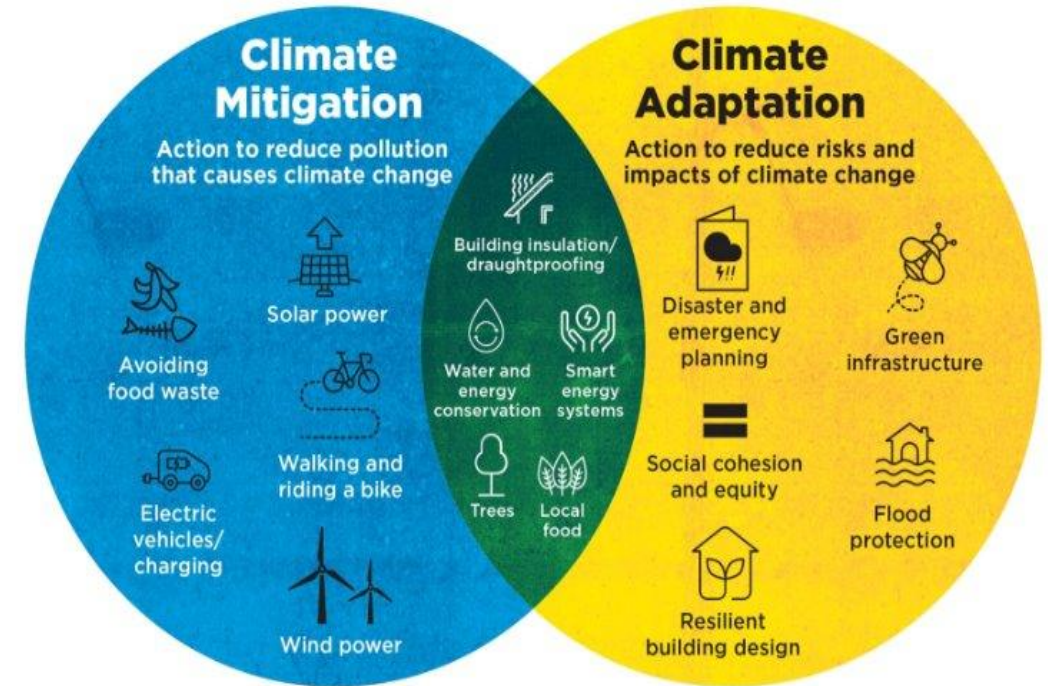


Herefordshire Climate Change Adaptation



Mitigation or Adaptation

- Climate adaptation looks at the actions to reduce risks and impacts e.g. flood protections.
- Climate mitigation is actions to reduce pollution that causes climate change e.g. green sources of energy.
- There is cross over between the two, such as water and energy conservation, and often they get confused due to how closely linked they are.
- For example, insulation a home both protects it from overheating but also reduces energy demands for heating/cooling.



Source: <https://www.cilips.org.uk/gwl-adapt>

National Context

The Climate Change Act 2008 establishes the overarching UK framework for adaptation. It requires:

1. The UK government to publish a **Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA)** every five years, which provides an up-to-date summary of the scientific evidence and understanding of the specific climate change risks and opportunities the UK faces.
2. The Climate Change Committee (CCC) to provide advice on the government's CCRA. The UK government's fourth CCRA is due to be published in 2027, informed by the CCC's independent assessment (CCRA4-IA).
3. National equivalents also require that each nation within the UK has a National Adaptation Programme (NAP) that sets out the government's plans and actions to address the risks and opportunities identified in the CCRA.

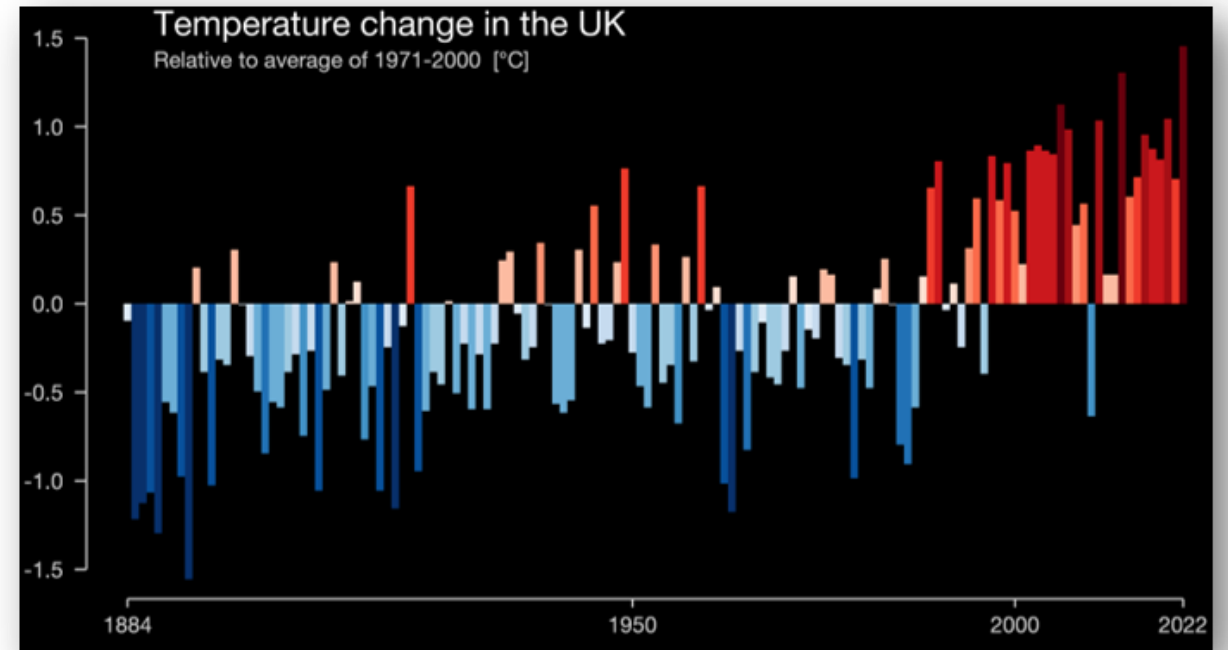
The data

Severe weather is becoming more severe, more frequent and lasting longer

We are experiencing:

- Warmer wetter winters
- Hotter drier summers
- More extreme weather events

The Show Your Stripes project shows the historic temperature change in the UK, with the last 2 decades highlighting the increase in hotter temperatures and decrease in colder temperatures we are experiencing.

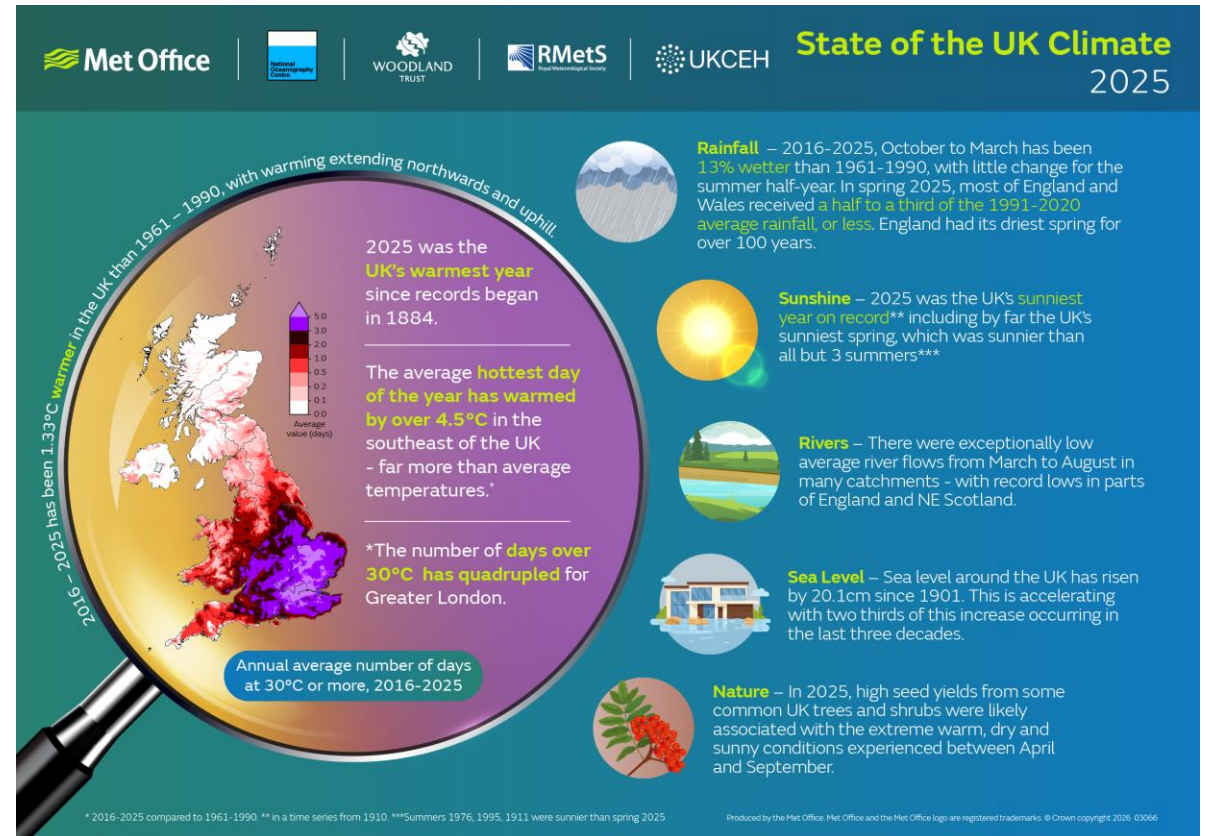


Source: <https://showyourstripes.info/c/europe/unitedkingdom/all/>

The Data

- The Climate Change Committee (CCC) has stated that in likely future climate conditions of 2°C global warming, around 22 per cent of UK homes will require it.
- The CCC states that 55 per cent of UK homes are currently at risk of overheating. By 2050, on current estimates, this will have risen to 92 per cent.

Source: [A Well-Adapted UK - Climate Change Committee](#)



Herefordshire Context



Severe Weather
Impact
Assessment for
Herefordshire
2008 – 2022



Climate Change
Adaptation Plan
for Herefordshire
2023-2028



Climate Change
Technical Report for
Herefordshire

Findings – a snap-shot

- More intense/prolonged heatwaves
- More frequent and intense flash flooding
- More frequent flooding of water courses
- More extreme events (e.g. storms).
- Longer periods of drought.

Ross-on-Wye hit the highest temperature in the UK on Tuesday

12th August Weather Herefordshire And Worcestershire



Source: Hereford Times 12/8/26



Water-stressed grass at Blackfriars Rose Gardens
© Herefordshire Council



Rock salt being spread during a heatwave
© Herefordshire Council



Climate Change Adaptation

Save water in the winter to protect you in the summer

- Install water butts
- Create Rain gardens- a shallow area of ground or dip which receives run-off from roofs and other hard surfaces.

It is planted with plants that can stand waterlogging for up to 48 hours at a time. More drought-tolerant plants are used towards the edges. Storm water fills the depression and then drains.

Wildfires - Protecting your Home and Garden

1. Clear a firebreak

Creating a two to three-metre cleared area around the edge of your property (where practical) that acts as a buffer, stopping fire from jumping directly onto your home. Think of it as extending your border maintenance.

2. Keep grass short

Ideally below seven centimetres.

3. Cut back trees and shrubs close to the home

Remove lower branches and thin out dense growth. Dense foliage can act as a ladder for fire to reach your roof, so clearing lower branches breaks that path.

4. Remove dry leaves and debris

Clear gutters, sweep up fallen leaves and remove dead plant material from beds. Dry leaves are highly flammable and can catch embers; clearing them removes fuel close to your home.

Wildfires - Protecting your Home and Garden

5. Reposition combustible items

Move sheds, fences and garden furniture away from the house where possible. Items positioned against or near your home can catch fire and transfer flames directly to the building.

6. Water gardens during dry spells

Use stored rainwater or other household water sources where hosepipe restrictions are in place. Watering keeps vegetation moist and less likely to ignite, creating a protective buffer around your property during prolonged dry weather.

Additional Resources

- <https://nfcc.org.uk/our-services/campaigns/wildfire-aware/prepare-and-protect-against-wildfires/>
- [Herefordshire Council Adaptation video and resources](#)
- [RHS Create and rain garden](#)
- [Defra Climate Report for Herefordshire](#)
- [UK Climate Adaptation Case studies](#)
- [National Heat Commission Resilient Report 2026](#)
- [Heat Wave Toolkit](#)

Community Resilience – what can we do support you?

- Share with us how community has been impacted by severe weather to date
- What steps you have taken to address the weather-related risks and impacts your community faces
- What more help/ resource you need to better prepare and adapt?

Events?

Leaflets?

Surveys? Community Adaptation Templates? Newsletters?

KEEP IN TOUCH

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