

Map interpretation note

This map was developed specifically for the Wetland Vision Technical Document

Map of major drainage activity on agricultural land 1971-80

This map describes the pattern of drainage on farmland during a period of major agricultural intensification. Between 1971 and 1980, 10% of all farmland in England and Wales had been underdrained. This map represents hotspots of drainage in parishes where at least 40% of farmland was drained using subsurface pipes. The bias towards the East is not solely due to the natural drainage characteristics of underlying soils but the traditional drainage methods at the local level. Data provided by Mark Robinson at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. For further information, see Robinson, M. & Armstrong, A.C. (1988) The extent of agricultural field drainage in England and Wales, 1971-80. Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, vol. 13: pp19-28.

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A 50 year Vision for England's Wetland Landscape: *Securing a future for nature, people and the historic environment*



Legend

Parishes where at least 40% of farmland was underdrained

- 90 and above
- 60 - 90
- 50 - 60
- 40 - 50
- Tidal and fluvial floodplain

50 yr Wetland Vision

Underdrainage of agricultural land 1971-80

