

**National  
Trust**

# The National Trust's approach to climate change adaptation

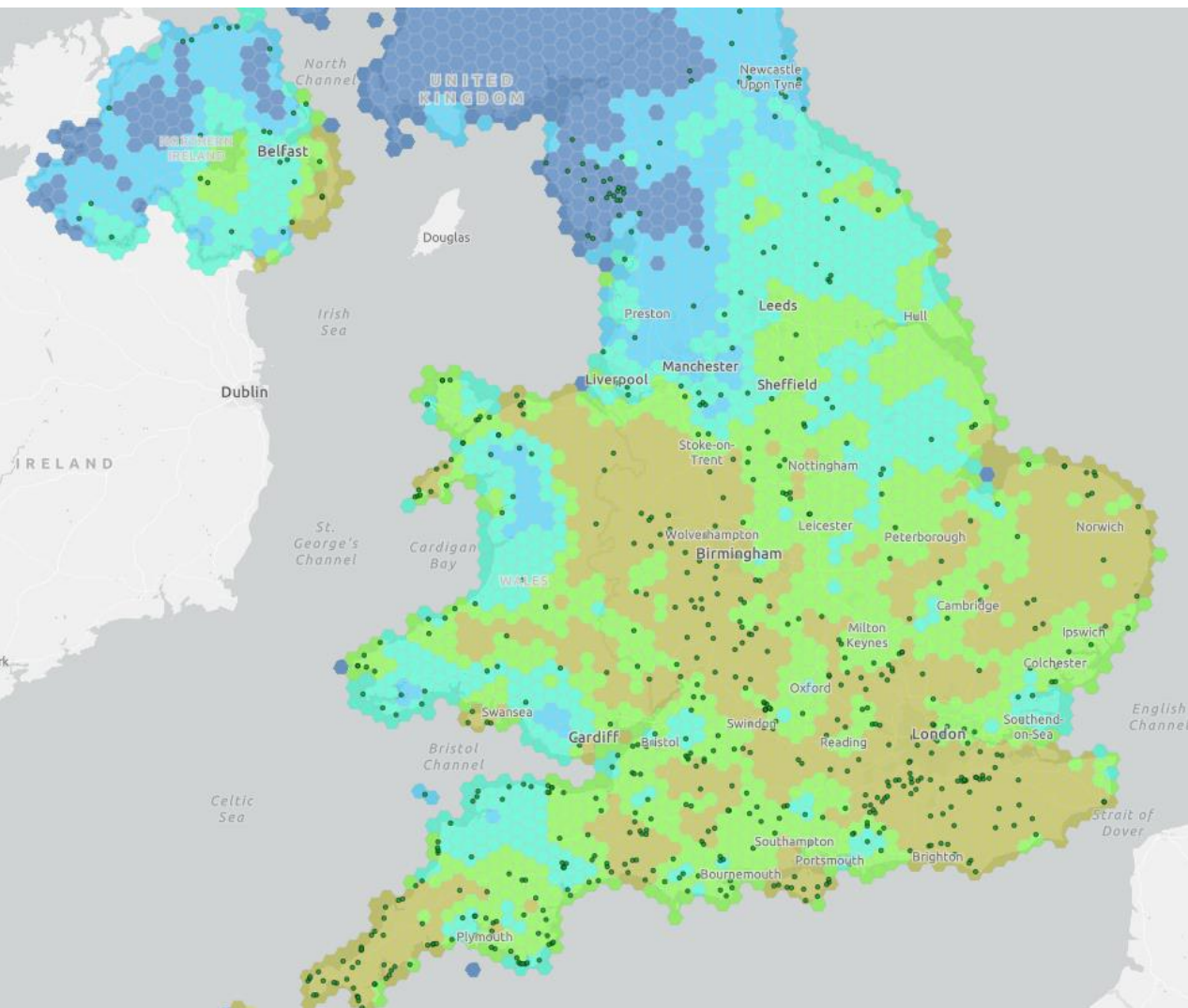
Katherine Shingler, Project manager – heritage and climate  
National Heritage Science Forum, 24 January 2024

# Hazards affecting National Trust properties

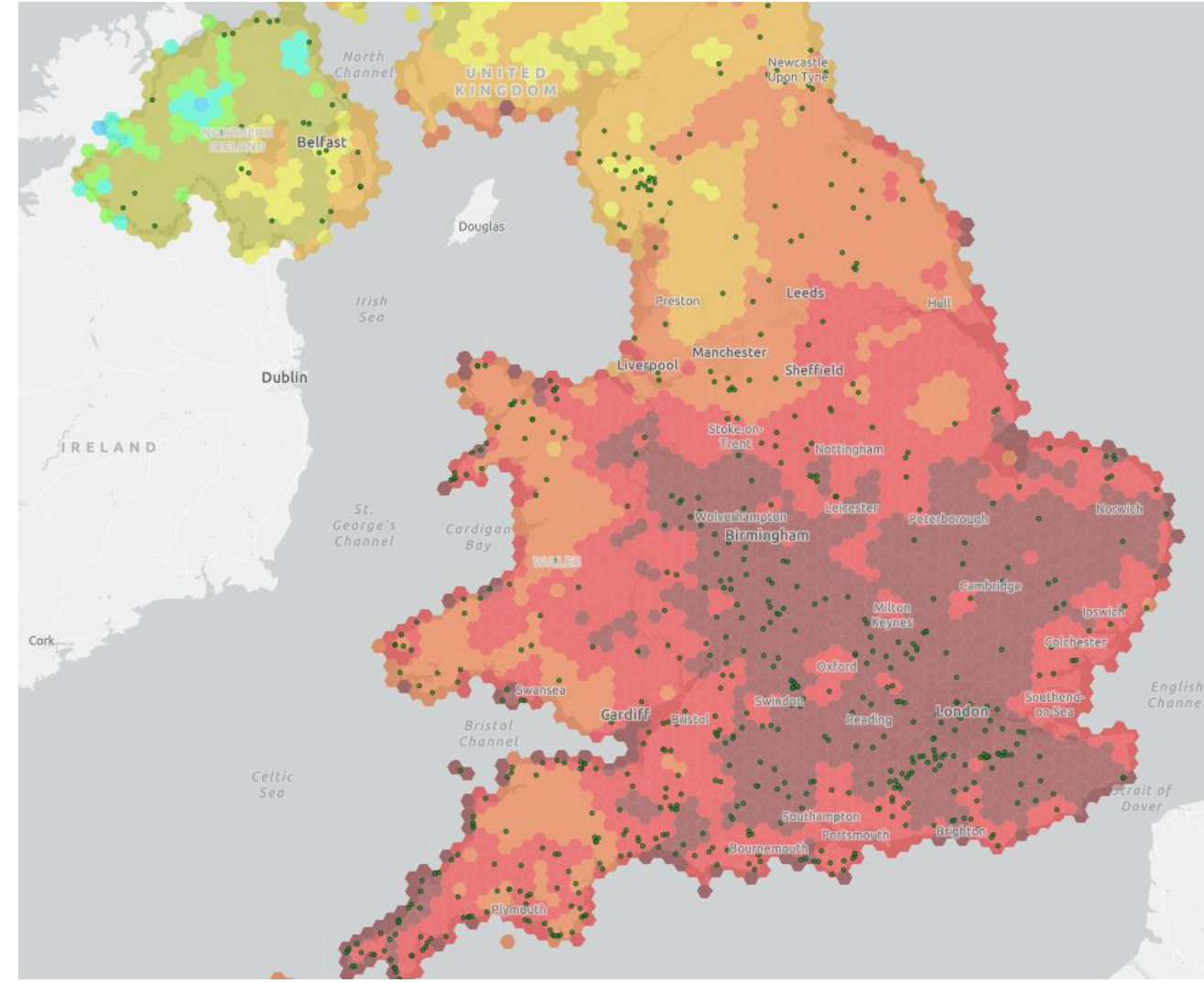


The scale of the issue and some of our initial thinking on adaptation is outlined in our landmark report, [‘A Climate for Change’](#) (November 2023).

# National Trust hazard maps



Drought current



Drought future (2060-80)

- Based on a 'worst-case scenario' model, where emissions continue unchecked at current levels until 2060.
- Maps NT properties alongside data which models changing climate trends, flagging hazards including overheating and humidity, storm damage, drought, intense rainfall and wildfires.
- Overall, our hazard map shows that National Trust sites at medium or high risk of climate-related hazards could **increase from 30% in 2020 to 71% in 2060**.

# Impacts

Storm Babet's widespread damage to landscapes, gardens and properties: a taste of things to come. National Trust, 24 October 2023.

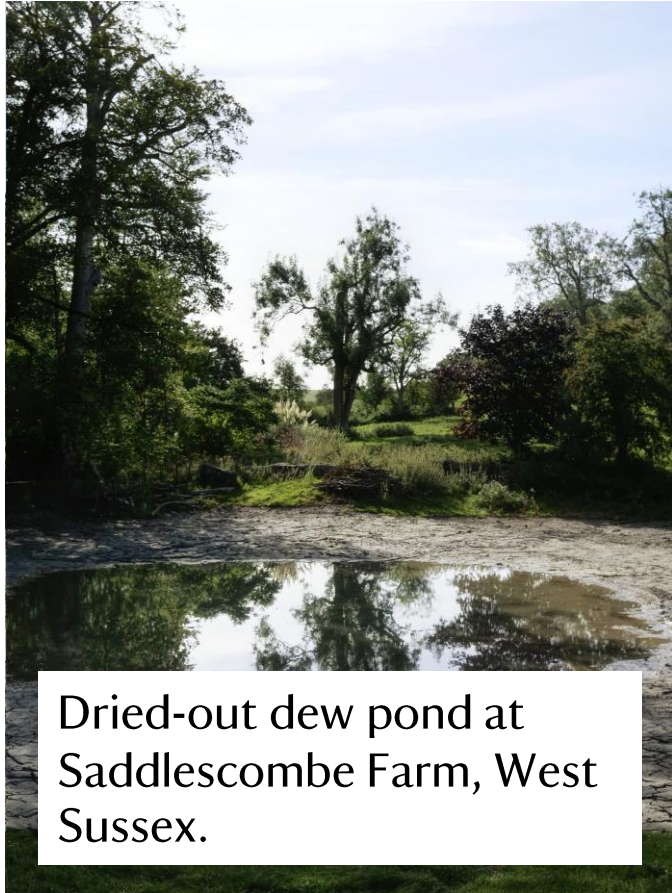


**Top left:** rain overflowing guttering at Woolsthorpe Manor, Lincolnshire.

**Top right:** flood waters at Charlecote Park, Warwickshire.

**Bottom left:** storm damage to giant redwood at Sheffield Park & Garden, East Sussex.

# Impacts



Dried-out dew pond at Saddlescombe Farm, West Sussex.



The Parterre garden, August 2022, after drought conditions at Wimpole Estate, Cambridgeshire.



Fire-fighting on Big Moor, Derbyshire.



Safety notice to visitors, 'High risk of fire' at Avebury, Wiltshire.



# Our adaptation handrail



Impact  
workshop



Adaptation  
guidance



Pathways  
workshop



Property  
observation tool



Adaptation  
response

Working directly with NT property teams to assess property characteristics, current and future impacts and make guided pathway plans for adaptation response.

# Research priorities and partnerships



## Coastal heritage

- Collaborating with 3Keel on a prioritised list of coastal assets at risk

## International collaboration

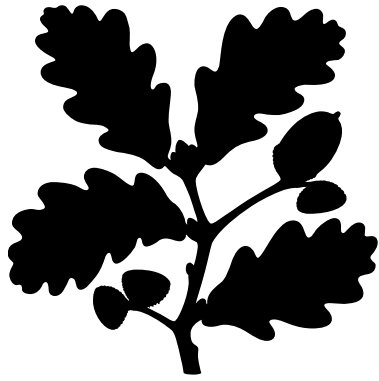
- Scoping study in development with University of Exeter to develop a climate matching tool

## Making best use of data

- Scoping study in development with Bangor University: data analysis and visualization to support evidence-based decision making

## Opportunities?

- Currently looking for research partners to investigate impact of lightning; also resilience of building fabric.



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Thank you!

Climate adaptation guidance:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/who-we-are/research/climate-change-adaptation-guidance>

National Trust report 'A Climate for Change' (2023): <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/our-cause/nature-climate/adapting-for-climate-change>

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