

SUMMARY In November, river flows are expected to be normal to above normal in northern and western parts of the UK, but normal to below normal in central, southern, and eastern England, as well as eastern Scotland. Groundwater-fed rivers are likely to remain below normal or low, and groundwater levels will generally be normal to below normal. From November–January, this pattern is likely to persist, and limited rainfall may hinder recovery, leaving southern and eastern areas below normal into early 2026.

Rainfall:

October's rainfall was above average across much of the UK, although this masks notable spatial contrasts. In Northern Ireland, western Scotland, and the far south-east of England, rainfall was above average, with some areas, such as parts of Northern Ireland and the Western Isles, recording more than 170% of their average rainfall. Elsewhere, rainfall was below average across most of England and central and eastern Scotland. The Met Office forecast (issued 27.10.2025) indicates a slight signal for a warm and wet November. Over the November–January period, the forecast suggests colder conditions than in recent years, with an increased likelihood of a drier-than-average three-month period.

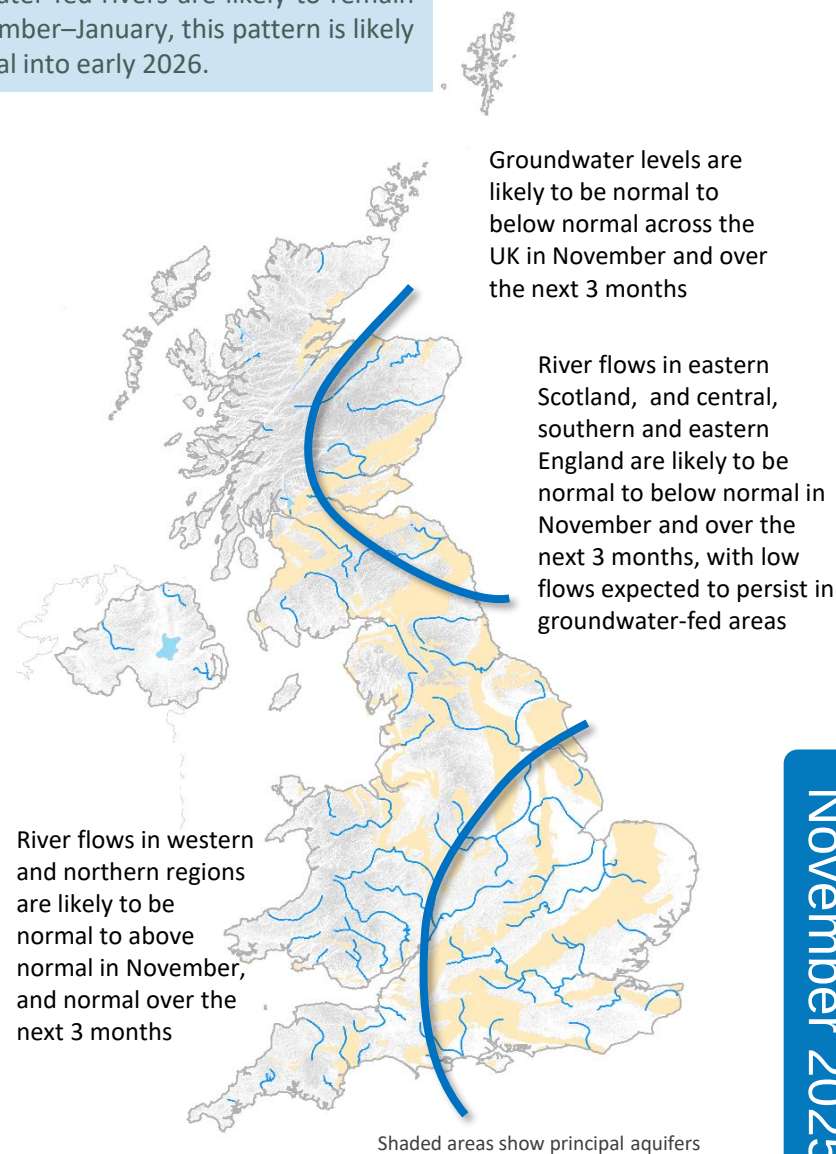
River flows:

River flows in October were generally normal to below normal across most of the country, with some above normal flows recorded in Northern Ireland and north-west Britain. In eastern Britain and in central and southern England, flows remained below normal, with some exceptionally low flows in southern and eastern England (e.g., the Coln and the Stringside). The outlook for November suggests these patterns will largely continue, with flows in northern and western England, western Scotland, and Northern Ireland likely to remain in the normal to above normal range. Rivers in southern and eastern Britain are likely to have normal to below normal flows, particularly in groundwater-dominated rivers that rely on aquifer recharge. This pattern is likely to persist over the November–January period, and if drier-than-average weather materialises, rivers in central and southern areas may begin 2026 below normal.

Groundwater:

Groundwater levels at the end of October remained low in many of the principal aquifers, particularly those in southern and eastern England and central Scotland. Elsewhere, levels were largely normal, with only a few index sites registering above normal. The outlook indicates that groundwater levels are likely to remain in the normal to below normal range through November, with potential recovery to normal in most areas over the next three months. However, below normal to low conditions may persist, especially in eastern England.

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



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, 11 November 2025, 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://nrfa.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/>