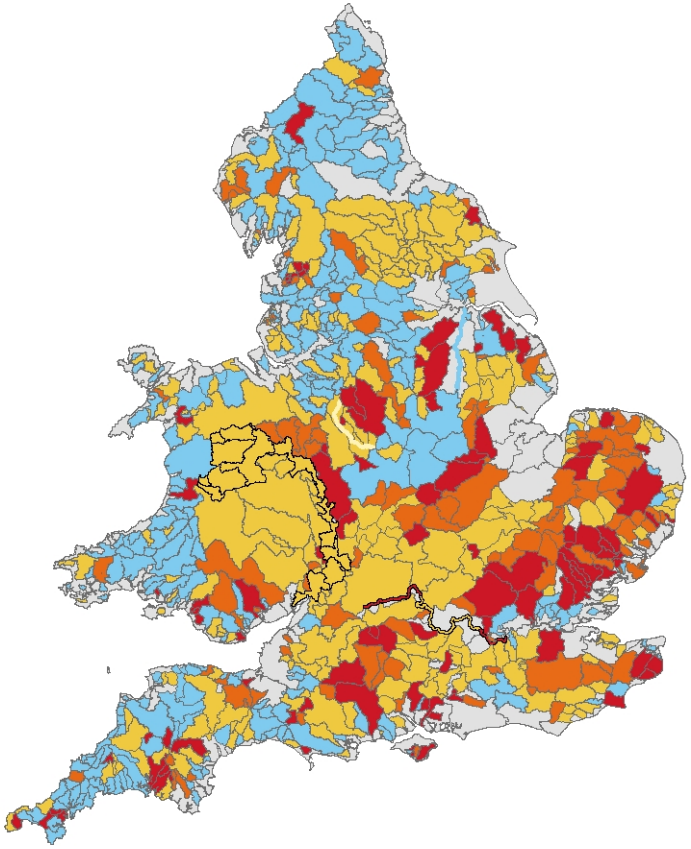
water
for people and
the environment

Environment Agency

Water for the future

Ian Barker, Head of Water, Environment Agency

Current water availability



Legend

Resource availability status

- Water available
- No water available
- Over licensed
- Over abstracted
- GW only/ not assessed/ no status available

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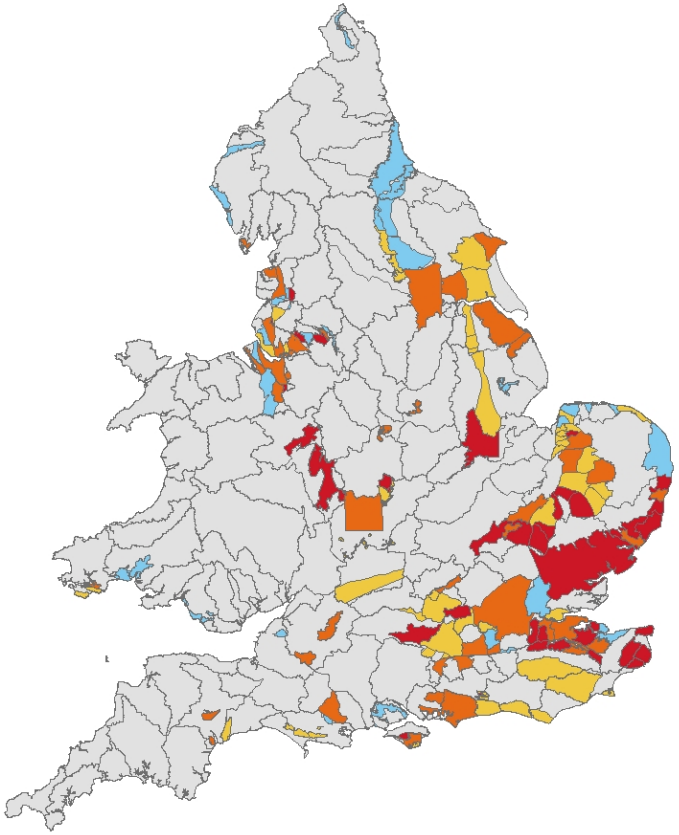
Environment Agency, 100026380, 2008.
Part sourced from WHS and OD Data.



Legend

Resource availability status

- Water available
- No water available
- Over licensed
- Over abstracted
- Major aquifer not present

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Environment Agency, 100026380, 2008.
Part sourced from WHS and OD Data.

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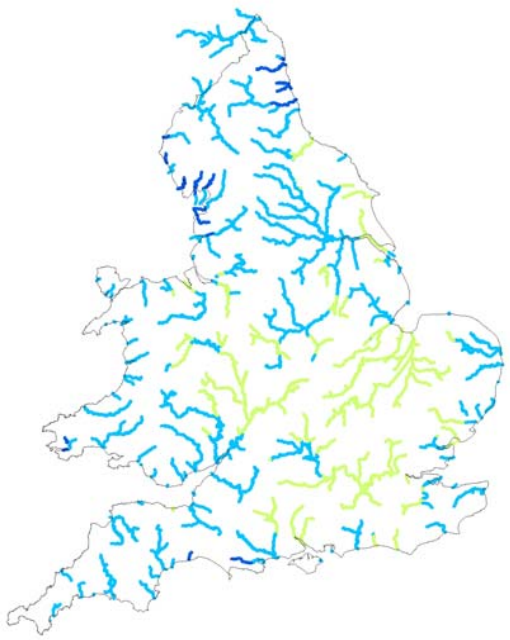
Population and growth

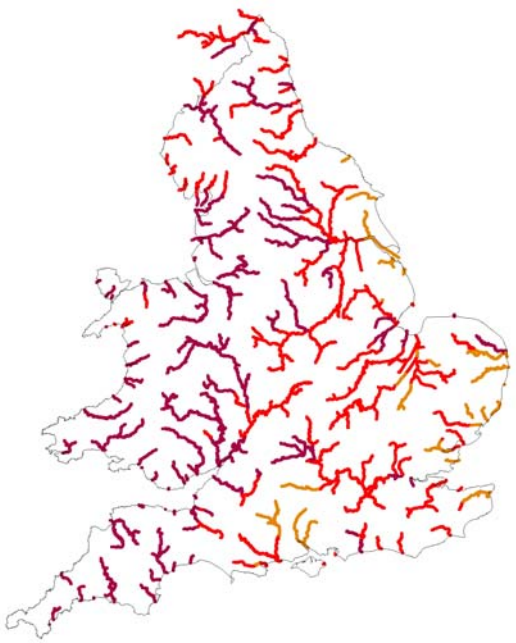
- Another 20 million by 2050?
- 3 million new homes by 2020

Changes in river flow in 2050

February

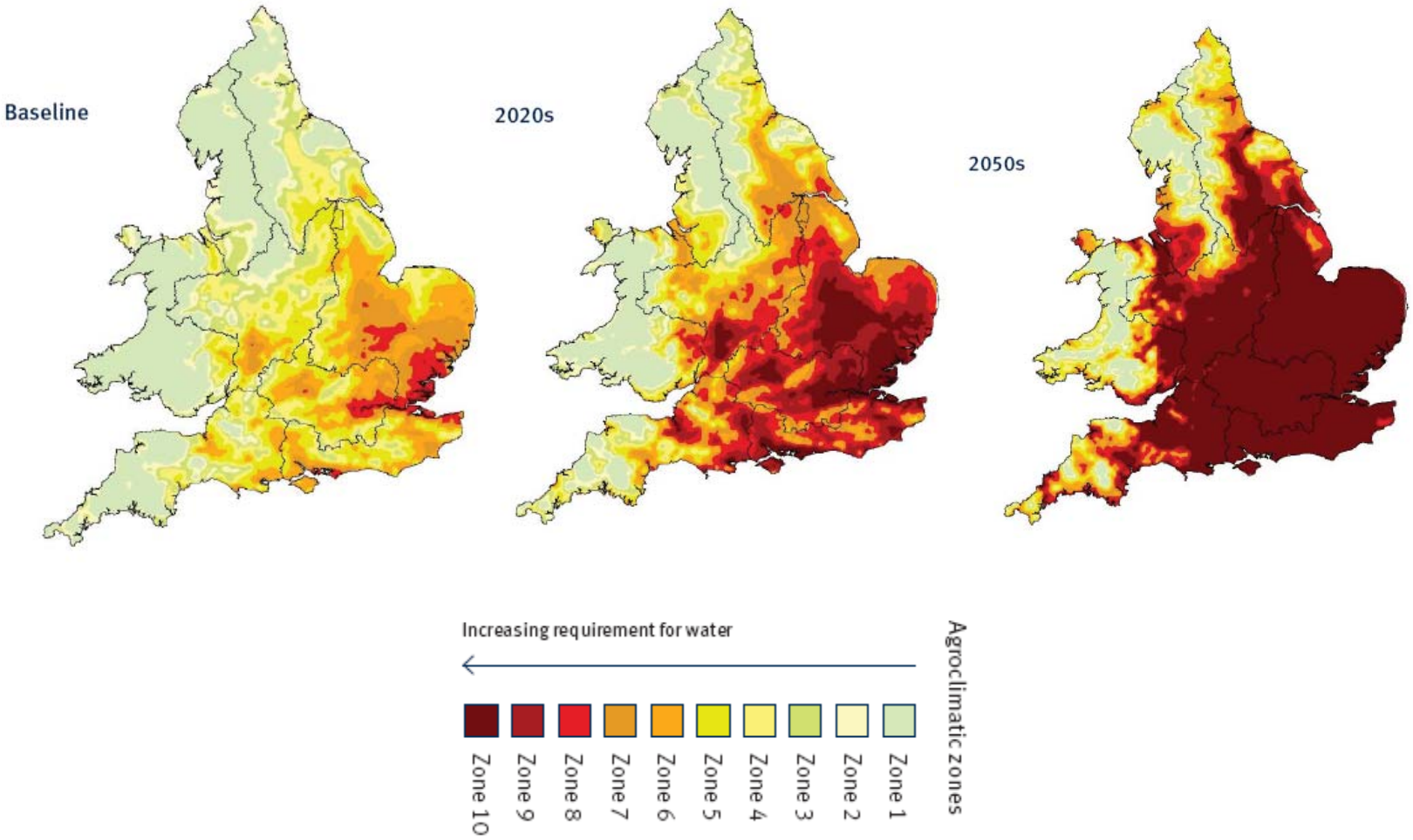


September



- 15% decrease in river flows overall
- 50-80% decrease in some rivers

Growing conditions are likely to change



Environment Agency

Knox and Rodriguez-Diaz, Cranfield, 2007

Mitigation

- Focus on hot water use in the home – big mitigation opportunities
- Potential to save up to £140 on energy and water bills
- Demand management options – lower carbon cost than resource development

Embedded water

- Future shocks to climate and the economy in other countries…

- Further pressure on demand here?

Water resource management does not start at the point of abstraction; it's about managing the catchment in its entirety.