the urban, industrial, and rural environment; people, species and habitats; and the economy?**

1.1. The health, resilience and long-term wellbeing of our economy, our communities, and our environment relies on a resilient supply of clean, healthy water. As the 2025 National Framework for Water Resources reports, 'Water is vital to life and livelihoods. Without

[3] The committee may be interested in our briefing setting out priorities for the white paper and subsequent Bill: WCL_Briefing_Priorities_Water_Reform_Bill_Nov_2025.pdf

[4] Our evidence submission regarding resilience to extreme weather (2024) can be accessed here: WCL_Response_PAC_Inquiry_Extreme_Weather_Resilience_Feb_2024.pdf and our submission regarding flood resilience (2025) can be accessed here: WCL_EAC_Flood_Resilience_Inquiry_Response_Jan_2025.pdf

water, there is no wildlife, no economy, no food, no power, no health, and no society'.[5] Water scarcity and increased drought is therefore a significant threat. According to updated 2025 figures, England currently faces a 5 billion litres per day shortfall in public water supplies by 2055, and a further 1 billion litres per day deficit for the wider economy, which includes for energy generation and for growing food.[6] This predicted shortfall is equivalent to a third of current daily water use. A November 2025 report from the Environment Agency states that current levels of water abstracted from rivers, lakes and groundwaters are not sustainable, and that water efficiency must become a national priority in order to address this growing threat.[7]

1.2. Drought poses significant environmental risks, through direct impacts on species and habitats, and through exacerbating existing pressures on biodiversity. 15% of all rivers and 27% of all groundwaters in England are already classed as over-abstracted.[8] A 2025 investigation found that the volume of water taken from rivers and lakes for public and industrial consumption has increased by 76% in just two decades, and that groundwater abstraction has increased by 53% since 2018.[9] Unnaturally low flows – whether due to over-abstraction, extreme weather events, or a combination of both – harm wildlife and disrupt ecosystems due to loss of habitat, eutrophication and the associated reduction in dissolved oxygen, and the increased concentration of harmful pollutants. In times of drought, these issues may be worsened by the use of reactive measures such as drought orders and permits, which allow continued abstraction to maintain public water supply despite environmental thresholds being surpassed.

1.3. Drought and water scarcity also poses significant risks to agriculture and food security. Drought conditions can result in crop failures, reduced yields, less drinking water available for livestock, and less grass available for grazing. The stress caused by a lack of water leaves crops more vulnerable to pests and diseases. This also has significant impacts on farm finances and livelihoods. Research conducted by the ECIU in 2025 reports that 98% of UK farmers have experienced extreme weather in the last five years, that 78% have been impacted by drought, and 54% by heatwaves. 87% of farmers reported reduced productivity as a result of extreme weather, 84% reported a decrease in crop yields or livestock output, and 29% reported complete losses. The 2025 research also details the significant negative

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[5] National Framework for Water Resources. (2025). [1. Introduction: National Framework for Water Resources 2025 - GOV.UK]

[6] National Framework for Water Resources. (2025). [England faces 5 billion litre public water shortage by 2055 without urgent action - GOV.UK]

[7] Environment Agency. (2025) [Water efficiency must become national priority says EA - GOV.UK]

[8] Watershed Investigations. (2025). [England's rivers 'under threat' as water extraction surges to record levels | Rivers | The Guardian]

[9] Watershed Investigations. (2025). [England's rivers 'under threat' as water extraction surges to record levels | Rivers | The Guardian]

impact that this has on farmers' mental health and wellbeing, and how this undermines long-term business certainty and security.[10]

1.4. The effects of drought conditions can work in synergy with the effects of other extreme weather events, exacerbating the impacts. For example, whereby a flood event washes excess nutrients, chemicals, sewage and plastics into waterways, and subsequent drought conditions with lower water flows mean that those pollutants become concentrated and their impact on both wildlife and human health is heightened. As instances of extreme weather become more frequent, and weather events themselves become more severe, this synergistic effect will only increase. The Environment Agency has highlighted how rising temperatures increase the risk of some chemicals, their "mobility, persistence and toxicity", effects which are compounded during dry spells when "there is less water… to dilute any contaminants".[11] Chemical pollutants are a major driver of biodiversity loss - with impacts on the reproduction, immune, hormonal and neurological systems of wildlife, as well as their mating and migration.[12] Action to reduce levels entering the environment needs to taken as part of climate adaptation plans, as chemical pollution is closely linked to the climate and nature crises, with each accelerating and amplifying each other.[13]

1.5. The severity of drought risk and the range of impacts this can bring is exemplified by events in 2022, when the UK experienced temperatures hotter than 40°C for the first time. The number of heat-related deaths in England reached a record of 3,000, and wildfires raged. The prolonged dry weather and drought event left millions of people facing water restrictions. Abnormally low flows in water bodies caused harmful algal blooms, with the lack of dissolved oxygen leading to fish kills. Some ponds and river stretches dried out entirely, including the source and first five miles of the River Thames, further impacting wildlife and disrupting ecosystems. The 2022 drought did not end in some regions of the UK until winter 2023, with ongoing impacts on the environment, agriculture, and public water supply.

1.6. 2025 has been classed as the hottest summer in England on record. Following the driest spring in 132 years, drought was declared first in north-west England, and then in further areas of the country. Environment Agency summary reports state that during peak drought conditions in August 2025, there were approximately 50 fish kill incidents per week; algal bloom incidents occurring during this period brought the yearly total of algal blooms to 154.[14] As of November 2025, four areas remain in drought, and six in 'prolonged dry

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[10] Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit. (2025). 'The impact of climate change on British farms and farmers' mental health'. Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit | The impact of climate change on…

[11] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-climate-adaptation-reporting-fourth-round/environment-agency-climate-adaptation-reporting-fourth-round

[12] https://chemtrust.org/wildlife/

[13] The UN describes climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution as the 'triple planetary' crises, https://unfccc.int/news/what-is-the-triple-planetary-crisis

[14] Environment Agency. (2025). Dry weather and drought in England: 22 to 28 August 2025 - GOV.UK

weather' conditions. Average reservoir storage is at 63% - compared with the usual average for the time of year of 76% - and water companies and Government are in the process of developing emergency plans in case of a dry winter and therefore prolonged drought, with further impacts on nature, consumers and businesses.[15]

1.7. The events of 2025 also demonstrate the importance of managing water holistically, both in terms of too little, and too much. In November 2025, Storm Claudia brought flooding to 57 properties in England, and severe and widespread flooding to Monmouth (Wales), where a major incident was declared. In Wales, four severe flood warnings were issued, including warning of a danger to life. Research shows that the impacts of drought and hot, dry spells such as those of summer 2025 can heighten the risks and impacts of flooding events; for example, through drought changing the nature of soil and meaning that it cannot absorb water as quickly.[16] Drought and flood risk must be managed holistically, through integrated water and land management at catchment scale, to address these synergistic risks. A holistic approach also brings opportunities to deliver multiple wider benefits for people and nature.

2. How will climate change affect drought risk (including severity, frequency and type) and impacts of drought?

2.1. Climate change means that the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, including prolonged dry weather and drought, is increasing. This means that drought risk, and the impacts of drought upon the environment, communities, and the economy is also increasing. This is worsened by lack of preparedness and insufficient resilience to extreme weather, including drought.

2.2. Changing climate also increases the risk of extreme weather events happening at the same time, or in quick succession, leading to the amplification of impacts as discussed under Q1.

3. How comprehensive and responsive is drought monitoring in England? Could early-warning systems be more effective?

3.1. Drought monitoring is not sufficiently comprehensive and responsive in England. This is part of a wider trend generally with regards to monitoring of the water environment, which has seen significant cuts and reductions in both coverage and frequency of reporting due to resource and capacity constraints.

[15] The Guardian. (2025). England facing drastic measures due to extreme drought next year | Drought | The Guardian

[16] ECIU. (2023). Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit | Storms, floods, droughts and an…

3.2. Greater use of monitoring is required both before, during, and after drought events. This would help build an understanding of the impacts of drought, and help with identifying and managing risk. It is crucial that monitoring efforts do not solely focus on public water supply, but also consider the impacts on and risks to the environment, and to agriculture.

3.3. Natural England has begun work to develop ecological monitoring and site-based datasets to track drought impacts on wildlife (including fish), and to help better identify and manage risk. This should be built upon and broadened out, for example through incorporating data and expertise from eNGOs who own and manage land.

4. **How effective are drought response protocols in England, both before a drought has been declared and once a drought is underway? Are there opportunities for improvement?**

4.1. Drought response protocols in England are highly reactive, and overwhelmingly focused on public water supply. This means that actions taken to manage and mitigate drought are often too late, too piecemeal, and do not give sufficient weight to agricultural and environmental risks. Some drought response protocols, such as the issuing of drought orders and permits, may in fact make the environmental impacts of drought even worse.

4.2. For example, regulators were seemingly caught off-guard by the speed at which drought conditions developed in 2022. This meant that the Environment Agency did not change area statuses early enough to protect the environment, or existing water resources. Temporary Use Bans (TUBs) were issued in August 2022, which was too late.

4.3. Drought response and management in England currently relies on short-term, 'reactive' measures such as temporary use bans (TUBs) and water saving comms to consumers, primarily through water companies, and often once a public water supply drought has already been declared. These measures are primarily concerned with threats to public water supply, and tend to be restricted to hot, dry periods such as during summer heatwaves when the impacts of water scarcity and drought are already being felt. By this point, environmental and agricultural impacts are likely already significant, and it is difficult to meaningfully rectify the issue.

4.4. There is a trend more broadly within the UK of a lack of preparedness, insufficient resilience to, and failures to apply lessons learnt regarding extreme weather events including drought. This continues to drive reactive, short-term approaches. For example, Government steer to the water industry in summer 2023 instructed water companies to explore using more optimistic climate scenarios in their water resources modelling in order to reduce

costs.[17] Similarly, the Independent Water Commission has highlighted the historic lack of priority and therefore investment afforded to water industry resilience, particularly regarding company infrastructure and assets.

4.5. A more proactive and holistic approach to managing drought in England is required in order to boost resilience and preparedness, and to reduce risks to public water supply, agriculture, and the environment.

4.6. Also vital to this will be reforms to the application and use of TUBs. National drought management guidance must be updated to allow and encourage a more proactive use of TUBs, which should be framed as drought management *tools* rather than systemic failures. Indeed, unlike drought orders and drought permits, TUBs will not cause greater stress upon the already vulnerable environment. TUBs should be available for use to protect the environment and agriculture, rather than solely in relation to public water supply, and should be made viable as a management option earlier in the process. We cannot rely on water resources infrastructure alone to guard against all future droughts; TUBs must therefore be recognised as a legitimate tool for mitigating the impacts of drought, and utilised as such.

4.7. 'Triggers' for reviewing and declaring 'prolonged dry weather' status and 'drought' status must also be reviewed, with a view to driving drought management actions earlier in the process, and better reflecting the impacts felt by agriculture and the environment rather than solely focusing on public water supply.

4.8. Ultimately, a more integrated approach to water management is required. This should include affording water availability sufficient weight in decision making and wider land management – for example, through the Land Use Framework, and in relation to development and planning decisions – and ensuring that water is managed holistically at catchment-scale and across sectors. This will be critical to building and sustaining drought preparedness.

4.9. There will be vital opportunities to drive this approach through the upcoming white paper and Water Reform Bill, for example through the creation of Regional Water Authorities with responsibility for holistic water management across sectors.[18]

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[17] Wildlife and Countryside Link wrote to the then-Secretary of State to express concern at this approach in August 2023: https://www.thetimes.com/article/water-firms-urged-to-save-money-by-using-low-climate-change-scenario-clean-it-up-c5clpsbn0

[18] Wildlife and Countryside Link. (2025). WCL_Briefing_Priorities_Water_Reform_Bill_Nov_2025.pdf

5. **What are the potential economic costs of drought management actions that may be needed in the future?**

5.1. As climate changes, the effects of extreme weather will worsen, and droughts will likely become more frequent and more severe, and therefore the impacts more costly to rectify. Actions taken now to boost preparedness and resilience to water scarcity will help to reduce these future costs.

5.2. As stated, there has been a historic lack of investment in water company assets and infrastructure, which means that this has not kept pace with increasing demand, or the growing pressures due to climate change. This was in part due to a focus from Government and regulators on keeping bills down. Yet this backloading and delay in action means that the scale of the problem has simply grown; 19% of water is lost before it reaches customer taps due to leakage, and the significant increase in investment required for PR24 company business plans is reflective of the scale of the spend now needed to address the problem.

5.3. Through the forthcoming white paper and subsequent Bill, Government must place greater emphasis on building and maintaining resilience – both with respect to water industry infrastructure and assets, and of the natural environment more broadly. As part of this, there must be a transition to more natural capital based accounting, to better understand the true value of investment, and the costs and risks of under-investment. This should be incorporated into water sector planning processes, and within the work of the new ‘super’ regulator.

5.4 Urgent action is needed to expand the use of nature-based solutions and natural flood management to improve resilience to water scarcity, supported by Government investment in advice and training. For example, beaver-created wetlands can strengthen drought resilience along rivers and improve grazing conditions, providing an economic benefit by helping offset any productive land lost.

6. **In what ways are residents, businesses and industry involved in drought management planning and drought actions? Could engagement by water companies with their customers be improved?**

6.1. Engagement by water companies with their customers to promote water efficiency and water saving should be improved. As stated, such engagement is often limited to hot, dry periods when the impacts of drought are already being felt. There is an awareness gap amongst stakeholders and customers regarding both the importance of water efficiency generally, and the specifics of drought management; for example, the Consumer Council for Water (CCW) found that in the 2022 drought, there was confusion amongst both household and non-household customers regarding who was affected and what restrictions were in place. Furthermore, water company messaging on water efficiency is currently undermined

by poor trust and consumer dissatisfaction[19] with the industry's own performance in areas such as leakage.

6.2. Sustained, year-round engagement with all stakeholders on the importance of water saving and water efficiency is required to address knowledge and awareness gaps, and to drive consumer behaviour change. Water companies must not only work to improve their comms, but must improve their performance with regard to water supply infrastructure to help restore public trust and thereby boost the legitimacy of water efficiency messaging. Greater ambition is also required to reduce non-household and business water consumption. Recent proposals to remove falling block tariffs are a promising step, but further action is required.[20]

6.3. This responsibility to engage with consumers does not sit solely with water industry. Government must also play a role in encouraging behavioural change to reduce water consumption, including through removing remaining restrictions on water meter rollout to enable universal metering across England. This should be delivered through the forthcoming Water Reform Bill and the associated programme of water reform, as recommended by the Independent Water Commission.[21] As part of these reforms, Government must also establish clear and measurable delivery pathways for how water targets will be achieved, including the public water supply target under the Environment Act.[22]

7. Are roles and responsibilities in relation to drought management clear enough?

7.1. In 2025, the Environment Agency has consulted on updated versions of the National Drought Management Plan, and Water Company Drought Plan Guidance. Blueprint for Water's view was that these documents generally succeeded in setting out the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, and what the processes for managing drought should look like. However, we identified some areas that would benefit from further clarity and transparency, to ensure accountability and to enable scrutiny.

7.2. For example, it is unclear what the responsibilities of New Appointments and Variations (NAVs) are in relation to drought planning, management and response. There is also a lack of available detail regarding emergency drought planning, given that these are not published,

[19] Consumer Council for Water. (2024). Trust in water companies reaches a 13-year low amid falling customer satisfaction - CCW

[20] Blueprint for Water is highly supportive of the IWC's recommendation – and Ofwat's subsequent policy proposal – to remove falling block tariffs for non-household consumption. Our full response to the October 2025 consultation can be read here:
WCL_Blueprint_Response_Promoting_Water_Efficiency_Wholesale_Charges_Oct_2025.pdf

[21] Independent Water Commission. (2025). 'Recommendation 37: accelerate efforts to reduce household water consumption by introducing compulsory smart metering for a wider range of circumstances'. Independent Water Commission Final Report

[22] Blueprint for Water. (2025). WCL_Briefing_Priorities_Water_Reform_Bill_Nov_2025.pdf

which means that opportunities for stakeholder scrutiny and input are limited. It is also unclear as to whether key organisations are sufficiently engaged and aware. A strong steer should be provided to the sector by Government so that water supply priorities in an emergency drought situation are based on Government policy rather than determined by individual companies.

8. **What lessons can be learnt from other countries about managing rapid or severe droughts? What innovative solutions or technological approaches to water management are being deployed in other countries to improve drought resilience and preparedness?**

8.1. Smart metering has been successfully used in South Africa for reducing water use and water leaks. The UK Government should remove restrictions to universal water meter rollout through forthcoming Water Reform Bill, to help consumers to engage with their water use and reduce demand.

8.2. Australia offers some examples for the use of flexible, early approaches for implementing targeted actions to reduce and slow the impacts of drought events. For example, the application of rules specifying when consumers are allowed to water and/or use sprinkler and irrigation systems – rules have included restrictions to certain hours or day, such as via an 'odds and evens' system restricting usage for different house numbers to certain days of the week.

8.3. There are also useful international examples of how to collate and share information on drought and drought measures with the public. For example, in the United States, California's State Water Resources Control Board has a webpage dedicated to 'Drought Information and Updates'.[23] This webpage includes information on the water supply strategy for the region, emergency regulations that are currently in effect, and links through to real-time drought monitor maps.

8.4. In December 2024, the Nature Conservancy developed a report for the UNCCD COP16 on nature-based solutions for drought resilience.[24] The report includes a number of international examples, including avoiding water losses through better invasive species management, the implementation of agro-forestry and on-farm water plans to boost agricultural resilience, and better protection of headwaters.

[23] Link here: Drought | California State Water Resources Control Board
[24] Link here: COP16-UNCCD_DroughtBrief.pdf

9. **Are emerging sources of future water demand, such as new housing, data centres, industry and energy processes, adequately accounted for in water resource planning and drought plans? What impact might these sources of future demand have on drought risk?**

9.1. No, emerging sources of future water demand are not yet adequately accounted for in water resource planning and drought plans. Indeed, water availability is not afforded sufficient weight within planning and development decisions, or in wider land and water management.

9.2. Although trends in more frequent, prolonged and geographically extensive droughts have been both predicted and witnessed in recent years, Government has tended to be slow to start addressing raising the nation's water efficiency. The cumulative demand of new housing, development, and energy and data centre infrastructure is likely to raise, not lower, water demand.

9.3. Water demand patterns have been shown to follow temperature patterns; in periods of higher temperatures, water demand increases.[25] This means that as climate changes and extreme weather events such as intense heatwaves become more frequent, so too will peaks and spikes in water demand. Significantly, these peaks and spikes will fall when the water environment is already under significant stress and is in need of greater protection.

10. **How should the Government consider drought management alongside its other priorities such as nature restoration, food security, flood management and expansion of artificial intelligence?**

10.1. As set out by Sir Jon Cunliffe in the Independent Water Commission's final report to the Government in summer 2025, a safe supply of water is essential not only to nature but to society – from the economy, to public health, to food production.[26] Managing and securing a clean, resilient supply of water for people and for nature must be a priority for Government. Yet current approaches to water management are siloed, and factors such as water availability – or indeed, scarcity – are not sufficiently or strategically considered, for example in planning and development.

10.2. Furthermore, securing resilient, long-term supplies of water will not be possible through the work of the water industry alone. Land management decisions and changes will have significant impacts on water resources and therefore drought preparedness, for example through cropping choices and abstraction. Actions such as water-friendly farming and manging pollutants such as chemicals at source will be essential to ensure long-term supplies of *healthy* drinking water. A more integrated water management approach is

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[25] How do our water habits change in warmer weather? | Everflow Utilities

[26] Independent Water Commission. (2025). Independent Water Commission Final Report

therefore required, whereby water and land are managed holistically at catchment scale, to account for the needs and impacts of various sectors whilst meeting both current and future environmental need.

10.3. Government has a crucial opportunity to deliver a more integrated approach to water management, and therefore to better consider drought and water resources alongside broader water and land management issues, through the upcoming White Paper and subsequent Water Reform Bill. For example, through ensuring that the new 'super' regulator has a strong environmental focus, and is not limited in scope to solely water industry plans and responsibilities. New regional system planners, or 'Regional Water Authorities', should be introduced in order to deliver integrated and holistic water system planning, as per the Independent Water Commission's recommendations. These regional bodies should have powers to translate national level targets to regional level action through the development of statutory action plans, applying targets across sectors; this must include water use, and water efficiency. Government must also increase the profile of water resources management as part of water sector reforms, including a stronger role for the Water Resources National Framework.

10.4. This integrated approach should include working with nature at catchment scale, for example through greater use of nature-based solutions and natural flood management approaches that will increase water storage within the environment. Government should deliver this through the upcoming Bill; new regional systems planners should be given the responsibility of planning and securing a network of nature-rich, connected aquatic and riparian habitats in each region that help to meet water targets and biodiversity goals.[27]

10.5. For example, there is increasing evidence gathered from beaver wetlands that demonstrates the potential for beavers in our landscapes to reinstate drought resilience along rivers. The slower movement of water created by beaver dams leads to groundwater recharge, and has been shown to help mitigate drought by maintaining water in the landscape when adjacent fields are dry. Clinton Devon Estates in Devon manages extensive farmland, woodland, and river corridors, including parts of the River Otter catchment. Wild beavers have established territories there, creating wetlands on estate land. Monitoring shows these wetlands are helping to regulate water in drought, boosting drought resilience for wildlife and local communities. Aerial imagery has shown clear benefits for grazing livestock, which accessed greener, better-watered forage in dry periods—partly offsetting any land lost to new wetlands. Clinton Devon Estate has played a leading role in demonstrating how beavers can coexist with modern land management, needing only modest adjustments while providing significant resilience gains.

[27] Blueprint for Water. (2025). WCL_Briefing_Priorities_Water_Reform_Bill_Nov_2025.pdf