

Formal restrictions to surface water direct spray irrigation in East Anglia Area. 22 August 2022

Despite recent summer storms we are still experiencing drought conditions in river catchments across East Anglia. We have been managing the situation by asking water abstractors to take less water in vulnerable river catchments in accordance with their pre-agreed water abstraction licence conditions.

The situation continues to deteriorate so we are now having to take further steps to protect the environment and other water abstractors, using our powers under Section 57 of the Water Resources Act 1991.

On Wednesday, 24 August, we will be contacting customers who take water from surface water sources for 'spray irrigation' and instructing them to reduce their uptake by 50%. This is for surface water direct spray irrigators only and takes effect from Monday, 29 August to Saturday, 1 November, and applies in the following river catchments:

Norfolk

Rivers Tud, Yare and Tas,

Suffolk

Rivers Blyth, Alde, Ore, Deben, Gipping, Brett, Box and Stour,

Essex

Rivers Colne and Blackwater

Our teams continue to closely monitor the situation, work with water abstractors including farmers and water companies and are responding to reports of environmental incidents.

You can report an incident by calling our 24-hour incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

If you would like further information

Simon Hawkins, East Anglia Area Director
Iceni House, Cobham Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 9JD or
Brampton Office, Bromholme Lane, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 4NE

Email: areamanagercorrespondence.eastanglia@environment-agency.gov.uk

More information can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency