

# Weathering the Storm

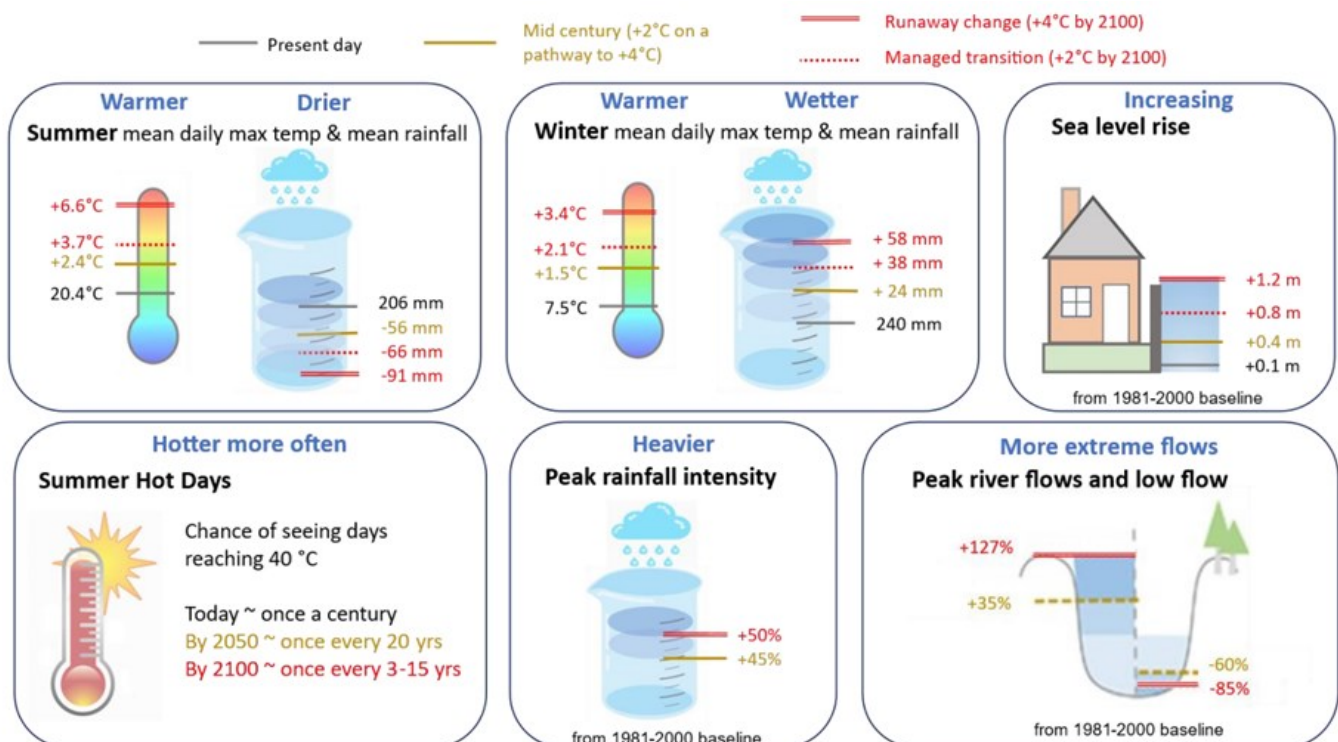
A summary of the guide for farmers and land managers

*Build your resilience to extreme weather and adapt to the changing climate*

This leaflet summarises some new (2024) [guidance for farmers and land managers](#) who wish to improve their business resilience to **extreme weather** and the **changing climate**. The guidance (produced by Sustainability West Midlands and supported by the Environment Agency) explains:

- Why it's important to act
- How to produce your own bespoke action plan
- How other farms have been impacted by extreme weather in recent years
- How the climate is changing (both past and present observations and future projections)
- The main risks to food and farming for the UK (and potential opportunities)
- How to develop your own adaptation options where action may be needed
- Policy incentives and opportunities to assist with the above
- How others are adapting (case studies demonstrating good practice)

It includes a checklist and the guidance is framed in the context of current policy, both from Government and the different advocate bodies for farming and land management.



# Weathering the Storm

A summary of the guide for farmers and land managers

**Extreme weather has always been a challenge** for those managing land and producing food, but it is becoming increasingly evident that the changing climate is making it more difficult. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and more extreme with each passing year and so it makes sense for all businesses to adapt to this changing reality.

Climate scientists have been predicting a trend towards hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters for many years, along with an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme events (including floods, storms, heatwaves and droughts) and this is now being seen in different ways all around the world.

***Weathering the Storm*** provides a step by step guide to help you think through the process of identifying and assessing your weather and climate risks and working out the best adaptation options for your business. Because every farm and every land business is different, each one ideally needs its own bespoke adaptation plan in order to be most effective.

Unfortunately there is no 'off the shelf' plan readily available that farmers and land managers can pick up and use, other than some general good practice guidance. Each farm and land business has a unique set of circumstances that will be impacted by weather and climate in different ways and only those involved in that business understand that in sufficient detail.

That is why the guidance recommends that you sit down with your family, colleagues, staff (as appropriate) and even your neighbours to work through the process collectively, combining your knowledge, experience, skills and insights to produce a shared plan.

This involves a commitment of time, but an initial plan can be put together in the space of one day and subsequently refined.

Between you, it is recommended you think about and talk through:

1. Your current vulnerability (how your business has been affected by extreme weather over recent years)
2. Your future risks (and opportunities)
3. Your assessment and prioritisation of those risks
4. How best to manage the biggest risks (and exploit any opportunities)
5. Organising and detailing those actions into a plan

Once you have the basis of an adaptation plan, you then have something tangible to incorporate into your wider business planning, such that you routinely consider climate risks and can review the effectiveness of any actions taken over time, and in the light of any future extreme weather events.

There are also new (as of 2024) Government policy and funding incentives that can assist with on-farm resilience to climate change. These include ELMS (Environmental Land Management Schemes), LNRS (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) and BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain). All of these involve enhancing nature and changing to more sustainable farming practices, which in turn can boost resilience to climate change.

The outcome of implementing such an adaptation plan should be that your business is better prepared for future extreme events, is less impacted when they do occur and more able to bounce back afterwards.