

SUMMARY The outlook for June is for above normal river flows in southeast England and normal to above normal river flows elsewhere. The June – August outlook suggests normal to above normal flows across the country. The groundwater outlook is for above normal levels across the country in June, and normal to above normal levels for the June – August period.

Rainfall:

May was wetter than average, but with marked variations: most of England was wetter than average (notably so in Wessex, east Anglia and northern areas), along with southern Scotland. In contrast, Northwest Scotland and Northern Ireland were drier than average.

The forecast (issued by the Met Office on 27.05.2024) for June favours near-average conditions but indicates that the chance of a wet month is slightly higher than a dry one. The June - August forecast favours near-average conditions, with the chance of a wet or dry summer fairly balanced.

River flows:

River flows in May were above normal across most of England and southern Scotland, with some exceptionally high flows. Wales, Northern Ireland and parts of Scotland saw normal flows, but flows were below normal in the far northwest of Scotland.

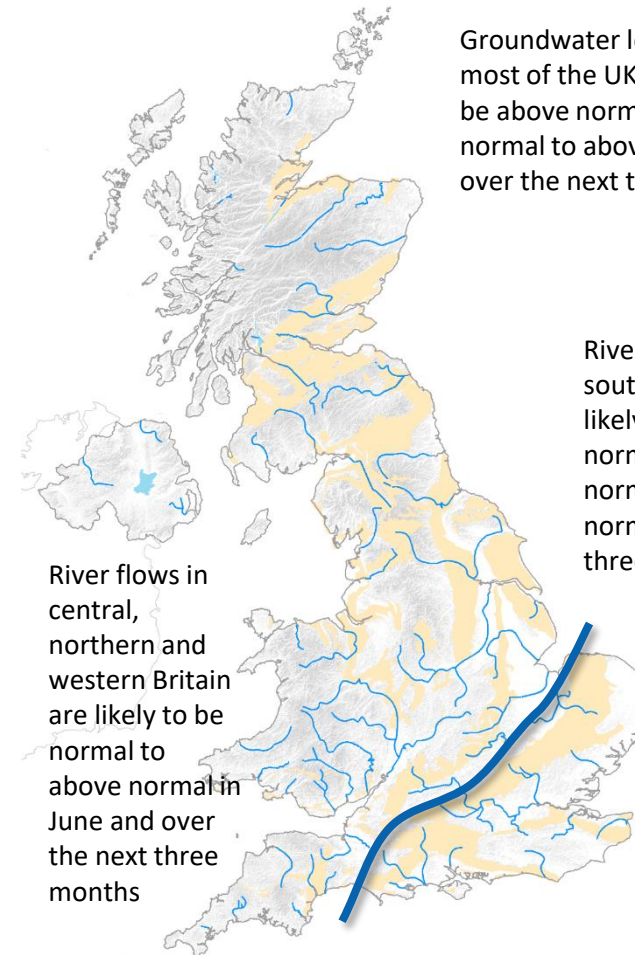
The forecast for June is for above normal flows in southeast England, with a likelihood of notably high flows persisting in some catchments. Elsewhere, normal to above normal flows are the most likely outcome. Outlooks suggest below normal flows may persist in northwest Scotland, but early June rainfall makes this less likely. The June – August outlook favours normal to above normal flows across the country, with a chance of above normal flows persisting in parts of the southeast, particularly in groundwater-fed rivers.

Groundwater:

Groundwater levels in May were mostly above normal, and notably or exceptionally high levels were widespread across the country, with a number of new May maxima.

The outlook for June is for a continuation of above normal levels across most of the UK, with widespread notably high (and occasionally exceptional) levels, although normal levels are the most likely outcome in some areas of central and northern England. The three-month outlook indicates above normal levels will persist in many areas, but an increasing number of boreholes will see levels entering the normal range.

The UK Hydrological Outlook provides an outlook for the water situation for the United Kingdom over the next three months and beyond. For guidance on how to interpret the outlook, a wider range of information, and a full description of underpinning methods, please visit the website: www.hydoutuk.net



Groundwater levels across most of the UK are likely to be above normal in June and normal to above normal over the next three months

River flows for southeast England are likely to be above normal in June and normal to above normal over the next three months

River flows in central, northern and western Britain are likely to be normal to above normal in June and over the next three months

Shaded areas show principal aquifers

About the UK Hydrological Outlook:

This document presents an outlook for the UK water situation for the next 1-3 months and beyond, using observational datasets, meteorological forecasts and a suite of hydrological modelling tools. The outlook is produced in a collaboration between the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH), British Geological Survey (BGS), the Met Office, the Environment Agency (EA), Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), and for Northern Ireland, the Department for Infrastructure – Rivers (DfIR).

Data and Models:

The UK Hydrological Outlook depends on the active cooperation of many data suppliers. This cooperation is gratefully acknowledged. Historic river flow and groundwater data are sourced from the [UK National River Flow Archive](#) and the [National Groundwater Level Archive](#). Contemporary data are provided by the EA, SEPA, NRW and DfIR. These data are used to initialise hydrological models, and to provide outlook information based on statistical analysis of historical analogues.

Climate forecasts are produced by the Met Office. Hydrological modelling is undertaken by UKCEH using the Grid-to-Grid and GR6J hydrological models. Hydrogeological modelling uses the AquilMod model run by BGS.

Supporting documentation is available from the Outlooks website:

<https://hydoutuk.net/about/methods>

Presentation:

The language used in the summary presented overleaf generally places flows and groundwater levels into just three classes, i.e. below normal, normal, and above normal. However, the underpinning methods use as many as seven classes as defined in the graphic to the right, i.e. the summary uses a simpler classification than some of the methods. On those occasions when it is appropriate to provide greater discrimination at the extremes the terminology and definitions of the seven class scheme will be adopted.

	Percentile range of historic values for relevant month
Exceptionally high flow	> 95
Notably high flow	87-95
Above normal	72-87
Normal range	28-72
Below normal	13-28
Notably low flow	5-13
Exceptionally low flow	< 5

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Further information:

For more detailed information about the UK Hydrological Outlook, and the derivation of the maps, plots and interpretation provided in this outlook, please visit the UK Hydrological Outlook website. The website features a host of other background information, including a wider range of sources of information which are used in the preparation of this Outlook. Dynamic access to many of the outputs of the UK Hydrological Portal are available on the [UK Hydrological Outlooks Portal](#).

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Reference for the UK Hydrological Outlook:

UK Hydrological Outlook, 12 June 2024, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Oxfordshire UK, Online, <https://www.hydoutuk.net/latest-outlook/>

Other Sources of Information:

The UK Hydrological Outlook should be used alongside other sources of up-to-date information on the current water resources status and flood risk.

Environment Agency Water Situation Reports: provides summary of water resources status on a monthly and weekly basis for England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-situation-reports-for-england>

Flood warnings are continually updated, and should be consulted for an up-to-date and localised assessment of flood risk:

- Environment Agency: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/map>
- Natural Resources Wales: <https://flood-warning.naturalresources.wales/>
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/flooding.aspx>

Hydrological Summary for the UK: provides summary of current water resources status for the UK: <https://nra.ceh.ac.uk/monthly-hydrological-summary-uk>

UK Met Office forecasts for the UK: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>

UK Water Resources Portal: monitor the UK hydrological situation in near real-time including rainfall, river flow, groundwater and soil moisture from COSMOS-UK: <https://eip.ceh.ac.uk/hydrology/water-resources/>