

## SUMMARY

Following the dry January, the Outlook for February is for normal to below normal flows and groundwater levels across much of the country, with a few localised exceptions. The three month outlook is similar, but for river flows there is an increasing tendency for more normal conditions rather than below, whereas for groundwater there is an increasing chance of below normal levels in some areas.

### Rainfall:

January was very dry across most of the country: the UK as a whole saw around half the typical January rainfall. All areas except northwest Scotland saw below significantly below average rainfall, with exceptionally low rainfall in parts of southern and eastern England.

The rainfall outlook (issued by the Met Office on 31.01.2022) suggests that the chances of February being either particularly wet or particularly dry are both moderately smaller than normal. The chances of the three-month period (February – April) being wet are slightly higher than normal.

### River flows:

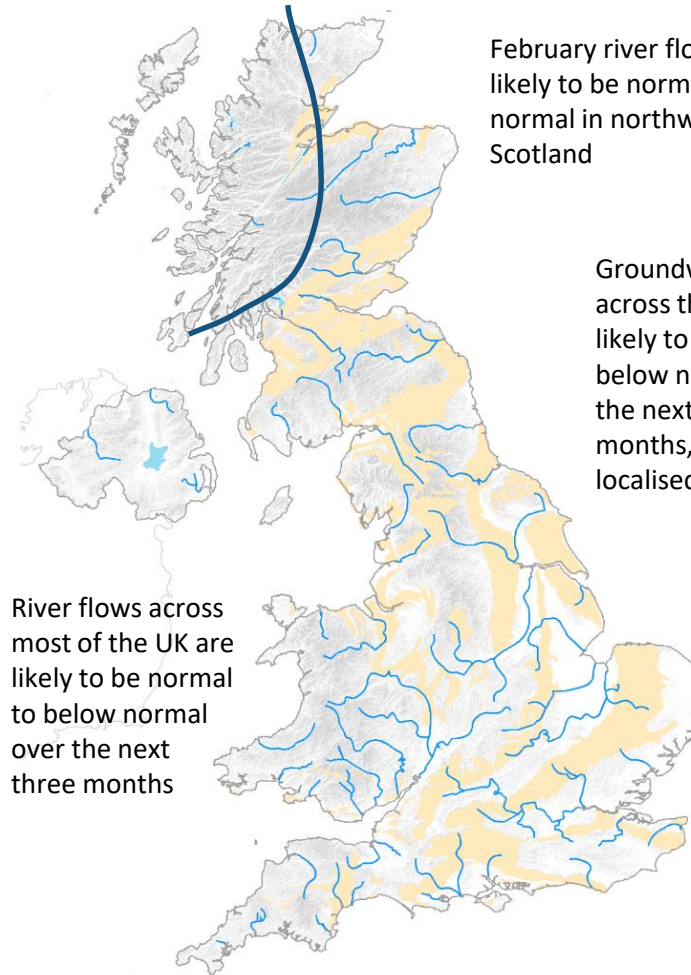
River flows in January were normal or below normal across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, reflecting the dry January (note that data are currently unavailable for Scotland).

The outlook for February is for flows to be in the normal to below normal across most of the UK. In north-west Scotland, flows are likely to be normal to above normal. The outlook to the end of April is similar, with below normal flows likely to persist in many southern areas but with an increased chance of normal flows elsewhere.

### Groundwater:

Observed groundwater levels in January were in the normal to below normal range in southern Britain, and normal to above normal in the north and some central areas. Fewer observations than normal are available because of Covid-19 related access restrictions and IT issues in Scotland.

In February, normal to below normal levels are most likely across much of the country, but above normal levels are likely to persist in some central and northern areas. Over the three-month period to April, the outlook is also for normal to below normal levels, but more areas of the Chalk are likely to see below normal levels.



February river flows are likely to be normal to above normal in northwest Scotland

Groundwater levels across the UK are likely to be normal to below normal over the next three months, with localised exceptions

River flows across most of the UK are likely to be normal to below normal over the next three months

Shaded areas show principal aquifers

The Hydrological Outlook UK provides an outlook for the water situation for the UK 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](http://www.hydoutuk.net)

## About the 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 and 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 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, PDM and CLASSIC hydrological models and by the EA using CATCHMOD. Hydrogeological modelling uses the R-groundwater model run by BGS and CATCHMOD run by the EA. Supporting documentation is available from the Outlooks website: <https://www.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

## Disclaimer and liability:

The Hydrological Outlook partnership aims to ensure that all Content provided is accurate and consistent with its current scientific understanding. However, the science which underlies hydrological and hydrogeological forecasts and climate projections is constantly evolving. Therefore any element of the Content which involves a forecast or a prediction should not be relied upon as though it were a statement of fact. To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, the Hydrological Outlook Partnership excludes all warranties or representations (express or implied) in respect of the Content.

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## Further information:

For more detailed information about the Hydrological Outlook, and the derivation of the maps, plots and interpretation provided in this outlook, please visit the Hydrological Outlook UK 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.

## Contact:

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## Reference for the Hydrological Outlook:

Hydrological Outlook UK, 2022, February, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Oxfordshire UK, Online, <https://www.hydoutuk.net/latest-outlook/>

## Other Sources of Information:

The 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://nfa.ceh.ac.uk/monthly-hydrological-summary-uk>

UK Met Office forecasts for the UK: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/#?tab=regionalForecast>

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/>