## Hydrological Summary for Great Britain



## JANUARY 1993

## Rainfall

Around $150 \%$ of average for GB, the wettest month nationwide for almost three years. Provisional data indicate that Scotland registered its second highest monthly precipitation total in a record from 1869. A few districts in eastern England recorded below average rainfall but, regionally, only modest long term deficiencies can now be recognised.

## River flows

As in December, flooding was widespread. Around midmonth runoff rates in large parts of Scotland were remarkable and floodplain inundation was extensive. The maximum daily mean flow on the Tay established a new record for the national River Flow Archive. In the English lowlands greatly increased baseflows helped to continue the recovery in runoff rates and winter runoff thus far is notably high over wide areas.

## Groundwater

Some further dramatic recoveries occurred in the Chalk but water-tables in a few eastern localities remain appreciably below average. The benefits of late-1992 infiltration are now widely evident and the transformation in groundwater resources since last summer is very notable.

## General

The water resources outlook in late January was very healthy in almost all areas. The subsequent dry spell has directed attention to the need for sufficient rainfall, well into the spring, to avoid the early onset of a steep deterioration in resources as occurred in 1990.

Institute of Hydrology

## HYDROLOGICAL SUMMARY FOR GREAT BRITAIN - January 1993

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.

## Rainfall

January was generally mild and notably unsettled particularly in Scotland where severe gales and blizzard conditions punctuated the month. The boisterous weather extended into southern Britain in mid-month and many areas recorded fewer than six rainless days in January. In eastern England individual daily rainfall totals were often modest but a series of vigorous Atlantic frontal systems brought widespread and heavy rainfall across Scotland which experienced a remarkably wet month with extensive flooding.

The provisional January rainfall total for Britain is around $150 \%$ of the 1941-70 average but the spatial distribution demonstrated a marked accentuation in the normal NW/SE rainfall gradient. Based on a very limited network of raingauges the monthly precipitation total for Scotland - more than twice the long term average nationwide with some central areas exceeding $300 \%$ - ranks January 1993 as the second wettest month on record for Scotland (marginally eclipsed by February 1990) in a general rainfall series from 1869. For England and Wales, January rainfall totals were generally above average in the west and close to the 1941-70 mean in eastern areas. Importantly however, rainfall in a few districts where full terminations to the drought are awaited (e.g. parts of northern Kent, Lincolnshire and the lower Trent Valley), fell a little below average, parts of the north-eastern seaboard were also relatively dry.

On a regional basis, accumulated rainfall totals are above, to well above, average within the twelvemonth timeframe and, over wide areas, notably high over the period beginning in the summer of 1992. England and Wales experienced its second wettest July-January period since 1961 and in the Thames Valley the seven-month total is the third highest in over 50 years; other parts of eastern England received less abundant precipitation and a few moderate long term deficiencies remain. For Scotland, the August-January period is the second wettest six-month sequence (for ANY start month) on record and accumulated totals over longer timespans are also remarkable - the 60-month rainfall total (beginning in February 1988), for example, is unprecedented and appreciably greater than any recorded 60-month sequence prior to 1980.

Rainfall over the last eleven months has served to end the meteorological drought in regional terms; a full termination is still awaited in a few districts in the eastern lowlands. The recent persistence of high pressure over the English lowlands provides a timely reminder that - as over the first third of 1990 - transformations in the water resources outlook can occur relatively rapidly in the late winter and spring. Average rainfall is needed through into April to consolidate the very substantial improvements in water resources since the summer of 1992.

## Runoff

With evaporation rates very moderate and catchments saturated for much of the month, the January precipitation was especially hydrologically effective. Rivers were in spate over wide areas, and in the fortnight beginning around the 9th, flooding occurred from the Thames Valley to the Scottish Highlands.

Widespread floodplain inundation was heralded by the passage of a particularly intense depression (the central pressure fell below 920 millibars) on the 10/11th - subsequently overbank flows were common in western Scotland and Wales. Thereafter, flood alerts extended across into the English lowlands and blizzards in northern Britain produced substantial snow accumulations. On the 16/17th the passage of a warm front resulted in a rapid thaw in Scotland and the snowmelt, together with significant rainfall, produced exceptional runoff rates in many rivers; flows were particularly remarkable in rivers draining from the Highlands. Many gauging stations in the Tay basin registered new maximum flows around mid-month - by which time the January precipitation total for Lochearnhead had exceeded 400 mm . On the River Tay itself (at Ballathie) a peak flow assessed at around $2200 \mathrm{~m}^{3} \mathrm{~s}^{-1}$ was recorded on the 17th; this is the second highest flow registered on the national River Flow Archive (surpassed only by the Findhorn flood of August 1970), the daily mean flow at Ballathie, which closely approached $2000 \mathrm{~m}^{3} \mathrm{~s}^{-1}$, established a new record. As with the February 1990 event, the flood peak on the Tay was attenuated by upstream spillage over the flood banks but the flood damage in Perth was considerable; historical data indicate that the water level was the highest since 1814. Many eastward-draining Scottish rivers recorded unprecedented flow rates. The Earn (at Kinkell Bridge, Perthshire) exceeded its previous maximum by a very wide margin, the River Teith, Central Region, also surpassed its previous maximum flow and a return period exceeding 50 years was ascribed to the peak on the Allan Water (at Bridge of Allan, Central Region). Floodplain inundation was very extensive and transport disruption was severe.

Monthly runoff totals for January were close to or above average in almost all index catchments. Relatively low average flows were registered in north-eastern England (on, for example, the Yorkshire Derwent and the Leven) but the high flows elsewhere were more notable. Rivers registering record January runoff totals showed a very wide distribution, examples include the Luss which flows into Loch Lomond, Earn (Tayside), Kennet and Hampshire Avon. Even in those parts of eastern England where rainfall was moderate the recovery in permeable catchments continued as the benefit of the wet weather late in 1992 became evident as increasing baseflows. The transformation since the early autumn of last year is well illustrated on the Lee where runoff over the last four months exceeds that for the preceding 18. Table 3 confirms that notably high three-month runoff accumulations coexist with some significant long term deficiencies in parts of the English lowlands. Nonetheless the substantial increases in groundwater levels (see below) imply that - given average spring rainfall - no repetition of the depressed runoff rates experienced in 1989 and 1990 in permeable catchments may be expected this summer.

Reservoir contents are at, or near, capacity throughout Britain. Flood drawdown releases were common in the west during January whereas in the English lowlands stocks in the major pumped storage reservoirs stood at over $90 \%$ - a comparison between the early February 1993 contents at Rutland, Bewl and the London Group of reservoirs and those of a year ago provide a measure of the improved water resources outlook.

## Groundwater

The benefit of the early commencement of infiltration, in the autumn of 1992, and substantial rainfall over much of the last four months, is clearly evident in the groundwater level traces for the index boreholes - in the Chalk especially. Over most of Britain, groundwater levels have shown a very
substantial rise through the winter and water-tables (with a few significant exceptions) range from well within to well above the normal range. At several Chalk sites the recent transformation has been dramatic with recharge over the last three months exceeding that over the preceding 30. The watertable at Redlands Hall (Cambridgeshire), for example, has risen from a period-of-record minimum to close to the seasonal maximum since early November. Exceptionally brisk recoveries characterise most of the Chalk and even at slow responding boreholes like Washpit Farm (Norfolk) levels, though still well below average, are at their highest for two and a half years and some further increase may be anticipated as winter infiltration reaches the depressed water-table. An appreciable recovery is also underway at the deep Therfield Rectory well which dried up a year ago for the first time in 70 years.

In the more quickly responding, fissured aquifers to the west of the Chalk outcrop, a modest decline in groundwater levels occurred in some areas during January. Nonetheless, levels remain well within the normal range. A notable recent recovery has occurred in the Permo-Triassic sandstones of the South-West but at Llanfair DC in north Wales, the water-table remains close to the seasonal minimum. Recoveries are also still awaited in, for example, parts of the deeper Nottinghamshire aquifers and the Weeford Flats borehole (where levels are heavily influenced by pumping) remains dry.

In general terms, it is probable that groundwater levels throughout the country will recover at least to mean levels by the normal onset of the summer recession, typically late March or early April. Given average rainfall, the recession should certainly start from a much higher level than was the case in 1992. Compared to mid-1992, the overall water resources outlook is very encouraging. Some caution is necessary, however. Dramatic recoveries in water-tables over the winter of $1989 / 90$ were followed by equally steep recessions through the exceptionally dry spring. At least average rainfall in areas is required through into April to continue the recovery in some eastern lowland areas (and a few other districts) and delay the onset of the seasonal decline in groundwater levels.

Institute of Hydrology/British Geological Survey 11 February 1993

TABLE 1 1992/93 RAINFALL AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE 1941-70 AVERAGE
$\left.\begin{array}{llllrrrrrrrrrrr}\hline & & \text { Jan } & \text { Feb } & \text { Mar } & \text { Apr } & \text { May } & \text { June } & \text { July } & \text { Aug } & \text { Sept } & \text { Oct } & \text { Nov } & \text { Dec } & \text { Jan } \\ & & & & & & & & & & & & & & \\ 1992\end{array}\right]$

RIVER PURIFICATION BOARDS

| Highland | mm | 197 | 229 | 248 | 138 | 105 | 46 | 97 | 250 | 177 | 144 | 241 | 190 | 407 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \% | 120 | 172 | 218 | 121 | 102 | 42 | 76 | 169 | 112 | 78 | 143 | 101 | 248 |
| North-East | mm | 67 | 52 | 113 | 68 | 57 | 50 | 48 | 128 | 113 | 107 | 97 | 90 | 200 |
|  | \% | 74 | 70 | 182 | 111 | 74 | 71 | 52 | 120 | 130 | 110 | 94 | 88 | 220 |
| Tay | mm | 117 | 111 | 172 | 90 | 57 | 30 | 78 | 197 | 152 | 92 | 165 | 106 | 324 |
|  | \% | 99 | 121 | 210 | 120 | 60 | 36 | 76 | 167 | 132 | 76 | 153 | 79 | 274 |
| Forth | mm | 110 | 111 | 164 | 76 | 45 | 25 | 67 | 174 | 156 | 80 | 167 | 81 | 236 |
|  | \% | 111 | 144 | 238 | 112 | 54 | 33 | 68 | 150 | 144 | 75 | 155 | 74 | 238 |
| Tweed | mm | 63 | 70 | 138 | 98 | 52 | 27 | 60 | 151 | 126 | 80 | 123 | 75 | 139 |
|  | \% | 68 | 101 | 238 | 161 | 68 | 40 | 67 | 132 | 135 | 91 | 118 | 83 | 149 |
| Solway | mm | 91 | 140 | 206 | 144 | 66 | 30 | 99 | 214 | 166 | 114 | 190 | 119 | 200 |
|  | \% | 65 | 151 | 226 | 164 | 72 | 33 | 90 | 165 | 110 | 79 | 131 | 79 | 143 |
| Clyde | mm | 170 | 231 | 267 | 144 | 93 | 41 | 123 | 270 | 195 | 135 | 272 | 142 | 332 |
|  | \% | 106 | 204 | 254 | 140 | 96 | 40 | 95 | 190 | 111 | 74 | 163 | 76 | 206 |

Note: The most recent monthly rainfall figures correspond to the MORECS areal assessments derived by the Meteorological Office. The 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 FOR SELECTED PERIODS WITH CORRESPONDING RETURN PERIOD ESTIMATES

|  |  | Ju192-Jan93 <br> Est Return Period, years |  | Feb92-Jan93 <br> Est Return Period, years |  | Mar90-Jan93 <br> Est Return <br> Period, years |  | Aug88-Jan93 <br> Est Return Period, years |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| England and | mm | 712 |  | 1013 |  | 2420 |  | 3842 |  |
| Wales | \% LTA | 118 | 5-10 | 111 | $\underline{5}$ | 90 | 10 | 92 | 10 |
| NRA REGIONS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| North West | mm | 856 |  | 1280 |  | 3282 |  | 5308 |  |
|  | \% LTA | 104 | $\leq 5$ | 105 | $\leq 5$ | 92 | 5-10 | 95 | 5 |
| Northumbria | mm | 604 |  | 909 |  | 2297 |  | 3513 |  |
|  | \% LTA | 104 | $\leq 5$ | 103 | $\leq 5$ | 92 | 5-10 | 89 | 15-25 |
| Severn-Trent | mm | 596 |  | 858 |  | 1975 |  | 3164 |  |
|  | \% LTA | 120 | 5-10 | 111 | 5 | 90 | 5-10 | 92 | 5-10 |
| Yorkshire | mm | 605 |  | 870 |  | 2072 |  | 3298 |  |
|  | \% LTA | 112 | $\leq 5$ | 104 | $\leq 5$ | 88 | 10-20 | 88 | 20-25 |
| Anglian | mm | 514 |  | 719 |  | 1539 |  | 2396 |  |
|  | \% LTA | 131 | 10-20 | 118 | $\underline{10}$ | 89 | 10 | 88 | 15-25 |
| Thames | mm | 600 |  | 841 |  | 1761 |  | 2821 |  |
|  | \% LTA | 131 | 10-20 | 119 | 10 | 88 | 10 | 90 | 10 |
| Southern | mm | 621 |  | 854 |  | 1946 |  | 3097 |  |
|  | \% LTA | 117 | $\underline{5}$ | 107 | $\leq 5$ | 87 | 10-20 | 87 | 15-25 |
| Wessex | mm | 685 |  | 935 |  | 2115 |  | 3492 |  |
|  | \% LTA | 119 | 5-10 | 108 | $\leq 5$ | 86 | 10-20 | 90 | 10 |
| South West | mm | 904 |  | 1202 |  | 2975 |  | 4980 |  |
|  | \% LTA | 113 | $\leq 5$ | 101 | $\leq 5$ | 89 | 10 | 93 | 5 |
| Welsh | mm | 1005 |  | 1433 |  | 3450 |  | 5707 |  |
|  | \% LTA | 113 | $\leq 5$ | 107 | $\leq 5$ | 92 | 5 | 95 | <5 |
| Scotland | mm | 1283 |  | 1913 |  | 4821 |  | 7601 |  |
|  | \% LTA. | 133 | 70-120 | 134 | $\geq>200$ | 118 | $\geq 200$ | 118 | $\geq>200$ |
| RIVER PURIFICATION BOARDS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Highland | mm | 1506 |  | 2272 |  | 5862 |  | 9398 |  |
|  | \% LTA. | 131 | 30-50 | 132 | $\geq 200$ | 121 | $\geq>200$ | 122 | $\geq>200$ |
| North-East | mm | 782 |  | 1122 |  | 2833 |  | 4284 |  |
|  | \% LTA. | 115 | 5-10 | 110 | $\underline{5}$ | 98 | $<5$ | 94 | 5-10 |
| Tay | mm | 1114 |  | 1574 |  | 3852 |  | 6216 |  |
|  | \% LTA. | 135 | 30-50 | 125 | 30-40 | 109 | 5-10 | 111 | 15-25 |
| Forth | mm | 961 |  | 1382 |  | 3486 |  | 5523 |  |
|  | \% LTA. | 129 | 20-30 | 124 | 30-50 | 110 | $\underline{10}$ | 110 | 15-25 |
| Tweed | mm | 753 |  | 1138 |  | 2873 |  | 4394 |  |
|  | \% LTA | 112 | $\leq 5$ | 113 | 5-10 | 101 | $\leq 5$ | 98 | <5 |
| Solway | mm | 1101 |  | 1695 |  | 4232 |  | 6811 |  |
|  | \% LTA | 113 | $\leq 5$ | 119 | 10-20 | 105 | $\leq 5$ | 106 | 5-10 |
| Clyde | mm | 1469 |  | 2245 |  | 5736 |  | 9106 |  |
|  | \% LTA | 128 | 30-40 | 135 | $\geq 200$ | 122 | $\geq>200$ | 122 | $\geq>200$ |

Return period assessments are based on tables provided by the Meteorological Office*. These 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.
The tables reflect rainfall tolals over the period 1911-70 only and the estimate assumes a sensibly stable climate.

[^0]FIGURE 1 MONTHLY RIVER FLOW HYDROGRAPHS












# TABLE 3 RUNOFF AS MM. ANID AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE PERIOD OF RECORD AVERAGE WITH SELECTED PEIRIODS RANKED IN THE RECORD 

| River/ <br> Station name | Sep |  |  | Dec | Jan |  | $\begin{gathered} 11 / 92 \\ \text { to } \\ 1 / 93 \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} 2 / 92 \\ \text { to } \\ 1 / 93 \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} 5 / 90 \\ \text { to } \\ 1 / 93 \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} 5 / 89 \\ \text { to } \\ 1 / 93 \end{gathered}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{mm} \\ \% \mathrm{LT} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { rnm } \\ \text { \%LT } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{mm} \\ \% \mathrm{LT} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{mml} \\ \text { \%L:. } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{mm} \\ \% \mathrm{LT} \end{gathered}$ | rank <br> /yrs | $\begin{gathered} \text { mm } \\ \% \mathrm{LT} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { rank } \\ \text { /yrs } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{mm} \\ \% \mathrm{LT} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { rank } \\ \text { /yrs } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { mm } \end{gathered}$ | rank <br> /yrs | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{mm} \\ \% \mathrm{LT} \end{gathered}$ | rank <br> /yrs |
| Dee at Park | 55 137 | 61 76 | $\begin{array}{r} 90 \\ 118 \end{array}$ | 81 93 | $\begin{aligned} & 155 \\ & 172 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 20 \\ / 21 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 325 \\ & 128 \end{aligned}$ | 17 121 | 761 98 | 11 120 | 1938 91 | 6 118 | 2564 87 | 2 117 |
| Tay at Ballathie | $\begin{aligned} & 139 \\ & 200 \end{aligned}$ | 88 79 | $\begin{aligned} & 148 \\ & 123 \end{aligned}$ | 173 12 | 327 227 | 41 $/ 41$ | 654 159 | 40 141 | 1461 129 | 38 140 | 3396 111 | 30 $/ 38$ | 4850 116 | 33 137 |
| Whiteadder Water at Hutton Castle | 19 123 | 32 $\times 18$ | 48 129 | 415 $10: 2$ | 53 90 | 11 $/ 24$ | 147 104 | 12 124 | 385 99 | 12 123 | 987 94 | /29 | 1165 80 | 6 120 |
| South Tyne at Haydon Bridge | 48 95 | 41 59 | 117 127 | 107 1013 | $\begin{aligned} & 152 \\ & 154 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 30 \\ 131 \end{array}$ | 375 129 | 27 $/ 31$ | 811 107 | 18 $/ 29$ | 2031 98 | 12 $/ 25$ | 2708 94 | /23 ${ }^{6}$ |
| Wharfe at Flint Mill Weir | 41 93 | 40 63 | 98 123 | 11:? | 132 134 | 30 138 | 342 124 | 32 138 | 710 99 | 17 $/ 37$ | 1737 89 | /35 | 2324 86 | 3 134 |
| Derwent at Buttercrambe | 11 82 | 21 -05 | 27 97 | $5!$ $13: 3$ | 32 70 | 11 $/ 32$ | 115 103 | 19 $/ 32$ | 257 80 | /31 | 623 71 | 129 | 793 65 | 2 $/ 28$ |
| Trent at Colwick | 20 121 | 30 $: .30$ | 52 173 | $6!5$ $14: 9$ | 46 92 | 12 $/ 35$ | 163 131 | 33 $/ 35$ | 341 97 | 18 134 | 749 79 | 132 | 1052 81 | $131{ }^{3}$ |
| Soar at Littlethorpe | 25 332 | 26 206 | $\begin{array}{r} 46 \\ 265 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4: 3 \\ 15: L \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 40 \\ 103 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ / 22 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 135 \\ & 149 \end{aligned}$ | 22 $/ 22$ | $\begin{aligned} & 259 \\ & 106 \end{aligned}$ | 14 $/ 20$ | 510 78 | 4 $/ 16$ | 736 82 | 4 $/ 14$ |
| Lud at Louth | 8 72 | 10 84 | 12 85 | $3)$ 157 | 30 102 | 13 $/ 25$ | 72 117 | 17 $/ 25$ | 152 61 | $\begin{array}{r}6 \\ \hline\end{array}$ | 337 52 | - 22 | 480 53 | /21 |
| Colne at Lexden | 216 | 16 $: 193$ | 28 232 | 25 159 | 29 128 | 25 $/ 34$ | 83 161 | 31 $/ 34$ | $\begin{aligned} & 144 \\ & 106 \end{aligned}$ | 22 $/ 33$ | 245 70 | /31 | 353 73 | /30 |
| Lee at Feildes Weir (natr.) | 8 111 | 18 $: 182$ | 24 178 | 2:2 | 28 129 | 83 $/ 108$ | 75 140 | 85 $/ 108$ | 134 83 | 35 $/ 106$ | 262 61 | 8 $/ 103$ | 406 68 | /101 |
| Thames at Kingston (natr.) | 17 191 | 24 180 | 39 182 | 6.3 201 | 53 143 | $\begin{array}{r} 89 \\ / 111 \end{array}$ | 153 173 | 104 $/ 110$ | 275 112 | $\begin{array}{r} 72 \\ / 110 \end{array}$ | 500 77 | 14 $/ 108$ | 743 83 | $\begin{array}{r} 21 \\ / 107 \end{array}$ |
| Kennet at Theale | 16 122 | 17 110 | 31 161 | 6 L 23 | 60 179 | 32 $/ 32$ | 152 190 | 32 $/ 32$ | 272 94 | 11 $/ 31$ | 564 73 | /29 | 850 80 | 2 128 |
| Coln at Bibury | 18 128 | 30 $: 189$ | 42 176 | 833) | 80 158 | 29 130 | 209 181 | 30 130 | 416 107 | 19 129 | 861 84 | 8 $/ 27$ | 1273 89 | 9 $/ 26$ |
| Great Stour at Horton | 11 81 | 20 99 | 41 154 | $4 / 5$ 13 | 39 97 | 15 $/ 29$ | 126 125 | 23 128 | $\begin{array}{r} 246 \\ 85 \end{array}$ | 7 126 | 565 72 | 4 $/ 23$ | 764 71 | /21 |
| Itchen at Highbridge + Allbrook | 22 84 | 24 80 | 29 86 | $\begin{array}{r} 5 \cdot 4 \\ 13: 2 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 59 \\ 123 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 31 \\ / 35 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 142 \\ & 116 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 28 \\ / 35 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 350 \\ 77 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ 134 \end{array}$ | 928 76 | /32 | 1346 80 | /31 ${ }^{1}$ |
| Exe at Thorverton | $\begin{array}{r} 61 \\ 161 \end{array}$ | 63 85 | $\begin{aligned} & 169 \\ & 175 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 15: 3 \\ & 12: \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 223 \\ & 170 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 36 \\ / 37 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 550 \\ & 152 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 36 \\ / 37 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 942 \\ & 114 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 26 \\ / 36 \end{array}$ | 2053 92 | 11 $/ 35$ | 2800 91 | $\begin{array}{r} 10 \\ / 34 \end{array}$ |
| Tone at Bishops Hull | $\begin{array}{r} 16 \\ 106 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 23 \\ & 87 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 45 \\ 107 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 10: 2 \\ & 15! \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 90 \\ 113 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 19 \\ / 32 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 236 \\ & 126 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 26 \\ / 32 \end{array}$ | 400 85 | 7 $/ 32$ | 923 74 | /30 | 1426 82 | 3 129 |
| Severn at Bewdley | $\begin{array}{r} 35 \\ 163 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 28 \\ & 84 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 72 \\ 135 \end{array}$ | 715 $12: 3$ | 69 97 | $\begin{array}{r} 35 \\ / 72 \end{array}$ | 217 116 | 54 $/ 72$ | 440 98 | 36 $/ 71$ | 1019 84 | 12 $/ 70$ | 1454 87 | 13 169 |
| Cynon at Abercynon | $\begin{aligned} & 140 \\ & 213 \end{aligned}$ | 55 45 | 291 191 | 28.) 15 | 299 154 | 29 $/ 35$ | 870 162 | 35 135 | 1590 126 | 30 $/ 33$ | 3416 100 | 15 $/ 29$ | 4859 104 | 16 $/ 27$ |
| Dee at New Inn | $\begin{aligned} & 156 \\ & 120 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 123 \\ 62 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 302 \\ & 124 \end{aligned}$ | 232 95 | 275 115 | $\begin{array}{r} 16 \\ / 24 \end{array}$ | 809 | 18 $/ 24$ | $\begin{array}{r} 1861 \\ 103 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 13 \\ / 23 \end{array}$ | 4434 89 | 4 $/ 21$ | 6111 89 | 2 120 |
| Eden at Sheepmount | 55 132 | 40 55 | 110 131 | 113 131 | 157 151 | 22 $/ 23$ | 386 138 | 20 122 | 780 113 | 14 $/ 21$ | 1919 102 | 9 117 | 2625 103 | /15 |
| Clyde at Daldowie | $\begin{aligned} & 107 \\ & 189 \end{aligned}$ | 61 74 | 174 181 | 111 112 | 197 184 | 28 130 | $\begin{aligned} & 482 \\ & 156 \end{aligned}$ | 28 130 | $\begin{array}{r} 1098 \\ 141 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 29 \\ / 29 \end{array}$ | 2591 122 | 27 $/ 27$ | 3492 121 | $\begin{array}{r} 26 \\ / 26 \end{array}$ |

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) sLT means percentage of long term average from the start of the record to 1991. For the long periods (at the right of this table), the end date for the long term is 1992.

TABLE 4 START-MONTH RESERVOIR STORAGES UP TO FEBRUARY 1993

| Area | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Reservoir (R)/ } \\ & \text { Group (G) } \end{aligned}$ |  | Capacity ${ }^{\bullet}$ <br> (MI) | 1992 |  |  | 1993 |  |  | $1992$ <br> Feb |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb |  |
| North West | Northern |  | 133375 | 60 | 66 | 64 | 79 | 88 | 98 | 70 |
|  | Command Zone ${ }^{1}$ | (G) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Vyrnwy | (R) | 55146 | 96 | 93 | 81 | 88 | 89 | 86 | 86 |
| Northumbria | Teesdale ${ }^{2}$ | (G) | 87936 | 63 | 68 | 79 | 95 | 90 | 98 | 88 |
|  | Kielder | (R) | 199175* | 84* | 89* | 87* | 77* | 74* | 90* | 91* |
| Severn-Trent | Clywedog | (R) | 44922 | 87 | 92 | 86 | 92 | 84 | 96 | 88 |
|  | Derwent Valley ${ }^{3}$ | (G) | 39525 | 66 | 62 | 79 | 95 | 88 | 99 | 94 |
| Yorkshire | Washburn ${ }^{\text {8 }}$ | (G) | 22035 | 64 | 64 | 70 | 89 | 95 | 99 | 77 |
|  | Bradford supply ${ }^{5}$ | (G) | 41407 | 56 | 65 | 65 | 83 | 94 | 100 | 90 |
| Anglian | Grafham | (R) | 58707 | 94 | 94 | 95 | 94 | 94 | 96 | 90 |
|  | Rutland | (R) | 130061 | 86 | 93 | 95 | 96 | 95 | 93 | 67 |
| Thames | London ${ }^{6}$ | (G) | 206232 | 89 | 94 | 96 | 96 | 96 | 96 | 81 |
|  | Farmoor ${ }^{7}$ | (G) | 13843 | 99 | 99 | 99 | 95 | 96 | 92 | 99 |
| Southern | Bewl | (R) | 28170 | 60 | 68 | 69 | 72 | 82 | 91 | 58 |
|  | Ardingly | (R) | 4685 | 71 | 79 | 81 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 92 |
| Wessex | Clatworthy | (R) | 5364* | 35* | 40* | 49* | 70 | 100 | 100 | 88* |
|  | Bristol WW ${ }^{8}$ | (G) | 38666* | 58* | 65* | 61* | 63* | 94* | 97* | 58* |
| South West | Colliford | (R) | 28540 | 63 | 65 | 67 | 73 | 82 | 88 | 82 |
|  | Roadford | (R) | 34500 | 70 | 72 | 76 | 85 | 90 | 92 | 85 |
|  | Wimbleballl ${ }^{9}$ | (R) | 21320 | 48 | 50 | 55 | 71 | 90 | 100 | 76 |
|  | Stithians | (R) | 5205 | 53 | 63 | 69 | 82 | 100 | 100 | 38 |
| Welsh | Celyn + Brenig | (G) | 131155 | 89 | 93 | 96 | 98 | 96 | 100 | 93 |
|  | Brianne | (R) | 62140 | 90 | 99 | 100 | 100 | 99 | 100 | 97 |
|  | Big Five ${ }^{10}$ | (G) | 69762 | 83 | 86 | 87 | 91 | 94 | 99 | 93 |
|  | Elan Valley ${ }^{11}$ | (G) | 99106 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 98 | 100 | 91 |
| Lothian | Edinburgh/Mid Lothian | (G) | 97639 | 86 | 92 | 90 | 100 | 98 | 100 | 92 |
|  | West Lothian | (G) | 5613 | 60 | 82 | 84 | 95 | 98 | 99 | 82 |
|  | East Lothian | (G) | 10206 | 68 | 78 | 82 | 91 | 100 | 100 | 98 |

Live or usable capacity (unless indicated otherwise)

* Gross storage/percentage of gross storage

Kielder drawn down for ecological management
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 JANUARY GROUNDWATER LEVELS: 1992 AND 1993
$\left.\begin{array}{llllllll}\hline \text { Site } & \text { Aquifer } & \begin{array}{c}\text { Records } \\ \text { commence }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { Average } \\ \text { January } \\ \text { level }\end{array} & & \text { January-February } \\ \text { 1992 }\end{array}\right)$
groundwater levels are in metres above Ordnance Datum

| C \& UGS | Chalk and Upper Greensand | Mid Jur |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| LLst | Lincolnshire Limestone | Middle Jurassic Limestones |
| PTS | Permo-Triassic sandstones | CLst |

FIGURE 3 LOCATION MAP OF GAUGING STATIONS AND GROUNDWATER INDEX WELLS



[^0]:    * Tabony, R.C., 1977, The: Variability of long duration rainfall over Great Britain, Scientific Paper No. 37, Meteorological Office.

