

# ◀ CLIMATE CHANGE: IMPROVING RESILIENCE FOR YOUR BUSINESS ▶

## CHANGE IS NOW

Global climate is changing and the impacts of this are becoming clear. Even if efforts are successful in reducing emissions, some degree of change will still occur. Gradual changes, such as rising sea-levels and shifts in seasonal patterns, have been recorded in Kent which suggest that climate change is already having local impacts. The effects of climate change are expected to become increasingly more frequent and severe.

## SHIFTING SANDS

Over the last century, climate change in Kent has largely been in line with UK-wide climatic trends:



**18 of 20 warmest years on record have occurred since 2000**



**Annual average temperatures are 0.9°C higher compared to the 1960s**



**Sea level has risen by 19 centimetres since 1900**



**Coastal erosion rates have increased**



**Seasonal patterns, including bud burst and species emergence, have occurred earlier and for longer periods**



**Rainfall is occurring in more frequent short, heavy downpours over the last 30 years**



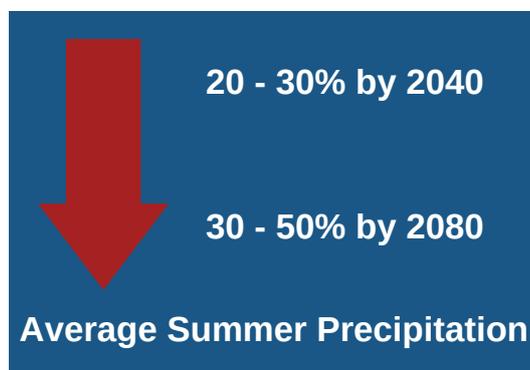
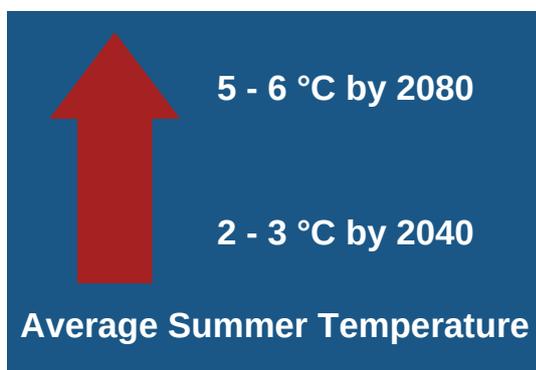
**More frequent and intense severe weather events have occurred since 1950**

# A FUTURE UNLIKE THE PAST

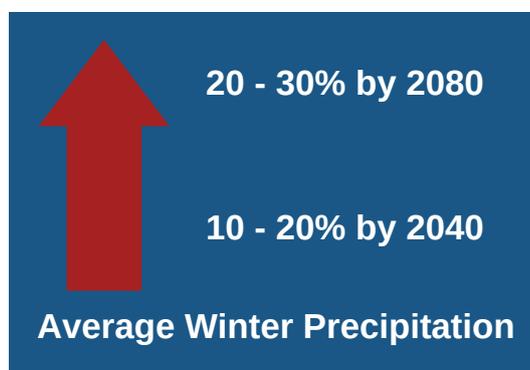
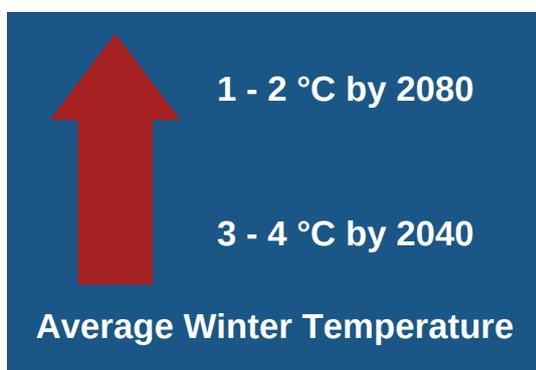
Kent's geographical location, long coastline and high population density means that it is likely to suffer from some of the severest impacts of climate change in the United Kingdom.

Findings from the UK Climate Projections 2018 suggest that Kent's climate will change by:

**HOTTER  
DRIER  
SUMMERS**



**WARMER  
WETTER  
WINTERS**



## BE PREPARED

Climate change will impact on all areas of your business. Adaptation can minimise your risk and create opportunities for your business to grow. Preparing for climate change and being aware of how its impacts could affect your business is vital for future resilience.

You should consider:



**Building adaptation capacity**



**Developing strategies and taking action to reduce your risk from:**



**Establishing business continuity**

- Cold Weather
- Flooding
- Drought
- Heatwaves

For more information on climate change, visit:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/Facts-and-figures-about-Kent/environmental-policies/climate-change>

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/preparing-for-climate-change/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017/>

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/collaboration/ukcp/index>

Image credit: Ed Hawkins

