

Hydrological Summary

for the *United Kingdom*

General

June was a month of two halves, beginning with unsettled and relatively cool conditions before transitioning to a hot, dry period later in the month. Rare red warnings for extreme heat were issued on three consecutive days, and a new provisional UK June temperature record of 37.7°C was set on the 26th at Lingwood (Norfolk). Rainfall was above average across the UK overall (117% of average), although there were marked regional contrasts. River flows were above normal in north-west UK and south Wales but elsewhere were generally normal or below, with notably low flows in eastern Scotland and East Anglia. Reservoir stocks for England & Wales remained close to average overall, although some impoundments registered more than 10% below average, including Wimbleball, Clatworthy and East Lothian (16%, 13% and 12% below average, respectively). Groundwater levels continued their seasonal recession during June and were predominantly in the normal range or below across major aquifers by month-end. By late June, parts of the EA's Anglian Area had moved into Prolonged Dry Weather status, while the Scottish Tyne was classified as experiencing Moderate Scarcity by SEPA and much of eastern Scotland was under Alert or Early Warning conditions. While the water resources position at month-end remained broadly favourable at the national scale, the sustained hot, dry weather in late June (and early July) has increased water demand and accelerated declines in river flows and soil moisture across much of the country. Unless conditions become unseasonably wet, further declines and increased pressure on water resources can be expected through the rest of summer. The latest UK Hydrological Outlook favours normal to below normal river flows in eastern Scotland, south Wales, and central, southern, and eastern England over the next three months.

Rainfall

The first half of June was largely unsettled, with a westerly Atlantic flow bringing frequent low pressure systems, weather fronts, and spells of rain; 123mm was recorded at Honister Pass (Cumbria) on the 3rd. Many areas received substantial rainfall during the first half of June, with Northern Ireland, south-east and south-west England accumulating their full June average rainfall by the 16th. Towards mid-month, temperatures rose as a heatwave developed across continental Europe. The second half of the month was markedly warmer and drier, although occasional thunderstorms brought intense rainfall, including 32mm at Northolt (west London) on the 23rd; localised surface water flooding was reported in Glastonbury (Somerset) and south-west London. UK rainfall for June was 117% of average, although this masks considerable regional variability. Totals exceeded 170% of average across parts of Northern Ireland, north-west Britain and isolated areas of south-east England, the latter reflecting localised thunderstorm activity. In contrast, rainfall was below average across eastern Britain, with parts of eastern England, eastern Scotland and north Wales receiving less than 50% of average rainfall. For March to June, rainfall was below average across the UK (94% of average), with above average rainfall confined to north-west UK. Elsewhere, conditions were drier than average, with the Anglian region recording its ninth driest March-June period since 1890.

River Flows

River flows reflected the marked regional contrasts in June rainfall. Across much of the UK, river flows peaked during the unsettled first half of the month before entering sustained recession through the latter half as hot, dry weather became established. Localised thunderstorms interrupted recessions in some catchments in southern England and parts of Wales but did not substantially alter the overall pattern. Several notable peak flow events occurred during the first week; on the 6th, the Cree recorded its third highest June peak flow in a series from 1978, while the Earn, Luss and Carron also registered top-ten June peak flows in records of at least 47 years. Towards month-end, prolonged recessions resulted in notably low daily flows in catchments, including the Whiteadder Water, Soar and Waveney. Average June outflows for Northern Ireland were the fifth highest in a series since 1980. Mean June flows were

above normal across Northern Ireland, north-west Britain, and south Wales; a new June maximum was recorded on the Cree exceeding 250% of average. Elsewhere, flows were generally in the normal range or below, with daily low flow minima registered in eastern Scotland and East Anglia (including the Ythan, Stringside and Wensum). Monthly mean flows were less than half the June average in several catchments, including the Deveron, Scottish Tyne, Coquet and Erch. This spatial pattern was also reflected over longer periods. Mean flows for the spring and summer so far (March-June) were above normal across much of Northern Ireland and north-west Britain, but generally below normal in eastern Britain and south-west England.

Soil Moisture and Groundwater

Soils remained drier than average across much of England at month-end, and the Anglian and Thames regions recorded their highest June Soil Moisture Deficits in series from 1961, equalling those observed in 1976 and 2025. By month-end, soils at most COSMOS-UK sites across central and southern England were drier than normal. Groundwater levels generally followed expected seasonal recession during June. Across the Chalk aquifer, several sites, including Compton House, Washpit Farm and Dalton Holme, moved from the normal range to below normal, whilst the remaining sites largely maintained their status in the normal range or below. Levels in the Jurassic Oolites continued to decline but remained within the normal range. Similar seasonal recessions were evident in the Magnesian Limestone, where Aycliffe remained above normal and Brick House Farm in the normal range. Groundwater levels in the Carboniferous Limestone also continued to fall. Across the Permo-Triassic Sandstone, levels were generally within the normal to above normal range, although conditions varied according to recharge patterns, e.g. recharge ceased in February at Bussels No. 7a but continued until April at Annan. Despite continued recession at Lime Kiln Way, levels in the Upper Greensand remained exceptionally high. In the Fell Sandstone, Royalty Observatory exhibited a typical seasonal recession with levels remaining within the normal range. Levels in the Devonian Sandstone remained below normal at Feddan Junction and notably below normal at Easter Lathrisk.

June 2026



National Hydrological
Monitoring Programme



UKCEH



British
Geological
Survey

Rainfall



Rainfall accumulations and return period estimates

Percentages are from the 1991-2020 average.

Region	Rainfall	Jun 2026	Apr26 – Jun26	Mar26 – Jun26	Jan26 – Jun26	Jul25 – Jun26
			RP	RP	RP	RP
United Kingdom	mm	91	201	287	549	1229
	%	117	91	94	105	106
England	mm	68	131	180	417	939
	%	104	74	76	108	109
Scotland	mm	119	297	446	717	1591
	%	128	108	112	100	101
Wales	mm	98	223	318	657	1598
	%	106	84	86	102	110
Northern Ireland	mm	136	275	357	672	1363
	%	167	120	113	129	118
England & Wales	mm	72	144	199	449	1029
	%	105	76	78	107	109
North West	mm	109	236	359	576	1448
	%	126	101	111	104	114
Northumbria	mm	60	149	213	414	945
	%	81	78	84	102	104
Severn-Trent	mm	58	127	170	404	886
	%	86	70	72	111	111
Yorkshire	mm	54	141	198	394	953
	%	74	76	81	100	110
Anglian	mm	52	77	102	261	614
	%	94	54	55	94	98
Thames	mm	69	105	133	355	740
	%	131	67	65	108	102
Southern	mm	73	109	139	425	903
	%	136	69	67	118	111
Wessex	mm	73	128	162	481	1001
	%	123	72	67	119	111
South West	mm	90	177	238	681	1452
	%	117	79	75	121	116
Welsh	mm	96	215	305	637	1541
	%	107	83	85	103	110
Highland	mm	142	358	572	812	1801
	%	142	113	122	94	97
North East	mm	68	189	244	520	1036
	%	85	86	84	110	98
Tay	mm	97	265	377	747	1513
	%	111	105	105	116	109
Forth	mm	96	222	318	532	1218
	%	111	97	98	94	99
Tweed	mm	75	181	272	475	1077
	%	96	86	94	98	99
Solway	mm	145	316	457	738	1758
	%	149	113	115	105	112
Clyde	mm	148	352	519	823	1943
	%	139	112	111	96	103

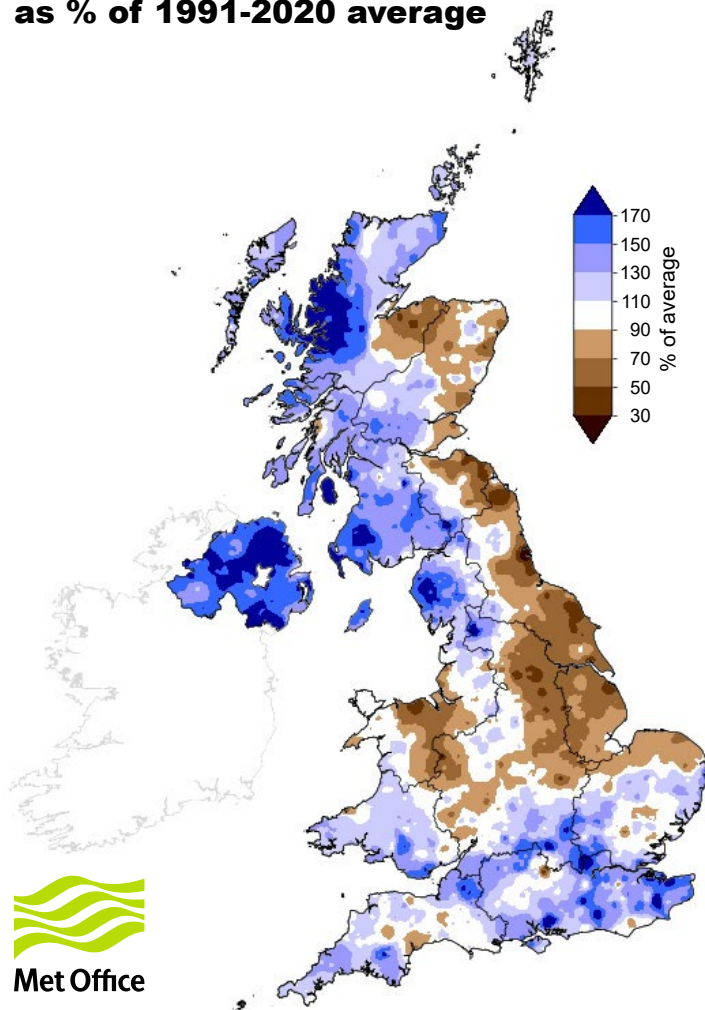
% = percentage of 1991-2020 average

RP = Return period

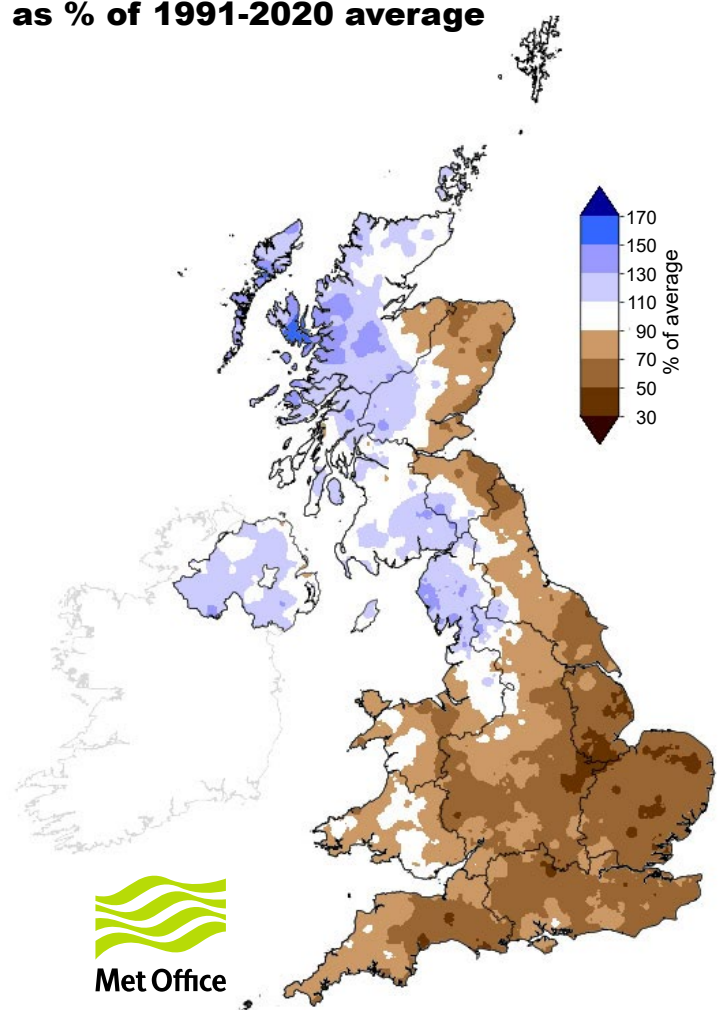
Important note: Figures in the above table may be quoted provided their source is acknowledged. Where appropriate, specific mention must be made of the uncertainties associated with the return period estimates. The RP estimates are based on data provided by the Met Office and reflect climatic variability since 1890; they also assume a stable climate. The quoted RPs relate to the specific timespans only; for the same timespans, but beginning in any month the RPs would be substantially shorter. The timespans featured do not purport to represent the critical periods for any particular water resource management zone. For hydrological or water resources assessments of drought severity, river flows and/or groundwater levels normally provide a better guide than return periods based on regional rainfall totals. Note that precipitation totals in winter months may be underestimated due to snowfall undercatch. All monthly rainfall totals since January 2026 are provisional. Source: Data from HadUK-Grid dataset at 1km resolution v1.3.2.0.

Rainfall

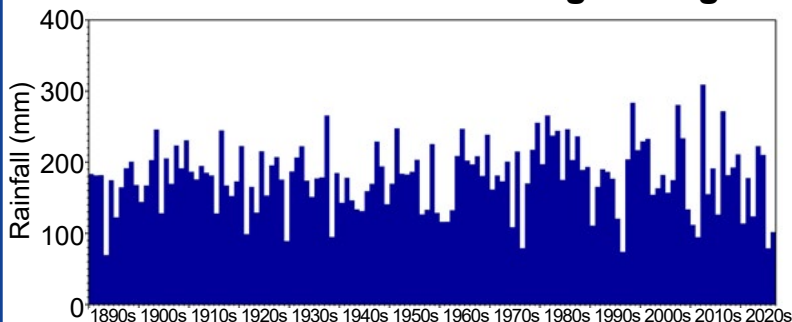
**June 2026 rainfall
as % of 1991-2020 average**



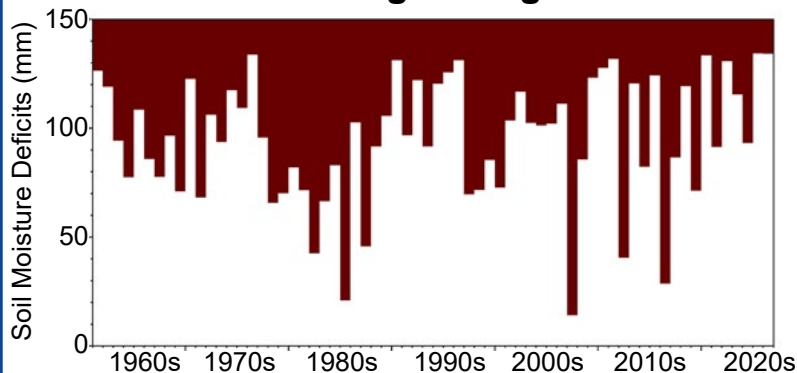
**March 2026 - June 2026 rainfall
as % of 1991-2020 average**



March - June rainfall for the Anglian region



June SMDs for the Anglian region



UK Hydrological Outlook

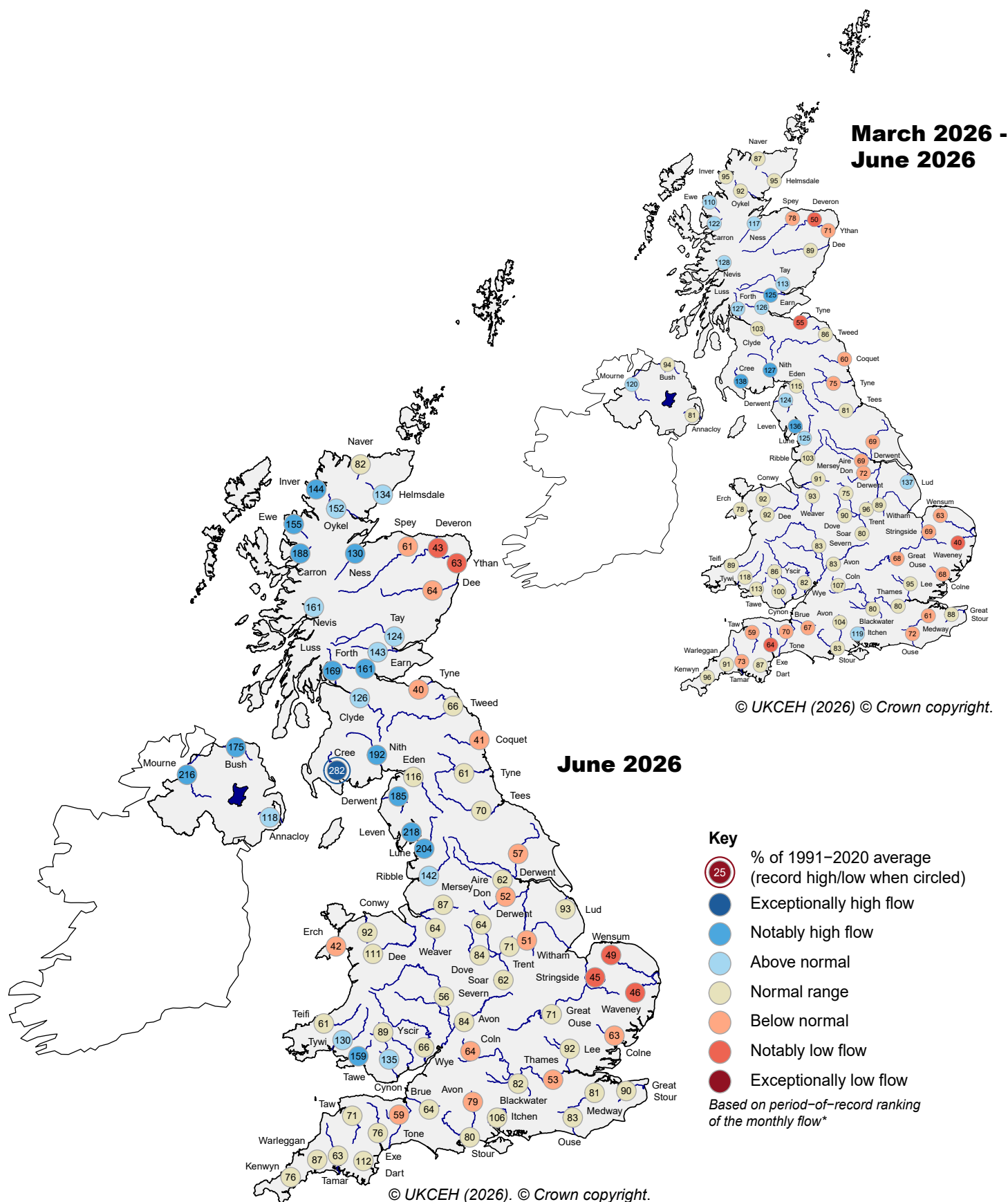
The Hydrological Outlook provides an insight into future hydrological conditions across the UK. Specifically it describes likely trajectories for river flows and groundwater levels on a monthly basis, with particular focus on the next three months.

The complete version of the Hydrological Outlook UK can be found at: www.hydoutuk.net/latest-outlook/

Period: from July 2026
Issued: 08.07.2026
using data to the end of June 2026

The outlook for July indicates normal to below normal river flows are likely across eastern Scotland, southern Wales, and central, southern, and eastern England. In northwestern areas river flows are likely to be normal to above normal for July. This flow pattern is likely to persist over the three months from July to September. Groundwater levels across the UK are likely to be in the normal range over the next three months.

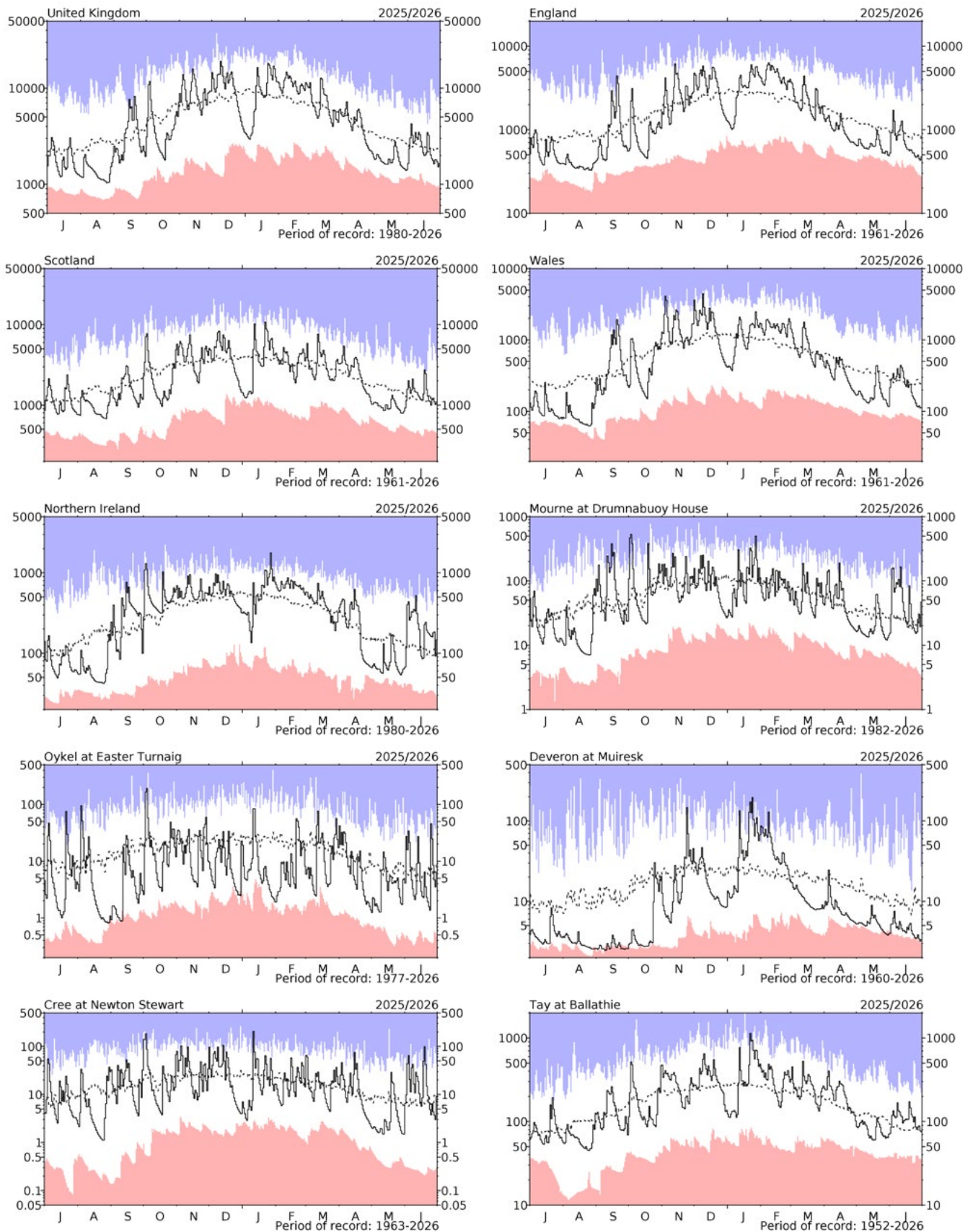
River flow



River flows

*Comparisons based on percentage flows alone can be misleading. A given percentage flow can represent extreme drought conditions in permeable catchments where flow patterns are relatively stable but be well within the normal range in impermeable catchments where the natural variation in flows is much greater. The categories of the spots are based on the full period-of-record data whereas the percentages are based on the 1991-2020 averaging period for consistency between rainfall and river flows. Percentages may be omitted where flows are under review.

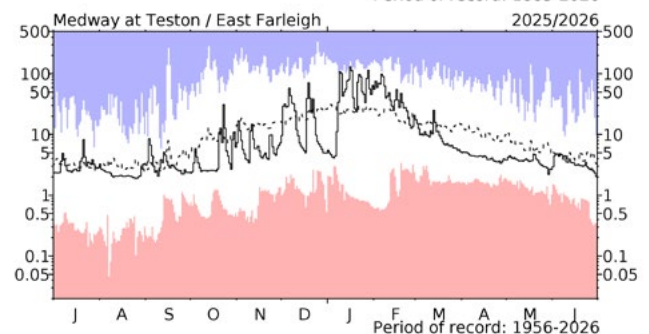
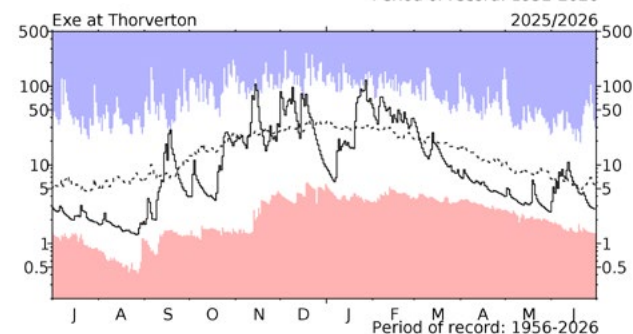
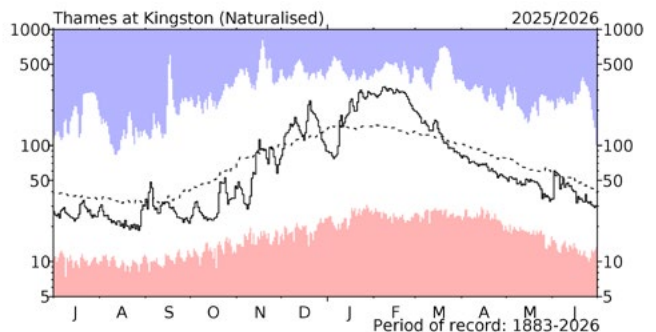
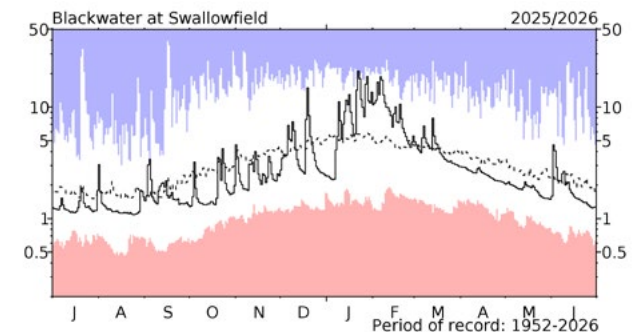
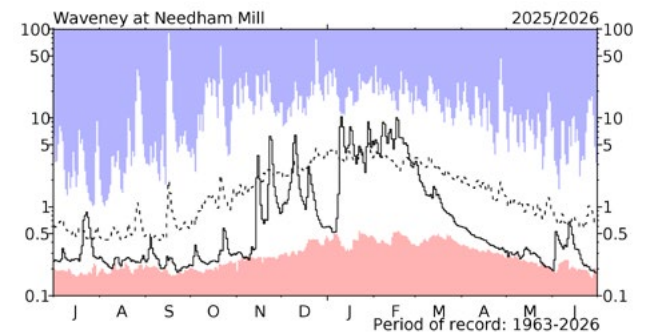
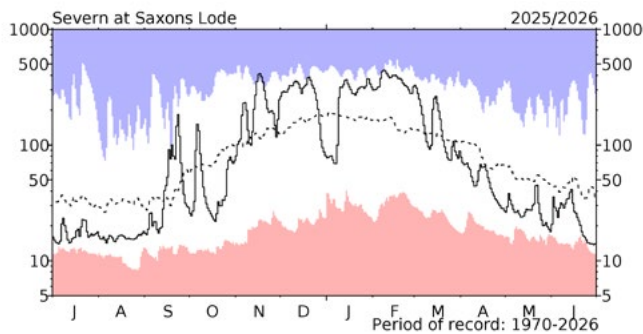
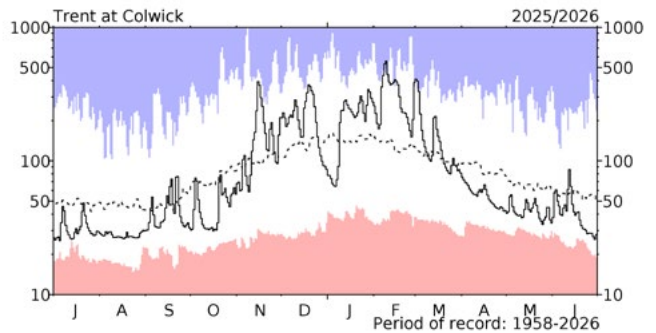
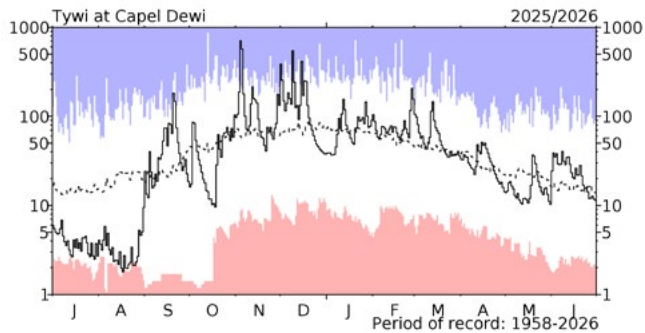
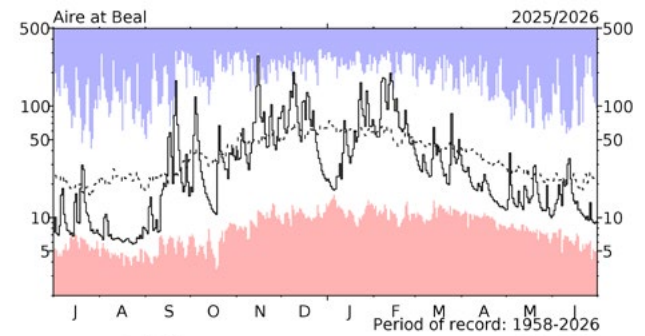
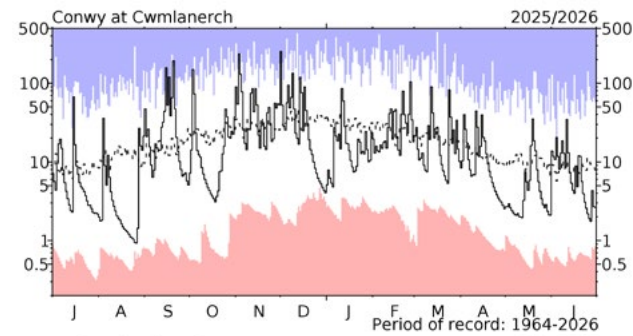
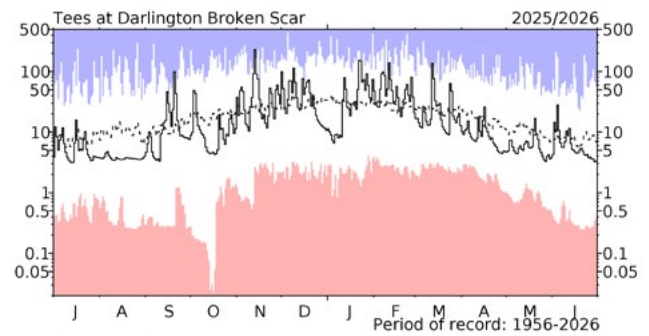
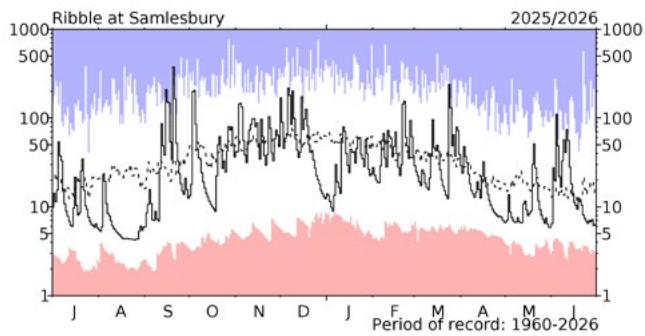
River flow



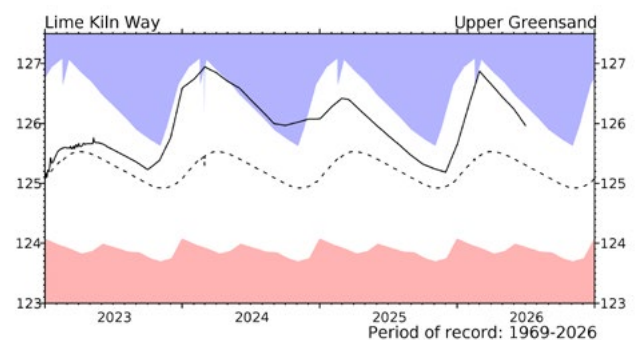
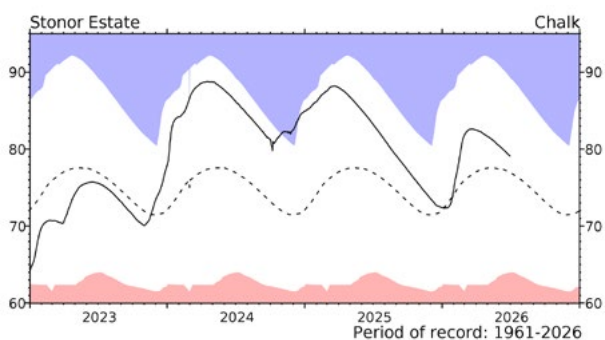
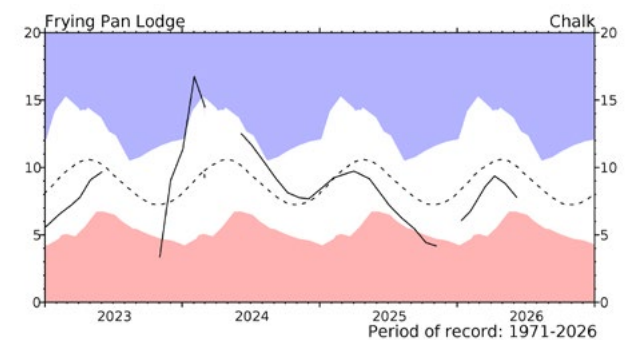
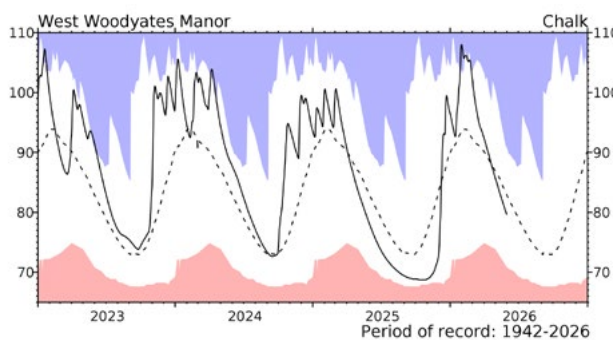
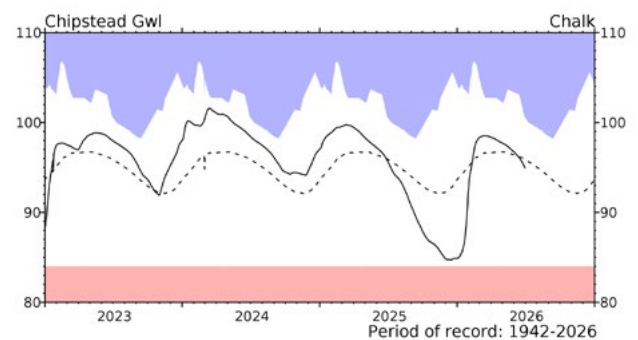
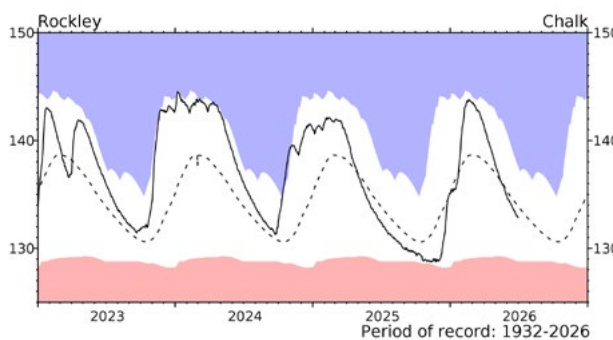
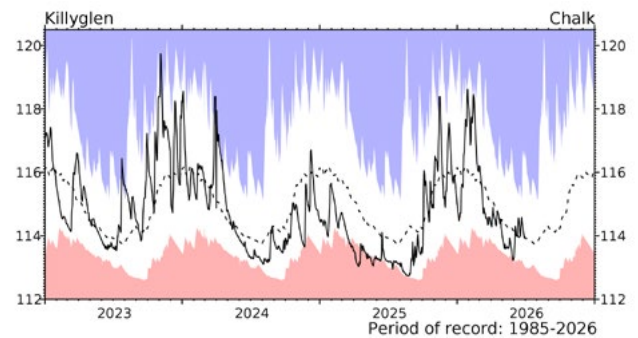
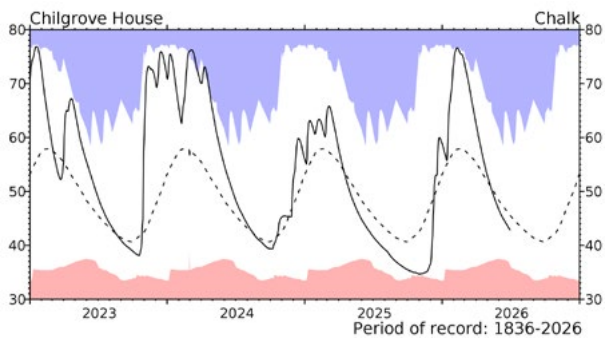
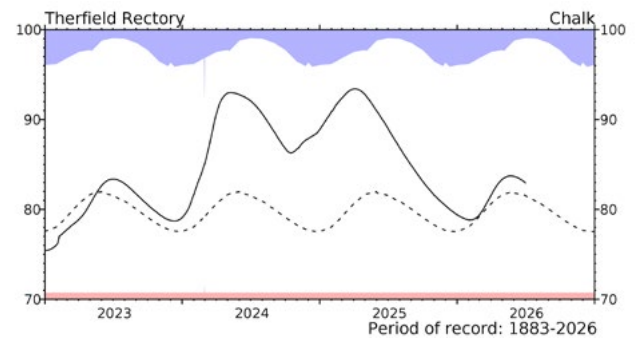
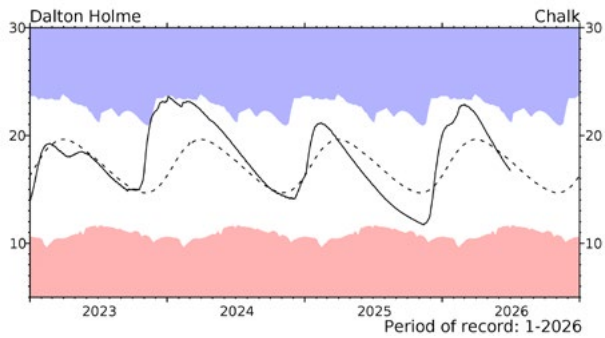
River flow hydrographs

*The river flow hydrographs show the daily mean flows (measured in m^3s^{-1}) together with the maximum and minimum daily flows prior to July 2025 (shown by the shaded areas). Daily flows falling outside the maximum/minimum range are indicated where the bold trace enters the shaded areas. The dashed line represents the period-of-record average daily flow.

River flow

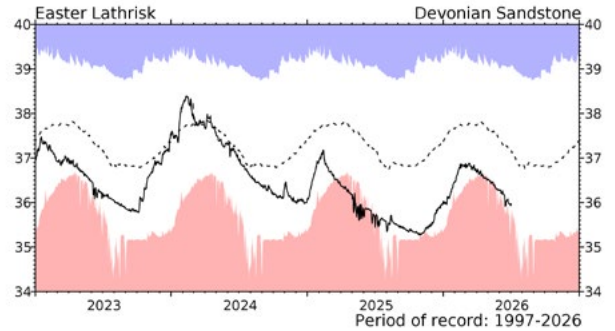
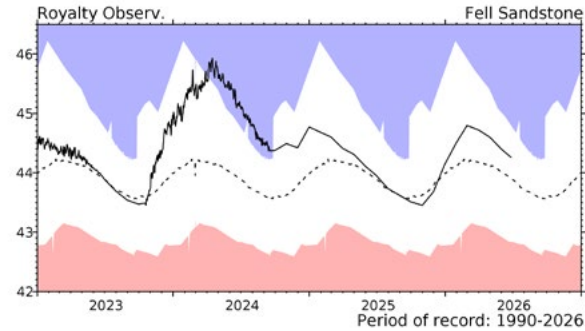
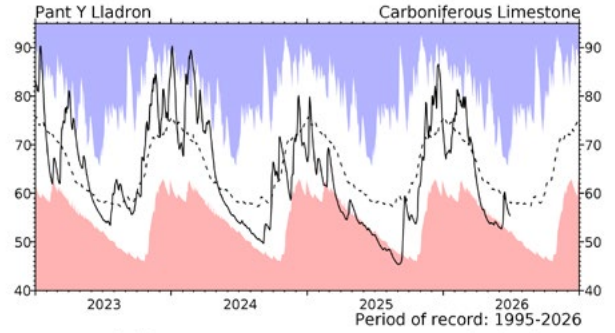
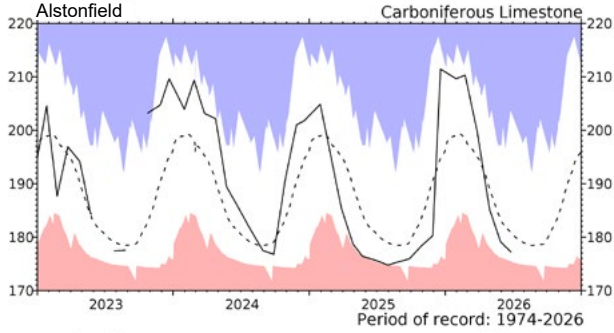
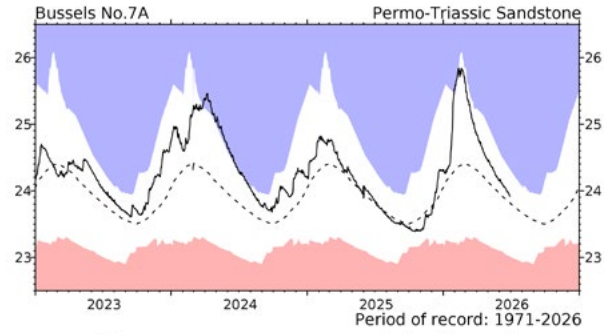
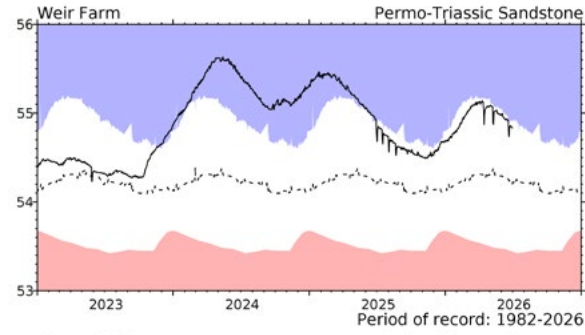
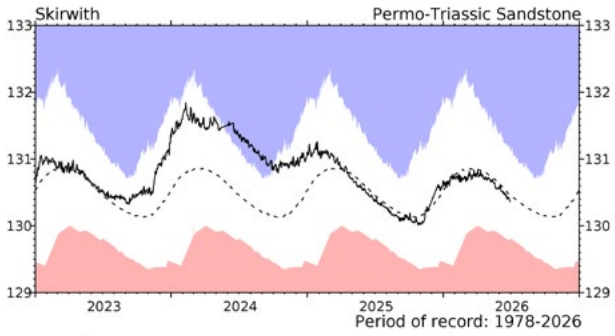
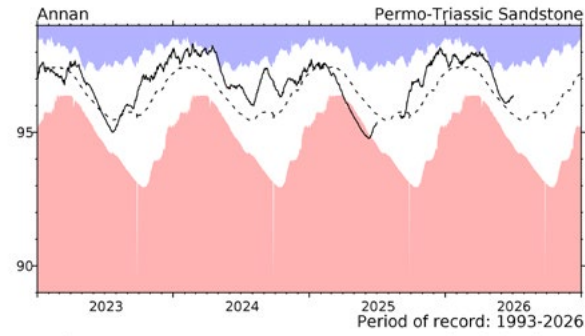
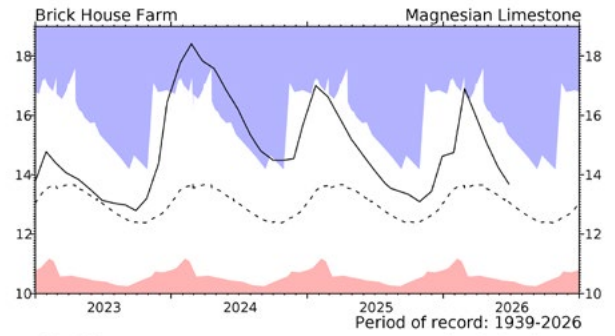
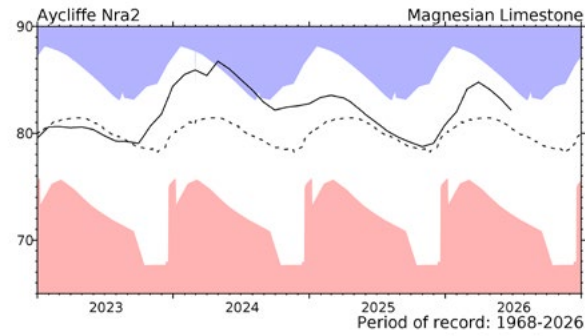
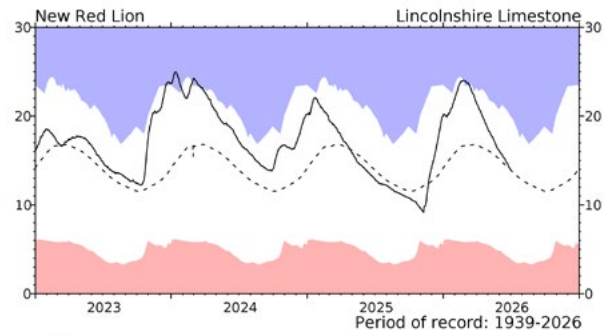
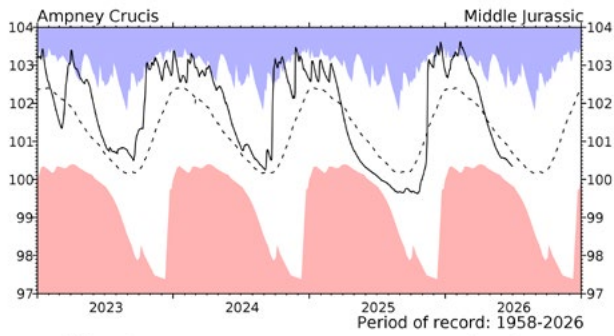


Groundwater



Groundwater levels (measured in metres above ordnance datum) normally rise and fall with the seasons, reaching a peak in the spring following replenishment through the winter (when evaporation losses are low and soil moist). They decline through the summer and early autumn. This seasonal variation is much reduced when the aquifer is confined below overlying impermeable strata. The monthly mean and the highest and lowest levels recorded for each month are calculated with data from the start of the record to the end of 2022. Note that most groundwater levels are not measured continuously and, for some index wells, the greater frequency of contemporary measurements may, in itself, contribute to an increased range of variation.

Groundwater

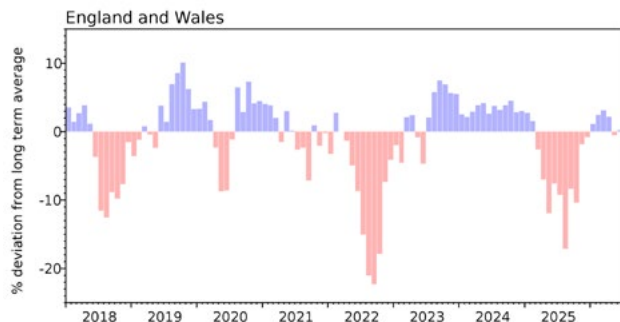




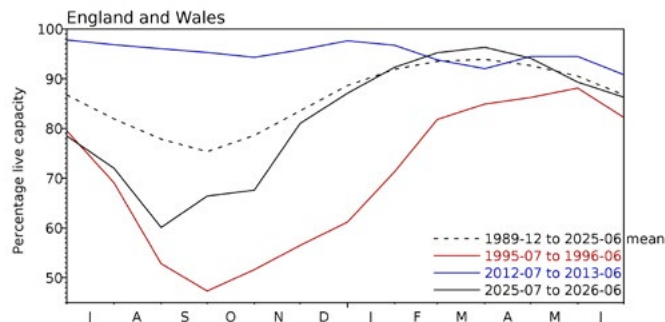
The calculation of ranking has been modified from that used in summaries published prior to October 2012. It is now based on a comparison between the most recent level and levels for the same date during previous years of record. Where appropriate, levels for earlier years may have been interpolated. The rankings are designed as a qualitative indicator, and ranks at extreme levels, and when levels are changing rapidly, need to be interpreted with caution.

Reservoirs

Guide to the variation in overall reservoir stocks for England and Wales



Comparison between overall reservoir stocks for England and Wales in recent years



Percentage live capacity of selected reservoirs at end of month

Area	Reservoir	Capacity (MI)	2026 Apr	2026 May	2026 Jun	Jun Anom.	Min Jun	Year* of min	2025 Jun	Diff 26-25
North West	N Command Zone	• 124929	96	80	82	12	38	1984	61	21
	Vyrnwy	55146	98	96	94	11	58	1984	94	1
Northumbrian	Teesdale	• 87936	90	80	81	1	58	1989	71	10
	Kielder	(199175)	92	92	92	2	71	1989	86	6
Severn-Trent	Clywedog	49936	99	99	95	3	32	1976	99	-3
	Derwent Valley	• 46692	90	85	79	0	53	1996	57	21
Yorkshire	Washburn	• 23373	91	88	77	-3	58	2025	58	19
	Bradford Supply	• 40942	92	82	78	1	54	1995	55	23
Anglian	Grafham	(55490)	88	88	88	-5	70	1997	85	3
	Rutland	(116580)	96	94	90	0	75	1997	86	4
Thames	London	• 202828	94	91	89	-3	85	1990	91	-1
	Farmoor	• 13822	98	99	99	2	92	2022	95	4
Southern	Bewl	31000	97	90	81	-3	52	1990	74	7
	Ardingly	4685	100	96	87	-6	74	2025	74	13
Wessex	Clatworthy	5662	90	81	68	-13	61	1995	65	3
	Bristol	• (38666)	93	86	79	-3	64	1990	66	14
South West	Colliford	28540	88	81	75	-6	51	1997	73	2
	Roadford	34500	95	89	85	4	49	1996	87	-2
	Wimbleball	21320	91	78	69	-16	63	2011	72	-3
	Stithians	4967	92	85	76	-4	53	1990	86	-11
Welsh	Celyn & Brenig	• 131155	93	89	85	-7	70	2020	75	10
	Brianne	62140	100	100	99	7	68	2022	83	16
	Big Five	• 69762	97	91	84	1	61	1989	74	10
	Elan Valley	• 99106	95	90	82	-4	65	2022	70	12
Scotland(E)	Edinburgh/Mid-Lothian	• 97223	97	90	88	2	54	1998	80	8
	East Lothian	• 9317	98	91	82	-12	74	2025	74	8
Scotland(W)	Loch Katrine	• 110326	93	80	87	7	55	2010	70	17
	Daer	22494	95	85	97	15	62	2023	80	17
	Loch Thom	10721	93	82	84	-2	65	2021	89	-5
Northern	Total*	• 56800	95	87	91	9	61	2008	80	11
Ireland	Silent Valley	• 20634	99	89	96	17	54	1995	84	12

() figures in parentheses relate to gross storage

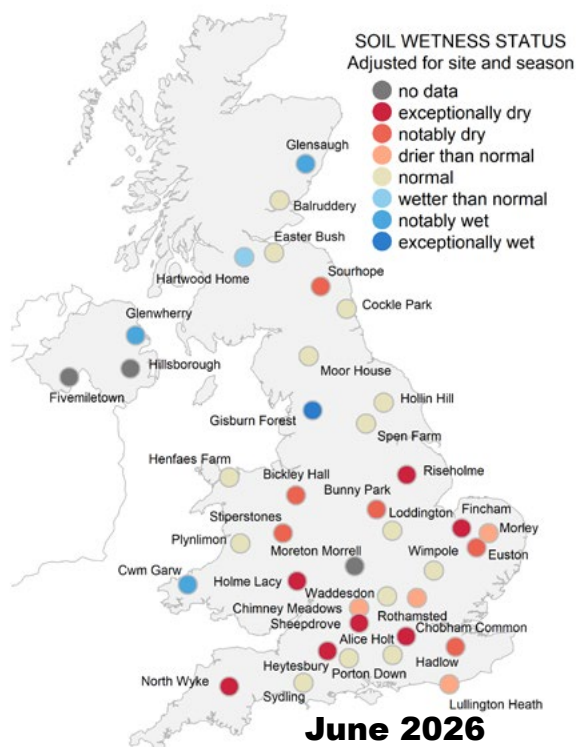
• denotes reservoir groups

*last occurrence

+ excludes Lough Neagh

Details of the individual reservoirs in each of the groupings listed above are available on request. The percentages given in the Average and Minimum storage columns relate to the 1988-2012 period except for West of Scotland and Northern Ireland where data commence in the mid-1990s. In some gravity-fed reservoirs (e.g. Clywedog) stocks are kept below capacity during the winter to provide scope for flood attenuation purposes. Monthly figures may be artificially low due to routine maintenance or turbidity effects in feeder rivers.

Soil Moisture



Daily mean soil moisture status at COSMOS-UK sites on the last day of the month 30 June 2026. Soil wetness categories are adjusted for site specific characteristics, i.e. taking account of the possible range of soil wetness at each site, determined through period-of-record data and hindcast modelling. Where no data are available on the last day of the month, these are shown by grey dots.

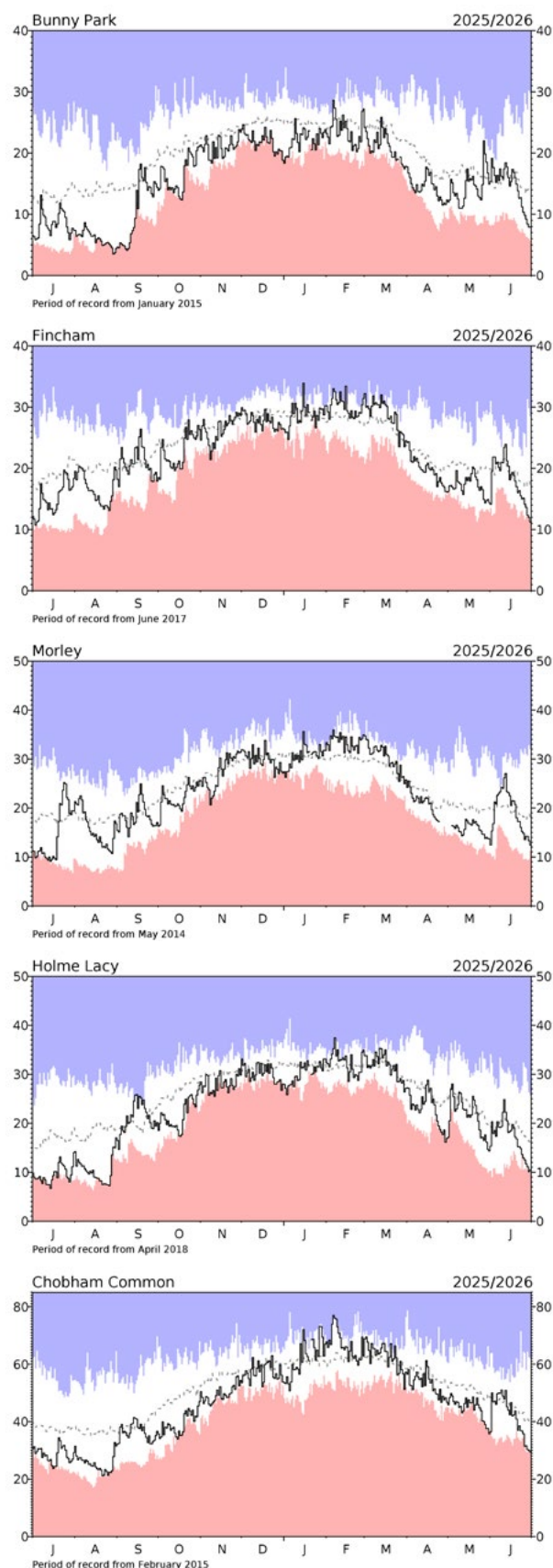
June followed a similar pattern to May, with heavy precipitation and unsettled weather in the early part of the month, allowing many sites to recover soil moisture. However, another record-breaking heatwave towards the end of the month resulted in sites reverting to end-of-May soil moisture levels, or becoming drier.

The record-breaking temperatures, alongside lower precipitation during the second half of the month, meant that any soil moisture recovery seen in early June after the May heatwave was reversed. Consequently, most sites across the UK ended the month with soil moisture levels similar to, or lower than, those recorded at the end of May. A few sites were noticeably drier, including Bunbury Park, Chobham Common, Fincham, and Holme Lacy. During the late-June heatwave, four of our stations recorded their highest-ever temperatures: Cwm Garw (31.33°C), Porton Down (34.79°C), Heytesbury (34.97°C), and North Wyke (33.52°C). The highest June temperatures recorded across the network were at Euston (36.62°C), Fincham (36.42°C), and Morley (36.25°C).

Forecasts for a hot, dry July will likely lead to very dry soil conditions across much of the network, particularly in central and southern England.

Soil moisture data

These data are from UKCEH's COSMOS-UK network. The time series graphs show volumetric water content as a percentage in black together with the maximum and minimum daily values for the period-of-record of the sites. The dashed line represents the period-of-record mean VWC. For more information visit cosmos.ceh.ac.uk.



NHMP

The National Hydrological Monitoring Programme (NHMP) was started in 1988 and is undertaken jointly by the [UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology](#) (UKCEH) and the [British Geological Survey](#) (BGS). The NHMP aims to provide an authoritative voice on hydrological conditions throughout the UK, to place them in a historical context and, over time, identify and interpret any emerging hydrological trends. Hydrological analysis and interpretation within the Programme is based on the data holdings of the [National River Flow Archive](#) (NRFA; maintained by UKCEH) and [National Groundwater Level Archive](#) (NGLA; maintained by BGS), including rainfall, river flows, groundwater levels, soil moisture and reservoir stocks.

The Hydrological Summary is supported by the Natural Environment Research Council award number NE/Y006208/1 as part of the NC-UK programme delivering National Capability.

Data Sources

The NHMP depends on the active cooperation of many data providers. This cooperation is gratefully acknowledged. A location map of all sites used in the Hydrological Summary can be found on the [NHMP website](#).

River flow and groundwater level data are provided by the Environment Agency (EA), Natural Resources Wales - Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (NRW), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and, for Northern Ireland, the Department for Infrastructure - Rivers and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. River flow data are subject to revision following an annual validation process by the National River Flow Archive; high and low flows may be subject to significant revision.

Month-end soil moisture data is provided by COSMOS-UK for a network of 40 sites across the UK, the longest records of which extend back to 2013. COSMOS-UK data should be considered provisional until annual data publication. More information about individual COSMOS-UK sites, data and measurements can be found on the [COSMOS-UK website](#).

National and regional soil moisture may also be mentioned and plotted in the Hydrological Summary and other NHMP outputs. These data are provided by the Meteorological Office Rainfall and Evaporation Calculation System (MORECS). MORECS provides estimates of monthly soil moisture deficit in the form of averages over 40 x 40 km grid squares over Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The monthly time series of data extends back to 1961.

Rainfall data are provided by the Met Office. To allow better spatial differentiation the rainfall data for Britain are presented for the regional divisions of the precursor organisations of the EA, NRW and SEPA. The areal rainfall figures have been produced by the Met Office National Climate Information Centre (NCIC), and are based on the HadUK-Grid 1km resolution gridded data from rain gauges. The majority of the full rain gauge network across the UK is operated

by the EA, NRW, SEPA and Northern Ireland Water; supplementary rain gauges are operated by the Met Office. The Met Office NCIC monthly rainfall series extend back to 1836 and form the official source of UK areal rainfall statistics which have been adopted by the NHMP. The gridding technique used is described in Hollis, 2019 available at <https://doi.org/10.1002/gdj3.78>

Given the sparser rain gauge network in the early record and to maintain consistency with previous Hydrological Summaries and NHMP analyses, the NHMP uses rainfall data from 1890 to present in its analyses. Long-term averages are based on the period 1991-2020 and are derived from the monthly areal series.

The regional figures for the current month in the Hydrological Summaries are based on a limited rain gauge network so these (and the associated return periods) should be regarded as a guide only.

The monthly rainfall figures are provided by the Met Office NCIC and are Crown Copyright and may not be passed on to, or published by, any unauthorised person or organisation. These are provisional totals calculated from a sub set of Met Office registered gauges and will be subject to change once data from the complete network of Met Office registered gauges has been quality assured and gridded within the annual process of updating the HadUK-Grid dataset.

For further details on rainfall or MORECS data, please contact the Met Office:

Tel: 0370 900 0100

Email: enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk

Enquiries

Enquiries should be directed to the NHMP:

Email: nhmp@ceh.ac.uk

Enquiries about COSMOS-UK soil moisture data should be directed to COSMOS-UK:

Email: cosmos@ceh.ac.uk

A full catalogue of past Hydrological Summaries can be accessed and downloaded at:

<http://nrfa.ceh.ac.uk/monthly-hydrological-summary-uk>

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