Monthly water situation report: East Anglia

1 Summary - November 2025

East Anglia rainfall for November 2025 ranged from 79% to 196% of the long term average for the month. Above average rainfall was received in all catchments, except for South Essex which received below average rainfall. The soil moisture deficit for East Anglia reduced by approximately 74mm from October to November, following above average rainfall. The soil moisture deficit has been categorised as normal for the time of year. River flows increased at all sites in November 2025, with the majority of sites categorised as normal or below normal. Groundwater levels at approximately 50% of the report sites continued to recede, with approximately 50% of the sites showing groundwater recharge. The majority of groundwater report sites were categorised as normal to notably low for the time of year. Public water supply reservoirs within East Anglia ended November 2025 with levels ranging from 50% to 80% of full storage capacity.

1.1 Rainfall

November 2025 rainfall totals across East Anglia ranged from 79% to 196% of the long term average (LTA) for the month. The Upper and Lower Bedford Ouse catchments recorded the highest rainfall totals, receiving respectively 123mm and 112mm across the month. The average rainfall across East Anglia for November 2025 was 101mm, which is 161% of the historic LTA and is considered notably high for the time of year. All catchments across East Anglia recorded above normal or higher rainfall in November, except for South Essex which recorded the lowest rainfall total of 46mm, which is considered normal for the time of year. Over the past 3 months rainfall has been approximately average or above, with East Suffolk recording the highest LTA of 132%.

1.2 Soil moisture deficit and recharge

The soil moisture deficit (SMD) for East Anglia at the end of November 2025 was 28mm. The SMD has continued to decrease following above average rainfall and is considered normal for the time of year. South Essex, Central Area Fenland and North West Norfolk and Wissey catchments have the highest SMD values ranging between 41 to 70mm. All other catchments had SMD values ranging between 11mm to 40mm.

1.3 River flows

Following above average rainfall in nearly all catchments, the November 2025 month mean flow at all river flow report sites, was higher than the October 2025 month mean flow. All report sites in the east of the area recorded normal flows for the time of year. In the west, the Little Ouse catchment recorded 41% of the LTA, which is considered notably low for the time of

year. The Burn, Heacham, Nar, Ely Ouse and Cam catchments all recorded below normal flows. All other flow report sites in the west of the area recorded normal flows, with the Ivel recording the highest LTA at 94%.

1.4 Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels have continued to recede at 8 report sites, with a drop in level from October to November. Report sites Breckland, Hindolveston and The Spinney were all categorised as exceptionally low for the time of year. Groundwater recovery has been observed at 9 report sites, with an increase in level from October to November. The majority of report sites ended November 2025 with groundwater levels categorised as normal or below normal for the time of year. Therfield Rectory, North Hertfordshire Chalk, continues to be atypical for the area, with above normal groundwater levels for the time of year. This is likely to be the result of a locally exceptional recharge season, with the September 2024 to February 2025 rainfall in the Upper Bedford Ouse catchment being the fifth wettest September to February rainfall total on record (1871-2025) for that catchment.

1.5 Reservoir stocks

All public water supply reservoirs have seen refill in November 2025, with levels ranging from 50% to 80% of full storage capacity. Alton Water, Grafham and Hanningfield reservoirs ended the month with levels below their respective normal operating curves.

1.6 Forward look

1.6.1 Probabilistic ensemble projections for river flows at key sites

River flow projections at all key sites show a high probability of below normal to notably low flows for December 2025. The Ivel has the highest probability of normal flows for December 2025. Projections for March 2026 show a high probability of normal to exceptionally low flows at all report sites.

1.6.2 Probabilistic ensemble projections for groundwater levels in key aquifers

Groundwater projections for March 2026 show a high probability of below normal to exceptionally low levels at most forecast sites. Projections for September 2026 show a high probability of normal to exceptionally low levels. The Therfield Rectory groundwater level projection shows an 89% probability of normal groundwater levels by March and September 2026.

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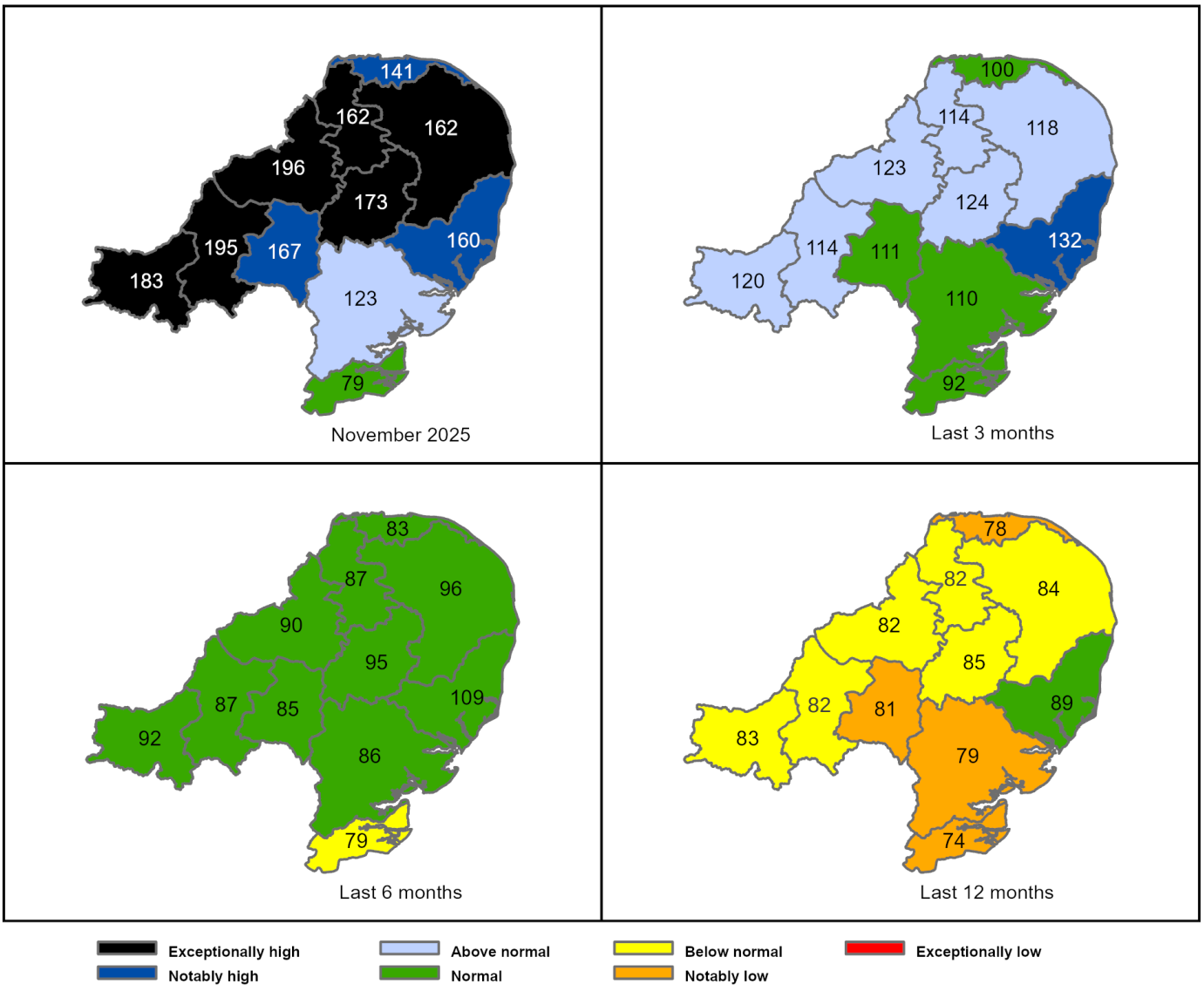
2 Rainfall

2.1 Rainfall map

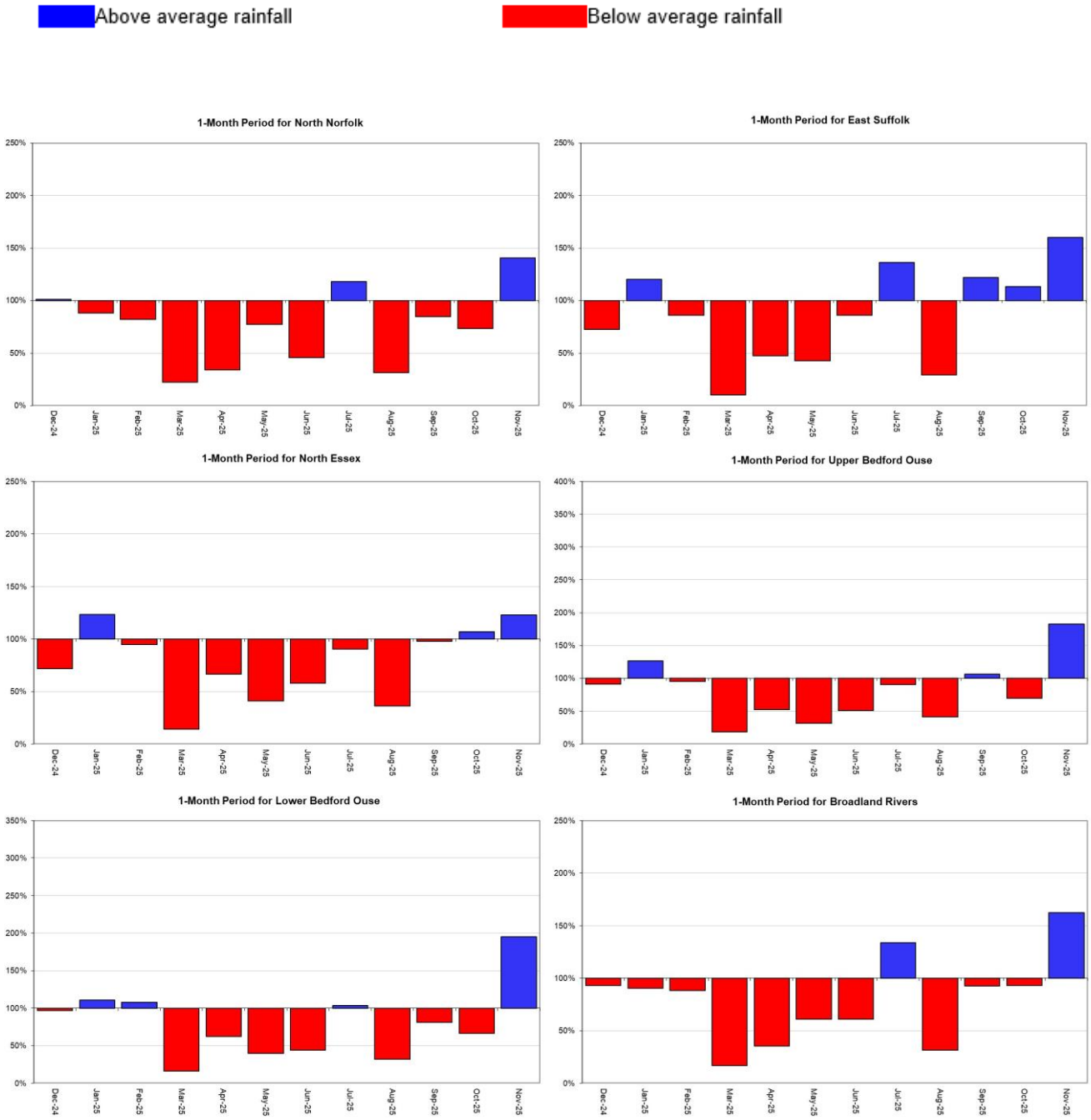
Figure 2.1: Total rainfall for hydrological areas across East Anglia, expressed as a percentage of long term average rainfall for the current month (up to 30 November 2025), the last 3 months, the last 6 months, and the last 12 months. Category classes are based on an analysis of respective historic totals. Table available in the appendices with detailed information.

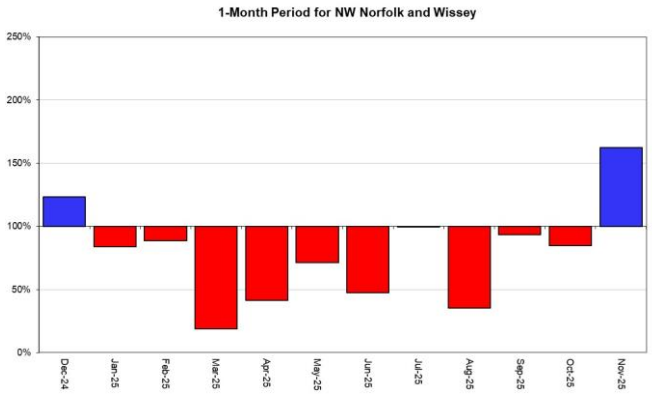


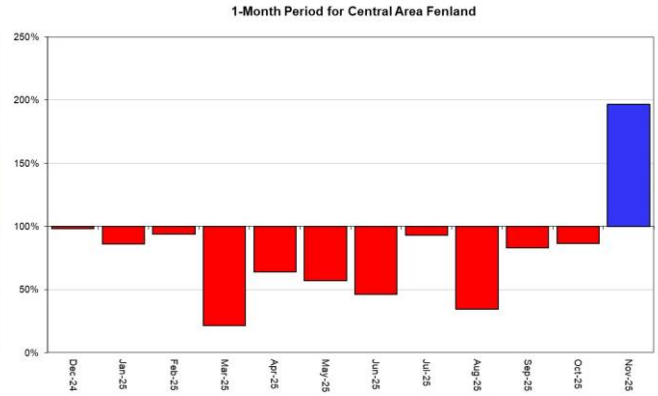
HadUK data based on the Met Office 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from rain gauges (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2025). Provisional data based on Environment Agency 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from Environment Agency intensity rain gauges. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100024198, 2025.

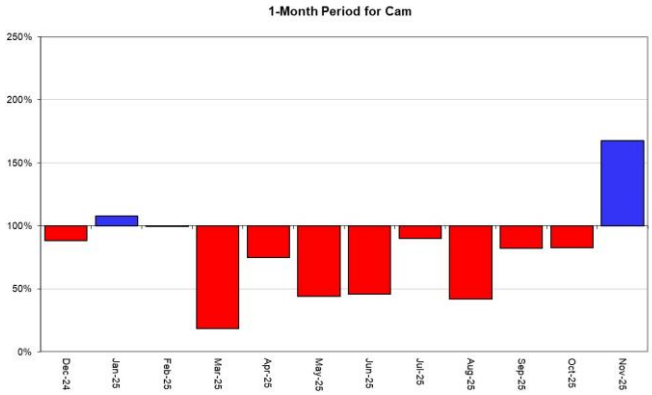
2.2 Rainfall charts

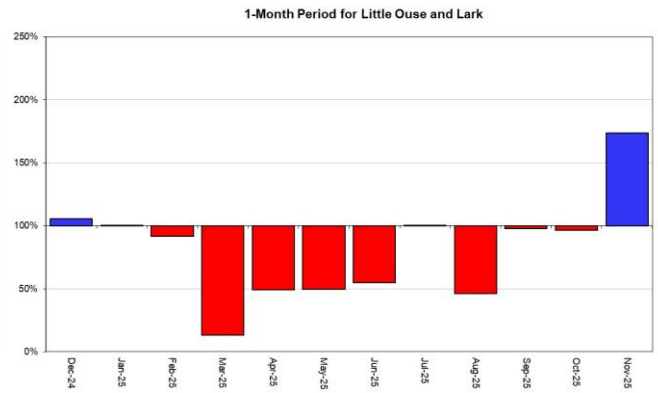
Figure 2.2: Monthly rainfall totals for the past 12 months as a percentage of the 1991 to 2020 long term average for each region and for England.

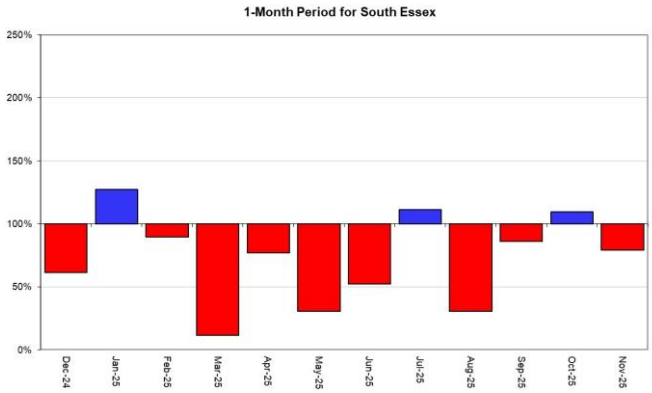






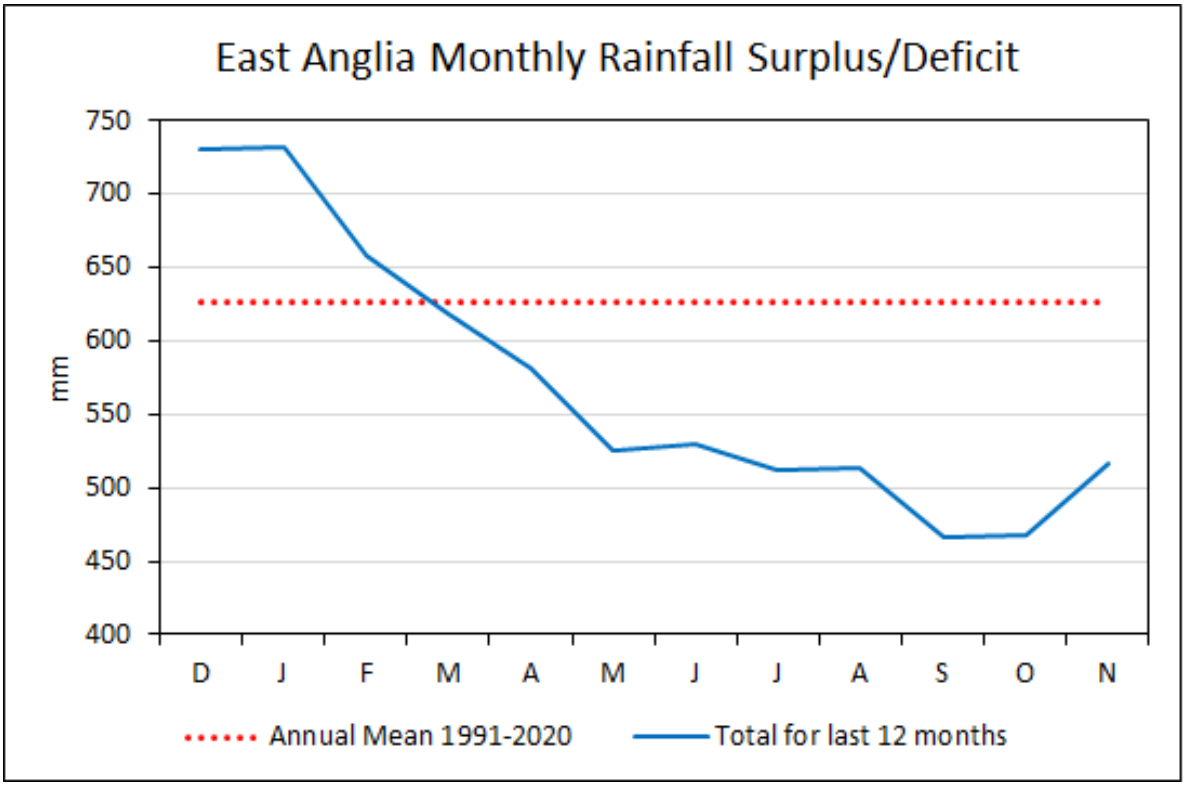






HadUK rainfall data. (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2025).

2.3 Monthly rainfall surplus deficit chart



HadUK rainfall data. (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2025).

3 Soil moisture deficit

3.1 Soil moisture deficit map

Figure 3.1: Soil moisture deficit values for 30 November 2025. Values based on the weekly MORECS data for real land use.

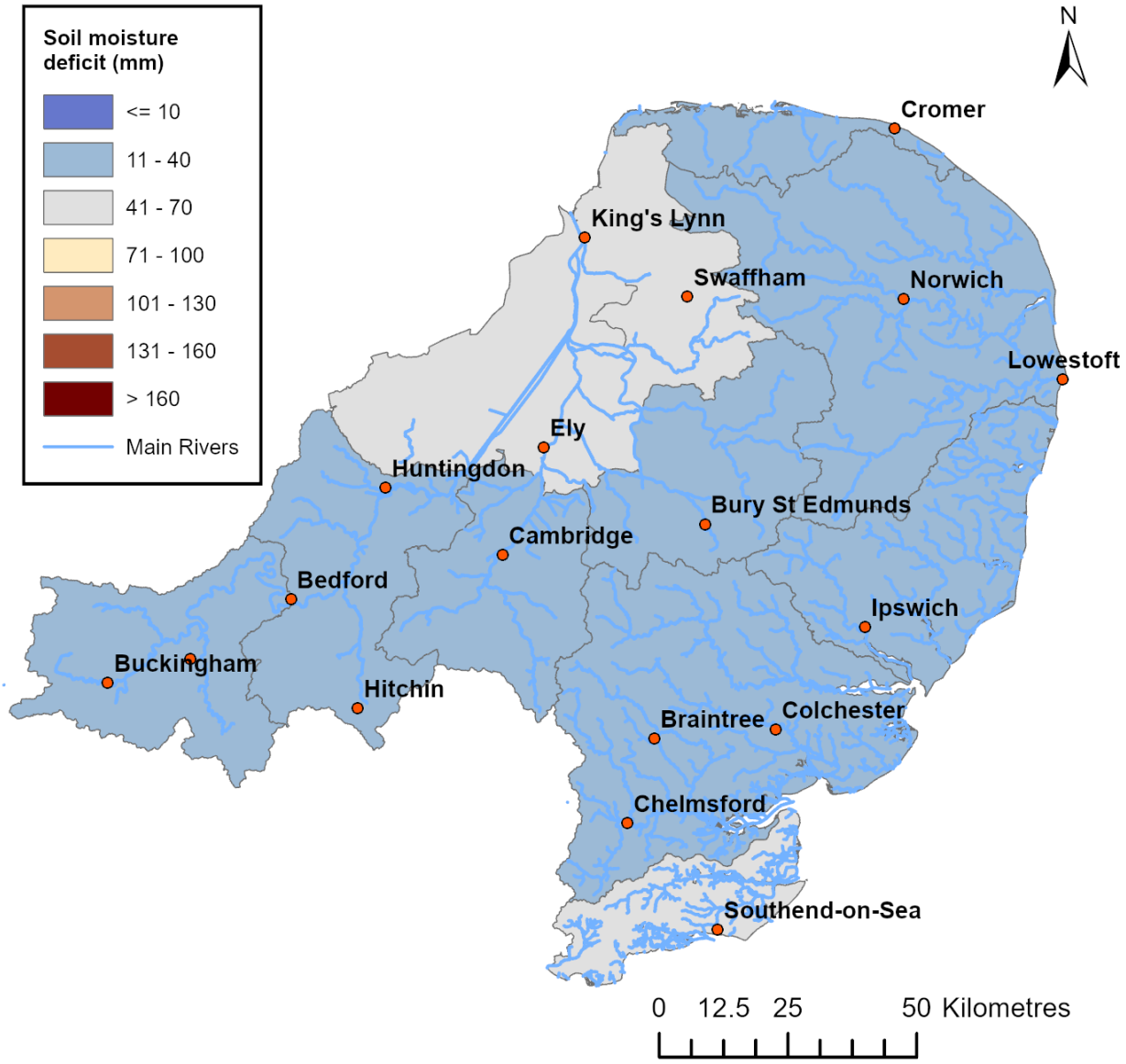
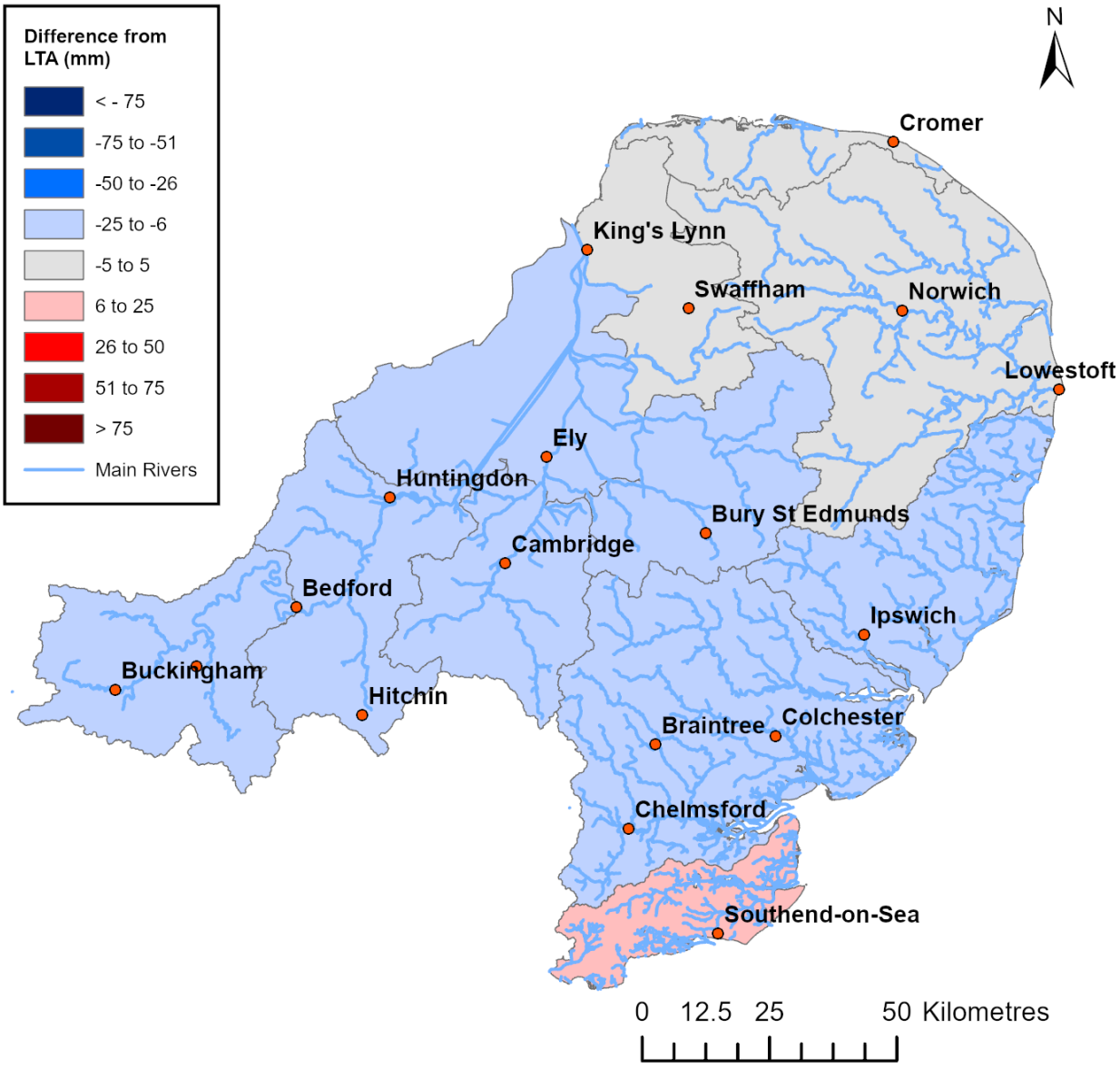
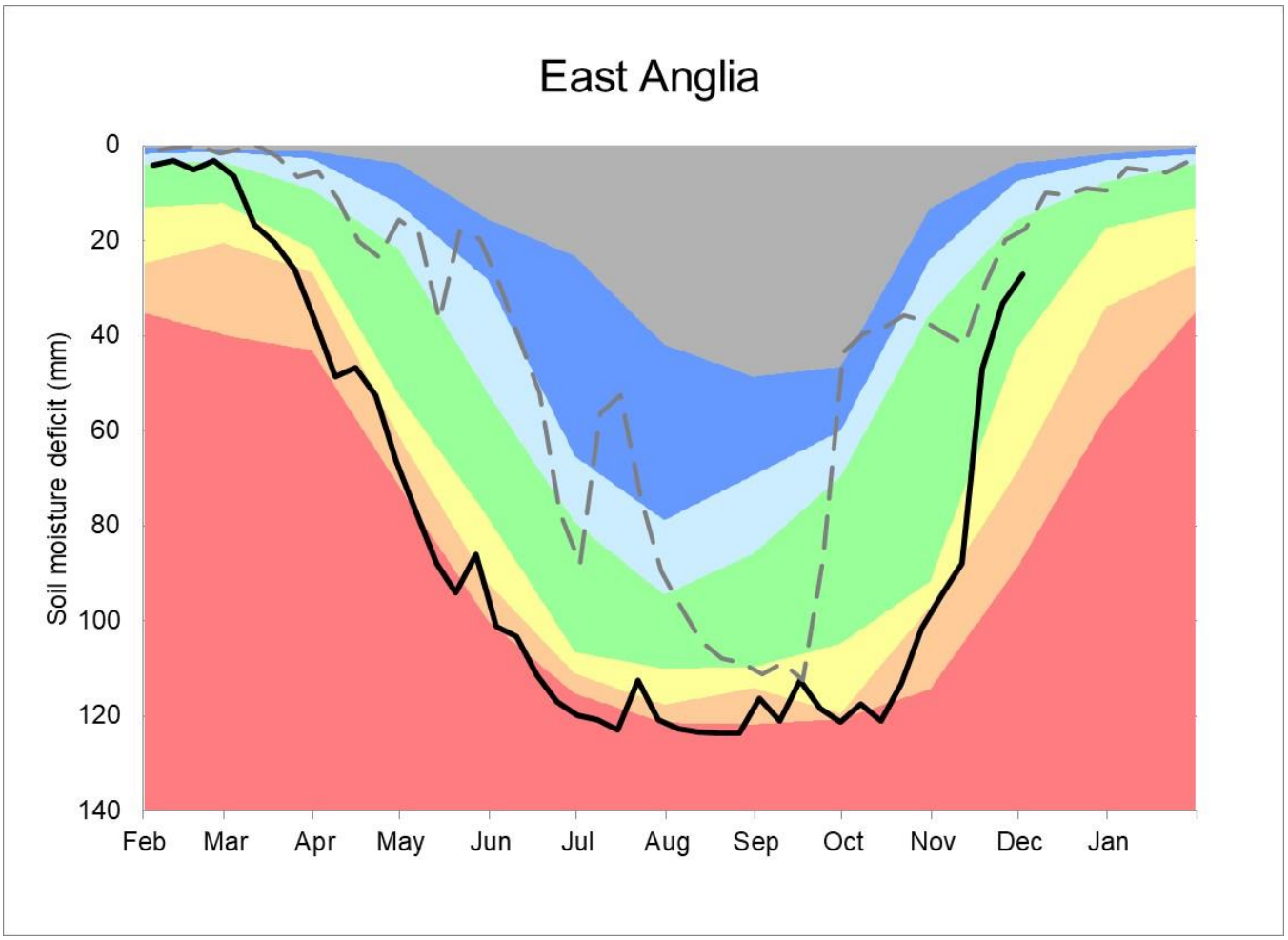


Figure 3.2: Difference between soil moisture deficit values for 30 November 2025 and the long term average soil moisture deficit values for the end of November. Values based on the weekly MORECS data for real land use.



3.2 Soil moisture deficit charts

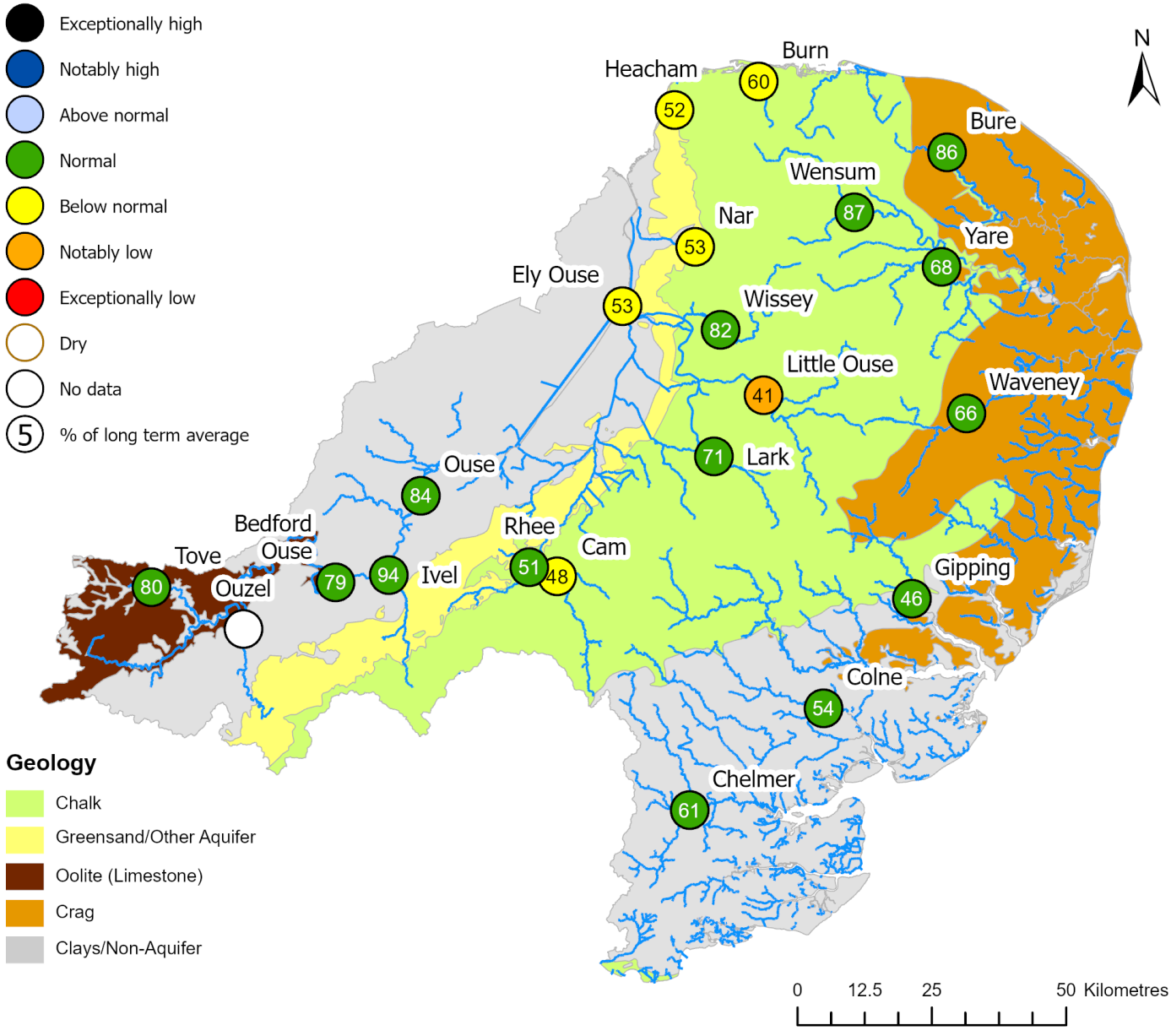
Figure 3.2: Latest soil moisture deficit compared to an analysis of historic 1991 to 2020 long term data set. Weekly MORECS data for real land use.



4 River flows

4.1 River flows map

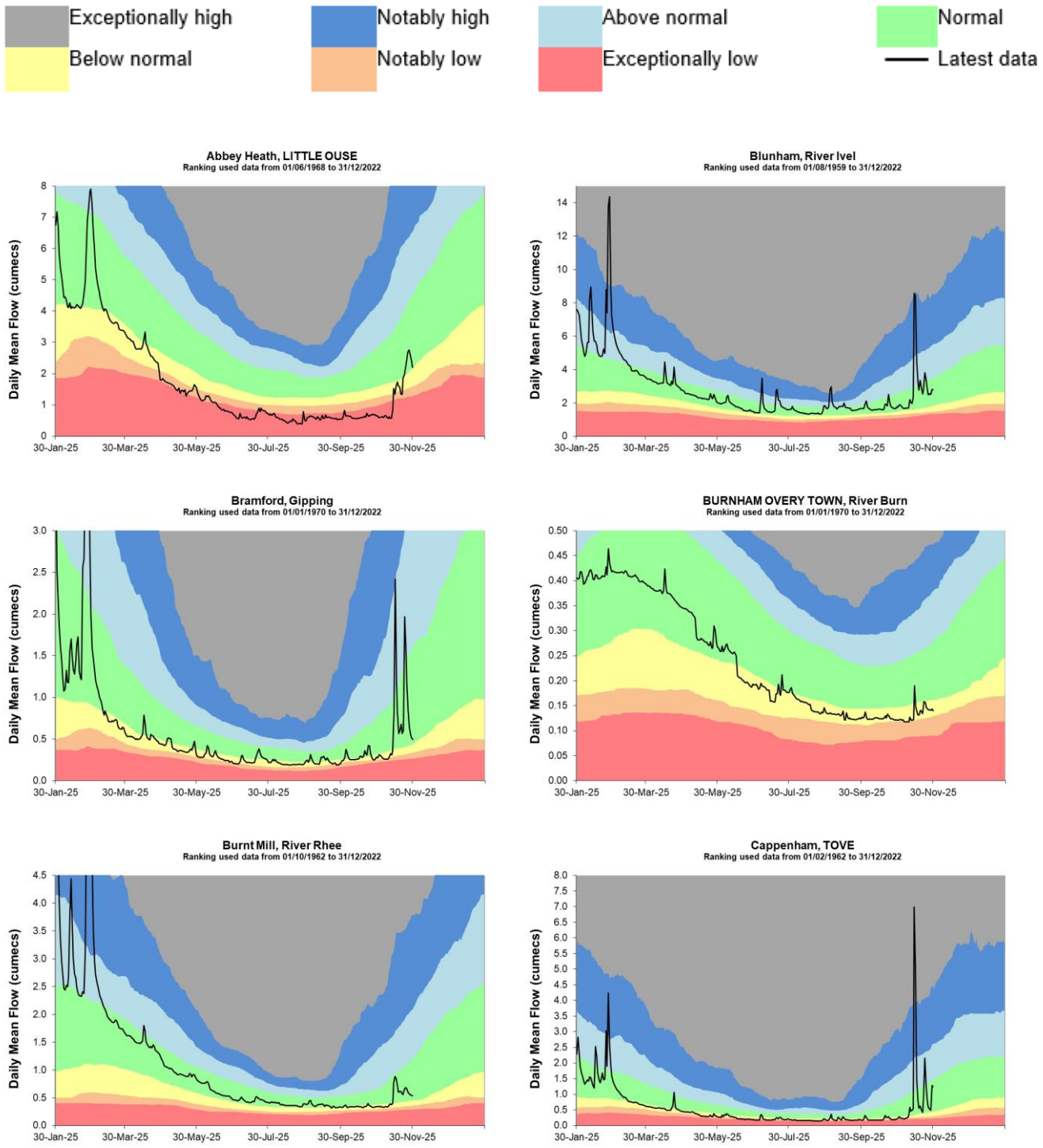
Figure 4.1: Monthly mean river flow for indicator sites for November 2025, expressed as a percentage of the respective long term average and classed relative to an analysis of historic November monthly means Table available in the appendices with detailed information.



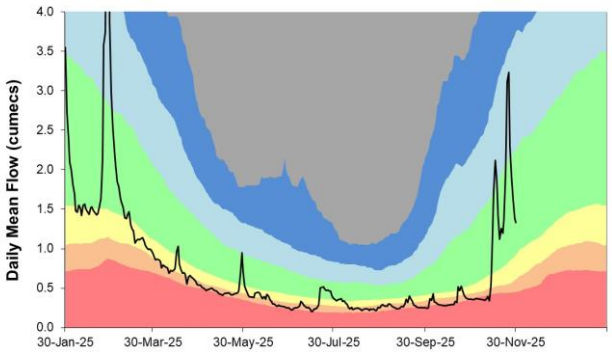
(Source: Environment Agency). Geological map reproduced with kind permission from UK Groundwater Forum, BGS copyright NERC. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100024198, 2025.

4.2 River flow charts

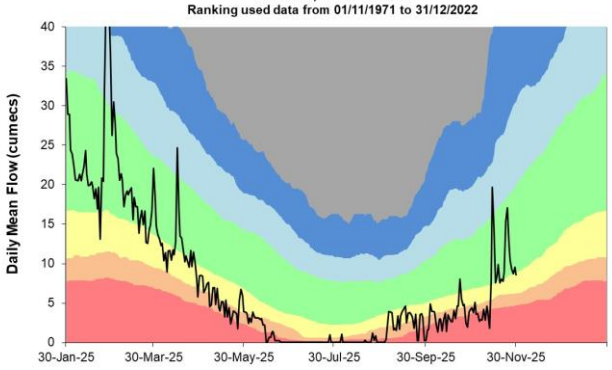
Figure 4.2: Daily mean river flow for index sites over the past year, compared to an analysis of historic daily mean flows, and long term maximum and minimum flows.



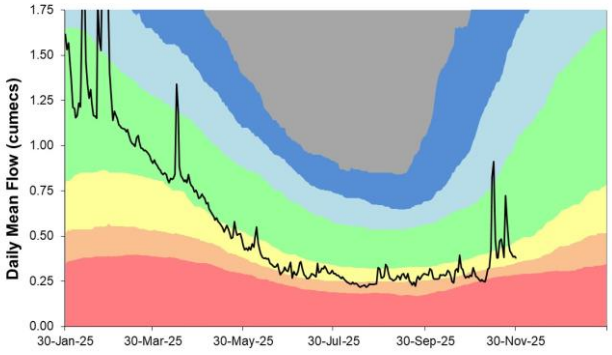
COLNEY, River Yare
Ranking used data from 01/01/1970 to 31/12/2022



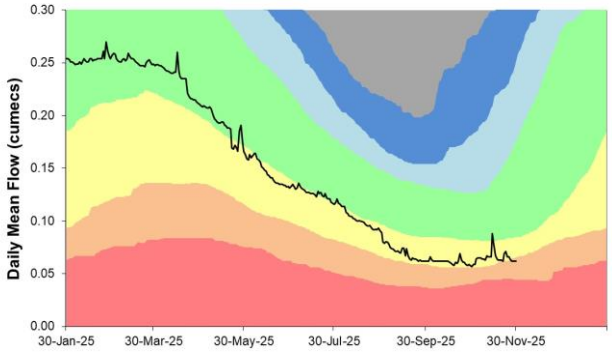
Denver, ELY OUSE
Ranking used data from 01/11/1971 to 31/12/2022



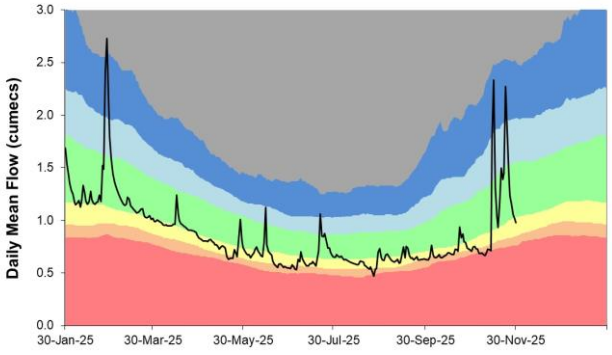
Dernford, CAM
Ranking used data from 21/02/1949 to 23/12/2022



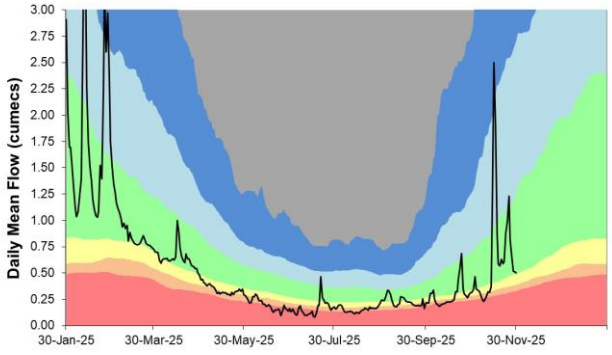
Heacham, HEACHAM
Ranking used data from 01/11/1965 to 31/12/2022



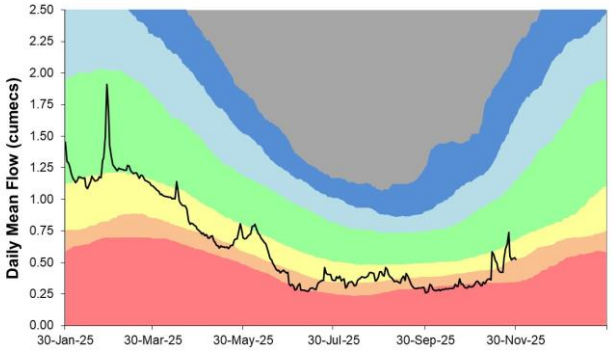
Ingworth, Bure
Ranking used data from 01/01/1970 to 31/12/2022



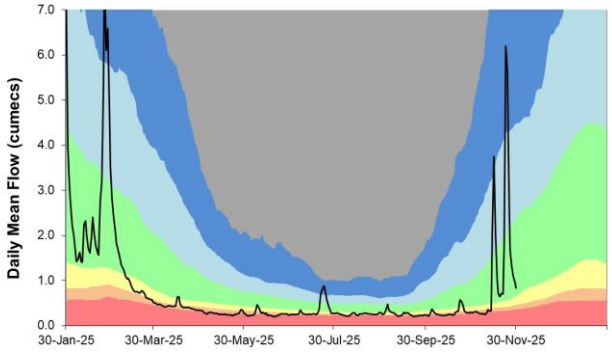
Lexden, Colne
Ranking used data from 01/01/1970 to 31/12/2022

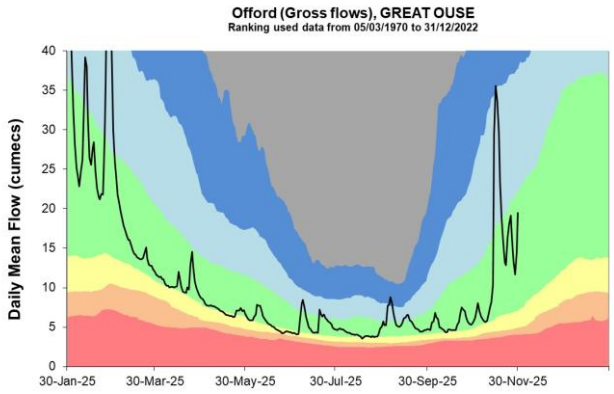


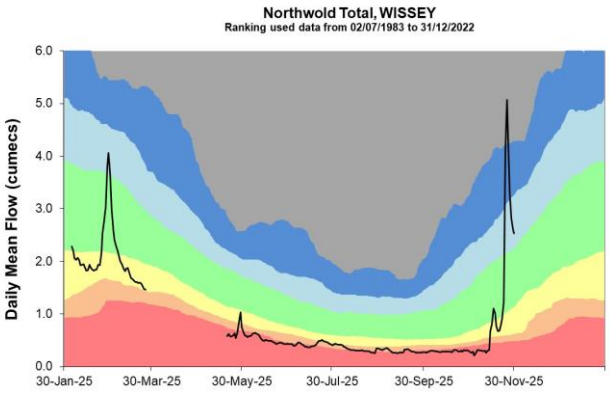
Marham, River Nar
Ranking used data from 01/09/1953 to 31/12/2022

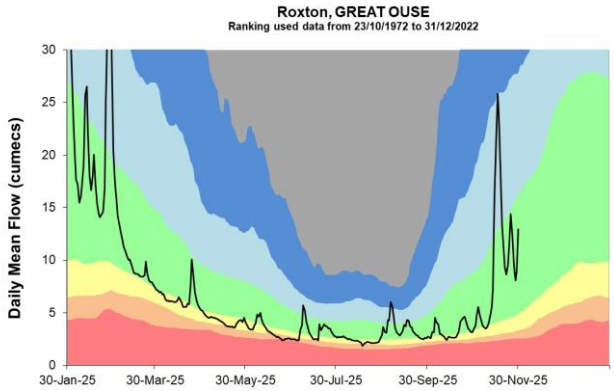


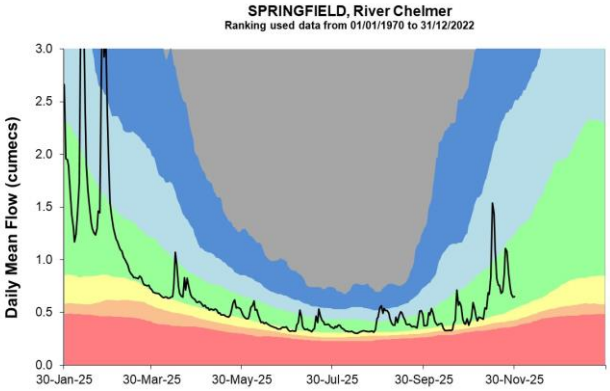
Needham Weir Total, Waveney
Ranking used data from 01/01/1970 to 31/12/2022

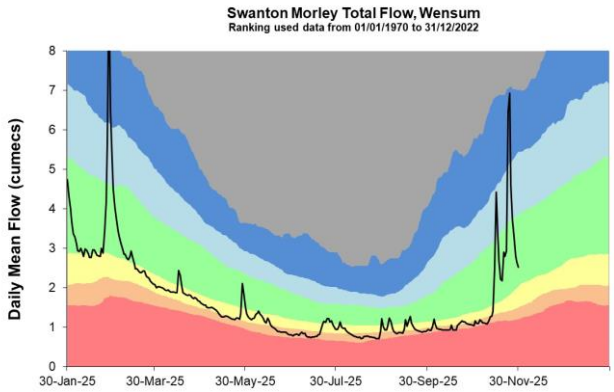


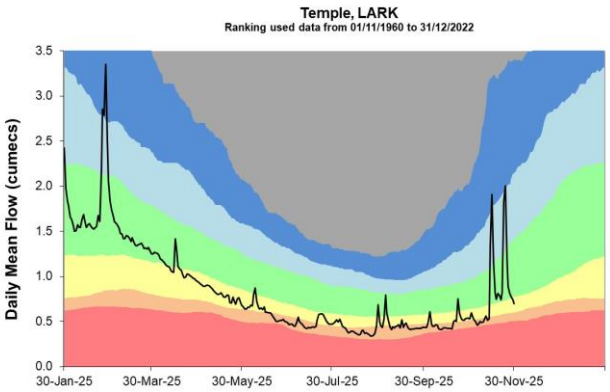


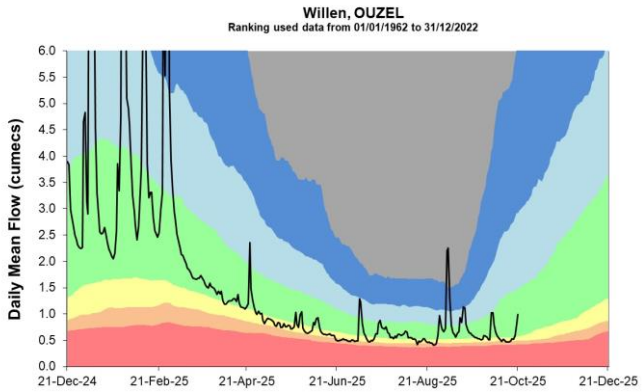










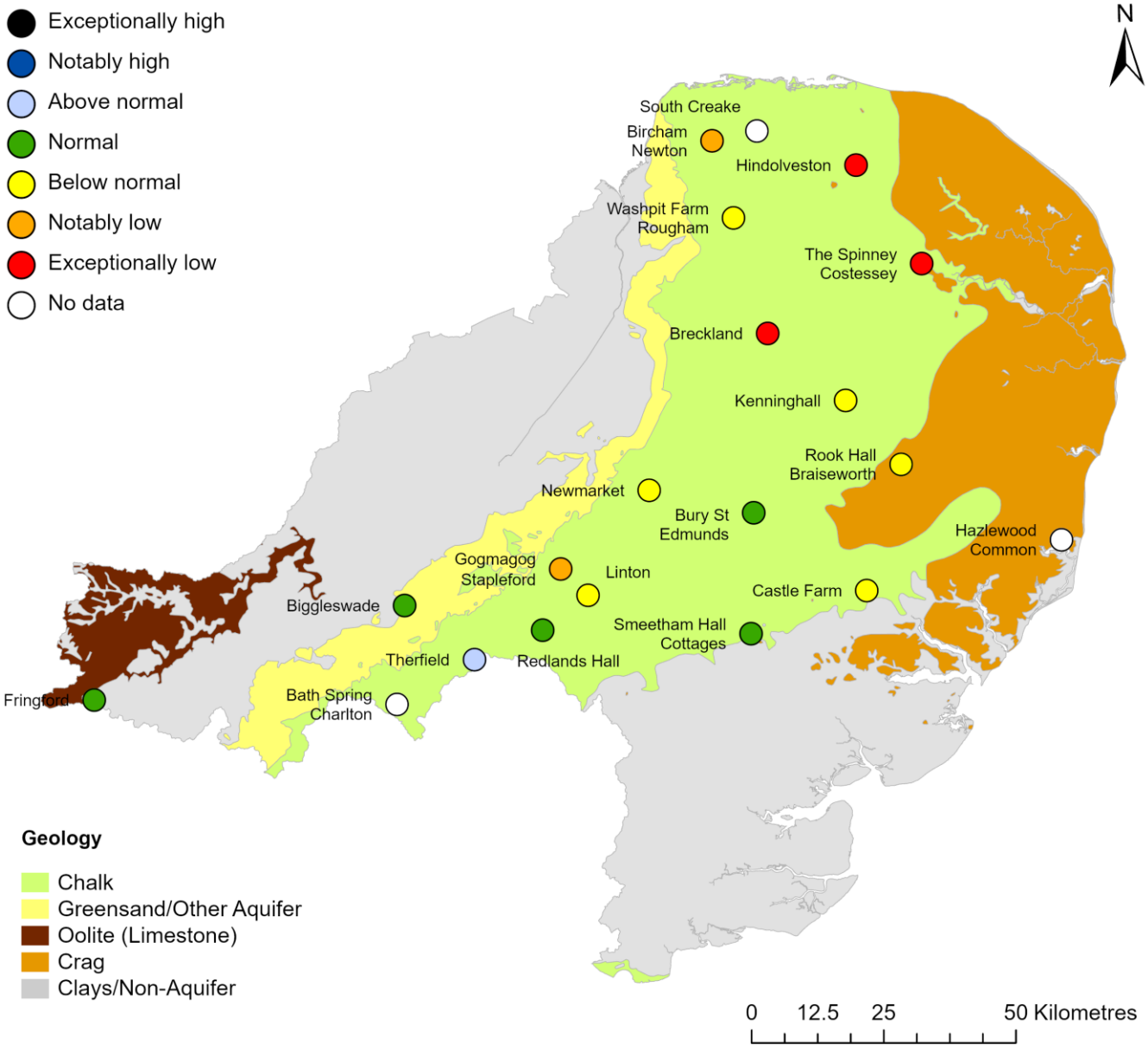


Source: Environment Agency.

5 Groundwater levels

5.1 Groundwater levels map

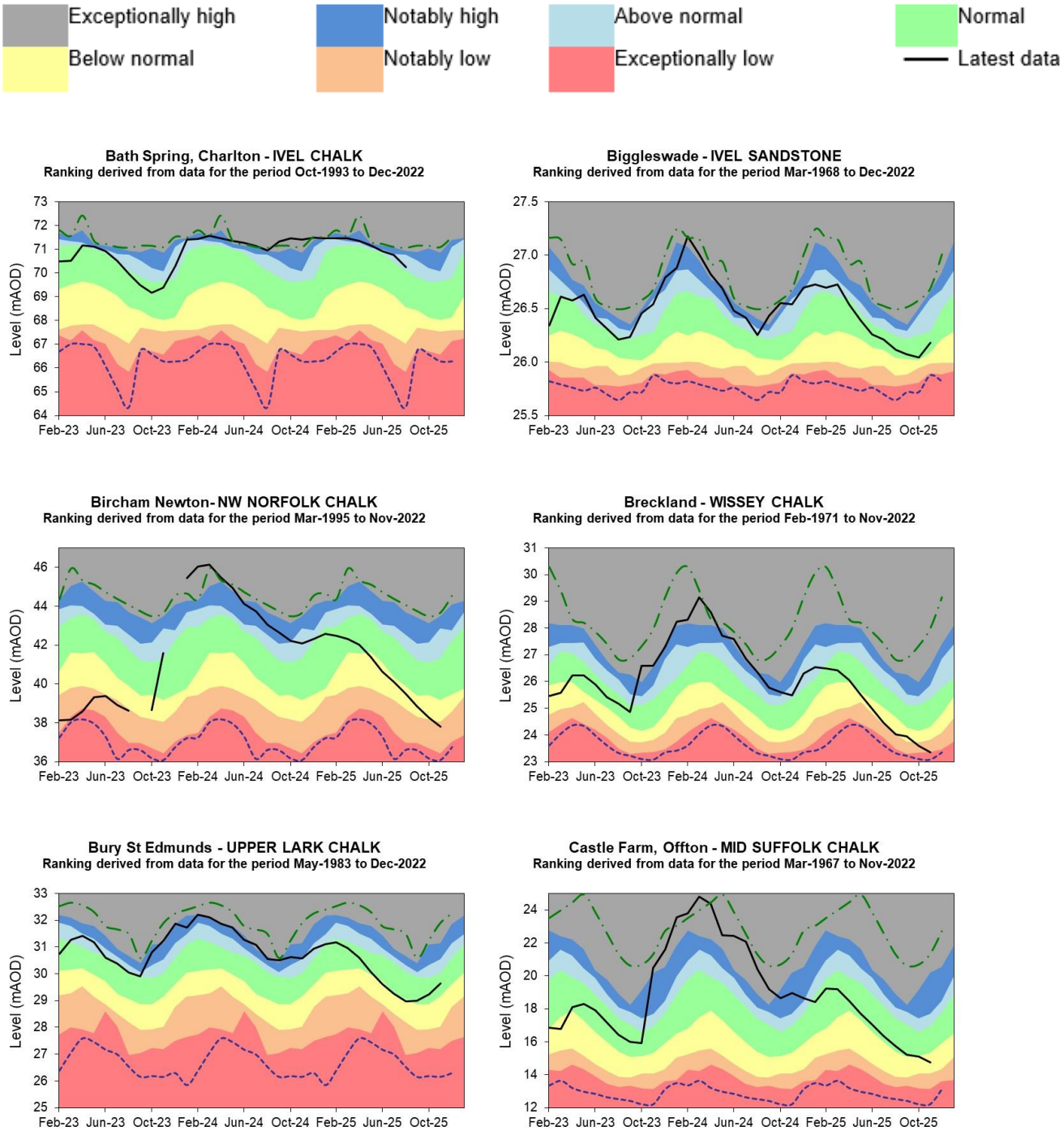
Figure 5.1: Groundwater levels for indicator sites at the end of November 2025, classed relative to an analysis of respective historic November levels. Table available in the appendices with detailed information.



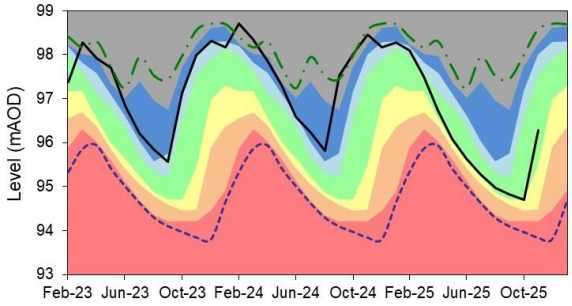
(Source: Environment Agency). Geological map reproduced with kind permission from UK Groundwater Forum, BGS copyright NERC. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100024198, 2025.

5.2 Groundwater level charts

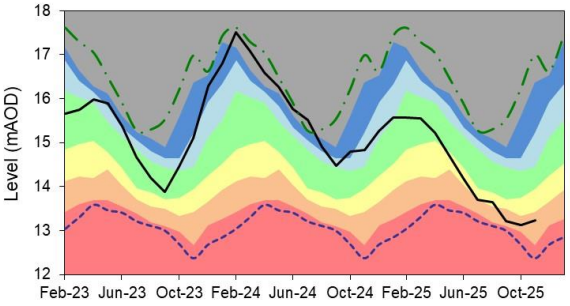
Figure 5.2: End of month groundwater levels at index groundwater level sites for major aquifers. 22 months compared to an analysis of historic end of month levels and long term maximum and minimum levels.



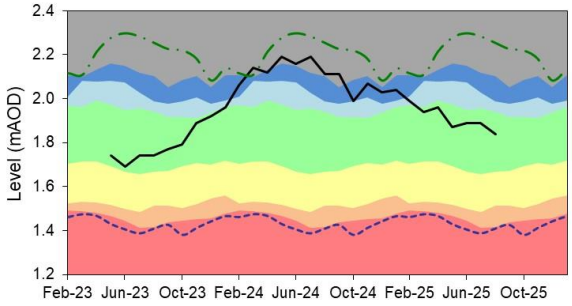
Fringford - GREAT OOLITE
Ranking derived from data for the period Sep-1980 to Dec-2022



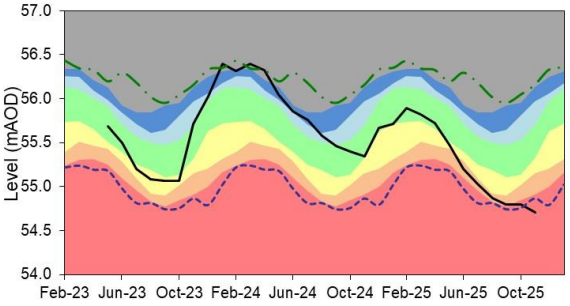
Gog Magog, Stapleford - CAM CHALK
Ranking derived from data for the period Jan-1980 to Dec-2022



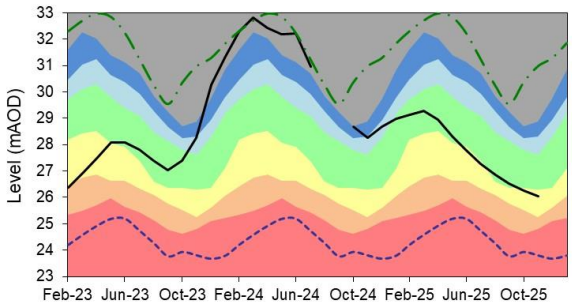
Hazlewood Common - SUFFOLK CRAG
Ranking derived from data for the period Oct-1988 to Nov-2022



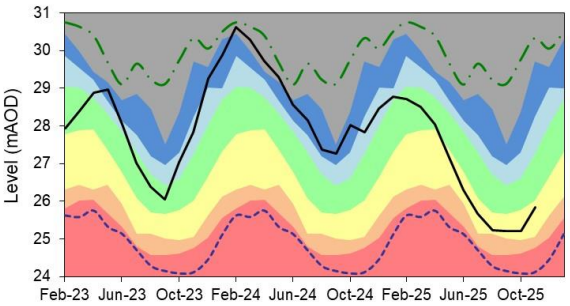
Hindolveston - NORFOLK CHALK
Ranking derived from data for the period Sep-1984 to Nov-2022



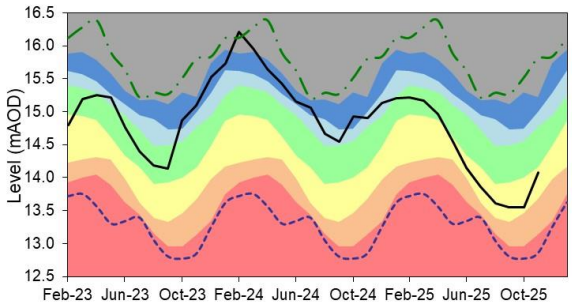
Kenninghall - LITTLE OUSE CHALK
Ranking derived from data for the period Aug-1973 to Dec-2022



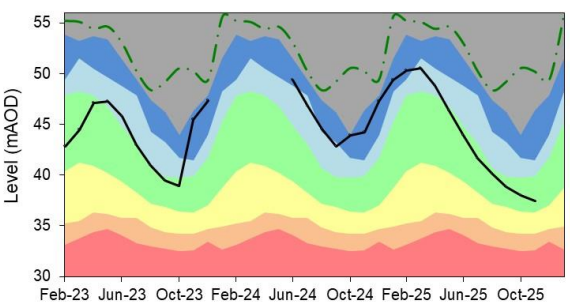
Linton - CAM CHALK
Ranking derived from data for the period Jan-1980 to Dec-2022

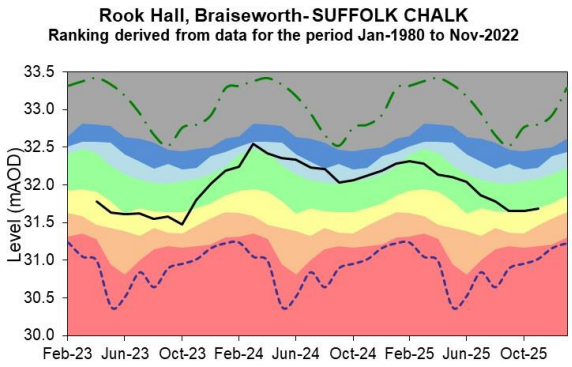


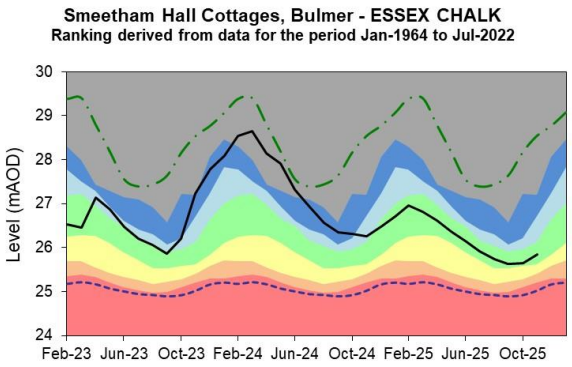
Newmarket - SNAIL CHALK
Ranking derived from data for the period Feb-1983 to Dec-2022

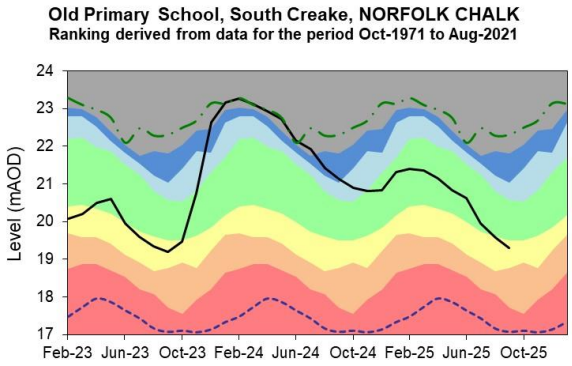


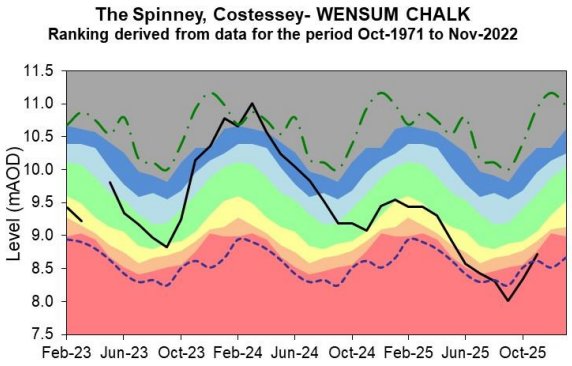
Redlands Hall, Ickleton - CAM CHALK
Ranking derived from data for the period Aug-1963 to Dec-2022

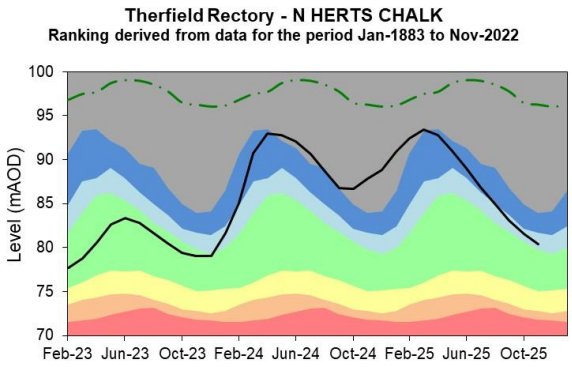


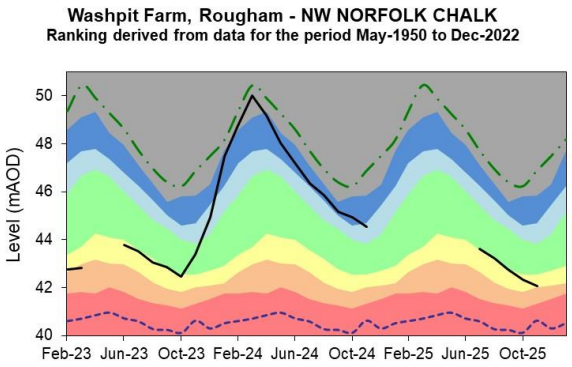








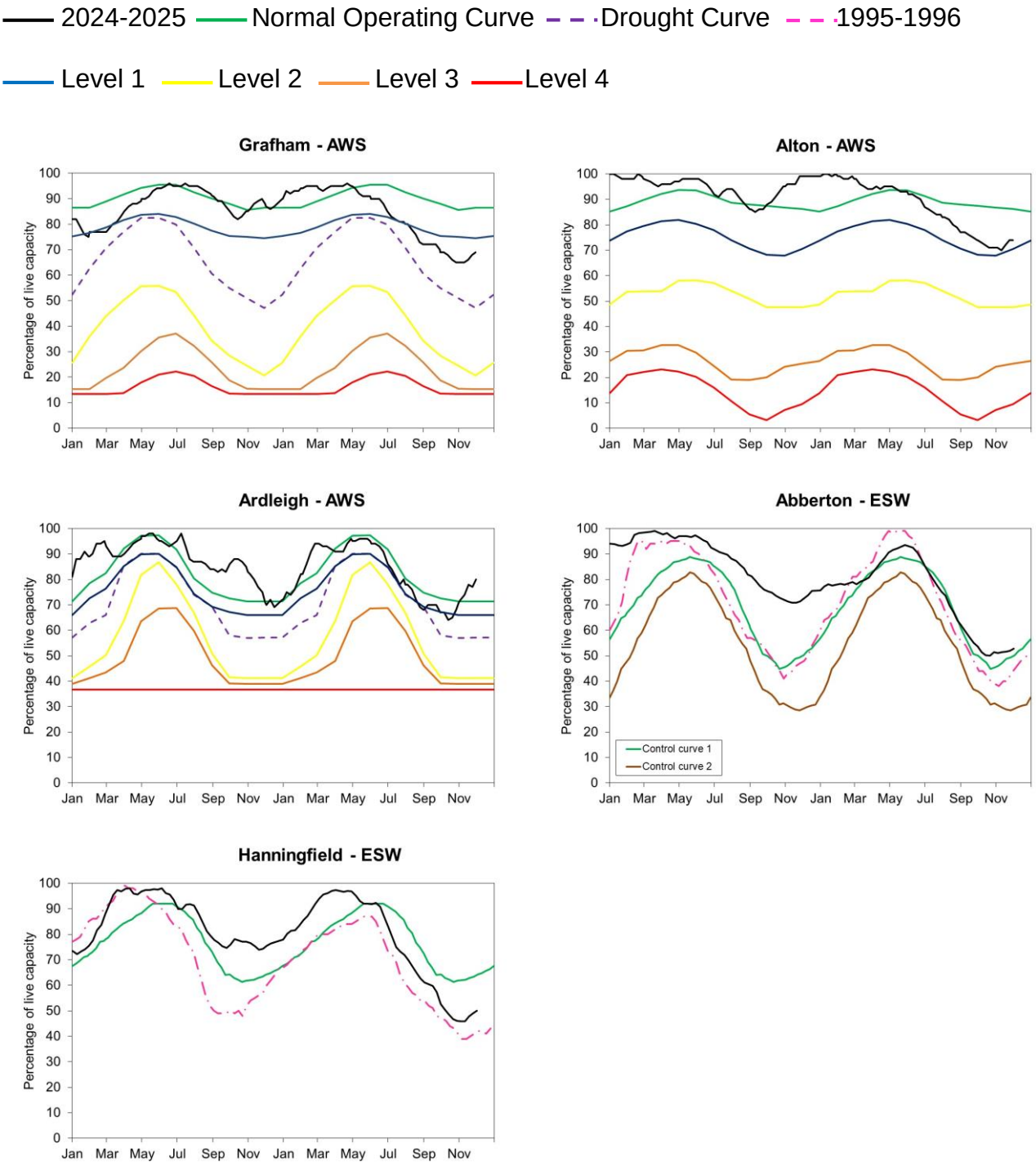




Source: Environment Agency, 2025.

6 Reservoir stocks

Figure 6.1: End of month regional reservoir stocks compared to the normal operating curve, drought curve and dry 1995-1996 stocks. Note: Historic records of individual reservoirs and reservoir groups making up the regional values vary in length.

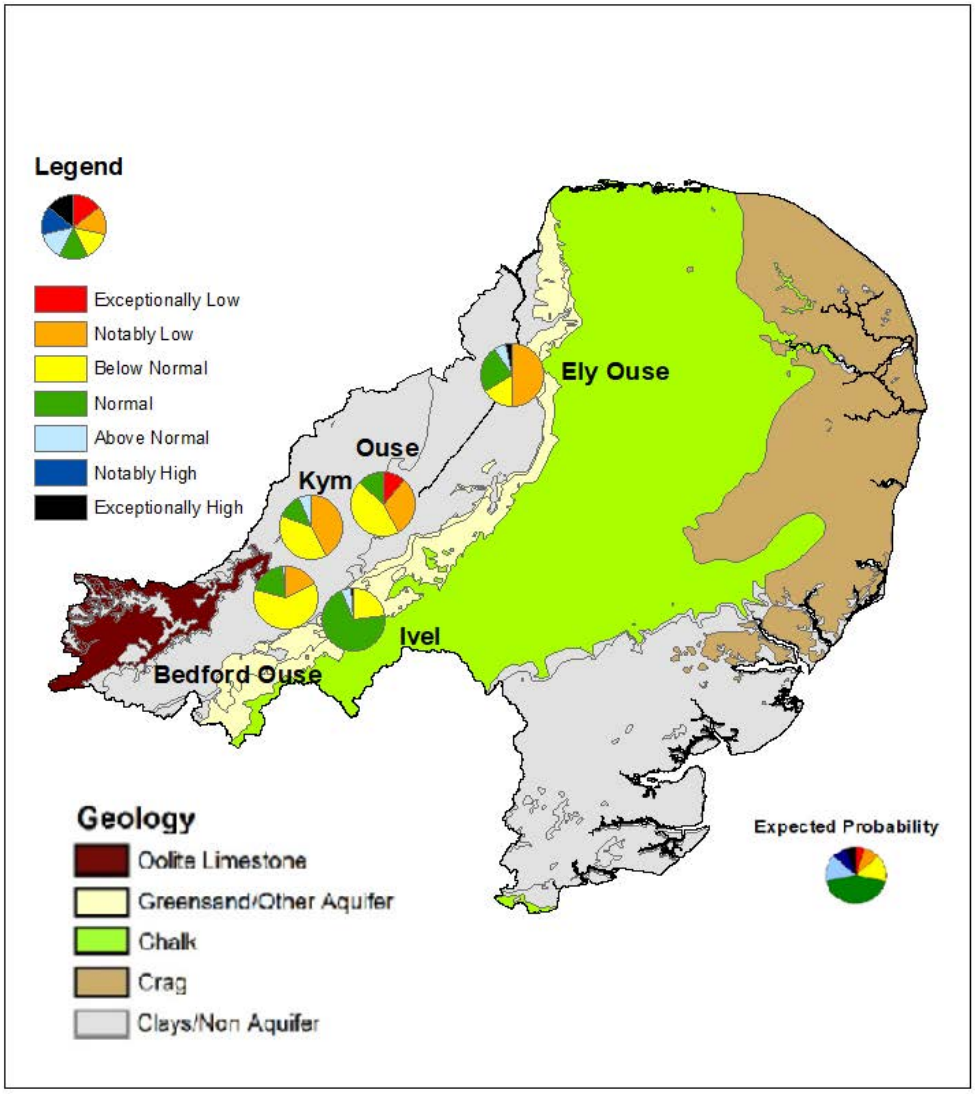


(Source: water companies. For more information on Anglian Water's reservoir level curves, please see Appendix 4 in their Drought Plan).

7 Forward look

7.1 Probabilistic ensemble projection of river flows at key sites in December 2025

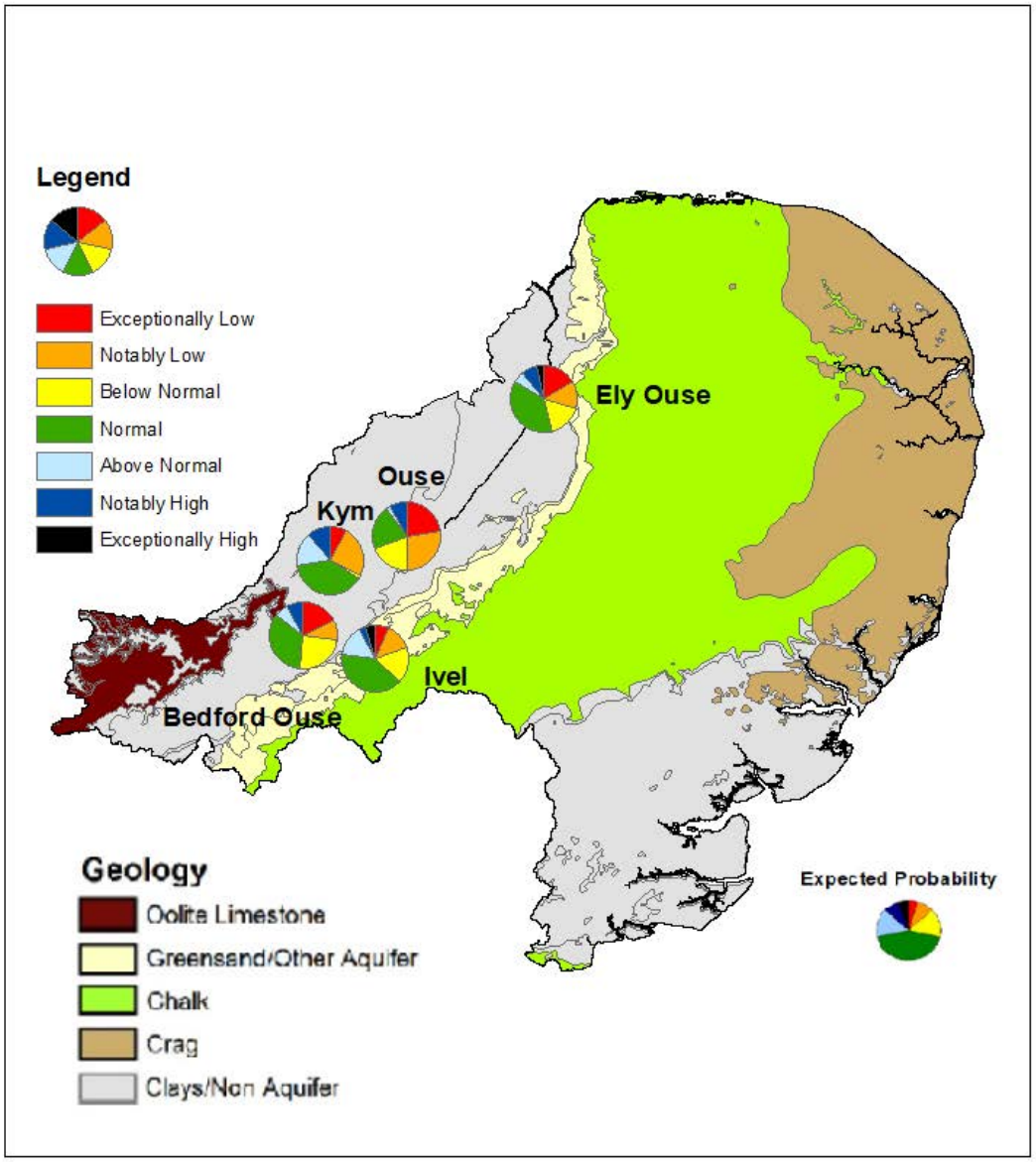
Table available in the appendices with detailed information. Exceptionally high or low levels are those which would typically occur 5% of the time within the historic record. Notably high or low levels are those which would typically occur 8% of the time. Above normal or below normal levels are those which would typically occur 15% of the time. Normal levels are those which would typically occur 44% of the time within the historic record.



Pie charts indicate probability, based on climatology, of the surface water flow at each site being, for example, exceptionally low for the time of year. (Source: Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Environment Agency) Geological map reproduced with kind permission from UK Groundwater Forum, BGS © NERC. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2025.

7.2 Probabilistic ensemble projection of river flows at key sites in March 2026

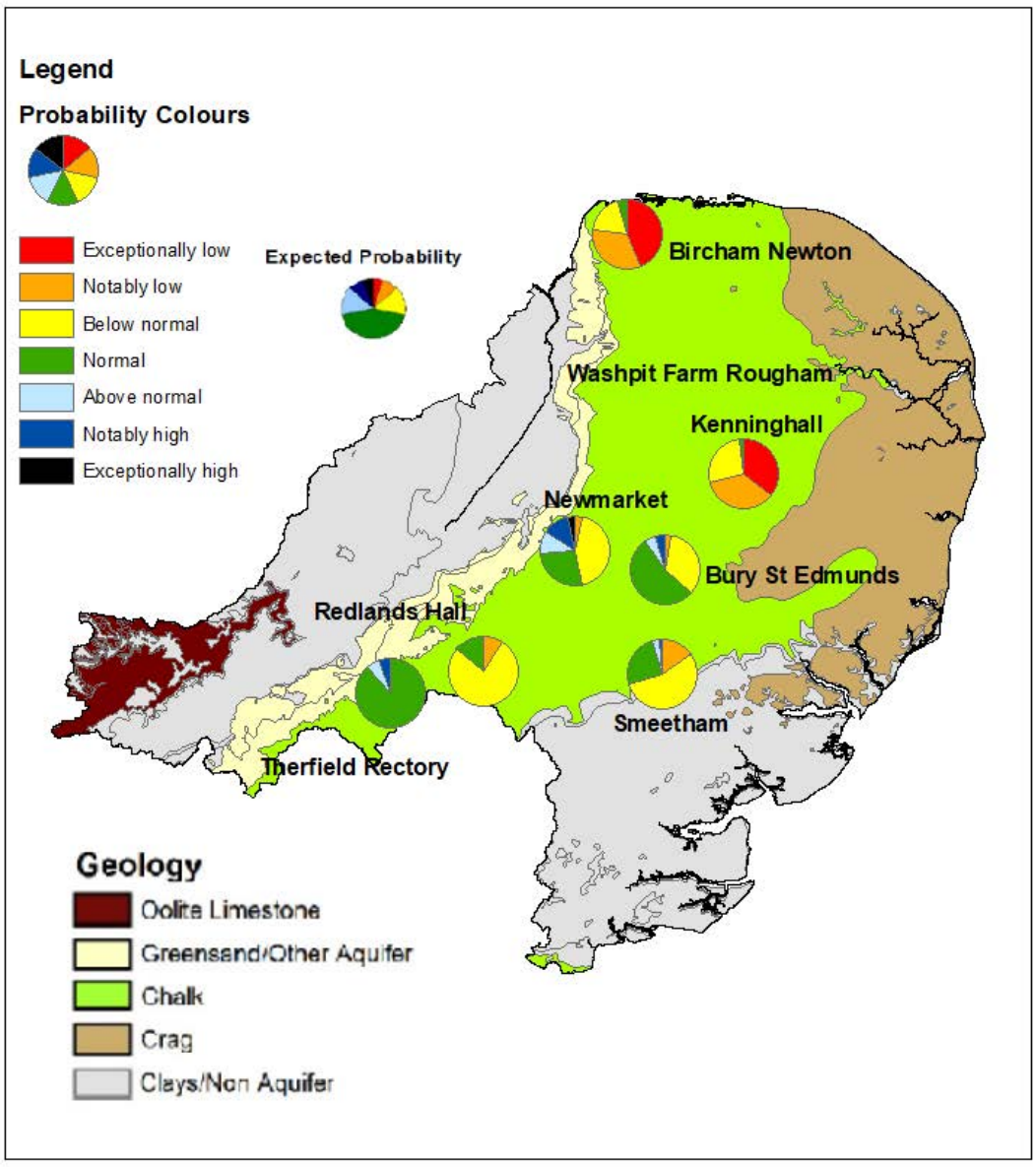
Table available in the appendices with detailed information. Exceptionally high or low levels are those which would typically occur 5% of the time within the historic record. Notably high or low levels are those which would typically occur 8% of the time. Above normal or below normal levels are those which would typically occur 15% of the time. Normal levels are those which would typically occur 44% of the time within the historic record.



Pie charts indicate probability, based on climatology, of the surface water flow at each site being, for example, exceptionally low for the time of year. (Source: Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Environment Agency) Geological map reproduced with kind permission from UK Groundwater Forum, BGS © NERC. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2025

7.3 Probabilistic ensemble projection of groundwater levels at key sites in March 2026

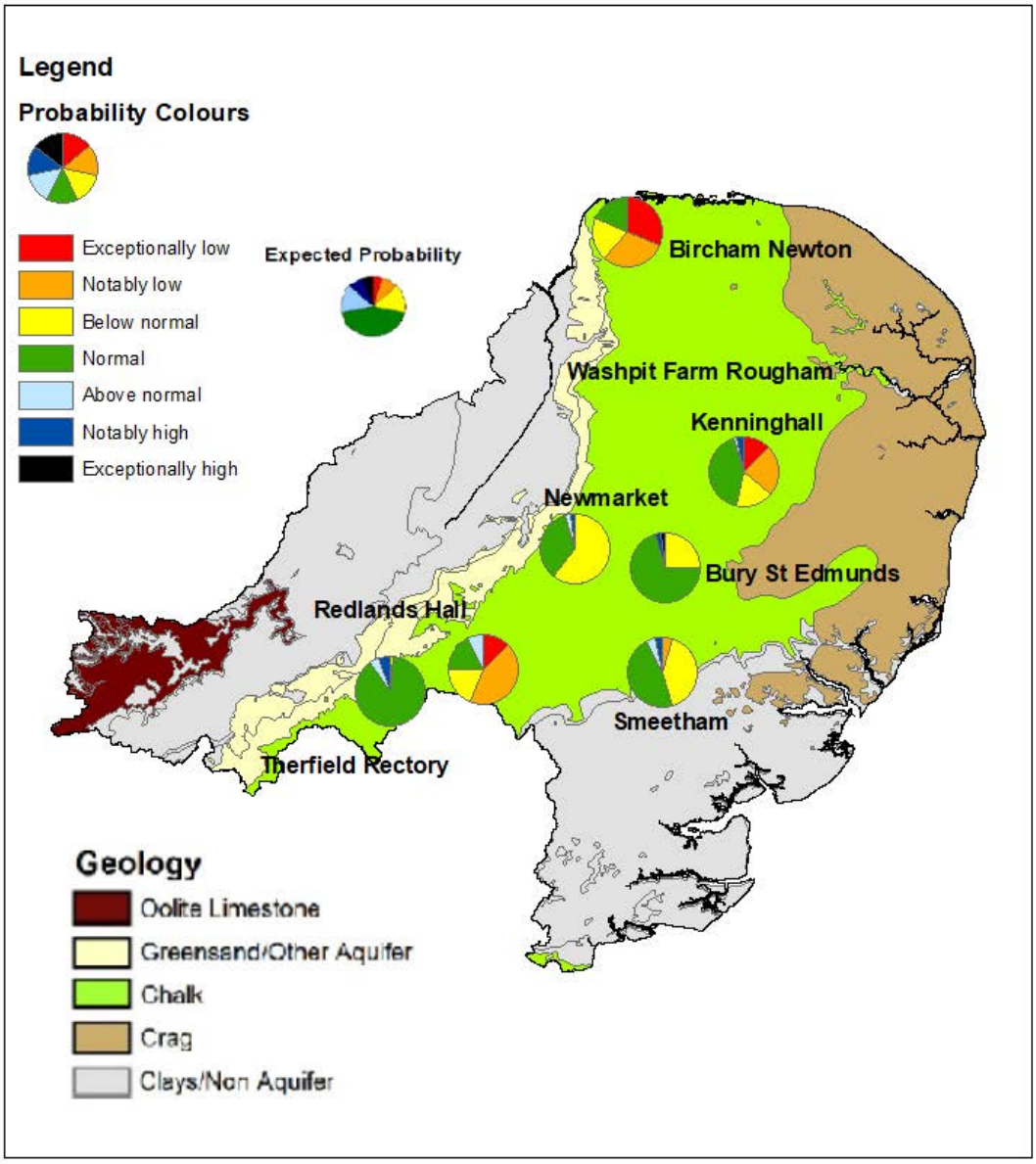
Table available in the appendices with detailed information. Exceptionally high or low levels are those which would typically occur 5% of the time within the historic record. Notably high or low levels are those which would typically occur 8% of the time. Above normal or below normal levels are those which would typically occur 15% of the time. Normal levels are those which would typically occur 44% of the time within the historic record.



Pie charts indicate probability, based on climatology, of the groundwater level at each site being, for example, exceptionally low for the time of year. (Source: Environment Agency)

7.4 Probabilistic ensemble projection of groundwater levels at key sites in September 2026

Table available in the appendices with detailed information. Exceptionally high or low levels are those which would typically occur 5% of the time within the historic record. Notably high or low levels are those which would typically occur 8% of the time. Above normal or below normal levels are those which would typically occur 15% of the time. Normal levels are those which would typically occur 44% of the time within the historic record.



Pie charts indicate probability, based on climatology, of the groundwater level at each site being, for example, exceptionally low for the time of year. (Source: Environment Agency)

8 Glossary

8.1 Terminology

Aquifer

A geological formation able to store and transmit water.

Areal average rainfall

The estimated average depth of rainfall over a defined area. Expressed in depth of water (mm).

Artesian

The condition where the groundwater level is above ground surface but is prevented from rising to this level by an overlying continuous low permeability layer, such as clay.

Artesian borehole

Borehole where the level of groundwater is above the top of the borehole and groundwater flows out of the borehole when unsealed.

Cumecs

Cubic metres per second (m^{3s-1}).

Effective rainfall

The rainfall available to percolate into the soil or produce river flow. Expressed in depth of water (mm).

Flood alert and flood warning

Three levels of warnings may be issued by the Environment Agency. Flood alerts indicate flooding is possible. Flood warnings indicate flooding is expected. Severe flood warnings indicate severe flooding.

Groundwater

The water found in an aquifer.

Long term average (LTA)

The arithmetic mean calculated from the historic record, usually based on the period 1991 to 2020. However, the period used may vary by parameter being reported on (see figure captions for details).

mAOD

Metres above ordnance datum (mean sea level at Newlyn Cornwall).

MORECS

Met Office Rainfall and Evaporation Calculation System. Met Office service providing real time calculation of evapotranspiration, soil moisture deficit and effective rainfall on a 40 by 40 km grid.

Naturalised flow

River flow with the impacts of artificial influences removed. Artificial influences may include abstractions, discharges, transfers, augmentation and impoundments.

NCIC

National Climate Information Centre. NCIC area monthly rainfall totals are derived using the Met Office 5 km gridded dataset, which uses rain gauge observations.

Recharge

The process of increasing the water stored in the saturated zone of an aquifer. Expressed in depth of water (mm).

Reservoir gross capacity

The total capacity of a reservoir.

Reservoir live capacity

The capacity of the reservoir that is normally usable for storage to meet established reservoir operating requirements. This excludes any capacity not available for use (for example, storage held back for emergency services, operating agreements or physical restrictions). May also be referred to as ‘net’ or ‘deployable’ capacity.

Soil moisture deficit (SMD)

The difference between the amount of water actually in the soil and the amount of water the soil can hold. Expressed in depth of water (mm).

8.2 Categories

Exceptionally high

Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time.

Notably high

Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time.

Above normal

Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time.

Normal

Value likely to fall within this band 44% of the time.

Below normal

Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time.

Notably low

Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time.

Exceptionally low

Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time.

9 Appendices

9.1 Rainfall table

Hydrological area	Nov 2025 rainfall % of long term average 1991 to 2020	Nov 2025 band	Sep 2025 to November cumulative band	Jun 2025 to November cumulative band	Dec 2024 to November cumulative band
Broadland Rivers	162	Exceptionally High	Above normal	Normal	Below normal
Cam	167	Notably High	Normal	Normal	Notably low
Central Area Fenland	196	Exceptionally High	Above normal	Normal	Below normal
East Suffolk	160	Notably High	Notably high	Normal	Normal
Little Ouse And Lark	174	Exceptionally High	Above normal	Normal	Below normal
Lower Bedford Ouse	195	Exceptionally High	Above normal	Normal	Below normal
North Essex	123	Above Normal	Normal	Normal	Notably low
North Norfolk	141	Notably High	Normal	Normal	Notably low
Nw Norfolk And Wissey	162	Exceptionally High	Above normal	Normal	Below normal
South Essex	79	Normal	Normal	Below normal	Notably low
Upper Bedford Ouse	183	Exceptionally High	Above normal	Normal	Below normal

9.2 River flows table

Site name	River	Catchment	Nov 2025 band	Oct 2025 band
Abbey Heath	Little Ouse	Little Ouse	Notably low	Exceptionally low
Blunham	Ivel	Ivel	Normal	Normal
Bramford	Gipping	Gipping	Normal	Normal
Burnham Overy	Burn	Burn	Below normal	Below normal
Burnt Mill	Rhee	Rhee	Normal	Below normal
Cappenham	Tove	Tove	Normal	Below normal
Colney	Yare	Yare	Normal	Notably low
Denver	Ely Ouse	Cutoff and Renew Channel	Below normal	Exceptionally low
Dernford	Cam	Cam	Below normal	Below normal
Heacham	Heacham	Heacham	Below normal	Below normal
Ingworth	Bure	Bure	Normal	Below normal
Lexden	Colne	Colne Essex	Normal	Below normal
Marham	Nar	Nar	Below normal	Notably low
Needham Weir Total	Waveney (lower)	Waveney	Normal	Notably low

Northwold Total	Wissey	Wissey	Normal	Exceptionally low
Offord (gross Flows)	Great Ouse	Ouse Beds	Normal	Normal
Roxton	Great Ouse	Ivel	Normal	Below normal
Springfield	Chelmer	Chelmer Upper	Normal	Normal
Swanton Morley Total	Wensum	Wensum	Normal	Notably low
Temple	Lark	Lark	Normal	Notably low
Willen	Ouzel	Ouzel	No Data	No Data

9.3 Groundwater table

Site name	Aquifer	End of Nov 2025 band	End of Oct 2025 band
Bath Spring	Ivel Chalk	No Data	No Data
Biggleswade	Ivel Woburn Sands	Normal	Normal
Bircham Newton	North West Norfolk Chalk	Notably low	Below normal
Breckland	Wissey Chalk	Exceptionally low	Notably low
Bury St Edmunds	Upper Lark Chalk	Normal	Normal
Castle Farm, Offton	East Suffolk Chalk	Below normal	Below normal
Gog Magog, Stapleford	Cam Chalk	Notably low	Notably low
Hazlewood Common	East Suffolk Crag	No Data	No Data
Hindolveston	Norfolk Chalk	Exceptionally low	Exceptionally low
Kenninghall	Little Ouse Chalk	Below normal	Below normal
Linton	Cam Chalk	Below normal	Below normal
Newmarket	Snail Chalk	Below normal	Below normal

Old Primary School, South Creake	North Norfolk Chalk	No Data	No Data
Redlands Hall, Ickleton	Cam Chalk	Normal	Normal
Rook Hall, Braiseworth	East Suffolk Chalk	Below normal	Normal
Smeetham Hall Cottages, Bulmer	North Essex Chalk	Normal	Normal
The Spinney, Costessey	Wensum Chalk	Exceptionally low	Exceptionally low
Washpit Farm, Rougham	North West Norfolk Chalk	Below normal	Below normal
Therfield Rectory	Upper Lee Chalk	Above normal	Above normal
Fringford P.s.	Upper Bedford Ouse Oolitic Limestone (great)	Normal	Normal

9.4 Ensemble projections tables

9.4.1 Probabilistic ensemble projection of river flows at key sites in December 2025

Percentage of pie chart for each band

Site	Bedford Ouse	Kym	Ivel	Ouse	Ely Ouse
Exceptionally low	0	0	0	11	0
Notably low	18	42	0	31	50
Below normal	61	39	23	45	17
Normal	19	13	71	13	24
Above normal	2	6	5	0	6
Notably high	0	0	0	0	0
Exceptionally high	0	0	2	0	4

9.4.2 Probabilistic ensemble projection of river flows at key sites in March 2026

Percentage of pie chart for each band

Site	Bedford Ouse	Kym	Ivel	Ouse	Ely Ouse
Exceptionally low	18	8	6	23	17
Notably low	10	24	13	27	13
Below normal	24	2	18	19	17
Normal	34	39	40	21	37
Above normal	6	16	15	2	6
Notably high	8	11	3	8	7
Exceptionally high	0	0	5	0	4

9.4.3 Probabilistic ensemble projection of groundwater levels at key sites in March 2026

Percentage of pie chart for each band

Site	Therfield Rectory	Redlands Hall	Newmarket	Bircham Newton	Kenninghall	Bury St Edmunds	Smeetham
Exceptionally low	0.0	0.0	0.0	43.8	3.1	0.0	0.0
Notably low	0.0	9.4	3.1	32.8	53.1	3.1	15.6
Below normal	0.0	76.6	43.8	18.8	40.6	32.8	54.7
Normal	88.5	14.1	26.6	4.7	3.1	54.7	25.0
Above normal	6.6	0.0	10.9	0.0	0.0	4.7	3.1
Notably high	4.9	0.0	12.5	0.0	0.0	4.7	1.6
Exceptionally high	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

9.4.4 Probabilistic ensemble projection of groundwater levels at key sites in September 2026

Percentage of pie chart for each band

Site	Therfield Rectory	Redlands Hall	Newmarket	Bircham Newton	Kenninghall	Bury St Edmunds	Smeetham
Exceptionally low	0.0	12.5	0.0	31.3	12.5	0.0	0.0
Notably low	0.0	43.8	0.0	29.7	23.4	0.0	4.7
Below normal	1.6	18.8	60.9	20.3	17.2	25.0	40.6
Normal	88.5	17.2	34.4	18.8	42.2	70.3	46.9
Above normal	4.9	7.8	3.1	0.0	1.6	0.0	4.7
Notably high	4.9	0.0	1.6	0.0	3.1	3.1	3.1
Exceptionally high	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0