

Delivering water resilience for the food and drink sector



Domestic production of high-quality fruit and vegetables is at risk because of increasing competition for limited water resources and climate variability.



Food and drink supply chains are increasingly facing water scarcity as well as other water-related risks such as flooding and pollution – and the south east is one of the most vulnerable areas of the UK.

Water resilience is about anticipating, preparing for and responding to these risks.

How resilient is your business?

The South East Rivers Trust and South East Rivers Consulting Ltd can work with your business to identify solutions that increase resilience to water-related risks. At the same time we can work to meet your sustainability ambitions including nature enhancement and carbon net zero.



What we offer

- ✓ Bespoke support to identify water risks using mapping tools and free site visits.
- ✓ Identification and development of solutions that make a positive difference to your business, including:
 - ▶ Rainwater harvesting and storage to increase water supply resilience for irrigation, washing yards/equipment and processing etc
 - ▶ Water runoff management to reduce the risk of pollution and local flooding to roads and properties
 - ▶ Nature-based solutions to absorb rainwater and pollutants, as well as to capture carbon and enhance biodiversity - floral plots, riparian trees wetlands and herbal leys
- ✓ Delivery of solutions, plus monitoring and reporting on their impact, for example against water replenishment and biodiversity targets.
- ✓ Linking and engaging with other businesses and stakeholders to develop landscape scale plans to improve water resilience, soil quality and biodiversity.



The South East Rivers Trust has helped us source funding, meet experts for advice and develop the design of the water storage and nature-based water treatment measures for one of our sites. We feel much more positive about future nature-friendly water resilience.

Loddington Farm, Kent

Who we are



As a science-based charity focused on solutions, SERT can offer impartial advice to businesses and cost-effective implementation.



Demand for water already outstrips supply across the south east.

This is a big risk to those food and drink businesses which require intensive use of water.

The good news is that this has driven insights and innovation into new and better solutions for the industry.

We can help you understand which are right for your business and how to get the most benefit from them.

Our 20 years of experience makes us:

- ✓ Trusted and established conservation and water experts.
- ✓ Providers of research, monitoring, data and evidence to identify positive and impactful solutions to water scarcity, flooding and pollution. Our GIS experts use land, soil and habitat data plus satellite imagery to target solutions.
- ✓ Leaders in convening catchment and other partnerships to drive solutions to water resilience. Our partners include the Environment Agency, the EU, research institutions, water companies, retailers, landowners, the Woodland Trust, Wildlife Trusts, the National Trust and many others.

In good company

Our Holistic Water for Horticulture project is working with fruit producers and growers across Kent to increase their resilience to water supply, pollution and flooding risks.



The work is supported by major supermarkets, including Waitrose, M&S, and Tesco, as part of the WRAP Courtauld 2030 Commitment. This voluntary agreement across the entire UK food chain delivers farm-to-fork reductions in food waste, greenhouse gas emissions and water stress to help our food and drink sector hit global environmental goals.



A key Courtauld 2030 target is that, by 2030, 50% of fresh food is sourced from areas with sustainable water management.



Holistic Water for Horticulture brings together a multitude of expertise and innovation to tackle pressing conservation issues such as water scarcity, soil erosion and nutrient pollution, improving the state of the Kent countryside for current and future generations.

Wayne Raines, Berry Gardens

Learn how to enhance the water resilience of your business in harmony with nature:

Contact Cat Moncrieff, Head of Water and Land Stewardship.



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