



# Close to Home: A rapid review of climate-linked displacement in the UK

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# Briefing Authors

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*"Let me come now to the hardest of all inconvenient truths, which is this: in the long term, climate change means that some of our communities – both in this country and around the world – cannot stay where they are... We do need to start the conversation now about the options, not least because we owe it to the threatened communities themselves to help them decide what they want their long-term future to be. And we do need to explore the biggest possible range of options and be prepared to innovate if we are to offer communities the best set of choices."*

**Sir James Bevan, Chief Executive, Environment Agency, 2022**

# Introduction

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For many UK communities, displacement due to the impacts of climate change is no longer an abstract future threat. Some people have already been evacuated from their homes - either temporarily or permanently - due to flooding, coastal erosion and extreme heat. Many more are facing this prospect in the future.

We now have a critical opportunity - and responsibility - to prepare for climate displacement in the UK to improve outcomes for both people and nature.

These are significant challenges - but there is real scope for hope and action. A growing number of UK charities, community groups, analysts and policy-makers are working with and alongside climate-impacted communities to help them plan, respond and adapt. There is an expanding (although still insufficient) range of support networks, practical assistance and resources for local communities. There is recognition that we need resourced, ambitious strategies and action to address the risks of climate-linked displacement.

Much of the third sector work in this area is currently under-resourced and fragmented, but it is energised by the urgency of these issues. The UK is changing, and it is clearer than ever that many local communities will need significant support to prepare and adapt. Applying a displacement lens to the conversation about climate adaptation makes clear what is at stake - and why bold, collaborative and long-term responses are needed.

## **This briefing**

As two philanthropy consultants with long-standing commitment to social justice, climate action, and the power of local communities, we came together in 2025 to develop a programme of work on climate-linked displacement in the UK. Ruth brings her expertise on climate-related migration and displacement issues and Liz her UK experience on climate change, social justice and equality.

We have produced this short summary document to support a wider conversation about climate-linked displacement and adaptation in the UK, among charities, funders and policy-makers. At the moment, philanthropic funding is insufficient to enable charities and funding partners to innovate, collaborate and demonstrate what interventions are needed. We are keen to encourage curiosity, collaboration and action in this critical area.

We have drawn upon desk research and interviews with organisations, policy analysts and local communities, to highlight three key insights:

1. Climate change is already displacing people from their homes in the UK.
2. Communities on the frontline of climate change need targeted engagement and support
3. There is growing energy behind UK climate displacement work

A cross-sectoral agenda on UK domestic adaptation to climate change is gathering momentum. We hope this briefing contributes to that process, and look forward to exploring these issues further.

We are grateful to those who have generously offered their time and expertise to us, including:

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- Mary Long-Dhonau OBE, 'Flood Mary'
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- Rupert Read, Climate Majority Project
- Simon Measures, Save Hemsby Coastline
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- Yumna Kamel, Earth Refuge

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We take full responsibility for the contents of this document - all errors or omissions are of course our own.

### **Note on terminology**

For the purposes of this briefing, we use the term 'climate-linked displacement'. This term is widely used in research and international policy-making to refer to the forced or involuntary movement - whether temporary or permanent - of people from their homes due to climate change.

Climate-linked displacement can be sudden and dramatic (e.g. flash flooding), a process of repeated exposure to harm (e.g. repeated flooding), slow onset (e.g. coastal erosion), or a series of compounding risks (e.g. coastal erosion and/or flooding, plus insurance or mortgage challenges).

We are aware that some communities or policy makers may prefer terms such as 'managed retreat' and 'relocation'. In some spaces the phrase '[climate refugees](#)' has been used, and in others '[climate evacuees](#)'. Stakeholders highlight both pros and cons of such terms.

Looking ahead, it will be important to identify the terminology that feels right to communities, reflects their experiences, is clear and accessible, and conveys the urgency of the context.

# Key Insights

## Insight 1: Climate change is already displacing people from their homes in the UK

- **People in the UK are already being displaced from their homes, both temporarily and permanently, by climate impacts including flooding, coastal erosion and extreme heat.**
- **Groups facing social and/or economic disadvantages are worst impacted by climate change.**
- **Climate-linked displacement is set to increase over the coming decades, meaning that longer-term strategies are urgently needed.**

Across the UK, the impacts of climate change - including flooding, coastal erosion and extreme heat - are already causing some people to be temporarily and, in some cases, permanently, displaced from their homes. Climate science suggests that these dynamics are set to intensify over the coming decades.

People living in poor quality housing or deprived areas, low-income households, and already disadvantaged social groups, are worst affected by extreme weather incidents such as flooding and heat. Being displaced, whether temporarily or permanently, can be detrimental to physical and mental wellbeing, and deepen social and economic inequities.

Evidence from around the world suggests that people rarely wish to leave their homes and that relocation is often a last resort. Where people can access timely support and are engaged in decisions on how to respond, they may be better able to prepare for, and adapt to, climate impacts.

We highlight three key factors leading to people being displaced from their homes in the UK:

### ➤ **Displacement due to flooding**

Flooding is the leading cause of climate-linked displacement in the UK. It can be caused by rivers bursting their banks, by rising sea levels and coastal storms, by surface water when heavy rain cannot drain away, and by groundwater flooding where water rises from below ground. In recent decades, flooding has increased in frequency and intensity. This is due to a combination of climate factors (including more storms and heavier rainfall), and policy / practice (including planning, infrastructure and agricultural policy).

Over 6 million properties in England are estimated by the Environment Agency to currently be at risk of flooding. This figure is predicted to rise sharply, to 8 million (a quarter of all properties) by 2050. Scotland and Wales are both predicted to see at least an 80% increase in properties exposed to flooding by 2080. This risk is intensified by an acceleration of house-building in high-risk areas - an estimated one in nine homes built between 2022 and 2024 in England were constructed in areas of medium or high flood risk.

Communities at particular risk of river flooding include those living next the Thames, Ouse, Taff, Clyde and Severn, and estuary cities including London, Liverpool, Cardiff and Bristol. Tenbury Wells in Worcestershire has been identified as the first town centre that may be abandoned due to climate change-driven river flooding. Surface-water flooding, which threatens the greatest number of UK homes, can happen anywhere - as demonstrated in London and Manchester in recent years. Groundwater flooding, where the water table rises to reach ground level, can also happen anywhere - Dorset is just one area particularly prone to groundwater flooding. According to the British Geological Survey, groundwater flooding tends to remain for weeks or even months at a time, causing greater damage to properties.

People who are impacted by flooding damage may be displaced from their homes for at least six to nine months whilst repairs and recovery take place. There is no national compensation scheme for those affected, although small grants may be awarded to some households by local authorities or the Environment Agency to support Property Flood Resilience measures.

Many people in high-risk areas face challenges in securing home insurance, to some extent helped by the FloodRe scheme - a joint initiative between the government and private insurers which provides affordable insurance cover for properties built before 2009 in high-risk areas. It is increasingly difficult to secure mortgages for high-risk properties, not least due to the anticipated closure of FloodRe in 2039. House prices are often impacted by flooding, making some properties unsellable and impeding relocation away from high-risk areas.

Government agencies have begun to acknowledge that permanent displacement or even large-scale relocation of communities in areas of regular or worsening flooding may be inevitable. There has as yet been little public debate about how, where or when this could occur.

### **Flooded People UK: raising the voices of affected communities**

Flooded People UK was set up in 2025 by people with lived experience of flooding as well as flood response specialists and community organisers. It creates space for those directly affected to speak for themselves and to influence policy and practice. In one testimony, residents describe being told their only option was to move, while at the same time being unable to sell their homes: "We can't move because we cannot sell... the price is so low that you can't afford to move anywhere." Others recount being advised to install floors that could simply be 'swept out' after flooding, despite the trauma that repeated flooding had caused.

By connecting affected households, supporting collective advocacy efforts and policy development, and amplifying lived experience through film and media, Flooded People aspires to give directly impacted people a say on future flood risk management in the UK. It highlights the gap between adaptation policy and household reality, calling for fairer long-term solutions.

Video Testimony available [here](#).

## **Displacement due to coastal erosion**

Coastal erosion is a natural process, referring to the movement and loss of soil, sand and bedrock. It is caused by tides, waves and storms which can erode rocks, cliffs, beaches, dunes and marshes, as well as by rainfall and groundwater which can lead to landslides.

In the UK, coastal erosion is now worsening, due to climate factors including rising sea levels and storm surges. This is already leading to the displacement of small but significant numbers of people living along the UK coastline. The UK Climate Change Committee has estimated that, currently, 8,900 properties are at risk of being lost through coastal erosion - a figure due to rise to over 100,000 properties by the 2080s. In addition, significant stretches of coastal roads, railway lines and other infrastructure such as landfill sites are at risk of coastal erosion, and/or flooding, over the coming decades.

In recent years, the towns of Fairbourne in Wales and Hemsby in Norfolk - both impacted by coastal erosion - have made headlines as many residents are now having to plan for a future elsewhere. There are a growing number of examples of coastal erosion leading to displacement across the UK, from Johnsaven near Aberdeen to Thorpeness in Suffolk.

There is currently little support for people facing displacement from coastal homes due to climate impacts. It is increasingly difficult to secure insurance cover for homes at risk of sea flooding or collapse due to erosion, leaving many residents and home owners unprotected. There is no statutory compensation or dedicated support (beyond local authority housing if eligible) for those impacted. Those at risk may be eligible for a small grant, issued by the local authority, to cover demolition and relocation costs.

As a result of these factors, the UK is likely to see rising displacement of more communities along the coastline over the coming years. It is not yet clear who will be impacted, how this will be managed, and what support will be offered to those on the frontline.

## **Displacement due to extreme heat**

In recent years, rising temperatures and heatwaves in the UK have led to new risks for communities across the country. All of the warmest years on record in the UK have occurred since 2002.

Few buildings in the UK were designed with high temperatures in mind, and over half of UK homes already overheat during relatively cool summers. Extreme heat particularly impacts people in the South East, but all areas of the UK are at risk of increased heatwaves. In built-up areas, concrete and roads trap heat, making cities significantly hotter than nearby countryside. This is known as the Urban Heat Island effect and can cause temperatures up to 12°C hotter than surrounding areas. Cities including London, Glasgow, Belfast and Cardiff have experienced this in recent years.

Extreme heat is associated with increased risk of water scarcity, subsidence and heightened air pollution, and carries severe and long-term health implications. Subsidence can have many causes and contributing factors depending on the local environment, bedrock and housing type. Older properties, particularly close to well established trees are particularly vulnerable, leaving heated debates about solutions and the need to protect both homes and trees.

Overheating homes can have significant impacts on residents' health and wellbeing. For example, a group of 20 tenants in Woolwich, South London are exploring legal options over temperatures in their flats exceeding 40 degrees over the summer months. The current backlog of housing retrofit contributes to increased risks of homes overheating.

There is, as yet, little specific data linking extreme heat to displacement. However, looking ahead, the UK Climate Change Committee estimates that heat-related deaths could exceed 10,000 per annum by 2050. It is likely that some households will find their homes increasingly difficult to live in safely. Other areas will require significant adaptation support to remain safe and pleasant places to live.

### **London Climate Resilience Review: spotlighting heat displacement risk**

The London Climate Resilience Review (LCRR), an independent review commissioned by the Mayor of London and reporting in 2024, highlighted heat as one of the most prominent climate hazards facing the capital. It found that London's built environment traps heat, creating urban heat islands that push vulnerable residents - especially older people, renters and people in poor-quality housing - into dangerous living conditions during heatwaves, and potentially force people out of their homes and routines.

The LCRR report found that without adequate adaptation, overheating can make homes uninhabitable for those least able to cope. While not framed as "displacement" in formal terms, the LCRR draws direct links between rising heat exposure, health impacts and housing insecurity, calling for action on housing standards, cooling infrastructure and community support to prevent heat-driven loss of home and wellbeing. By including extreme heat in resilience planning, this Review opened a public conversation on how to address heat displacement risk long before a crisis hits.

# Key Insights

## Insight 2: Communities on the frontline of climate impacts need targeted engagement and support

- **People forced to leave their homes due to climate impacts need targeted practical and financial assistance. Some communities may need longer-term solutions including, potentially, relocation support.**
- **Communities need to be meaningfully involved in decisions and public debate about climate-linked displacement.**
- **More cohesive and ambitious climate adaptation policy agendas are needed at all levels to support communities on the frontline of climate change.**

UK communities facing climate-linked displacement need support at all stages - avoidance, preparation, response, recovery, and longer-term adaptation. Although recent national, devolved, and local government action has been moving in the right direction, it remains disjointed and under-resourced, leaving many impacted communities feeling abandoned.

There is an increasing appetite for more ambitious efforts that align emergency responses to climate impacts, with longer-term, community-centred planning strategies. Flooding strategies, for example, should scale a range of measures to strengthen individual/community-level preparedness; implement prevention efforts including hard engineering (e.g. flood barriers), natural flood management and aligned planning frameworks; and provide structured, long-term support to impacted communities at risk of displacement.

Key focuses for action include:

### ➤ **Practical and financial assistance to communities**

The practical and financial support available to communities on the frontline of climate impacts is currently insufficient. On-the-ground work to inform, assist and network communities, and counselling or other mental health support for those in at-risk areas, is often under-resourced and ad hoc. Many communities, and particularly elderly or otherwise more vulnerable individuals, need practical support to install property flood resilience measures, or retrofitting in response to extreme heat. Others need greater statutory assistance to implement nature-based solutions - including trees, wetlands and green spaces - to address problems such as flooding, heat and pollution.

Communities facing temporary or repeated displacement increasingly need more structured, extensive and long-term solutions. Flooding and coastal erosion already have significant financial implications, including challenges relating to insurance, mortgage rates and property prices. The innovative [FloodRe scheme](#) for high-risk properties is currently due to close in 2039 with no follow-on plan. A longer-term strategy is urgently needed to address this cliff-edge.

Flooding already carries significant financial implications, with the average cost of repairs reaching £57,000 per household (over £50,000 of which is typically covered by insurance). Households also face disruption costs averaging around £3,300, rising to £3,700 after severe flooding. These include temporary accommodation, unpaid leave from work, counselling, childcare, travel changes, and replacement of everyday belongings.

While homeowners often face the largest repair bills in cash terms, renters carry a heavier burden relative to income. Private renters can lose around 8% of annual income to flood disruption, and social renters around 13%, compared with around 6% for homeowners. Some households lose more than a month's income as a result of flooding. At the same time, people living in high-risk areas are finding it harder to secure affordable insurance. This pressure falls most heavily on low-income households, within which Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities and Disabled people are disproportionately represented, deepening existing inequalities.

There are some new efforts to develop financial support models for those whose homes are threatened by climate impacts. Some local authorities in England and Wales are trialling approaches including purchasing at-risk properties, issuing compensation, and offering 'rollback' opportunities to support relocation. This currently falls short of a national strategy, but may point the way to scalable solutions.

There is a need for open debate about who should bear the cost of climate-linked displacement, and preventative interventions. Households, insurers, local authorities, central government, and philanthropy all have a role to play, but the distribution of responsibility is currently disputed amid concerns that these issues will worsen existing social disadvantages.

## **Public engagement and debate**

Communities need to be meaningfully involved in meeting the challenges of climate-linked displacement and shaping the decisions that impact their lives. This would be strengthened by a thoughtful civic discourse about the ways that climate change is increasingly affecting our communities, and inspiring examples of community-led action towards a better future.

A growing body of research points to the importance of equipping communities at risk of climate-linked displacement with evidence, targeted engagement and transparent decision-making. Calls for locally-led adaptation - the work of looking ahead, getting ready, and taking care of each other as our world changes (the Climate Majority Projects's SAFER campaign) - and to ensure full awareness of the general population (the Climate Emergency Briefing campaign) are central to achieving informed public engagement and debate.

Several public bodies and organisations are trialling public engagement in impacted communities, including through local citizens juries and other deliberative processes - although these are not specific to climate-linked displacement. Citizen engagement strategies are increasingly informed by the need to include underrepresented and excluded people through targeted outreach and trusted intermediaries, and there is much more that can be done here.

Despite the broad public distrust of politics in the UK, there is a majority consensus across the British public that climate change is an important issue. There is a renewed awareness that climate solutions feel most relevant when they focus on the issues that impact people's everyday lives. As climate change increasingly impacts communities around the UK, there is new scope for public discourse - whether in the media, online or through arts and culture - about climate-linked displacement, which can offer relatable visions of a more equitable and sustainable future.

### **Round Our Way: stories that make climate-linked displacement visible**

Round Our Way is a UK not-for-profit that tells everyday stories of climate impacts and helps the voices of people too often overlooked by the climate debate to be heard. It focuses on how floods, heat and drought affect families, and pairs lived experience with clear evidence and public-facing communications to build pressure for practical action. The Round Our Way podcast and newsletter series capture what displacement can look like in real life, including people forced to leave communities after repeated flooding. In its Churchtown series, founder Siriol Hogg describes how flooding changed her daily life, the mental strain of constant worry, and the long recovery after floodwater and contamination damaged homes. She later moved away, but the experience stayed with her. By telling stories like this, Round Our Way helps to shift climate-linked displacement from an abstract future risk to a current lived reality.

### **➤ Wider policy frameworks**

There are wide calls for action on climate-linked displacement to be rooted within more cohesive and ambitious climate adaptation policy agendas at all levels.

The UK Government's National Adaptation Plan ('NAP3', 2023-8) is widely seen as having been a missed opportunity to present a clear vision and framework for climate adaptation. NAP4 is currently under development, and could underpin a commitment to resource and support local communities at risk of climate-linked displacement. There are calls for bolder, long-term adaptation strategies across the UK's devolved nations, through the National Adaptation Plan in Scotland, Climate Adaptation Strategy in Wales and Climate Change Adaptation Programme in Northern Ireland.

Cities are increasingly important sites of planning and action on climate resilience, including in London, Glasgow, Belfast and Greater Manchester. In some areas, such as Gwent in Wales, strategies are being developed across wider city regions. There are some new efforts to adopt catchment level approaches to flooding, although in general, rural resilience remains a gap in understanding and action, with those living outside urban areas feeling particularly ignored.

The extent of statutory responsibility for communities on the frontline has been insufficiently defined. In the absence of government action to support flood victims in Ynysybwl, Wales, Rhondda Cynon Taf council decided to step in and purchase the affected properties.

In cases where the local-council has limited funds available, residents may be less likely to receive support, which would hit lower-income householders the hardest.

To address climate-linked displacement, the UK will need long-term, joined-up thinking across nations, government departments and policy agendas. This should harmonise climate goals with planning rules and building regulations - most pressingly to address the continuation of new house-building in flood plains - and frameworks on infrastructure, sewerage and drainage. Community-focused action should go hand in hand with work to protect biodiversity and nature, including through landscape-scale responses (such as natural flood management) that mitigate displacement risks.

### **Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA): planning for resilience**

Planning, including well-designed development and sustainable drainage, is one of the most important tools available to build community resilience and avoid future displacement. Over the past 20 years, the Town and Country Planning Association has led the way in advising policy makers on the role of planning in climate adaptation and mitigation.

The TCPA produces research, policy analysis and training, in pursuit of a better alignment between UK planning frameworks and climate imperatives. It produces a regularly updated guidance manual 'Planning for the Climate Crisis: A guide for local authorities', in partnership with the Royal Town Planning Institute, which helps local authorities to fully consider climate impacts in all local planning decisions. It advocates democratic planning processes, and supports some communities at risk of displacement to navigate complex technical information and processes.

### **Verture: supporting Scottish communities**

In Scotland, climate change is reshaping both people's lives and the places they depend on, increasing the risks that can lead to displacement - especially from flooding, coastal erosion and heat stress. Through the [Adaptation Scotland](#) programme, a Scottish Government funded initiative delivered by [Verture](#), communities, public bodies, businesses and local organisations get support to understand the impacts of a changing climate and take practical action.

Verture works with partners to turn climate risk into local strategies and resilience measures, building capacity and connecting people with tools such as the [Community Climate Adaptation Routemap](#). Co-developed with community partners, the Routemap helps to guide locally led adaptation planning.

The programme brings together public sector networks, the private sector and civil society to strengthen climate readiness across Scotland. This collaborative approach ensures that adaptation planning takes equity and social justice into account alongside climate risk. By focusing on community leadership, shared learning and practical resilience, Verture's work helps reduce the chances that climate impacts will result in forced or unmanaged displacement of people and places.

# Key Insights

## Insight 3: There is growing energy behind UK climate displacement work

- **There is a growing body of third sector work on UK climate displacement, across sub-sectors including climate and environment, emergency response, planning, and human rights.**
- **Organisations and impacted communities are using a wide range of tools to raise the profile of climate-linked displacement, including research and policy, campaigning, legal strategies and community organising.**
- **Much of this work is chronically under-resourced, but it is driven by a shared energy and sense of urgency.**

There is a growing body of third sector organisations working on issues related to climate-linked displacement in the UK, across several sectors. This includes work focusing on climate change, nature and the environment, planning and housing, infrastructure, emergency response, social justice and equalities, displacement and human rights, and physical and mental health.

Climate-linked displacement is not always an explicit feature of this work, and depth of discussion often remains within directly-affected communities. There is a lack of connective tissue between many climate adaptation groups and many are inadequately resourced to deliver community-level work. However, there is growing energy behind this work as its urgency becomes more apparent. There is a critical role for hopeful, empowering discussions that avoid polarising or fatalistic messaging.

There is widespread policy and research activity on climate adaptation and resilience. Many of the findings in this paper are drawn from ongoing analysis from a range of UK government departments and agencies. Recent parliamentary enquiries into flooding by the [Environmental Audit Committee](#) (2025) and the [Public Accounts Committee](#) (2021) reflect the growing political attention on climate resilience. Analysis from across the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is deepening the evidence base and scope for action.

The private insurance sector (including Aviva, Deloitte, Association of British Insurers) is closely engaged, not least due to the rising costs of insurance payouts ([estimated by Deloitte](#) at £1.6 billion in weather-related property claims for 2025, up from £1.3 billion in 2024, and more than double the annual payouts between 2017 and 2021). Several universities across all four nations are producing relevant scientific, policy and community-focused research, including [Exeter](#), [Leeds](#), [East Anglia](#), [Essex](#) and [Loughborough](#) in England, [Glasgow](#) and [Edinburgh](#) in Scotland; [Cardiff](#) and [Bangor](#) in Wales; and [Queen's University Belfast](#) in Northern Ireland.

In the third sector, national policy and support organisations focusing on the local impacts of climate change include the [Town and Country Planning Association](#), [British Red Cross](#), [Green Alliance](#), [UK Green Building Council](#), [National Emergencies Trust](#) and [Institute for Government](#). Actors such as [C40 cities](#) and the [COMPAS team at Oxford University](#) are highlighting the role of towns and cities as sites of welcome, inclusion and climate resilience.

Several climate and social justice NGOs are actively supporting or campaigning for climate-impacted communities, including [The Climate Majority Project](#), [National Flood Forum](#), [Scottish Flood Forum](#), [Flooded People UK](#) and [Verture](#) - the UK's only climate resilience charity. [Friends of the Earth](#) and [Earth Refuge](#) are driving forward innovative legal strategies on climate-linked displacement. A wide range of local campaign and community action groups, such as [Save Hemsby Coastline](#), and initiatives such as [Flood Mary](#) are supporting or representing local communities.

### **Friends of the Earth: leveraging change through the law**

Friends of the Earth fights for climate justice through grassroots campaigns and legal action. In July 2025, Friends of the Earth, alongside two co-claimants, filed a legal case with the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). They argued that the UK Government's National Adaptation Plan fails to protect basic human rights. One of the claimants has been displaced from their home by coastal erosion, whilst a further claimant who lives in a care home is being impacted by extreme heat. Both are experiencing a high level of harm. FoE is also applying in a representative NGO capacity for other people similarly impacted by climate change.

The ECtHR will now decide whether to hear the case. If successful, it could lead the UK to fundamentally improve how it prepares for climate change, including taking into proper account the human rights of the most at risk. A positive judgment could also help governments across Europe to take climate adaptation seriously and better protect those at risk – both from climate impacts and government inaction.

Several organisations are drawing attention to the wider intersections between UK climate impacts, social justice and human rights, including the [Climate Justice Coalition](#), [Race Equality Foundation](#), [Disability Rights UK](#), [Working Class Climate Alliance](#), [Runnymede Trust](#), and the [Everyone's Environment coalition](#). Public opinion specialists including [Climate Outreach](#) and [More in Common](#) maintain up-to-date analysis on how to talk effectively about climate change and international displacement, alongside arts organisations such as [Culture for Climate Scotland](#), [Climate Spring](#) and [Counterpoints Arts](#).

# Next Steps

This rapid review has outlined key issues relating to climate-linked displacement and mapped the current policy and third sector landscape. Looking ahead, this area will require sustained attention, coordination and resourcing to support a thriving future for people and nature.

We welcome feedback on this paper, and further discussion about how to centre these issues, including on the following:


- **How can we support joined-up action on climate-linked displacement before the challenge escalates?** How can charities, philanthropic trusts and foundations, urban planners, businesses (including the private insurance sector) and policy-makers work together to develop a climate adaptation agenda fit for a just, sustainable future? What are the strategic priorities for collaborative action?
- **What constitutes 'resilient communities', in the context of climate-linked displacement?** Who are the most vulnerable groups and how can they best be supported and empowered? How far should strategies on climate-linked displacement be informed by wider agendas on climate action, social cohesion, local democracy, diversity and equity, and human rights? Where is the line between community resilience and policy gaps that force communities to carry the brunt of adaptation?
- **How can we best engage communities in adaptation** that improves lives while reducing risk of climate-linked displacement? How can communities be empowered without adding to existing stress or disproportionate responsibility? What terminology is most appropriate that reflects communities' experiences, is clear and accessible, and conveys the urgency of the situation whilst not causing additional distress or financial hardship due to complications with house prices or insurance?
- **Where are the key evidence gaps on UK climate-linked displacement?** What further information do we need, or need to align, to understand these growing challenges? What terminology feels most accurate and helpful?
- **What can we learn from other countries on the frontline** - including Australia, the USA and European countries - that are experiencing climate displacement challenges? How are they responding and planning for the future?



For more information or to continue the conversation, please contact  
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 This report has been designed by [Imagine If. Space CIC](#), a community engagement practice supporting communities across Scotland to transform ideas into tangible realities.

Cover photo: Extract from © Copyright [Mat Fascione](#) and licensed for [reuse](#) under this [Creative Commons Licence](#). The River Severn, swollen by Storm Christoph, overwhelmed temporary flood defences at around midnight on Saturday (January 23) and dozens of homes were evacuated. The barriers on Beales Corner were breached and water spilled onto nearby roads. The river was peaking at around 5.4m (17ft 8in) in Bewdley on the Saturday. The highest level ever recorded in the town was 5.56m in November 2000.