

Hydrological Summary for Great Britain

AUGUST 1993

Rainfall

August was a relatively sunny but cool month with lengthy dry periods in most areas. Most of the rainfall was associated with the passage of frontal systems around the 11th and 21st. Anticyclonic conditions predominated however and although one or two notable thunderstorms were reported (e.g. at Scarborough on the 5th) monthly rainfall totals were generally below average. For Britain as a whole it was the first relatively dry month since March; on a regional basis only Yorkshire exceeded the 1961-90 average and some areas - mostly in southern England - registered less than 40% of normal rainfall. Scotland recorded only its fourth month with below average rainfall since July last year. Despite a distinctly unsettled complexion to the weather in the English lowlands, summer (June-August) rainfall totals were mostly close to the average but generally above average elsewhere. In the 12-month timeframe, regional rainfall totals also exceed the annual mean, by an appreciable margin in much of Scotland. Only a faint echo of drought conditions is now evident - at the regional scale - in the long term rainfall accumulations for England and Wales, the most notable deficiency being for the Southern region.

River Flow

Summer recessions continued during August in most catchments, interrupted in parts of northern England by a few minor spates. As in July, monthly runoff totals - with a few exceptions - were well within the normal range but, northern England apart, a little below average. The influence of catchment geology on summer flows was clearly evident in much of lowland England: runoff from impervious catchments was often substantially below average whereas spring-fed rivers in most areas maintained near-average flows. Important exceptions include a number of East Anglian chalk streams, for example, the Stringside stream, where baseflow remains moderate and only three months have

registered above average runoff out of the last 61. Even in such catchments, August flows were generally well above the minima established over the 1989-92 period. Runoff accumulations in the three- to five-year timeframes testify to the remarkable accentuation in the NW/SE runoff gradient across Britain. For example, runoff totals since October 1988 exceed any comparable earlier accumulations on the Clyde and Carron but represent new minima on the Lud and Itchen.

Groundwater

As is normal for the late summer, groundwater levels generally declined through August - a few isolated recoveries in deep wells could be attributed to the belated impact of late spring infiltration. Throughout the greater part of the Chalk, water-tables are close to the seasonal average but a zone of relatively depressed groundwater levels may still be identified in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk; importantly, however, the August levels in this area were very substantially greater than the record minima established last year. Less spatial coherence is evident in the August levels for the Permo-Triassic index wells but, again, levels are mostly well within the normal range; isolated anomalously low levels are considered to reflect regional or local groundwater pumping.

General

A modest reduction in reservoir stocks occurred last month but they remain healthy and considerably greater (up to 30% in the lowlands) than at the end of the hydrologically stressed summers of 1989 and 1990. Following significant early autumn rainfall, soil moisture conditions suggest that a normal seasonal recovery in runoff and recharge rates may be anticipated. On a regional basis, the water resources outlook is good.



Institute of
Hydrology

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British
Geological
Survey

Data for this report have been provided principally by the regional divisions of the National Rivers Authority* in England and Wales, the River Purification Boards in Scotland and by the Meteorological Office. Reservoir contents information has been supplied by the Water Services Companies, the NRA or, in Scotland, the Lothians Regional Council. The most recent areal rainfall figures are derived from a restricted network of raingauges (particularly in Scotland) and a proportion of the river flow data is of a provisional nature.

A map (Figure 3) is provided to assist in the location of the principal monitoring sites.

* For reasons of consistency the original ten regional divisions of the NRA have been retained for use in the Hydrological Summaries.

13 September 1993

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Institute of Hydrology/British Geological Survey
Maclean Building
Crowmarsh Gifford
Wallingford
Oxfordshire
OX10 8BB

TABLE 1 1992/93 RAINFALL AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE 1961-90 AVERAGE

		Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		Jan 1993	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
England and Wales	mm %	129 170	92 119	84 99	138 153	83 88		98 111	15 24	27 38	96 160	86 135	77 119	83 134	58 77
NRA REGIONS															
North West	mm %	151 141	110 96	121 95	172 140	118 95		152 126	22 28	32 34	116 163	131 175	62 77	101 119	95 89
Northumbria	mm %	99 122	95 130	81 107	100 116	71 88		108 129	17 29	28 40	120 214	118 190	46 76	65 99	79 98
Severn-Trent	mm %	120 179	74 116	71 111	113 159	61 79		81 116	10 19	15 25	78 142	84 142	64 108	76 144	51 76
Yorkshire	mm %	99 134	95 140	77 105	102 128	71 86		84 106	22 38	14 21	102 173	82 137	53 88	72 123	87 118
Anglian	mm %	83 151	86 176	73 143	83 143	41 75		57 114	17 46	17 36	71 154	52 108	52 101	68 139	46 83
Thames	mm %	107 184	93 158	73 118	117 180	58 83		85 133	6 13	23 41	83 166	61 109	54 99	58 118	35 61
Southern	mm %	104 182	70 101	86 108	141 166	76 93		94 118	9 17	30 48	91 172	58 107	56 104	56 116	37 64
Wessex	mm %	129 195	85 118	52 66	152 183	86 92		117 134	7 11	43 61	82 155	62 102	69 121	74 143	33 50
South West	mm %	174 207	93 100	96 83	216 173	122 88		171 124	22 22	33 33	98 142	131 182	127 183	129 188	39 46
Welsh	mm %	222 220	114 99	102 74	214 151	145 95		197 138	23 24	34 32	107 134	124 151	104 131	108 140	73 72
Scotland	mm %	221 189	177 125	123 79	212 140	159 105		291 193	67 66	91 73	128 168	132 154	101 118	127 135	87 74
RIVER PURIFICATION BOARDS															
Highland	mm %	255 201	214 125	155 78	280 138	239 121		358 190	86 68	151 93	86 95	93 101	123 125	122 115	91 72
North-East	mm %	132 152	107 123	110 113	93 94	78 84		152 154	41 63	55 71	68 113	109 158	69 105	90 123	63 72
Tay	mm %	201 214	160 140	70 54	163 135	113 89		319 222	32 34	113 104	135 218	132 159	83 114	94 122	73 77
Forth	mm %	183 195	166 151	66 57	153 137	84 76		247 209	42 53	188 194	108 183	119 161	86 125	81 107	67 71
Tweed	mm %	157 178	118 133	77 81	135 145	82 88		158 158	21 31	41 52	124 218	130 183	64 99	66 91	49 56
Solway	mm %	215 181	155 108	116 74	203 141	133 90		207 133	13 13	103 88	163 212	139 164	74 88	96 107	70 59
Clyde	mm %	278 207	205 115	133 69	255 142	165 92		339 179	18 15	161 110	158 188	119 131	94 101	107 98	89 67

Note: The most recent monthly rainfall figures correspond to the MORECS areal assessments derived by the Meteorological Office; the provisional figures for England and Wales and for Scotland are derived using a different raingauge network. Regional areal rainfall figures are regularly updated (normally one or two months in arrears) using figures derived from a far denser raingauge network.

TABLE 2 RAINFALL RETURN PERIOD ESTIMATES

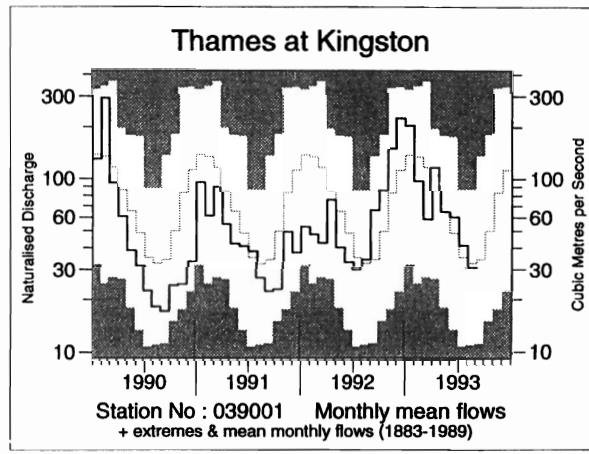
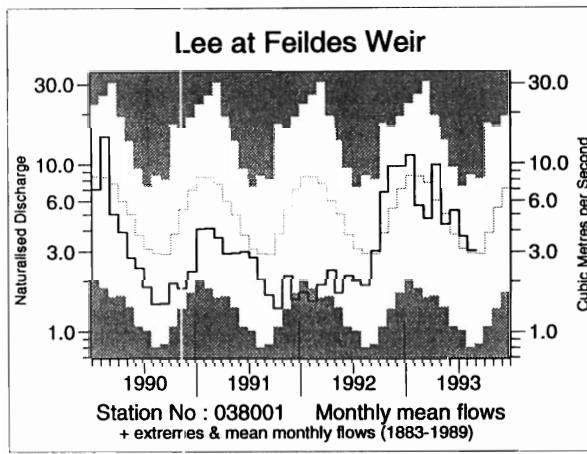
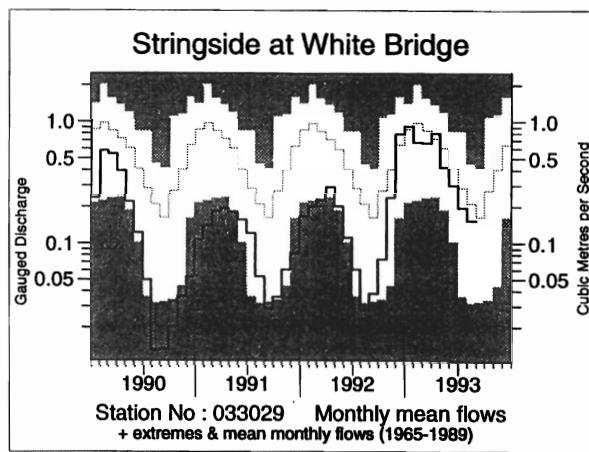
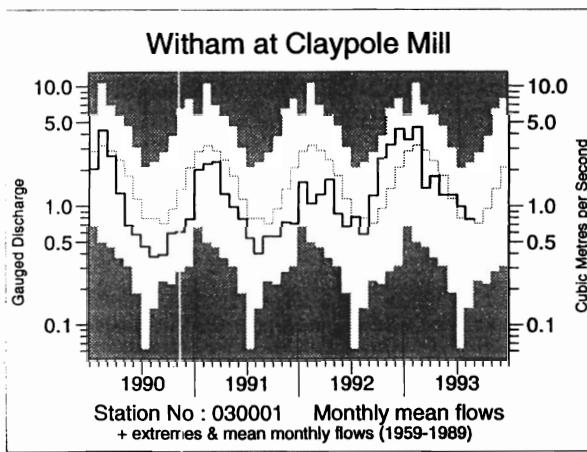
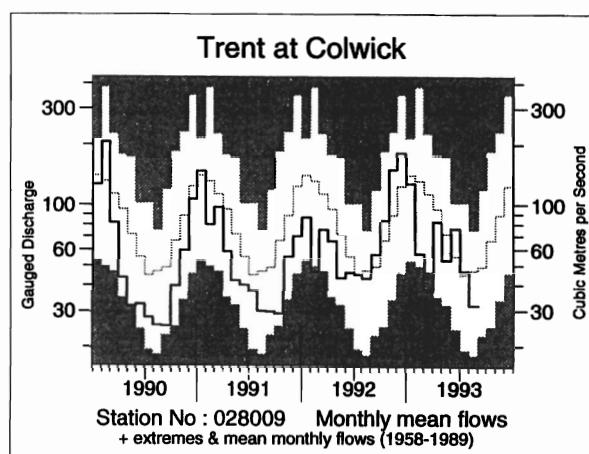
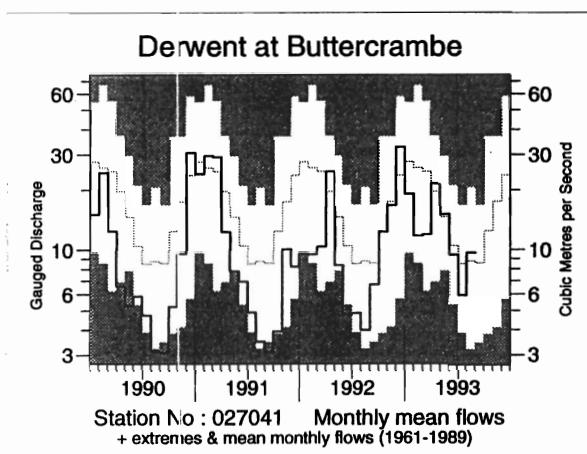
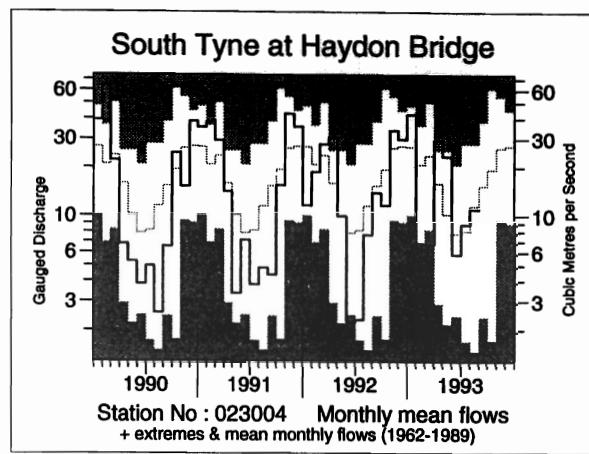
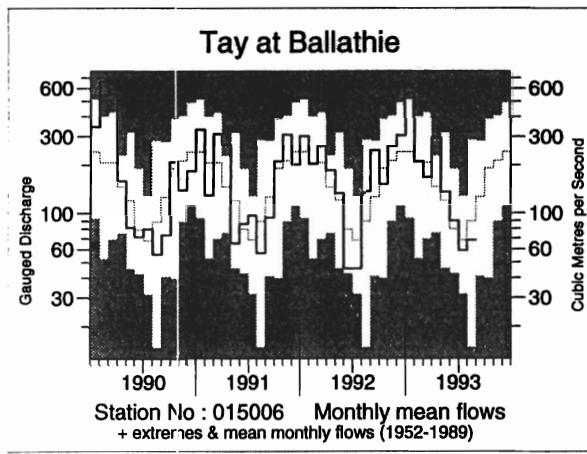
		Jan-Aug93		Sep92-Aug93		Mar90-Aug93		Aug88-Aug93	
		Est Return Period, years							
England and Wales	mm % LTA	540 98	2-5	937 105	<u>2-5</u>	2842 92	5-10	4264 94	5-10
NRA REGIONS									
North West	mm % LTA	712 100	<2	1233 103	<u>2-5</u>	3927 95	2-5	5953 97	2-5
Northumbria	mm % LTA	580 108	<u>2-5</u>	927 109	<u>2-5</u>	2851 97	2-5	4067 94	5-10
Severn-Trent	mm % LTA	459 96	2-5	777 103	<u>2-5</u>	2424 93	2-5	3613 94	5
Yorkshire	mm % LTA	516 100	<2	861 105	<u>2-5</u>	2574 91	5-10	3800 91	10-20
Anglian	mm % LTA	379 99	2-5	662 111	<u>2-5</u>	1899 91	5-10	2756 91	10-20
Thames	mm % LTA	406 94	2-5	747 108	<u>2-5</u>	2150 90	5-10	3210 92	5-10
Southern	mm % LTA	431 93	2-5	804 103	<u>2-5</u>	2377 89	5-10	3528 89	10-20
Wessex	mm % LTA	487 95	2-5	862 103	<u>2-5</u>	2562 89	5-10	3939 93	5-10
South West	mm % LTA	749 107	<u>2-5</u>	1276 109	<u>2-5</u>	3708 93	2-5	5713 96	2-5
Welsh	mm % LTA	769 100	<2	1344 102	<u>2-5</u>	4221 94	2-5	6478 97	2-5
Scotland	mm % LTA	1024 122	<u>20-30</u>	1695 118	<u>15-25</u>	5602 114	<u>40-60</u>	8382 115	<u>>200</u>
RIVER PURIFICATION BOARDS									
Highland	mm % LTA	1110 112	5	1998 114	<u>5-10</u>	6900 116	<u>40-70</u>	10436 117	<u>>>200</u>
North-East	mm % LTA	647 108	<u>2-5</u>	1035 106	<u>2-5</u>	3357 100	<2	4808 97	2-5
Tay	mm % LTA	981 133	<u>30-60</u>	1487 121	<u>10-20</u>	4609 110	<u>5-10</u>	6973 112	<u>20-35</u>
Forth	mm % LTA	838 127	<u>20-35</u>	1307 118	<u>10-20</u>	4171 110	<u>5-10</u>	6208 110	<u>20-35</u>
Tweed	mm % LTA	653 109	<u>2-5</u>	1065 110	<u>2-5</u>	3476 104	<u>2-5</u>	4997 101	<u>2-5</u>
Solway	mm % LTA	865 104	<u>2-5</u>	1472 104	<u>2-5</u>	5039 104	<u>2-5</u>	7618 106	<u>5-10</u>
Clyde	mm % LTA	1085 112	5	1843 109	<u>2-5</u>	6653 116	<u>30-60</u>	10023 116	<u>>200</u>

LTA refers to the period 1961-90.

Return period assessments are based on tables provided by the Meteorological Office*. The tables reflect rainfall totals over the period 1911-70 only and the estimate assumes a sensibly stable climate. They assume a start in a specified month; return periods for a start in any month may be expected to be an order of magnitude less - for the longest durations the return period estimates converge. "Wet" return periods underlined.

* Tabony, R.C., 1977, The Variability of long duration rainfall over Great Britain, Scientific Paper No. 37, Meteorological Office.

FIGURE 1 MONTHLY RIVER FLOW HYDROGRAPHS



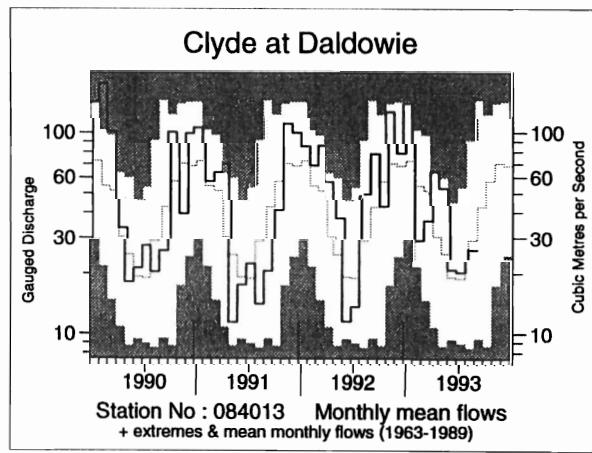
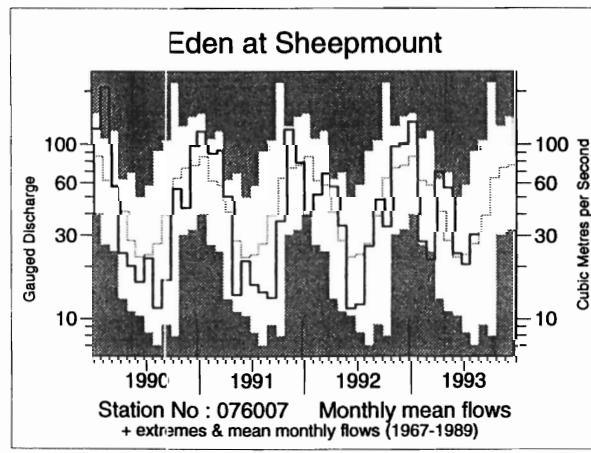
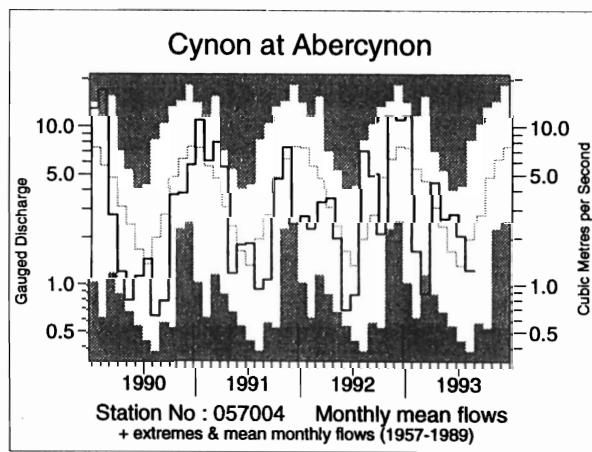
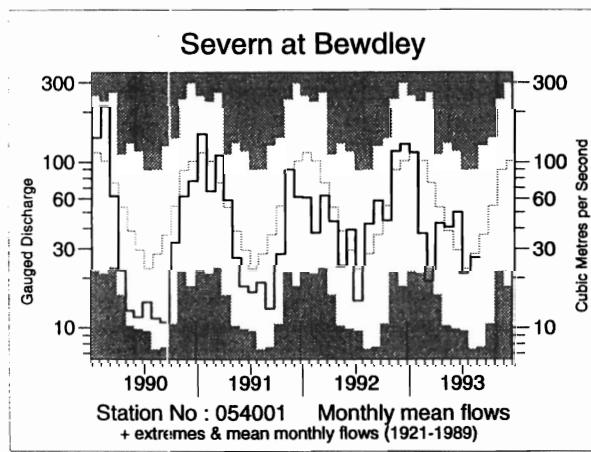
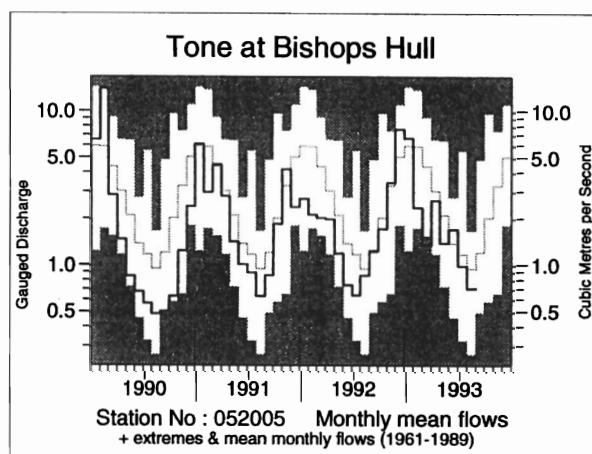
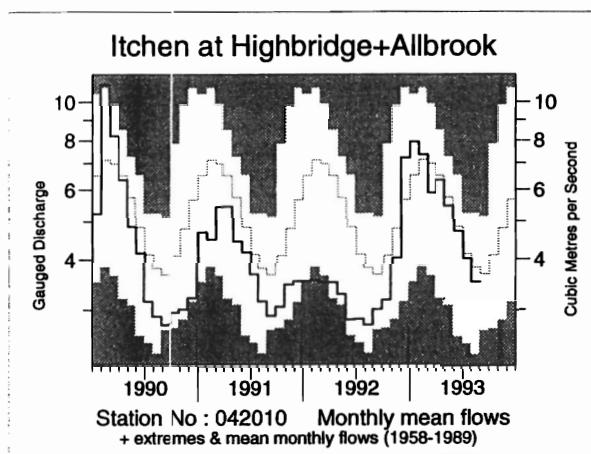
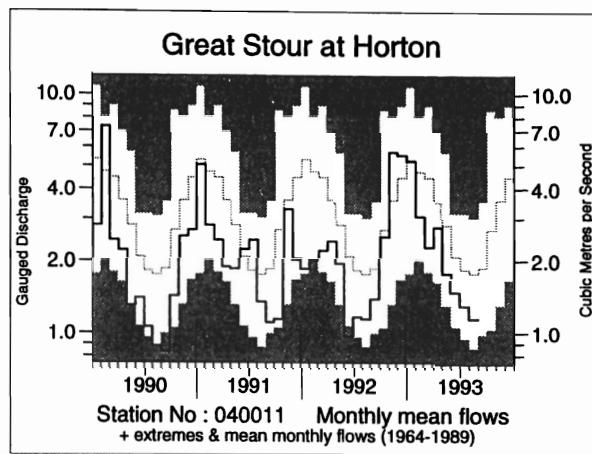
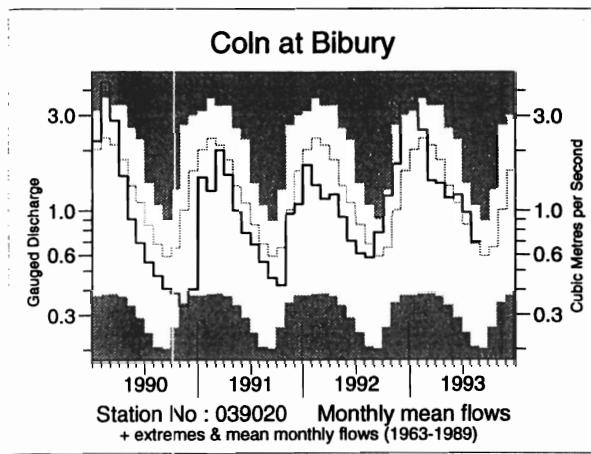


TABLE 3 RUNOFF AS MM. AND AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE PERIOD OF RECORD AVERAGE WITH SELECTED PERIODS RANKED IN THE RECORD

River/ Station name	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug		6/93 to 8/93		1/93 to 8/93		5/90 to 8/93		11/88 to 8/93	
	1993	1993	1993	1993	mm %LT	rank /yrs	mm %LT	rank /yrs	mm %LT	rank /yrs	mm %LT	rank /yrs	mm %LT	rank /yrs
Dee at Park	97	87	33	23	24	12	80	11	559	16	2342	6	3376	2
	124	142	90	82	75	/21	83	/21	113	/21	92	/18	87	/17
Tay at Bellathie	168	80	50	34	40	17	124	17	907	40	3976	30	63821	36
	196	116	112	85	77	/41	91	/41	133	/41	110	/38	17	/37
Whiteadder Water at Hinton Castle	50	63	22	11	8	12	41	15	241	9	1175	8	1520	5
	131	241	132	88	53	/24	92	/24	91	/24	94	/21	78	/20
South Tyne at Heydon Bridge	101	84	20	32	39	19	91	20	475	19	2354	10	3465	5
	182	241	76	116	101	/30	100	/30	108	/30	96	/24	93	/22
Wharfe at Flint Mill Weir	60	63	27	27	42	24	96	23	397	13	2002	7	3036	2
	110	169	110	103	106	/38	106	/38	92	/38	87	/35	87	/34
Derwent at Buttercrambe	35	25	15	10	16	21	42	12	173	8	763	3	1066	1
	112	107	91	72	115	/32	95	/32	78	/32	73	/29	66	/28
Trent at Cawick	29	19	27	17	12	7	55	21	180	3	883	3	1378	2
	91	77	144	107	73	/35	108	/35	76	/35	78	/32	79	/31
Lad at Louth	19	17	16	11	9	8	36	8	137	8	413	2	648	1
	62	66	83	71	69	/26	76	/25	70	/25	51	/22	52	/21
Witham at Claypole Mill	15	11	11	9	7	22	27	23	135	18	466	8	694	5
	73	72	115	129	103	/35	113	/35	99	/34	80	/32	77	/30
Little Ouse at Abbey Heath	14	10	8	6	6	9	19	8	99	7	324	2	536	1
	79	70	77	74	81	/26	75	/26	81	/25	60	/23	66	/21
Colne at Lexden	11	6	6	3	3	8	12	15	74	8	290	3	487	1
	85	70	113	72	75	/34	87	/34	80	/34	69	/31	74	/30
Lee at Feildes Weir (natr.)	25	11	13	10	8	71	31	81	121	66	357	9	589	10
	168	86	138	124	106	/108	122	/108	107	/107	68	/102	74	/99
Thames at Kingston (natr.)	31	17	16	11	8	56	35	76	178	59	624	20	987	13
	138	98	127	116	91	/111	114	/111	104	/111	80	/108	82	/106
Coln at Bibury	34	29	30	25	17	17	72	19	316	16	1099	8	1670	4
	80	89	115	121	102	/30	113	/30	107	/30	86	/27	86	/26
Great Stour at Horton	21	14	11	10	9	7	31	6	145	6	671	3	981	1
	82	67	72	71	68	/29	72	/28	75	/27	72	/22	69	/18
Ichen at Highbridge + Allbrook	46	41	34	30	26	13	90	17	329	17	1198	2	1799	1
	100	98	100	100	94	/35	98	/35	101	/35	80	/32	80	/31
Piddle at Baggs Mill	38	29	23	18	15	16	57	14	299	16	1076	6	1640	3
	90	92	100	101	97	/30	101	/30	102	/29	83	/24	82	/21
Exe at Thorverton	51	26	36	26	22	17	84	28	433	8	2263	7	3447	2
	91	70	154	125	78	/38	116	/38	90	/37	88	/35	86	/33
Kenwyn at Truro	31	50	81	35	21	24	137	25	404	15	1745	5	2770	2
	70	186	447	281	174	/25	295	/25	101	/25	91	/22	91	/21
Tone at Bishops Hull	34	19	22	13	9	9	45	18	233	5	1067	1	1813	1
	89	71	128	86	74	/33	100	/33	74	/32	72	/30	77	/28
Severn at Bewdley	26	25	30	13	16	45	60	59	214	10	1164	9	1863	4
	82	107	172	93	93	/73	122	/73	77	/72	82	/70	85	/68
Clymon at Abercynon	114	67	69	53	32	15	154	27	695	13	3770	14	5970	14
	148	115	173	155	61	/35	121	/35	98	/35	95	/29	99	/27
Eden at Sheepmount	79	66	27	24	36	18	87	15	445	16	2207	9	3386	7
	168	205	109	91	120	/23	107	/23	109	/23	102	/17	102	/14
Clyde at Daldowie	89	76	29	29	37	18	94	17	545	27	2939	26	4404	26
	199	218	111	107	91	/30	100	/30	124	/30	120	/27	119	/26
Caron at New Kelso	94	61	85	229	131	6	446	13	1602	12	8880	9	14051	10
	67	61	117	198	76	/15	122	/15	113	/15	108	/12	113	/10

Notes:

- (i) Values based on gauged flow data unless flagged (natr.), when naturalised data have been used.
- (ii) Values are ranked so that lowest runoff as rank 1.
- (iii) %LT means percentage of long term average from the start of the record to 1992. For the long periods (at the right of this table), the end date for the long term is 1993.

TABLE 4 START-MONTH RESERVOIR STORAGES UP TO SEPTEMBER 1993

Area	Reservoir (R)/ Group (G)	Capacity● (MI)	1993						1992	
			Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Sep	
North West	Northern Command Zone ¹	133375	77	91	92	77	66	58	60	
	Vyrnwy	(G) (R) 55146	78	87	94	89	81	79	96	
Northumbria	Teesdale ²	(G) 87936	83	95	96	80	72	66	63	
	Kielder	(R) 199175*	81*	91*	96*	91*	90*	87*	84*	
Severn-Trent	Clywedog	(R) 44922	87	95	100	96	94	92	87	
	Derwent Valley ³	(G) 39525	73	81	72	76	77	76	66	
Yorkshire	Washburn ⁴	(G) 22035	83	91	94	81	72	63	64	
	Bradford supply ⁵	(G) 41407	76	83	91	80	74	74	56	
Anglian	Graffham	(R) 58707	92	93	95	95	96	95	94	
	Rutland	(R) 130061	88	94	93	96	93	90	86	
Thames	London ⁶	(G) 206232	91	95	96	94	96	87	89	
	Farmoor ⁷	(G) 13843	95	99	98	98	98	98	99	
Southern	Bewl	(R) 28170	91	97	96	91	85	78	60	
	Ardingly	(R) 4685	100	100	100	99	90	80	71	
Wessex	Clatworthy	(R) 5364*	83	86	86	91	82	72	35*	
	Eristol WW ⁸	(G) 38666*	85*	89*	84*	76*	67*	60	58*	
South West	Colliford	(R) 28540	83	83	84	87	86	81	63	
	Roadford	(R) 34500	80	78	78	82	81	74	70	
	Wimbleball ⁹	(R) 21320	91	92	89	89	83	76	48	
	Stithians	(R) 5205	88	83	91	99	91	85	53	
Welsh	Celyn + Brenig	(G) 131155	90	95	99	100	98	94	89	
	Brianne	(R) 62140	90	99	100	98	97	92	90	
	Big Five ¹⁰	(G) 69762	78	89	92	89	86	78	83	
	Elan Valley ¹¹	(G) 99106	89	98	100	97	96	97	100	
Lothian	Edinburgh/Mid Lothian	(G) 97639	93	99	99	96	89	83	86	
	West Lothian	(G) 5613	92	100	99	99	89	81	60	
	East Lothian	(G) 10206	97	100	100	99	92	81	68	

● Live or usable capacity (unless indicated otherwise)

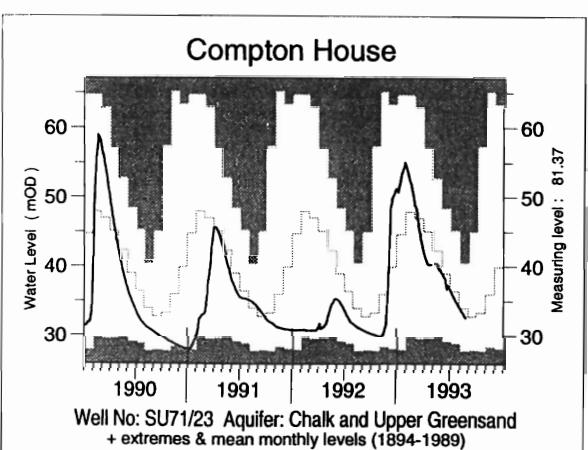
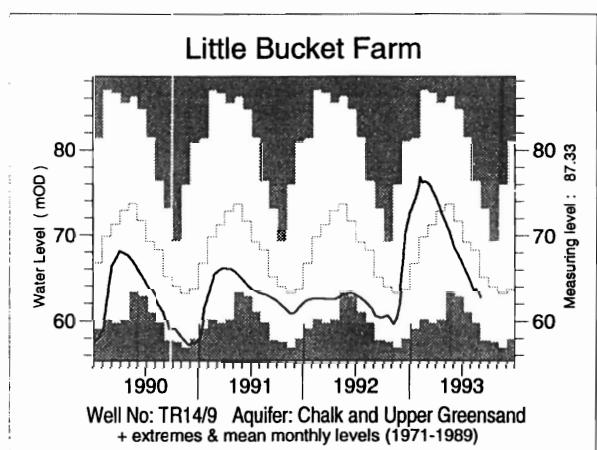
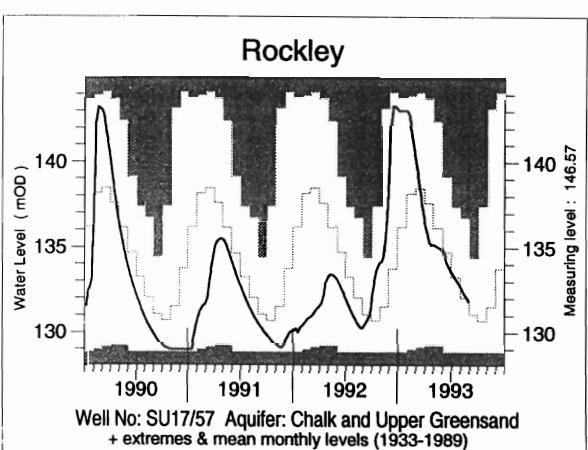
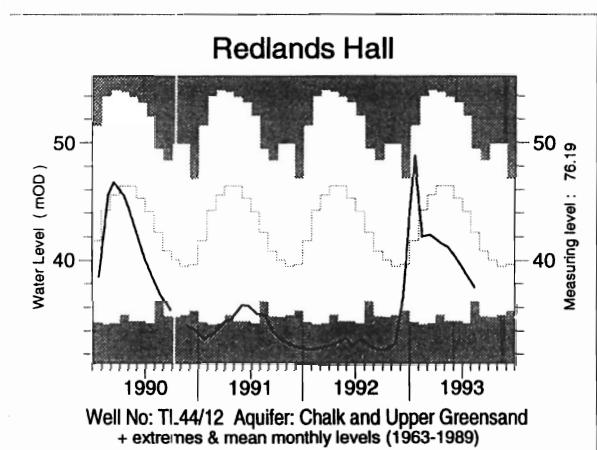
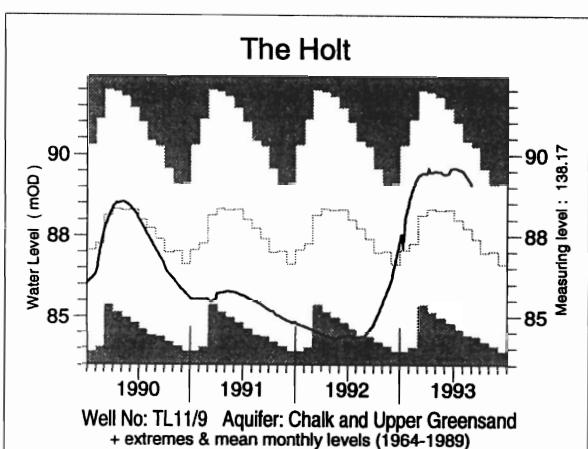
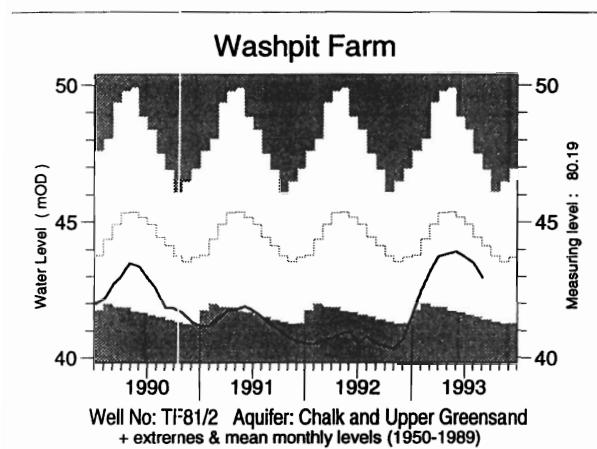
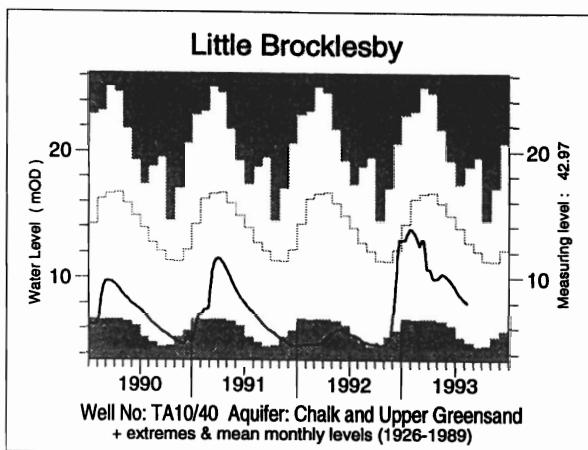
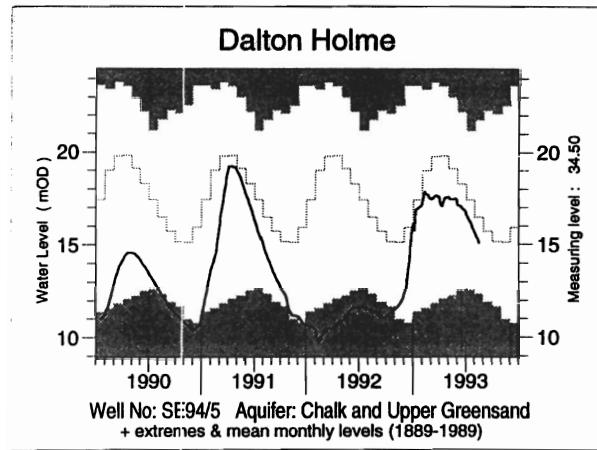
* Gross storage/percentage of gross storage

1. Includes Haweswater, Thirlmere, Stocks and Barnacre.
2. Cow Green, Selset, Grassholme, Balderhead, Blackton and Hury.
3. Howden, Derwent and Ladybower.
4. Swinsty, Fewston, Thruscross and Eccup.
5. The Nidd/Barden group (Scar House, Angram, Upper Barden, Lower Barden and Chelker) plus Grimwith.
6. Lower Thames (includes Queen Mother, Wraysbury, Queen Mary, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II) and Lee Valley (includes King George and William Girling) groups - pumped storages.
7. Farmoor 1 and 2 - pumped storages.
8. Blagdon, Chew Valley and others.

9. Shared between South West (river regulation for abstraction) and Wessex (direct supply).
10. Usk, Talybont, Llandegfedd (pumped storage), Taf Fechan, Taf Fawr.
11. Claerwen, Caban Coch, Pen y Garreg and Craig Goch.

Note: Variations in storage depend on the balance between inputs (from catchment rainfall and any pumping) and outputs (to supply, compensation flow, HEP, amenity). There will be additional losses due to evaporation, especially in the summer months. Operational strategies for making the most efficient use of water stocks will further affect reservoir storages. Table 4 provides a link between the hydrological conditions described elsewhere in the report and the water resources situation.

FIGURE 2 GROUNDWATER LEVEL HYDROGRAPHS



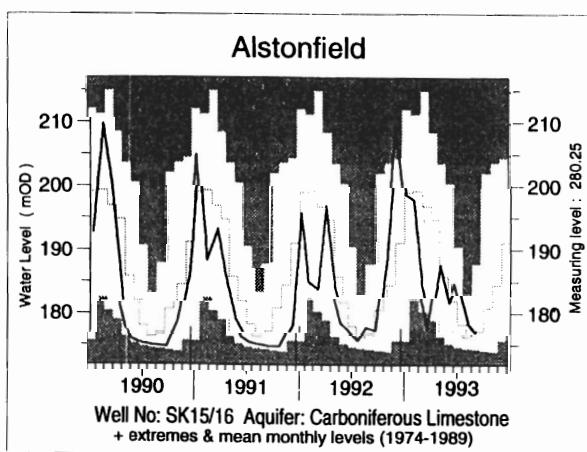
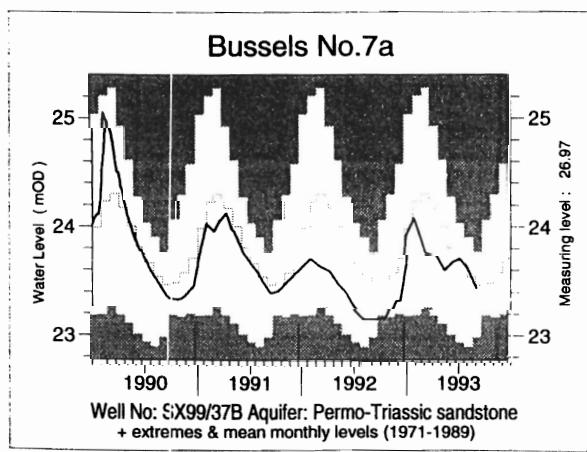
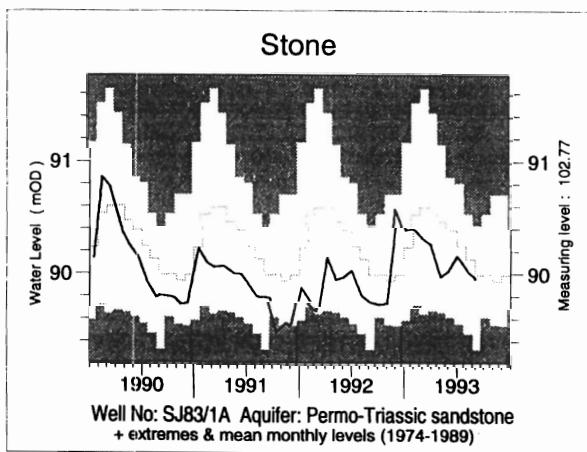
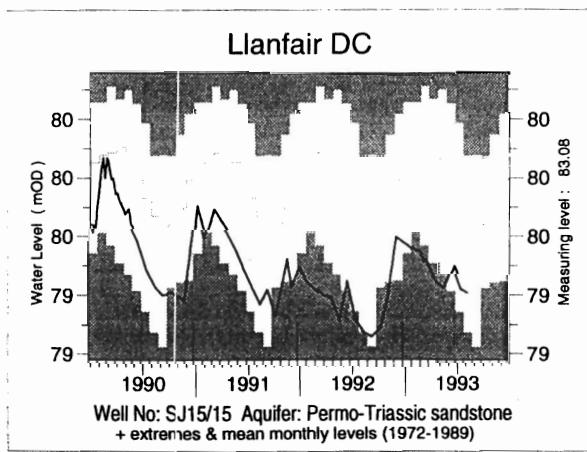
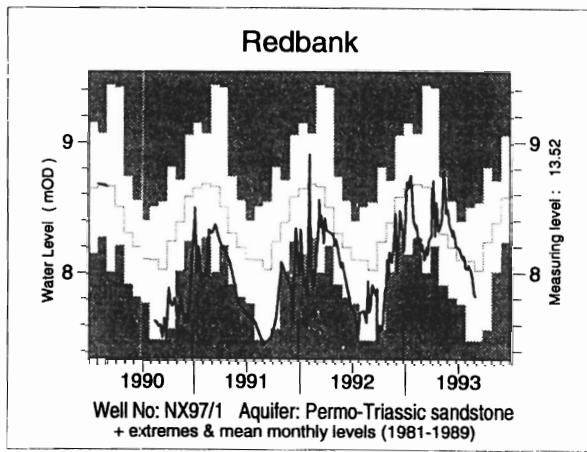
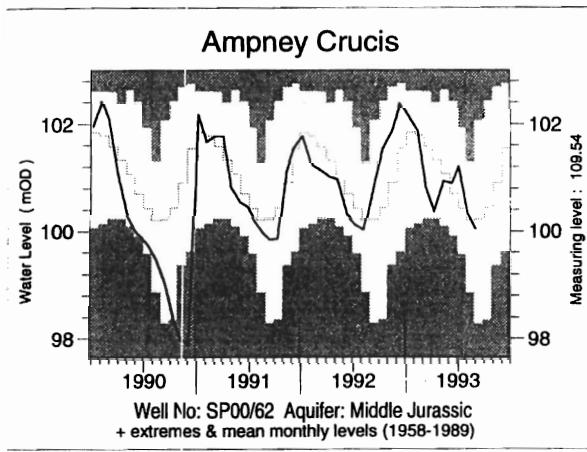
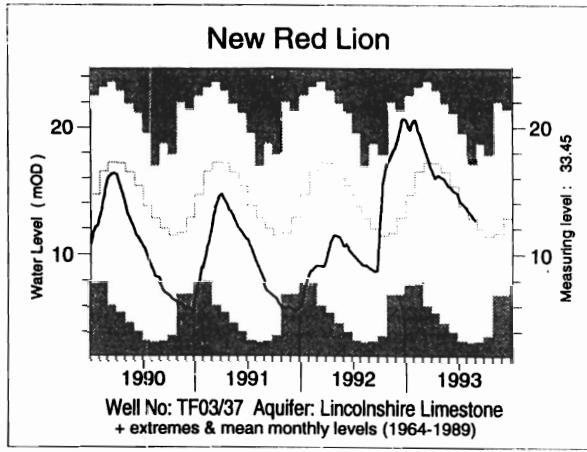
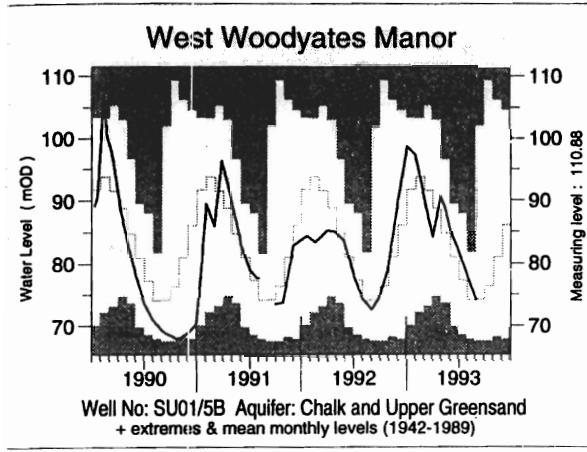


TABLE 5 A COMPARISON OF AUGUST GROUNDWATER LEVELS: 1992 AND 1993

Site	Aquifer	Records commence	Average August level	August 1992		Aug/Sept 1993		No of years Aug level <1993	Lowest pre-1993 level
				day	level	day	level		
Wetwang	C & UGS	1971	20.04	31/08	18.27	15/08	19.85	>10	16.66
Dalton Holme	C & UGS	1889	16.46	28/08	11.38	15/08	15.09	>10	9.64
Little Brocklesby	C & UGS	1926	12.19	25/08	4.86	02/08	8.19	6	4.53
Washpit Farm	C & UGS	1950	44.38	03/08	40.77	01/09	42.96	9	40.30
The Holt	C & UGS	1964	87.55	03/08	84.32	30/08	89.08	>10	83.90
Therfield Rectory	C & UGS	1883	80.70	04/08	dry	30/08	78.24	>10	dry <71.6
Redlands Hall	C & UGS	1964	41.40	14/08	32.73	13/08	37.69	6	32.29
Rockley	C & UGS	1933	131.94	23/08	130.31	30/08	131.82	>10	dry <128.9
Little Bucket Farm	C & UGS	1971	66.80	24/08	61.28	31/08	62.72	4	56.77
Compton House	C & UGS	1894	34.24	20/08	31.20	24/08	32.62	>10	27.64
Chilgrove House	C & UGS	1836	42.41	20/08	38.49	24/08	40.73	>10	33.46
West Dean No 3	C & UGS	1940	1.45	28/08	1.44	27/08	1.43	>10	1.01
Lime Kiln Way	C & UGS	1969	125.13	11/08	123.86	11/08	124.11	1	123.70
Ashton Farm	C & UGS	1974	65.80	03/08	65.50	31/08	65.36	7	63.10
West Woodyates	C & UGS	1942	73.98	03/08	74.40	31/08	74.15	>10	67.62
New Red Lion	LLst	1964	12.35	24/08	9.06	26/08	12.69	>10	3.29
Ampney Crucis	Mid Jur	1958	100.26	10/08	100.04	30/08	100.05	>10	97.38
Yew Tree Farm	PTS	1973	13.40	27/08	13.18	10/08	13.47	>10	8.43
Llanfair DC	PTS	1972	79.67	19/08	78.95	13/08	79.22	3	78.85
Morris Dancers	PTS	1969	32.51	11/08	31.93	10/08	31.91	1	30.87
Stone	PTS	1974	90.15	06/08	89.81	01/09	89.94	5	89.34
Skirwith	PTS	1978	130.16	31/08	129.66	20/08	130.11	5	129.44
Redbank	PTS	1981	7.99	31/08	7.95	29/08	7.86	5	7.45
Bussells 7A	PTS	1972	23.54	13/08	23.15	01/09	23.44	7	22.90
Rushyford NE	MgLst	1967	71.94	31/08	74.59	04/08	75.58	>10	64.77
Peggy Ellerton	MgLst	1968	34.42	11/08	31.38	05/08	31.61	2	31.10
Alstonfield	CLst	1974	177.30	05/08	175.95	02/09	177.27	>10	174.22

groundwater levels are in metres above Ordnance Datum

C & UGS LLst PTS	Chalk and Upper Greensand Lincolnshire Limestone Permo-Triassic sandstones	Mid Jur MgLst CLst	Middle Jurassic limestones Magnesian Limestone Carboniferous Limestone
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FIGURE 3 LOCATION MAP OF GAUGING STATIONS AND GROUNDWATER INDEX WELLS

