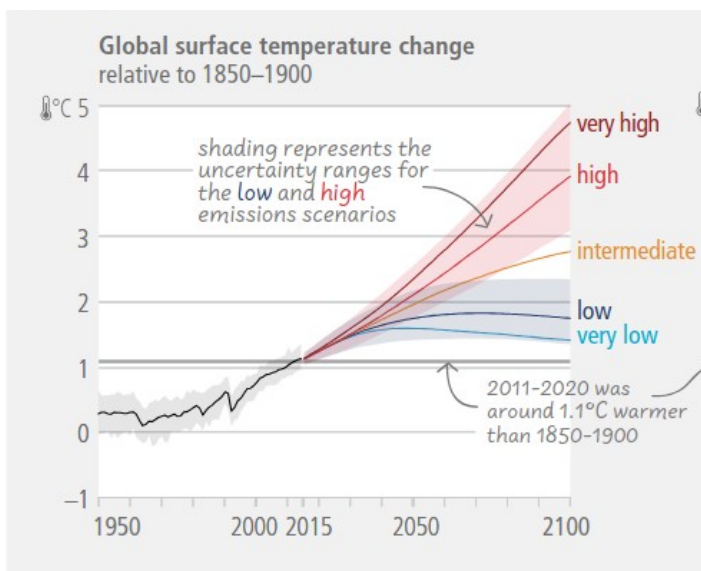


Climate Discussion Group 23 June 25

What likely to happen in Suffolk climatewise

How hot will it get?



IPCC CLIMATE CHANGE 2023 Synthesis Report

How far to look ahead?

The graph suggests most of the scenarios produce similar results up to around 2050 of approx 2 degree C

ONS Life expectancy calculator gives Brian a 50/50 chance of surviving to 2046 which rounds nicely to 2050.

What does a 2 degree increase mean for Suffolk?

BBC What will climate change look like near me? 2022

summer	1991 to 2019	2C increase
hottest day	34.3C	36.2C
average number of summer days per month above 25C	4	9
Average number of rainy days	9	8
wettest day	57mm	62mm
Summers drier		
winter	1991 to 2019	2C increase
hottest day	18.1C	19C
Average number of rainy days	10	10
wettest day	28mm	32mm

These overall averages mask an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme events such as heatwaves, heavy rainfall and droughts.

What does it mean for water supplies

Essex and Suffolk Water Revised Water Resource Management Plan 2024

Holton & Halesworth come under the Northern Central Water Resource Zone with water coming from Chalk aquifers

The climate change modelling from the Climate Projections 2018 shows drier summers. As temperatures in England are forecast to increase there will be a reduction in the amount of water

available, particularly in rivers during the summer. However, almost all groundwater sources are resilient to climate change.

From 2040, they need to plan for extreme drought that could happen on average once every 500 years (in their WRMP19 it was once every 200 years), increasing the level of resilience they need to plan for.

At the same time, new information on the impact of climate change shows the effects on the amount of water available may be bigger in the future than previous data projected.

Their plan is to build new pipelines that will allow them to move water around the network from places with extra water to areas with a water shortage.

Also they will build new treated water storage reservoirs which will hold a few days worth of supply but would give resilience in Suffolk in the future.

What does it mean for food supplies?

Not specifically Suffolk - Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) Climate Change Adaptation report 2025

Covers beef and lamb , cereals and oilseeds, dairy and pork.

Using a 2050 and a 2°C rise horizon some of the risks to agriculture were thought to be -

Soils

Heavier rainfall events present erosion, compaction/poaching risks from livestock and machinery.

Soil aridity affecting water availability to grassland and crops

Run-off and diffuse pollution of nutrients (N and P) into nearby waters.

Productivity

Increases the need to house livestock, as with high rainfall and flooding.

Grazing livestock affected by adverse impacts on forage growth

Poorer crop establishment in the spring and autumn.

BUT

Lower winter feed and energy costs from livestock housing resulting from warmer winters.

New crops such as soya, sunflower and grain maize could become viable in the UK.

If summers are warmer and drier, there could be more timely crop harvests.

Risks from pests, pathogens

Evolving pesticide resistance in combination with climate change effects may compound the problem, e.g. longer activity period and increased overwintering survival due to the warmer winters.

Eg wheat stem rust which has re-emerged in the UK and Europe in recent warm summers

What are Suffolk County Council doing?

Back in 2022 Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment suggested Suffolk faced the following Climate change problems -

Higher temperatures in summer with hot spells are likely to become more frequent and last longer.

Winter winds become stronger, rain becomes more intense and flash flooding becomes a greater risk.

More wildfires.

Nature hugely affected, with habitats lost and animals suffering in these extreme weather events.

Human outcomes could include poor air quality, people struggling to heat their homes in winter and keep them cool in summer or living with health conditions that are exacerbated by extreme temperatures.

He said the Council had a Climate Emergency Plan, which aimed at a Net Zero in Suffolk.

Aims included

reducing emissions

decarbonise their buildings,

improving the biodiversity on at least 30% of their estate,

moving vehicles over to electric,

supporting businesses on their Net Zero journey,

generating own energy from solar panels,

planting trees and hedgerows etc