Monthly water situation report: East Anglia

1 Summary - December 2025

East Anglia rainfall for December 2025 ranged from 69% to 113% of the long term average for the month, with the wettest catchment being The Upper Bedford Ouse. The area soil moisture deficit reduced by 11mm from November 2025 to December 2025. For the majority of rivers, the flow for December 2025, when calculated as an average for the month was greater than the flow for November 2025. River flows ranged between 37% and 138% of the long term average. Groundwater levels have continued to increase with the majority of sites reporting an increase from November 2025 to December 2025. Public water supply reservoirs within East Anglia finished December 2025 with levels ranging from 54% to 86% of full storage capacity. Two reservoirs Alton and Ardleigh ended the month with levels at or above their respective normal operating curves.

1.1 Rainfall

December 2025 rainfall totals across East Anglia ranged from 69% to 113% of the long term average [LTA] for the month. The Upper Bedford Ouse recorded the highest rainfall totals of 72mm. Central Area Fenland and the NW Norfolk and Wissey catchments recorded the second highest rainfall totals of 51mm. The average rainfall across East Anglia for December 2025 was 47mm, which is 81% of the historic LTA and considered normal for the time of year. All catchments across East Anglia recorded normal rainfall in December 2025. Over the past 3 months' rainfall has been approximately average with most months receiving normal rainfall. November 2025 was an exceptionally wet month with Central Area Fenland receiving 11mm of rainfall which is 196% of the LTA.

1.2 Soil moisture deficit and recharge

The soil moisture deficit [SMD] for East Anglia at the end of December 2025 was 17mm. The SMD has continued to decrease from November 2025 at 28mm following normal rainfall in December 2025. SMD across East Anglia ranged from 10mm-40mm, with the Lower Bedford Ouse and Cam having the lowest soil moisture deficit in the East Anglia area.

1.3 River flows

Following average December rainfall in nearly all catchments, the majority of river flow report sites recorded increases in month mean flows from November to December 2025.Exceptions include the rivers Cam and Yare which saw a slight drop in flows from November to December. River flows ranged between, 37% and 138% of the LTA. Heacham recorded 37% of the LTA which is considered notably low for the time of year. The River Tove recorded

138% of the LTA which is considered above normal for the time of year. All other river flow report sites recorded normal or below normal flows for the time of year.

1.4 Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels have continued to increase with the majority of sites reporting an increase from November 2025 to December 2025. The majority of report sites ended December 2025 with groundwater levels categorised as normal or below normal for the time of year. Therfield Rectory, North Hertfordshire, 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

Public water supply reservoirs within East Anglia finished December 2025 with levels ranging from 54% to 86% of full storage capacity. Alton and Ardleigh reservoirs ended the month with levels at or above their respective normal operating curves. Grafham, Abberton 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

The river flow projections for the Bedford Ouse, show a higher probability of normal to below normal flow for March 2026. This probability is similar for Ely Ouse, Ivel and Ouse flow projections for March 2026. The Kym shows a higher probability of normal to notably low flow for March 2026. River flow projections for June 2026 show an approximate 50% or greater probability of normal flows at most forecast sites. The Ely Ouse shows greater than 50% probability of normal to below normal flows for June 2026..

1.6.2 Probabilistic ensemble projections for groundwater levels in key aquifers

The groundwater projection maps for March 2026 shows a high probability of below normal, notably low and exceptionally low ground water levels at most forecast sites. The Therfield Rectory groundwater level is predicted to be normal to above normal by March 2026. The groundwater projections for September 2026 give a high probability of most forecast sites having below normal or lower groundwater levels. Therfield Rectory is expected to stay within the normal range for September 2026.

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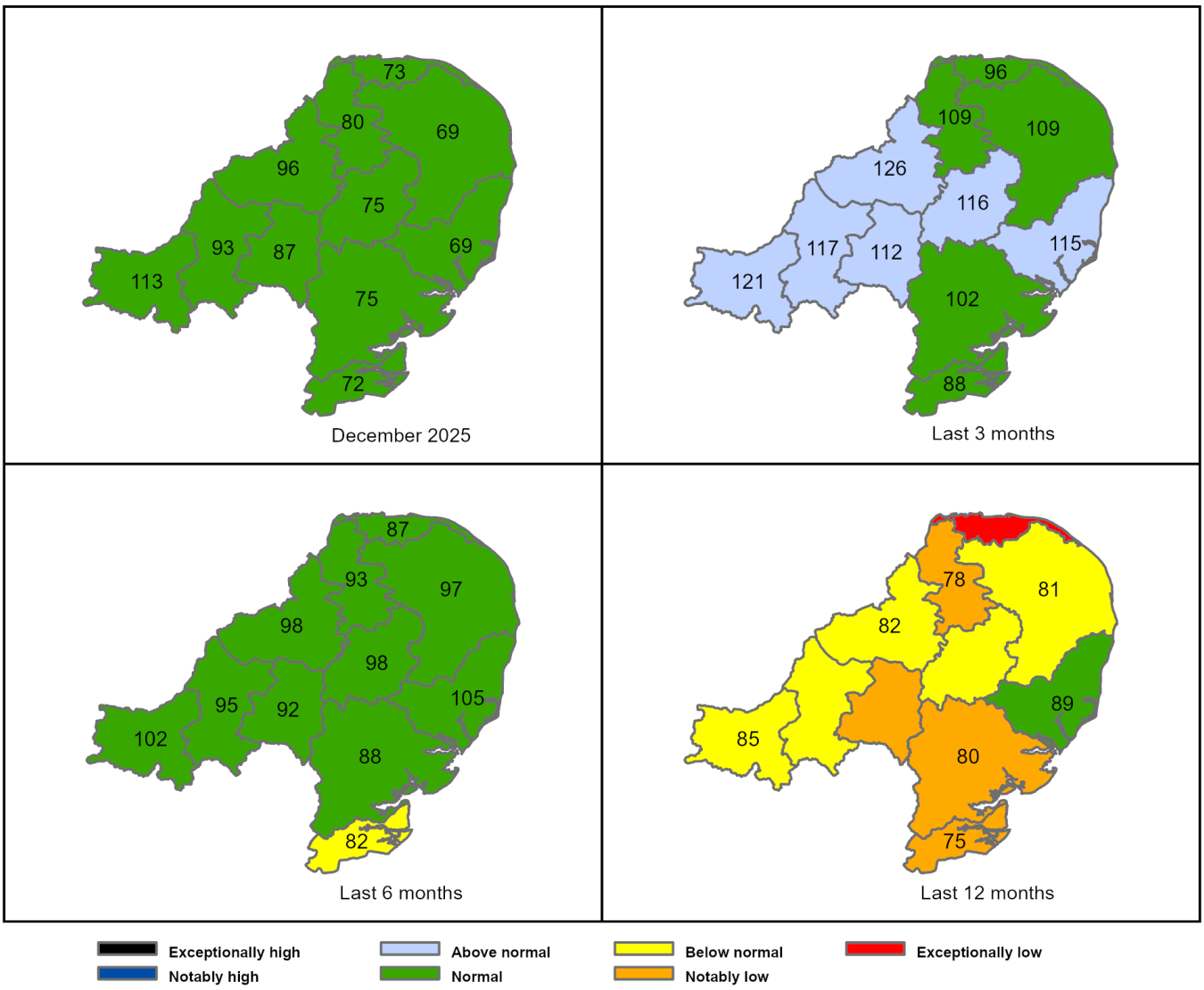
2 Rainfall

2.1 Rainfall map

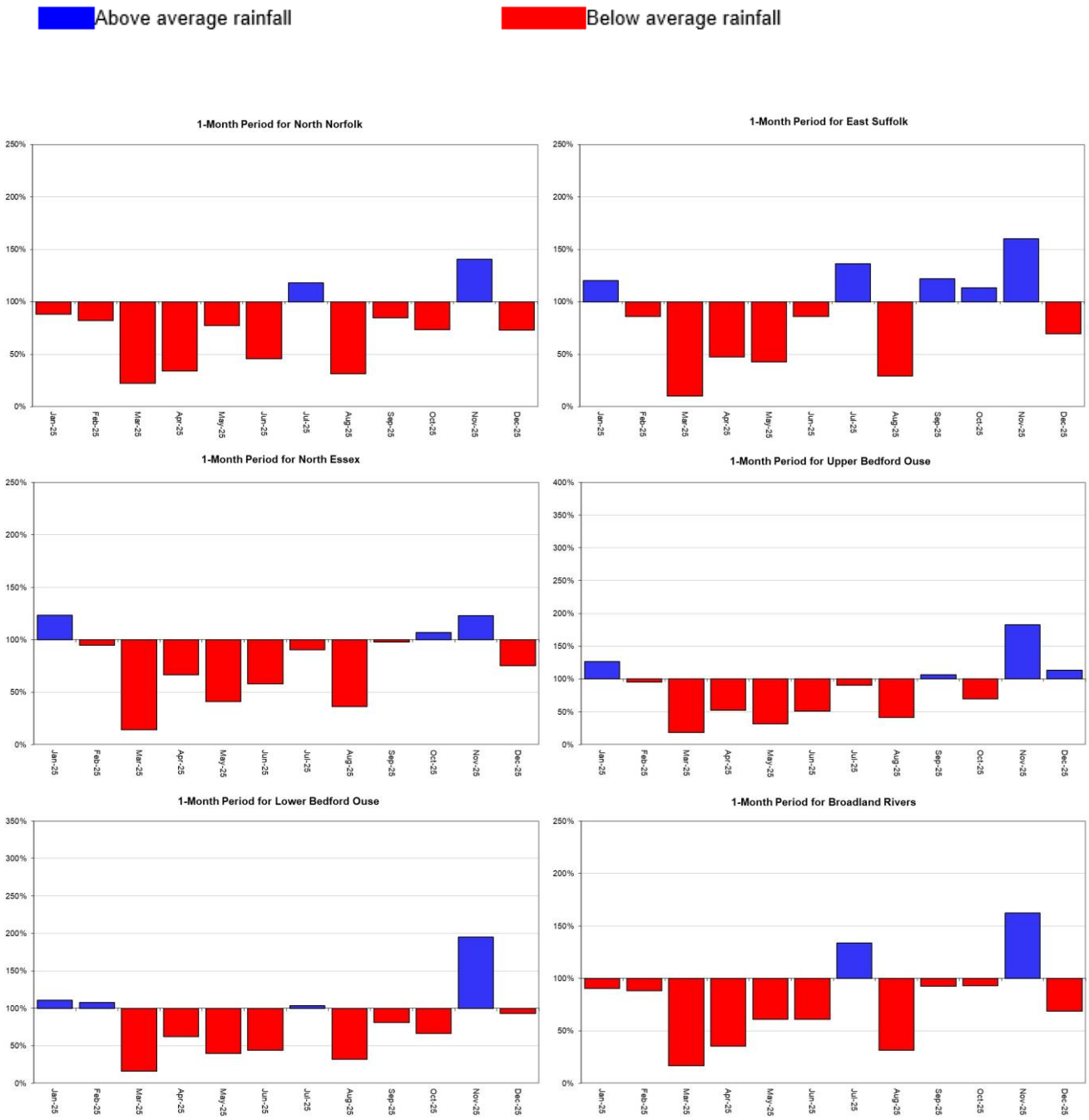
Figure 2.1: Total rainfall for hydrological areas across East Anglia, expressed as a percentage of long term average rainfall for the current month (up to 31 December 2025), the last 3 months, the last 6 months, and the last 12 months. Category classes are based on an analysis of respective historic totals. Table available in the appendices with detailed information.

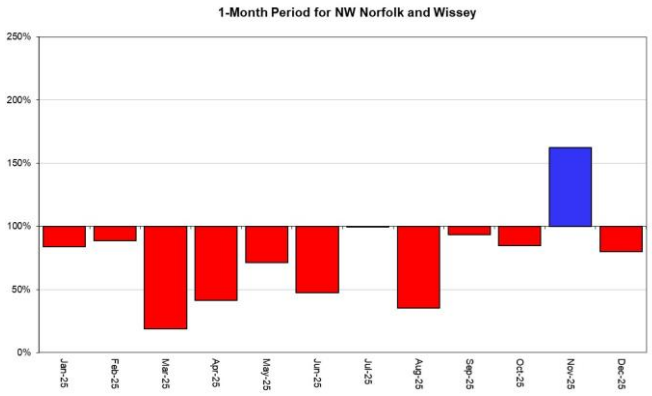


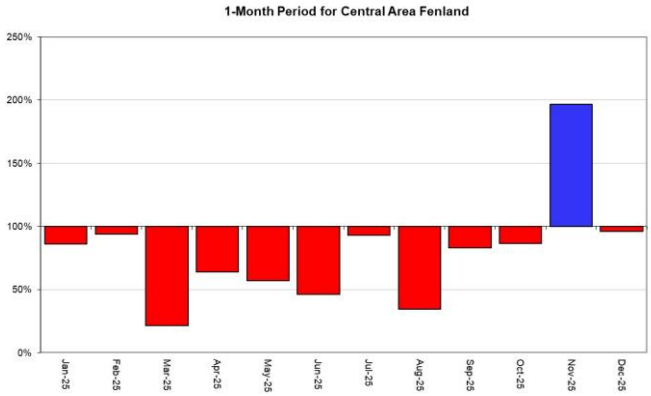
HadUK data based on the Met Office 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from rain gauges (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026). Provisional data based on Environment Agency 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from Environment Agency intensity rain gauges. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100024198, 2026.

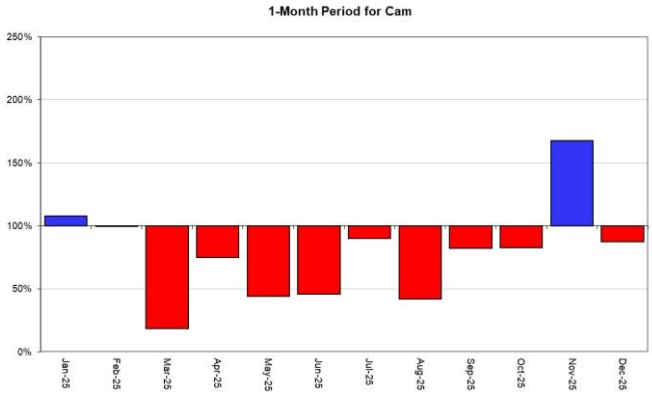
2.2 Rainfall charts

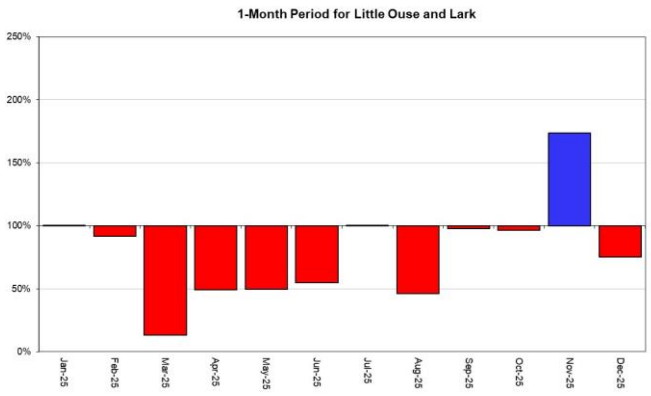
Figure 2.2: Monthly rainfall totals for the past 12 months as a percentage of the 1991 to 2020 long term average for each region and for England.

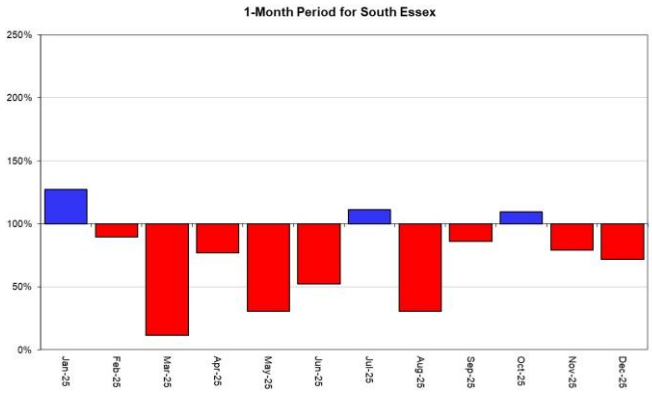






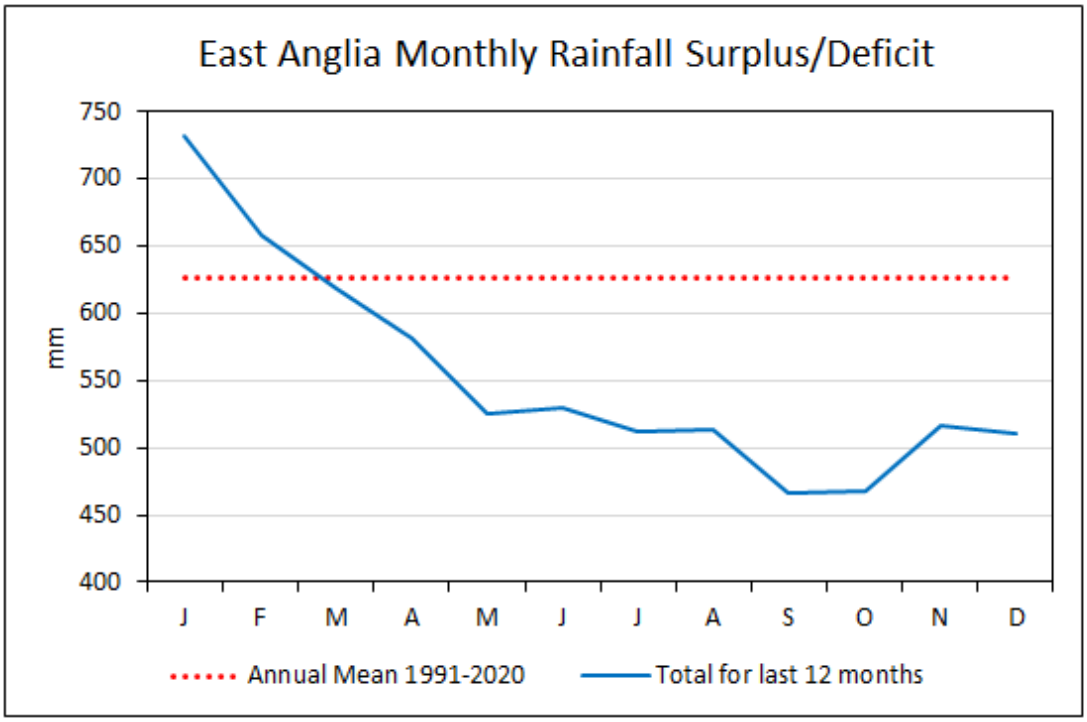






HadUK rainfall data. (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026).

2.3 Monthly rainfall surplus deficit chart



HadUK rainfall data. (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026).

3 Soil moisture deficit

3.1 Soil moisture deficit map

Figure 3.1: Soil moisture deficit values for 31 December 2025. Values based on the weekly MORECS data for real land use.

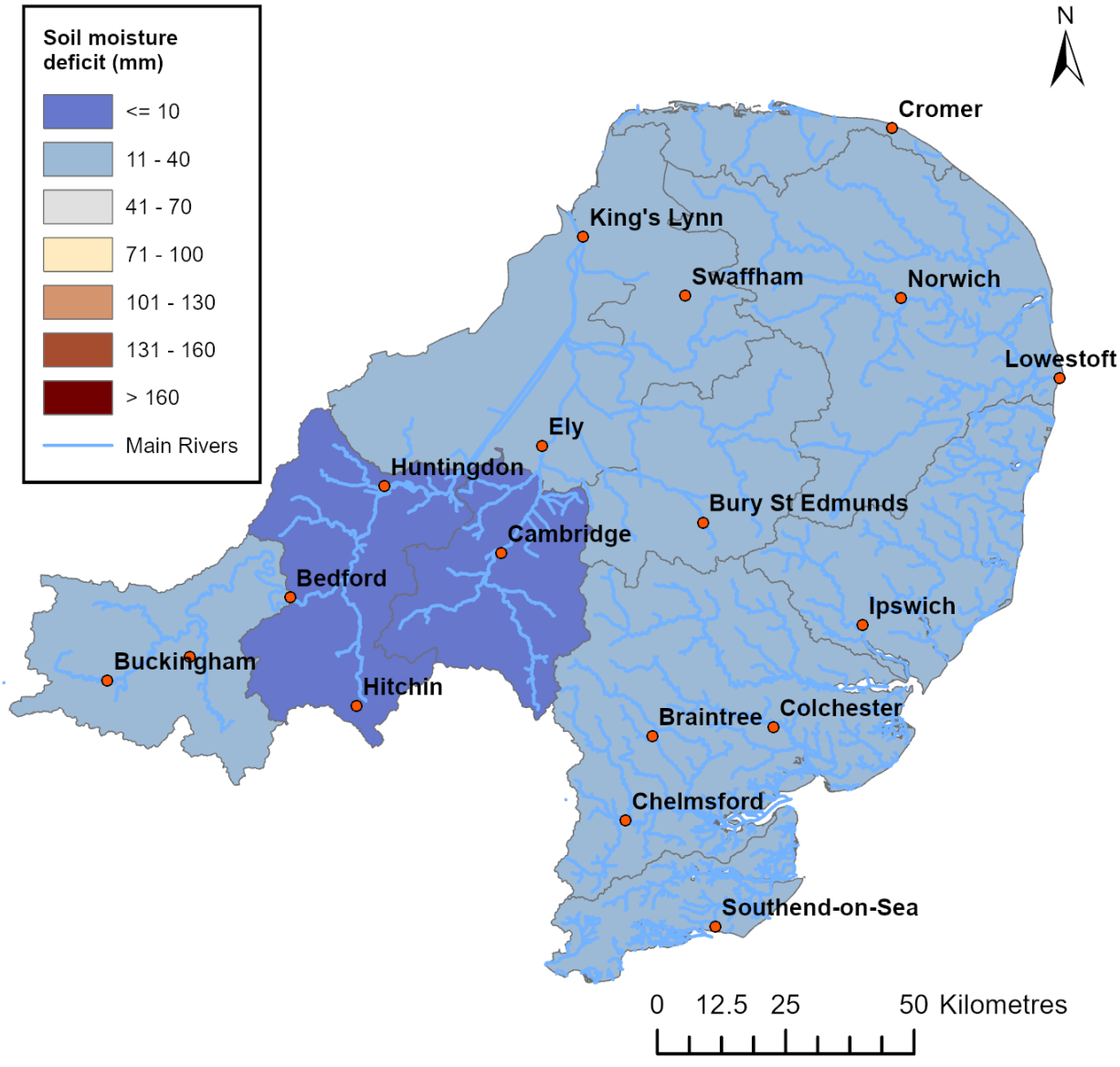
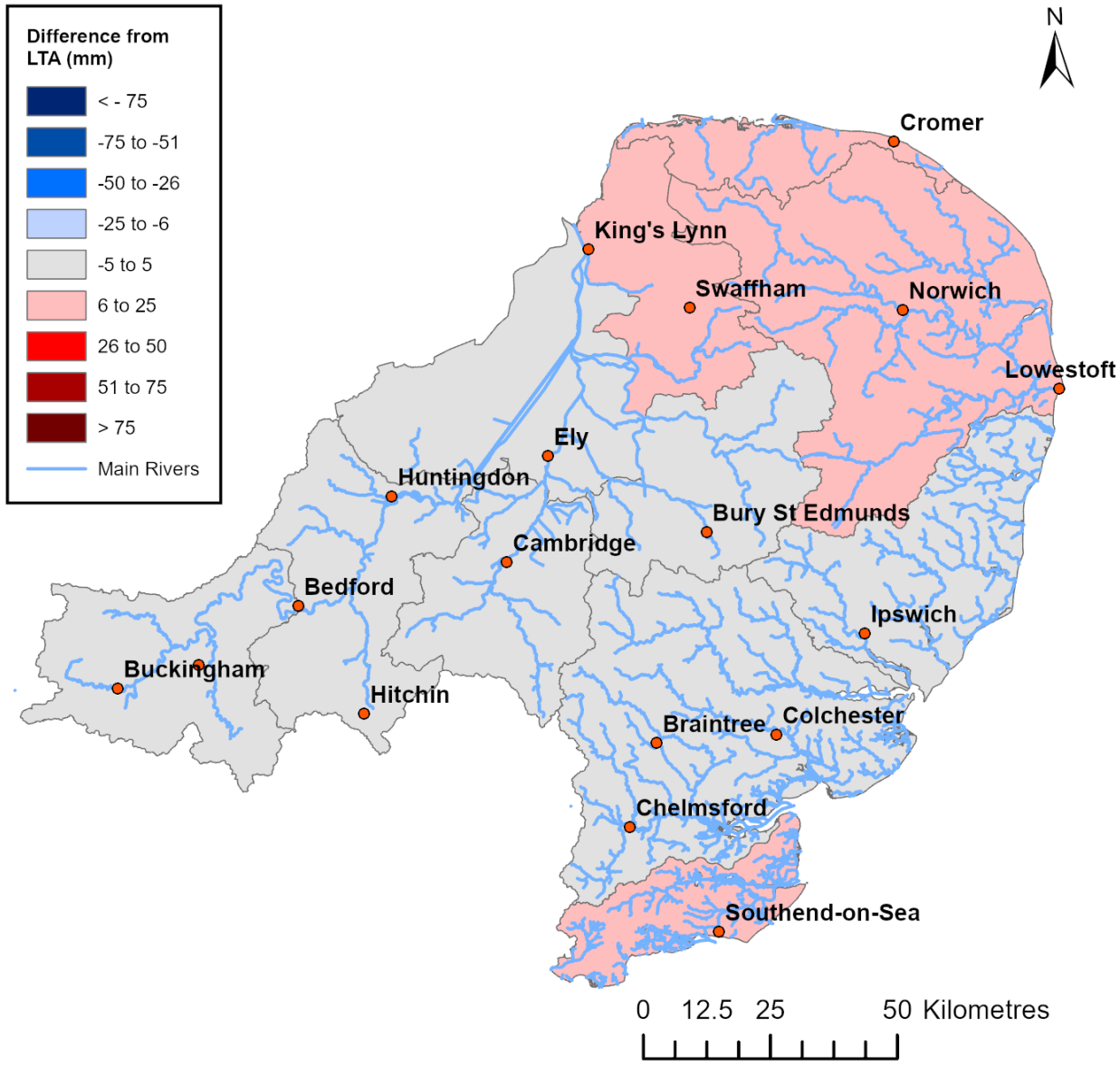
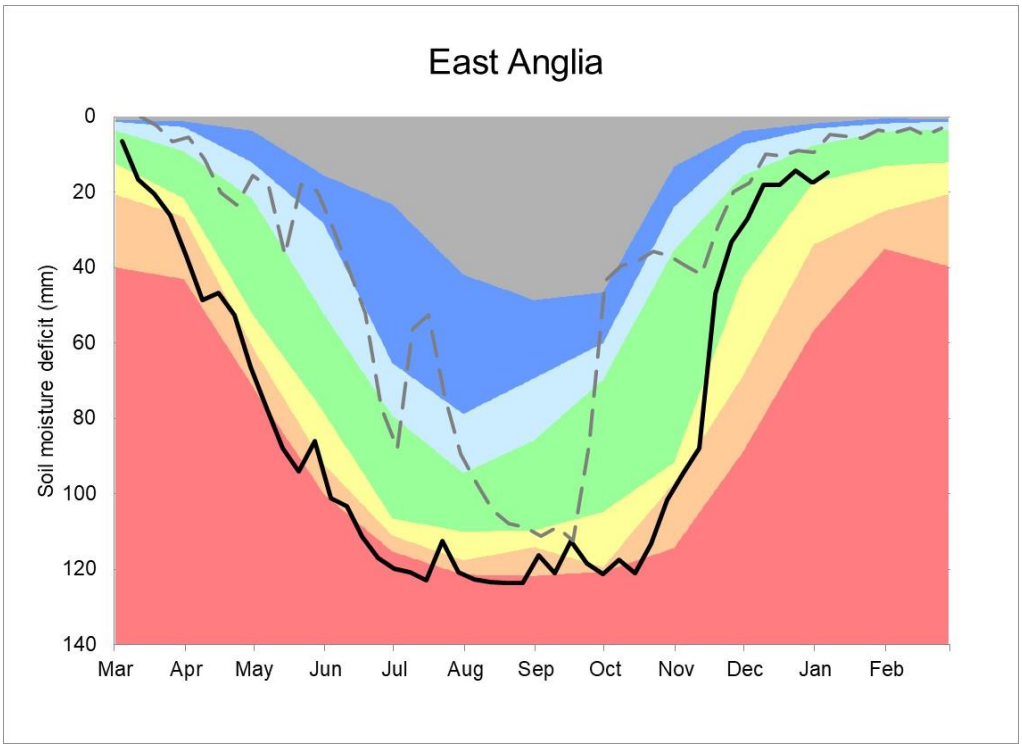


Figure 3.2: Difference between soil moisture deficit values for 31 December 2025 and the long term average soil moisture deficit values for the end of December. Values based on the weekly MORECS data for real land use.



3.2 Soil moisture deficit charts

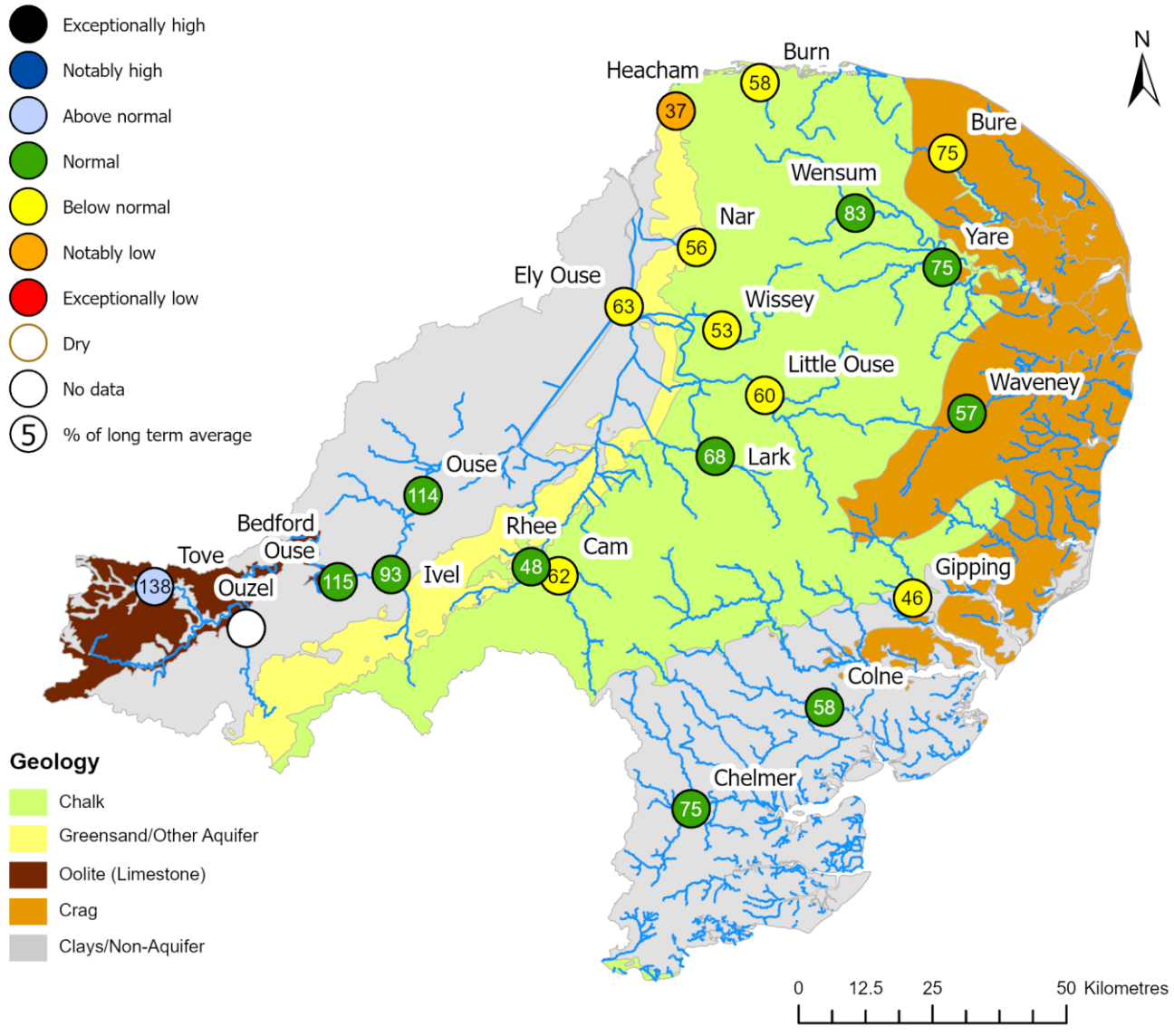
Figure 3.2: Latest soil moisture deficit compared to an analysis of historic 1991 to 2020 long term data set. Weekly MORECS data for real land use.



4 River flows

4.1 River flows map

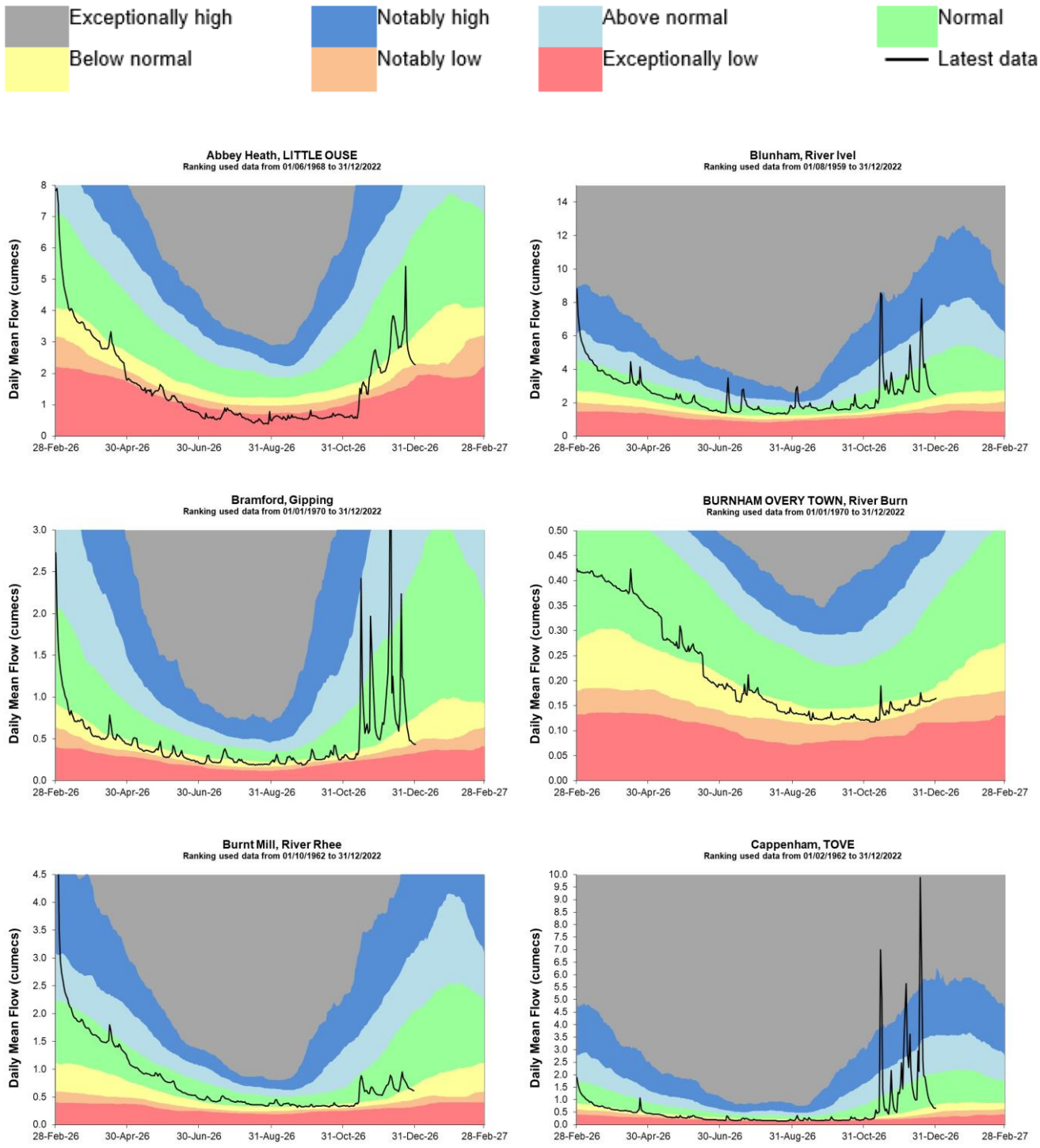
Figure 4.1: Monthly mean river flow for indicator sites for December 2025, expressed as a percentage of the respective long term average and classed relative to an analysis of historic December monthly means Table available in the appendices with detailed information.



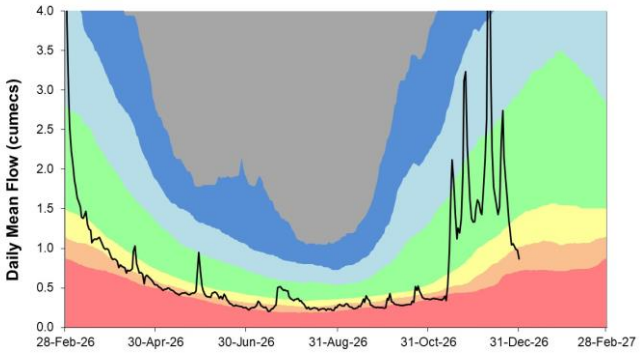
(Source: Environment Agency). Geological map reproduced with kind permission from UK Groundwater Forum, BGS copyright NERC. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100024198, 2026.

4.2 River flow charts

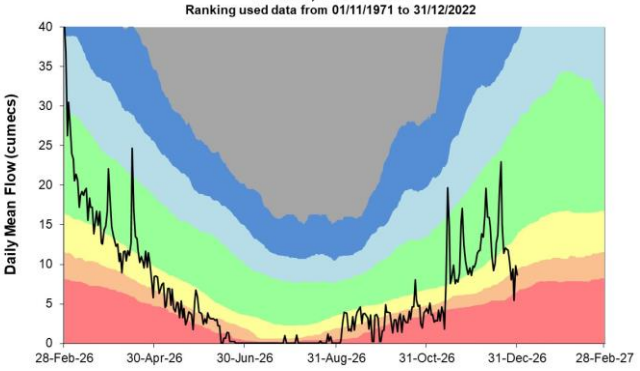
Figure 4.2: Daily mean river flow for index sites over the past year, compared to an analysis of historic daily mean flows, and long term maximum and minimum flows.



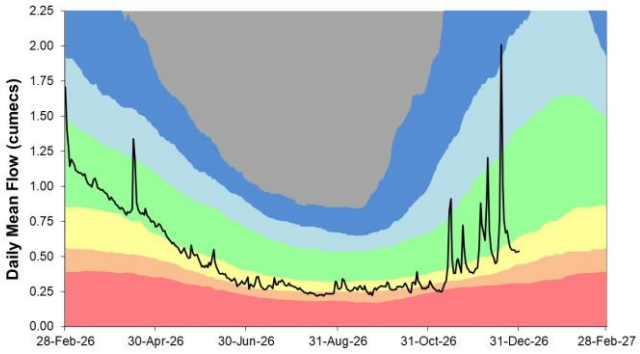
COLNEY, River Yare
Ranking used data from 01/01/1970 to 31/12/2022



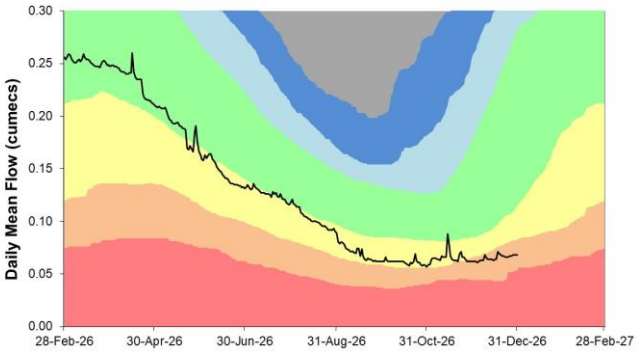
Denver, ELY OUSE
Ranking used data from 01/11/1971 to 31/12/2022



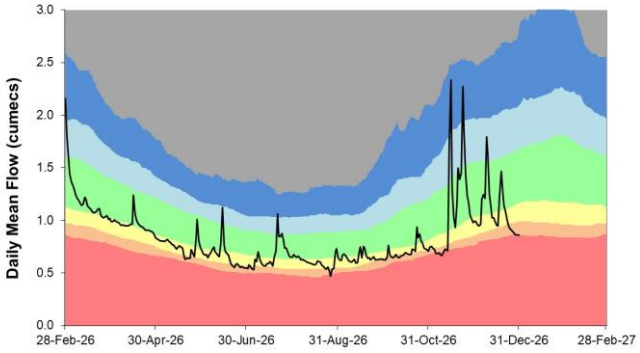
Dernford, CAM
Ranking used data from 21/02/1949 to 23/12/2022



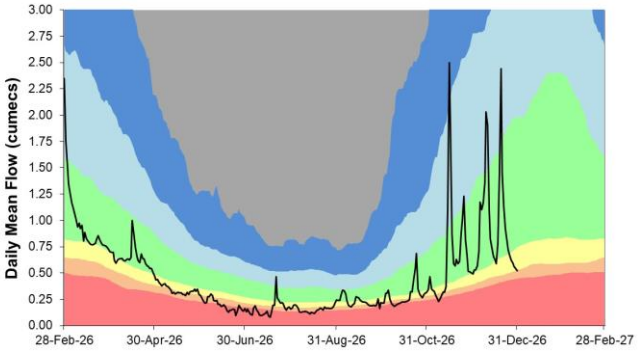
Heacham, HEACHAM
Ranking used data from 01/11/1965 to 31/12/2022



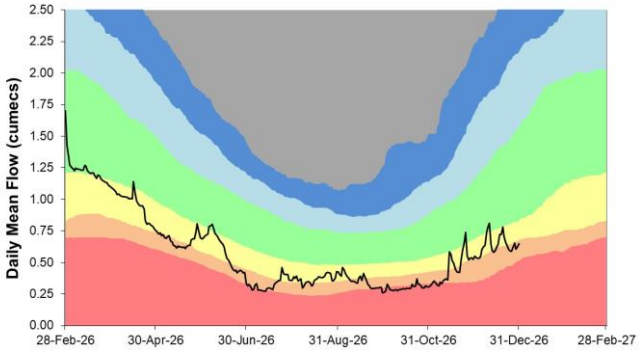
Ingworth, Bure
Ranking used data from 01/01/1970 to 31/12/2022



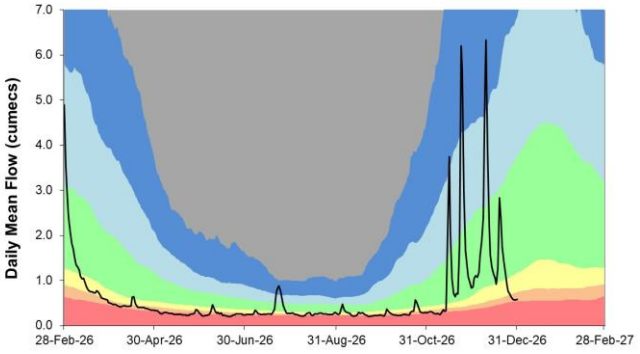
Lexden, Colne
Ranking used data from 01/01/1970 to 31/12/2022

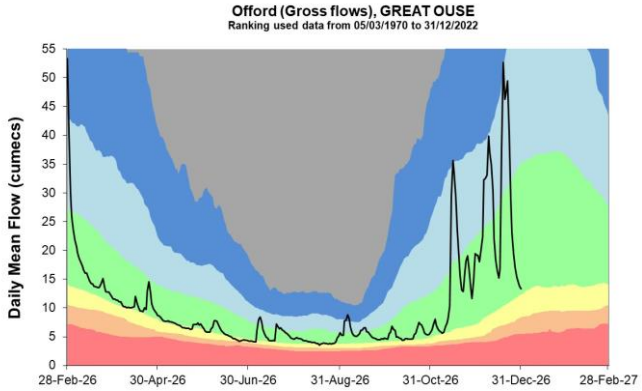


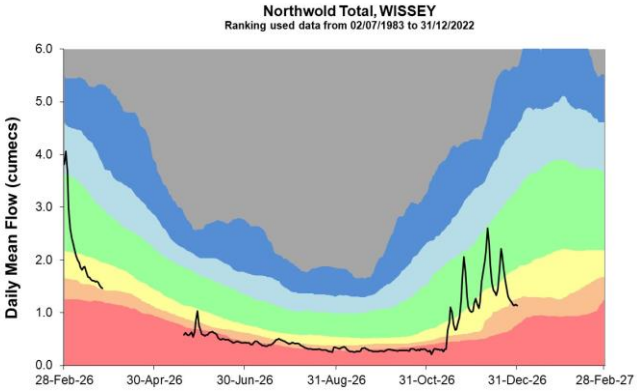
Marham, River Nar
Ranking used data from 01/09/1953 to 31/12/2022

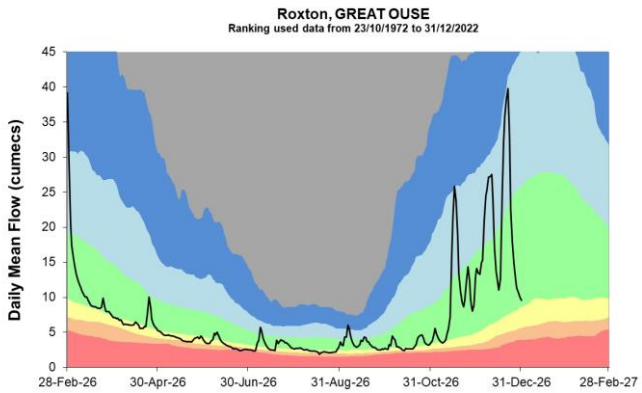


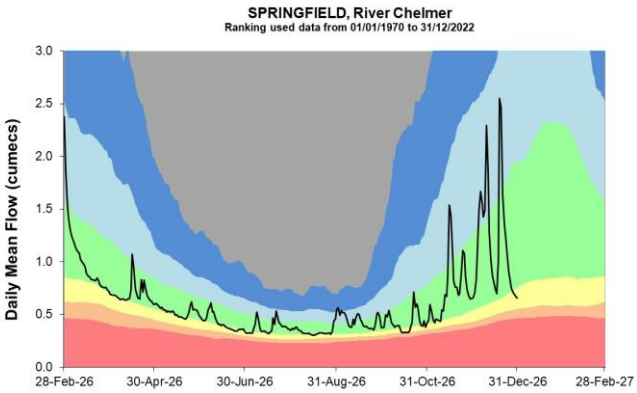
Needham Weir Total, Waveney
Ranking used data from 01/01/1970 to 31/12/2022

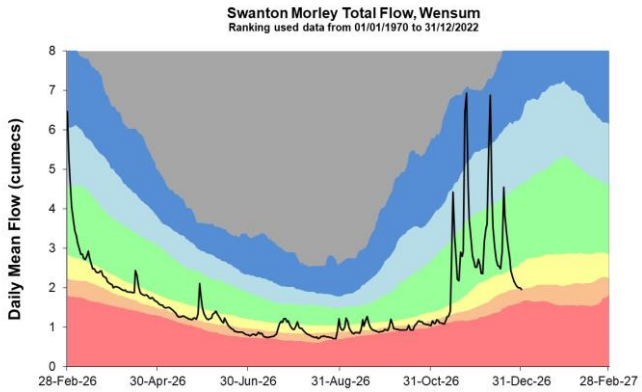


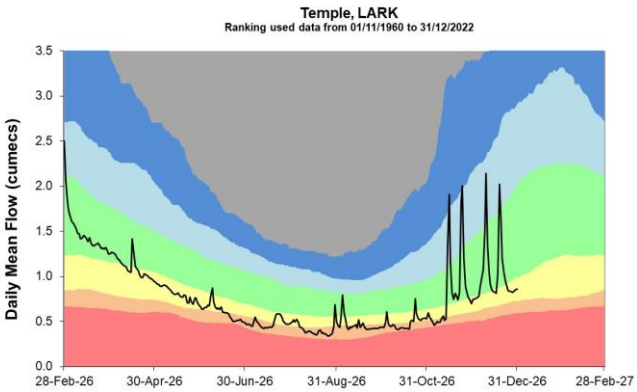


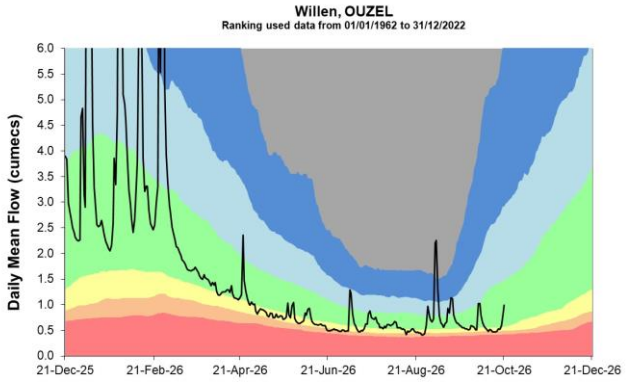










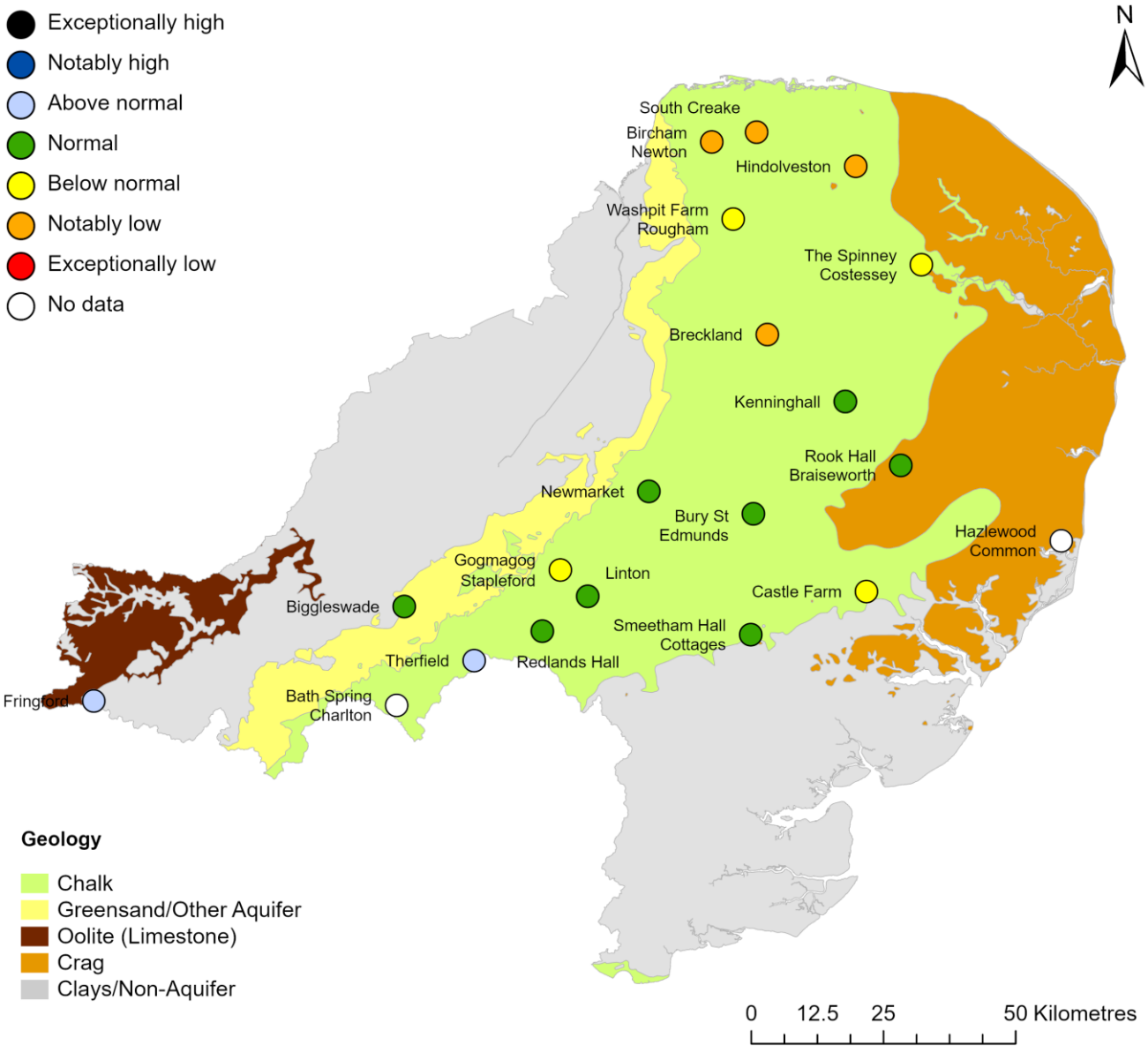


Source: Environment Agency.

5 Groundwater levels

5.1 Groundwater levels map

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



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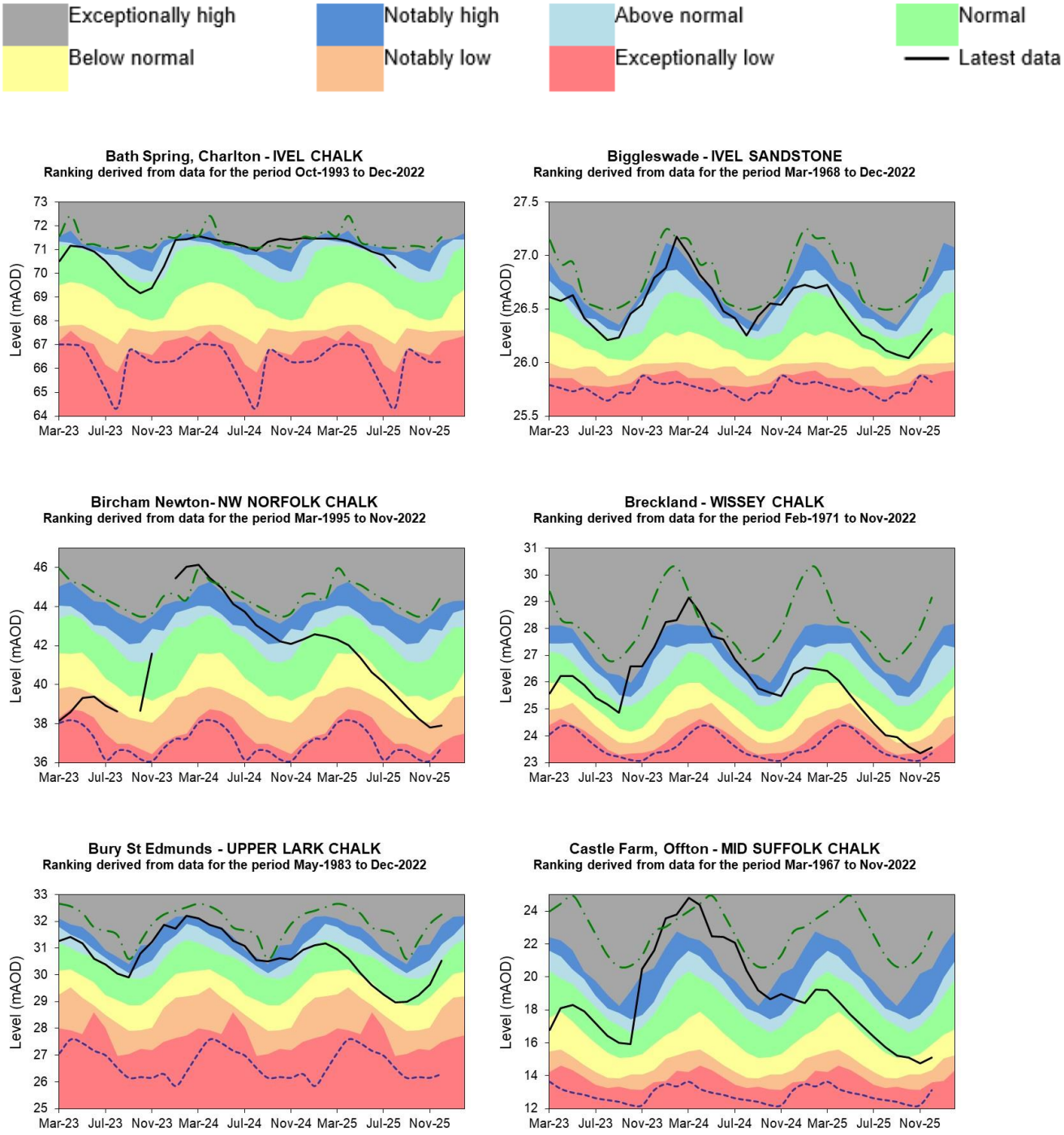
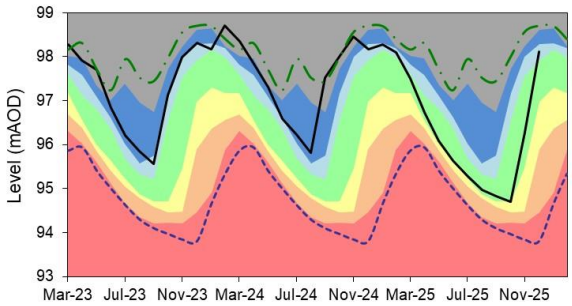
5.2 Groundwater level charts

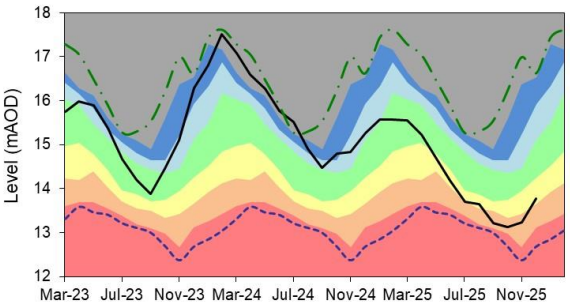
Figure 5.2: End of month groundwater levels at index groundwater level sites for major aquifers. 22 months compared to an analysis of historic end of month levels and long term maximum and minimum levels.



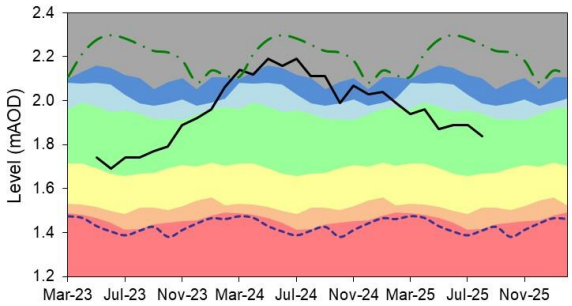
Fringford - GREAT OOLITE
Ranking derived from data for the period Sep-1980 to Dec-2022



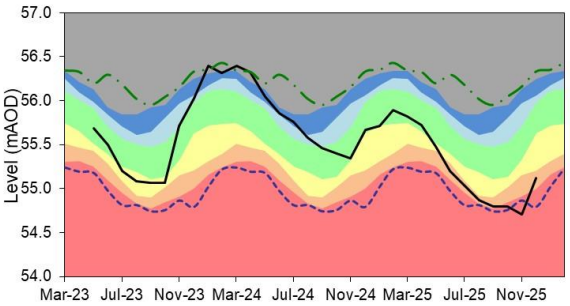
Gog Magog, Stapleford - CAM CHALK
Ranking derived from data for the period Jan-1980 to Dec-2022



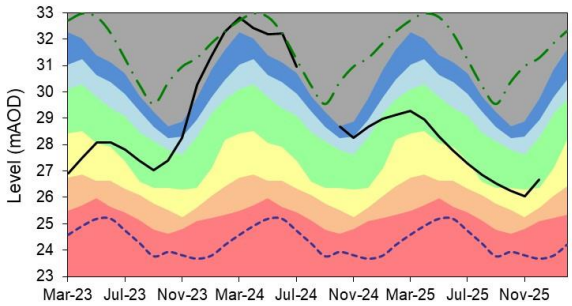
Hazlewood Common - SUFFOLK CRAG
Ranking derived from data for the period Oct-1988 to Nov-2022



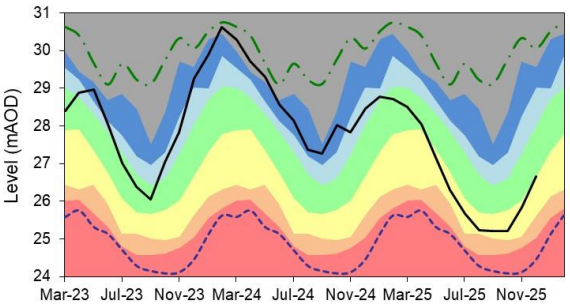
Hindolveston - NORFOLK CHALK
Ranking derived from data for the period Sep-1984 to Nov-2022



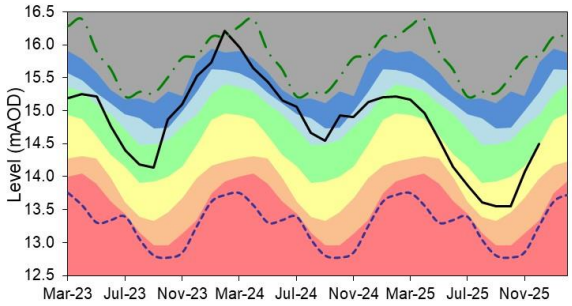
Kenninghall - LITTLE OUSE CHALK
Ranking derived from data for the period Aug-1973 to Dec-2022



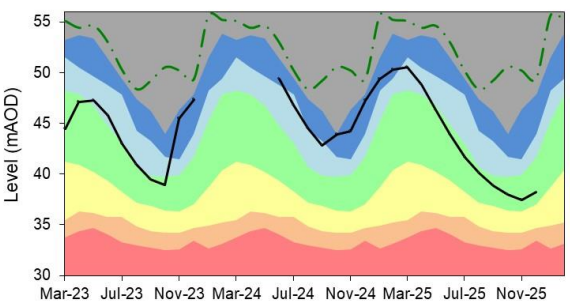
Linton- CAM CHALK
Ranking derived from data for the period Jan-1980 to Dec-2022

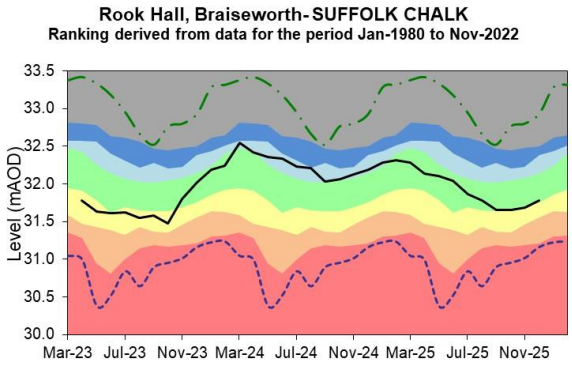


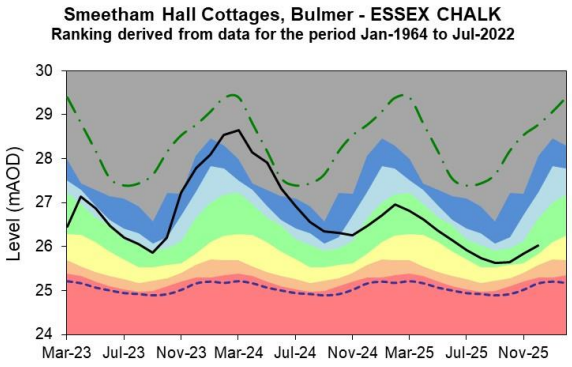
Newmarket - SNAIL CHALK
Ranking derived from data for the period Feb-1983 to Dec-2022

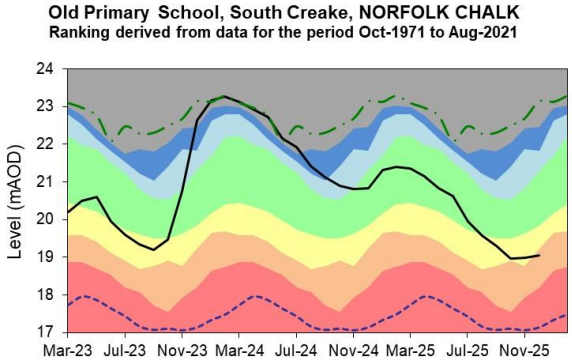


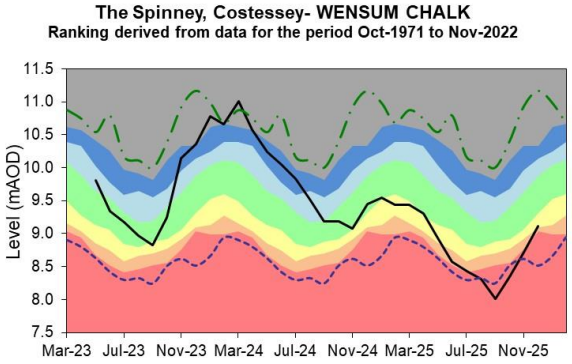
Redlands Hall, Ickleton - CAM CHALK
Ranking derived from data for the period Aug-1963 to Dec-2022

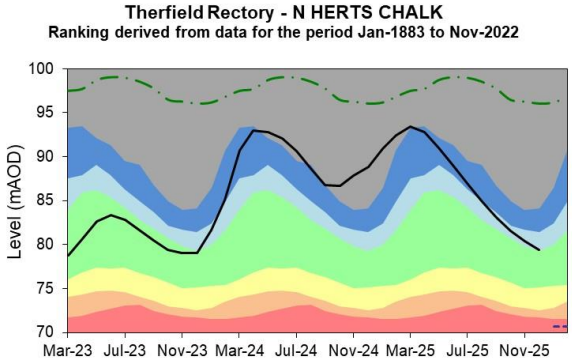


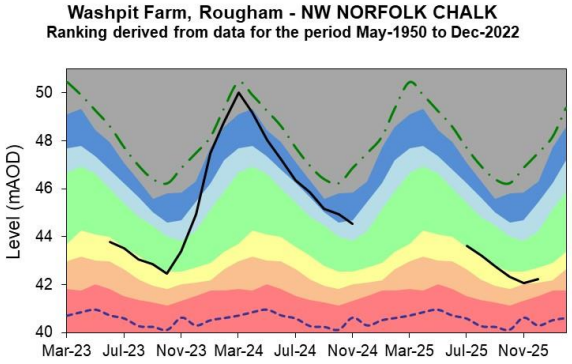








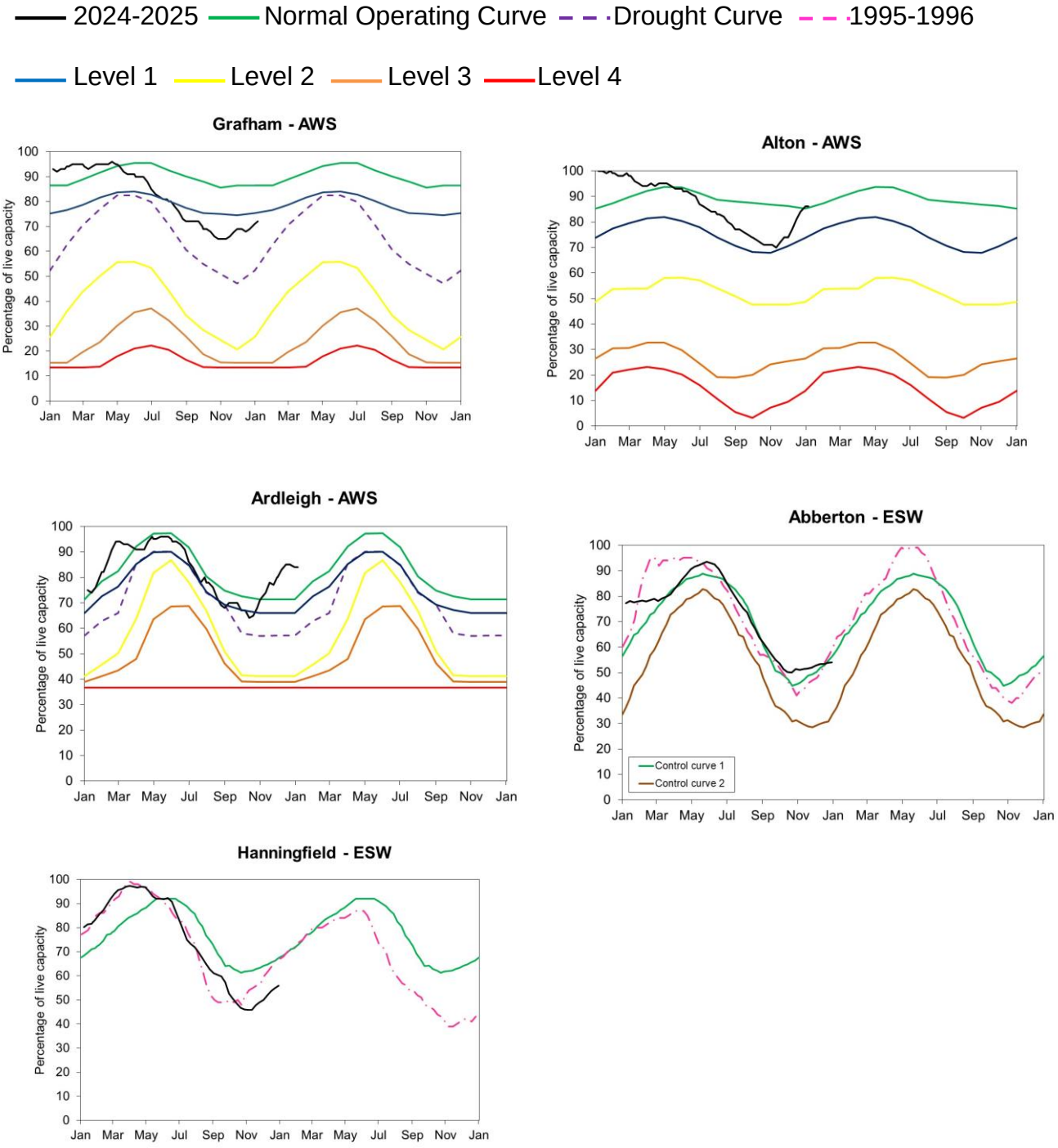




Source: Environment Agency, 2026.

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.

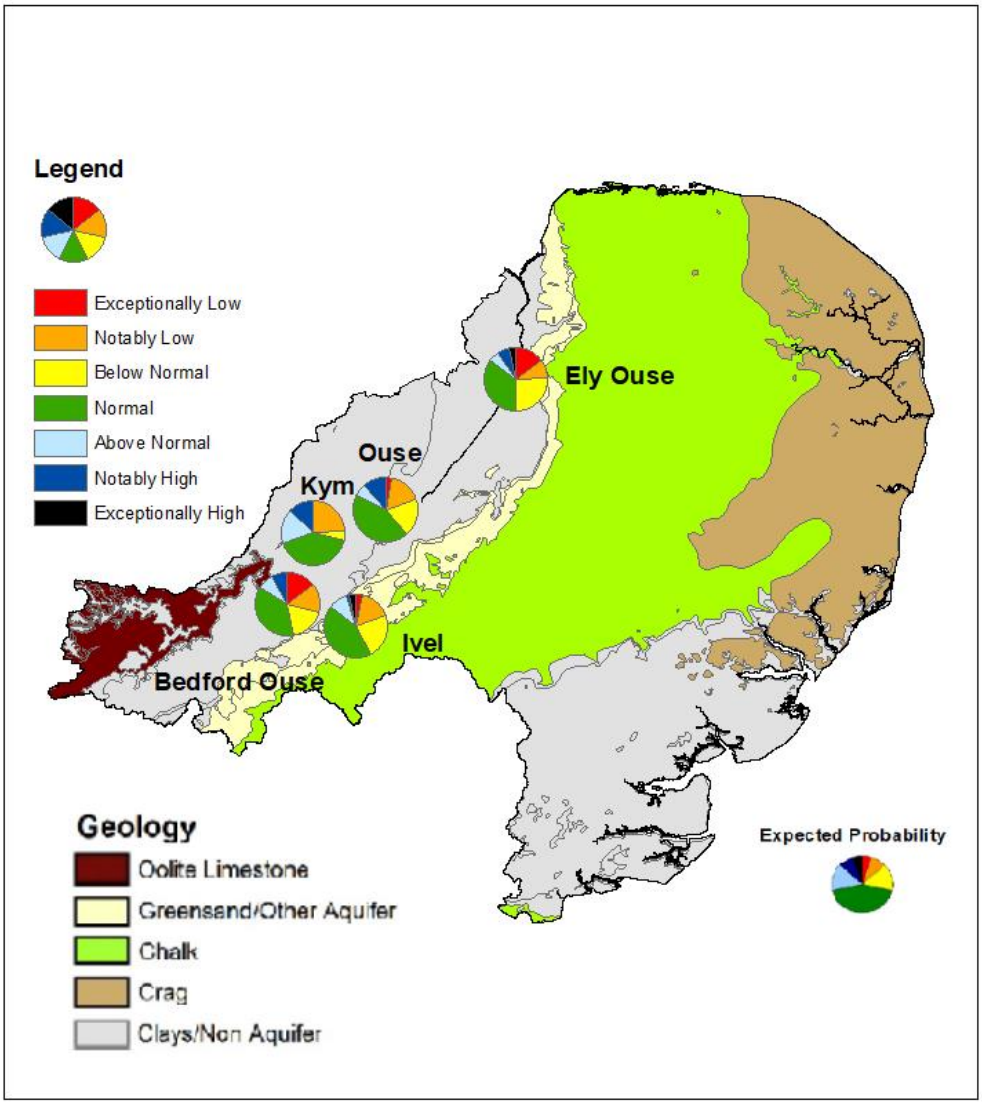


(Source: water companies. For more information on Anglian Water's reservoir level curves, please see Appendix 4 in their Drought Plan).

7 Forward look

7.1 Probabilistic ensemble projection of river flows at key sites in 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, 2026.

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

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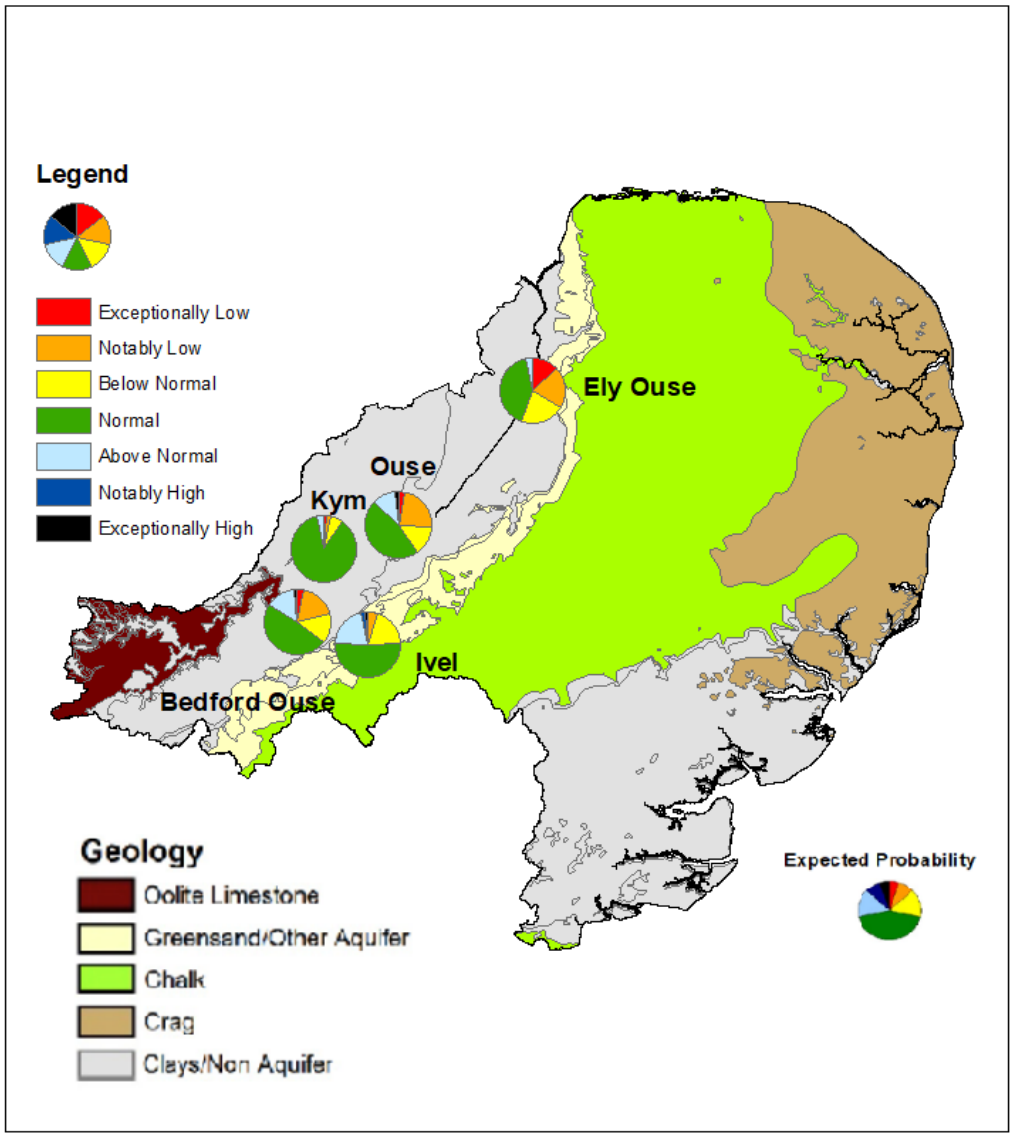
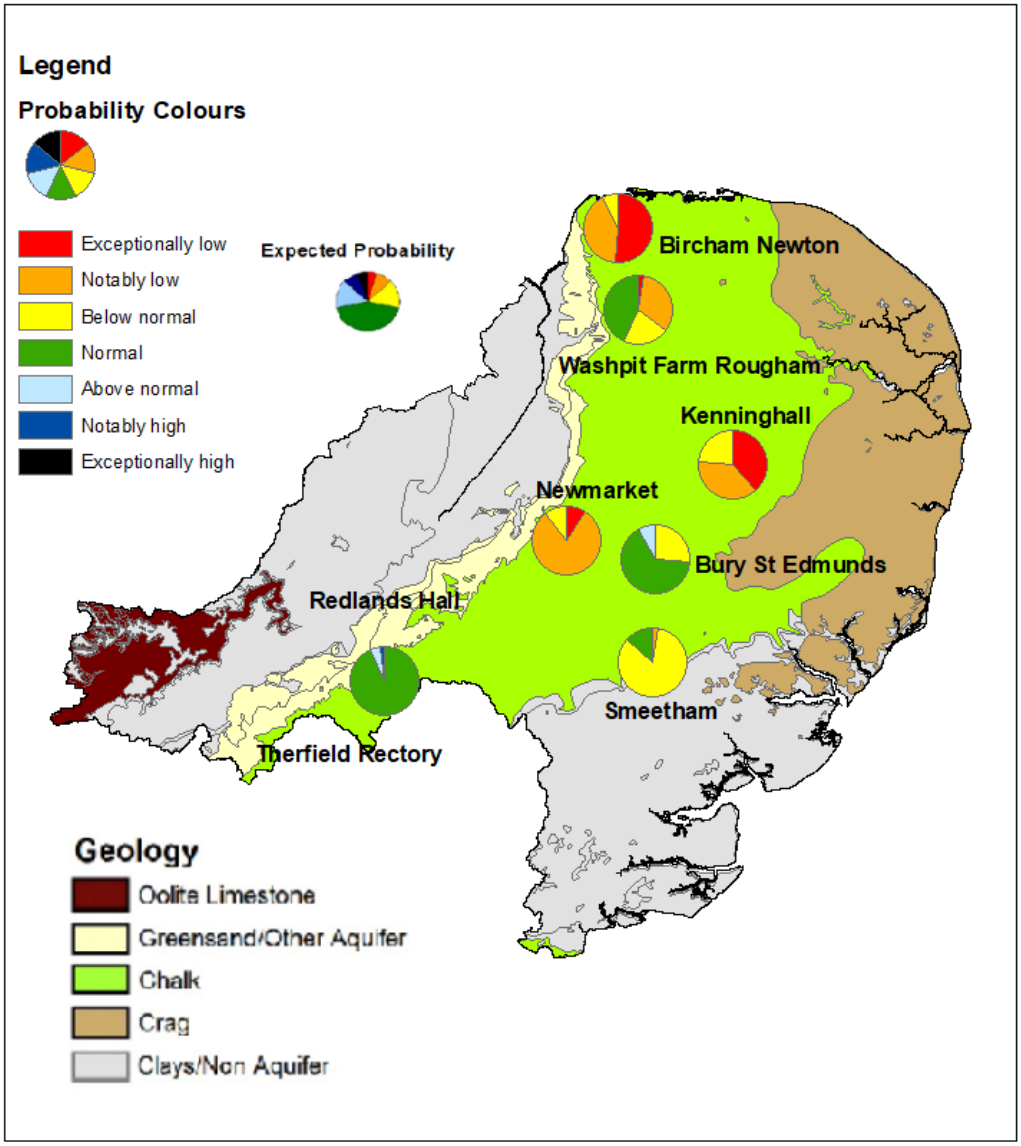


Pie charts indicate probability, based on climatology, of the surface water flow at each site being, for example, exceptionally low for the time of year. (Source: Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Environment Agency) Geological map reproduced with kind permission from UK Groundwater Forum, BGS © NERC. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2026

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

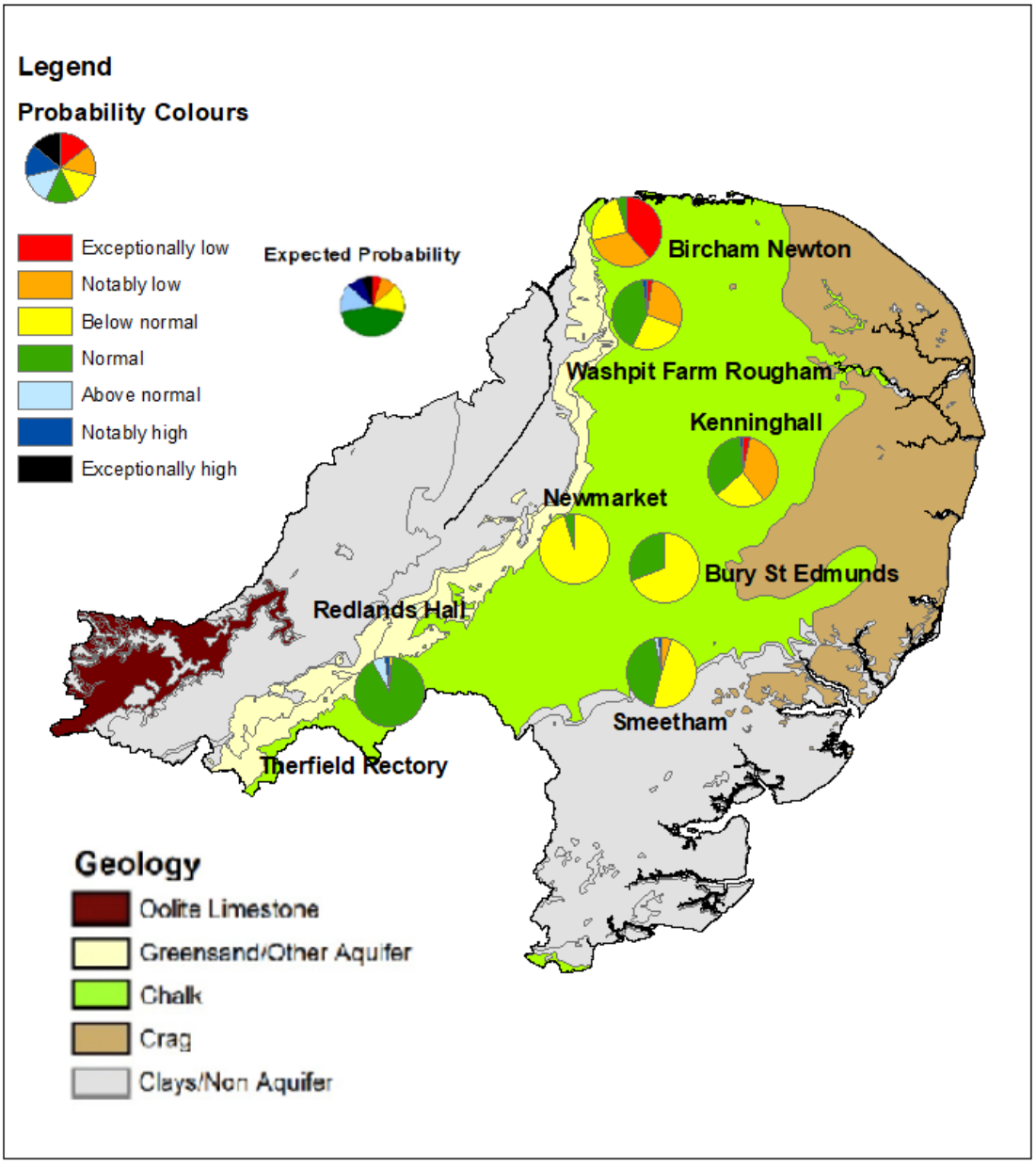
Table available in the appendices with detailed information. Exceptionally high or low levels are those which would typically occur 5% of the time within the historic record. Notably high or low levels are those which would typically occur 8% of the time. Above normal or below normal levels are those 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) Geological map reproduced with kind permission from UK Groundwater Forum, BGS © NERC. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2026

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	Dec 2025 rainfall % of long term average 1991 to 2020	Dec 2025 band	Oct 2025 to December cumulative band	Jul 2025 to December cumulative band	Jan 2025 to December cumulative band
Broadland Rivers	69	Normal	Normal	Normal	Below normal
Cam	87	Normal	Above normal	Normal	Notably low
Central Area Fenland	96	Normal	Above normal	Normal	Below normal
East Suffolk	69	Normal	Above normal	Normal	Normal
Little Ouse And Lark	75	Normal	Above normal	Normal	Below normal
Lower Bedford Ouse	93	Normal	Above normal	Normal	Below normal
North Essex	75	Normal	Normal	Normal	Notably low
North Norfolk	73	Normal	Normal	Normal	Exceptionally low
Nw Norfolk And Wissey	80	Normal	Normal	Normal	Notably low
South Essex	72	Normal	Normal	Below normal	Notably low

Upper Bedford Ouse	113	Normal	Above normal	Normal	Below normal

9.2 River flows table

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

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

9.3 Groundwater table

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

Old Primary School, South Creake	North Norfolk Chalk	Notably low	Below normal
Redlands Hall, Ickleton	Cam Chalk	Normal	Normal
Rook Hall, Braiseworth	East Suffolk Chalk	Normal	Below normal
Smeetham Hall Cottages, Bulmer	North Essex Chalk	Normal	Normal
The Spinney, Costessey	Wensum Chalk	Below normal	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)	Above normal	Normal

9.4 Ensemble projections tables

9.4.1 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	Stiffkey	Gipping
Exceptionally low	15	0	3	3	15	No data	No data
Notably low	15	24	16	16	9	No data	No data
Below normal	18	5	23	19	26	No data	No data
Normal	37	40	44	44	35	No data	No data
Above normal	8	18	10	6	6	No data	No data
Notably high	8	13	2	11	6	No data	No data
Exceptionally high	0	0	3	0	4	No data	No data

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

Percentage of pie chart for each band

Site	Bedford Ouse	Kym	Ivel	Ouse	Ely Ouse	Stiffkey	Gipping
Exceptionally low	3	2	0	3	13	No data	No data
Notably low	18	2	5	23	20	No data	No data
Below normal	15	6	19	15	22	No data	No data
Normal	48	87	52	47	41	No data	No data
Above normal	15	3	21	11	4	No data	No data
Notably high	0	0	2	0	0	No data	No data
Exceptionally high	2	0	2	2	0	No data	No data

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	Washpit Farm	Bircham Newton	Kenninghall	Bury St Edmunds	Smeetham
Exceptionally low	0.0	No data	9.2	No data	50.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Notably low	0.0	No data	80.0	No data	41.5	61.5	0.0	3.1
Below normal	0.0	No data	10.8	No data	7.7	38.5	26.2	83.1
Normal	93.4	No data	0.0	No data	0.0	0.0	66.2	13.8
Above normal	4.9	No data	0.0	No data	0.0	0.0	7.7	0.0
Notably high	1.6	No data	0.0	No data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Exceptionally high	0.0	No data	0.0	No data	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	Washpit Farm	Bircham Newton	Kenninghall	Bury St Edmunds	Smeetham
Exceptionally low	0.0	No data	0.0	No data	38.5	3.1	0.0	0.0
Notably low	0.0	No data	0.0	No data	32.3	36.9	0.0	4.6
Below normal	1.6	No data	95.4	No data	24.6	23.1	69.2	49.2
Normal	90.2	No data	4.6	No data	4.6	35.4	30.8	43.1
Above normal	6.6	No data	0.0	No data	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5
Notably high	1.6	No data	0.0	No data	0.0	1.5	0.0	1.5
Exceptionally high	0.0	No data	0.0	No data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0