Monthly water situation report: Midlands

1 Summary - December 2025

Please see Section 7.3 for a map detailing the Midlands regional coverage of this report.

Rainfall - In December, 9 sites recorded above normal rainfall totals and 3 recorded normal rainfall totals compared to the long term average (LTA).

Soil moisture deficit - Soil moisture deficit (SMD) across the Midlands has increased in December, meaning soils have become drier than their LTA for the time of year.

River flows - In December, 2 sites in the Midlands recorded exceptionally high flow totals compared to their LTA, with all other sites above normal and notably high.

Groundwater levels - As of the end of December, all sites recorded normal or higher groundwater levels compared to the LTA with Rider Point recording exceptionally high groundwater levels

Reservoir stocks - By the end of December, 1 reservoir recorded average storage level, 3 recorded below average storage levels and the rest recorded above average storage levels compared to the LTA.

1.1 Rainfall

In December, 9 of the Midlands hydrological catchments received above normal amounts of rainfall between 114% and 134% of rainfall compared to their LTA. These were Lower Trent, Soar, Derwent, Upper Trent, Shropshire Plains, Avon, Lower Severn and Lower Wye. The other 3 catchments largely situated in the west of the Midlands, received normal rainfall totals, between 93% to 113% of their LTA. These were situated in a band stretching from the north west of the Midlands to the centre.

Over the last 3 months, 7 catchments received notably high rainfall totals compared to their LTA. These catchments received between 125% to 140% of rainfall compared to their LTA. Two catchments received exceptionally high rainfall totals compared to their LTA while the remaining 3 received above normal rainfall totals compared to their LTA.

Over the last 6 months, 6 sites recorded normal rainfall totals compared to their LTA. These catchments received between 103% to 107% of their LTA. Four other catchments recorded above normal rainfall totals. They received between 109% to 120% of their LTA. The Derwent and Dove catchments in the north-east received notable high rainfall totals at 118% compared to their LTA.

Over the past year, 8 catchments largely in the north-east and south-west received normal rainfall totals compared to the LTA. The other 4 catchments in the central Midlands received below normal rainfall totals.

1.2 Soil moisture deficit and recharge

SMD across the Midlands in December has increased since last month, meaning soils have become drier. All of the hydrological catchments recorded SMD value of <=10. Besides Lower Trent that recorded a difference between -25 to -6mm of the LTA, all other catchments in the Midlands, recorded a difference between -5 to 5mm from their LTAs.

1.3 River flows

In December, 2 sites recorded exceptionally high monthly mean flows, receiving between 201% to 227% of their LTA. These were Deerhurst and Ebley Mill. Six other sites recorded above normal monthly mean flows, receiving between 141% to 159% of their LTA. These were Llanyblodwell, Marston on Dove, Kegworth, Redbrook, Clifton and Whatstandwell. The rest of the sites recorded notably high monthly mean flows ranging from 121% to 185% of the LTA.

Wedderburn Bridge has been showing unreliable data from September 2024 onwards, therefore, data has been removed from this report. Due to current issues with recording at low flows affecting Deerhurst, data for Haw Bridge was used in place of Deerhurst.

1.4 Groundwater levels

At the end of December, 3 sites in the north-east of Midlands recorded above normal groundwater levels compared to their LTA. These were Coxmoor, Southards Lane and Crossley Hill. Rider Point recorded exceptionally high groundwater levels compared to its LTA. Weir Farm recorded notably high groundwater levels compared to its LTA. Four sites recorded normal groundwater levels compared to their LTA. These were Four Crosses, Ram Hall, St Mary’s Church and Anthony’s Cross.

1.5 Reservoir stocks

By the end of December, 7 of the Midlands reservoirs had above average storage compared to the LTA. They ranged between 80% at Draycote to 100% at Blithfield and Tittesworth. Three reservoirs had below average storage compared to the LTA. These were Dove and Carsington and Ogston. Storage levels for these reservoirs ranged from 63% at Dove to 75% at Carsington and Ogston. Clywedog reservoir had average storage compared to its LTA at 84%.

1.6 Environmental impact

Both the West Midlands and East Midlands moved into recovery incident status on 8 December 2025. We continue to work with water companies and other abstractors to manage water resources.

1.7 River Severn operations

The River Severn is regulated to maintain a minimum flow at Bewdley gauging station. This ensures sufficient water flows along the river to support environmental and water supply requirements. Regulation is instigated when flows drop below a threshold.

1.8 River Wye operations

Throughout December, flows at Redbrook were above the regulation threshold. Therefore, regulation releases were not in operation during November.

1.9 Water abstraction restrictions

As of 31 December 2025 there were 6 water abstraction licence restrictions in place across the Midlands affecting 5 licences in total.

Please refer to the appendices for a full list of water abstraction licence restrictions.

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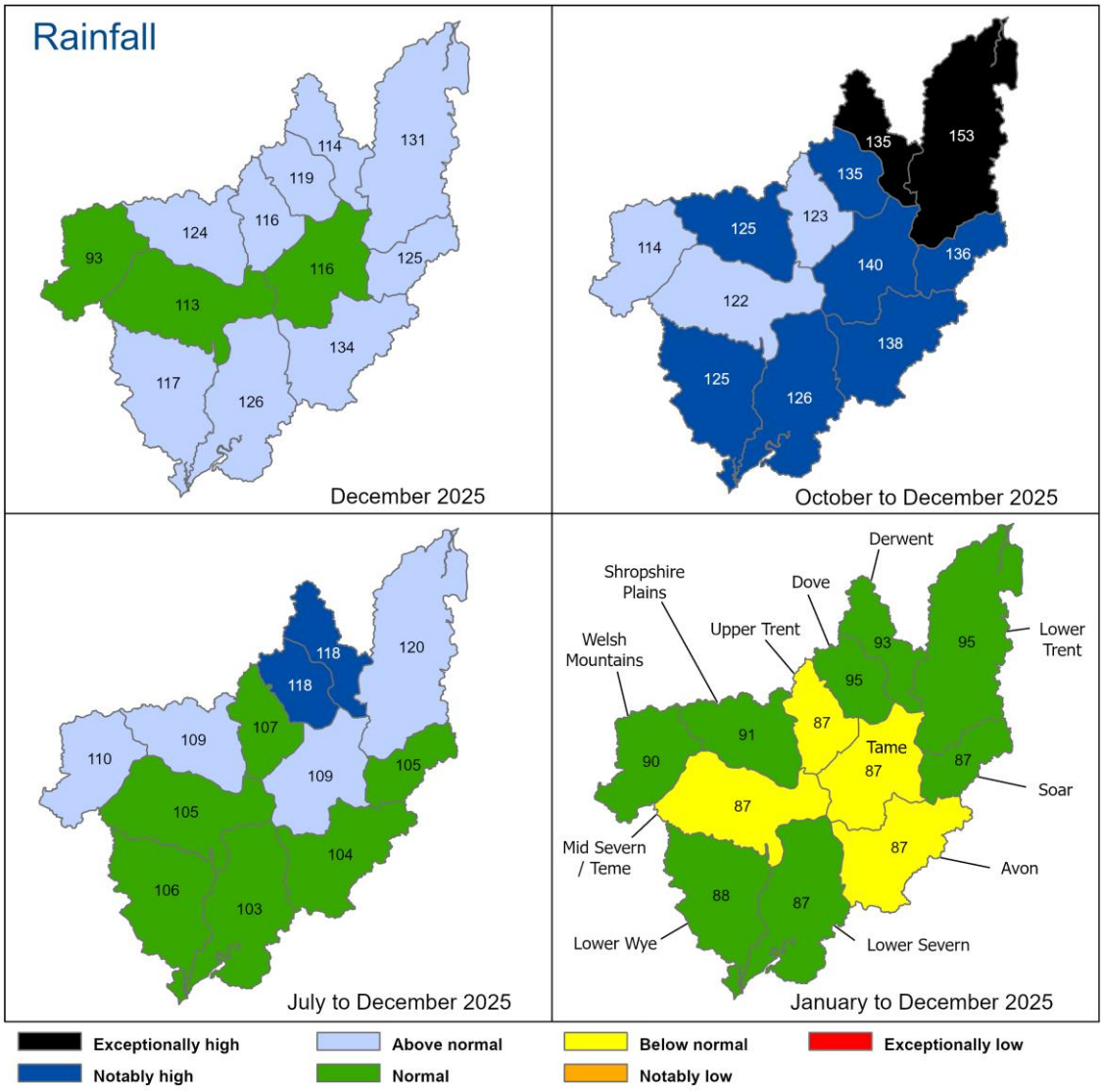
Contact Details: 03708 506 506

2 Rainfall

2.1 Rainfall map

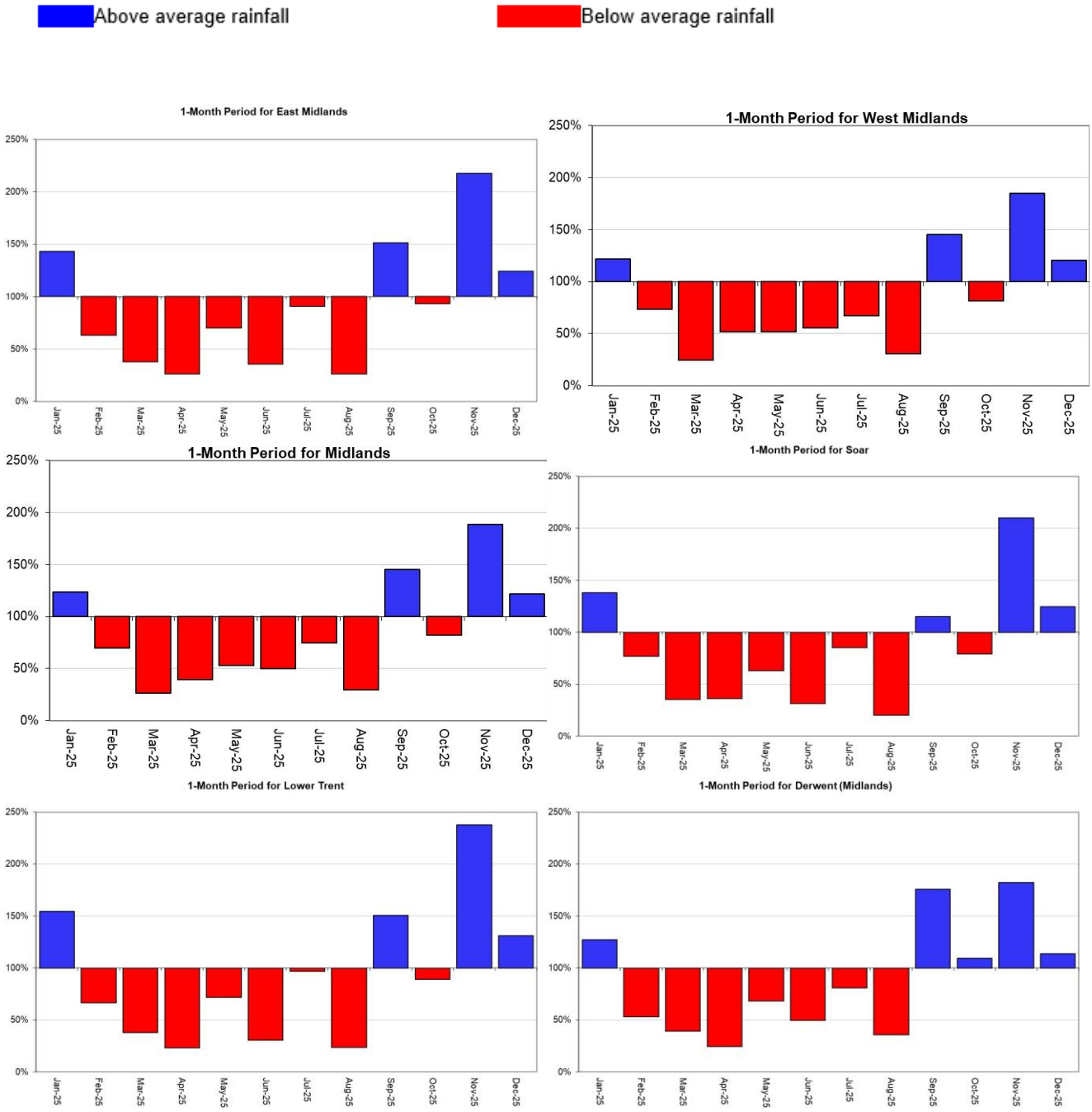
Figure 2.1: Rainfall as % LTA for hydrological areas for the current month (up to 31 December 2025), the last 3 months, the last 6 months, and the last 12 months, relative to an analysis of respective historic totals from 1991 to 2020. Table available in the appendices with detailed information.

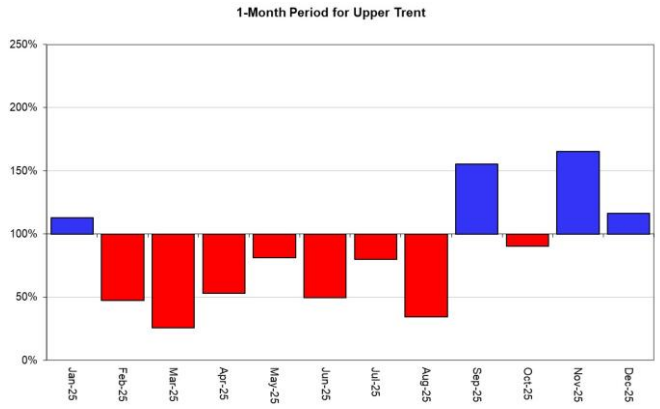


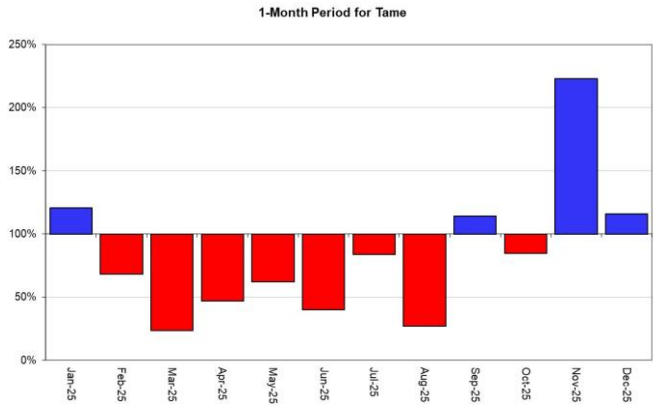
Rainfall data since January 2025, extracted from Environment Agency 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from Environment Agency intensity rain gauges. (Source: Environment Agency. Crown Copyright, AC0000807064, 2025). Rainfall data prior to January 2025, extracted from Met Office HadUK 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from registered rain gauges (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026).

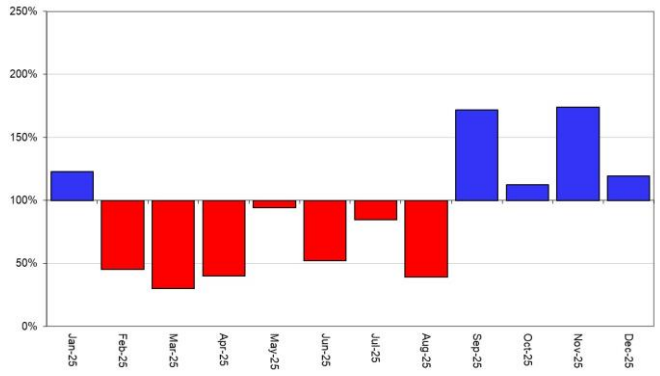
2.2 Rainfall charts

Figure 2.2: Monthly rainfall totals for the past 12 months as a percentage of the 1991 to 2020 long term average for hydrological areas across the Midlands region.




1-Month Period for Upper Trent
250%
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
Jan-25
Feb-25
Mar-25
Apr-25
May-25
Jun-25
Jul-25
Aug-25
Sep-25
Oct-25
Nov-25
Dec-25


1-Month Period for Tame
250%
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
Jan-25
Feb-25
Mar-25
Apr-25
May-25
Jun-25
Jul-25
Aug-25
Sep-25
Oct-25
Nov-25
Dec-25


1-Month Period for Dove
250%
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
Jan-25
Feb-25
Mar-25
Apr-25
May-25
Jun-25
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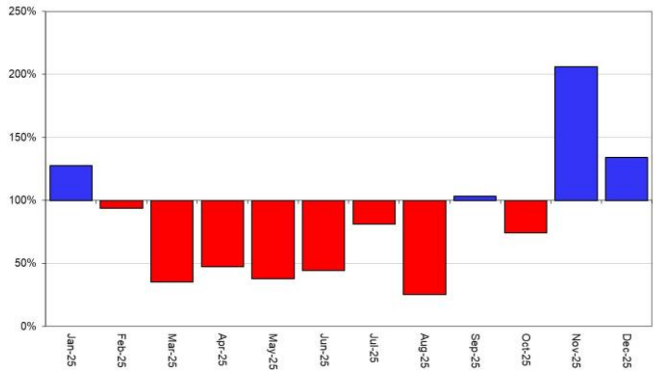
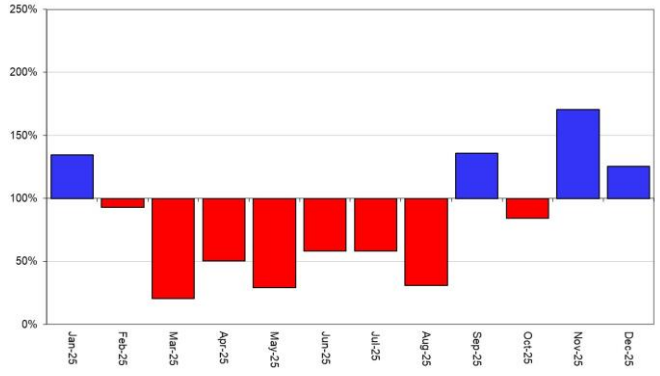
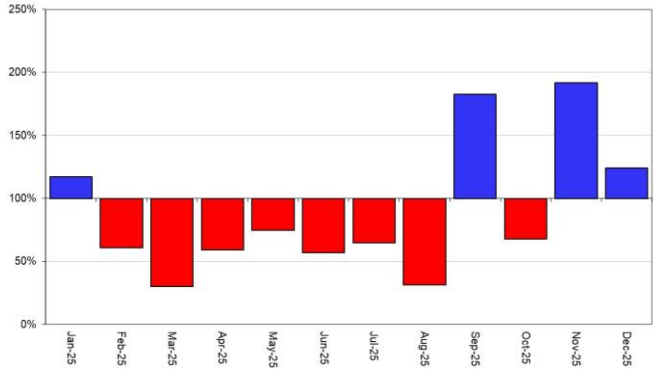
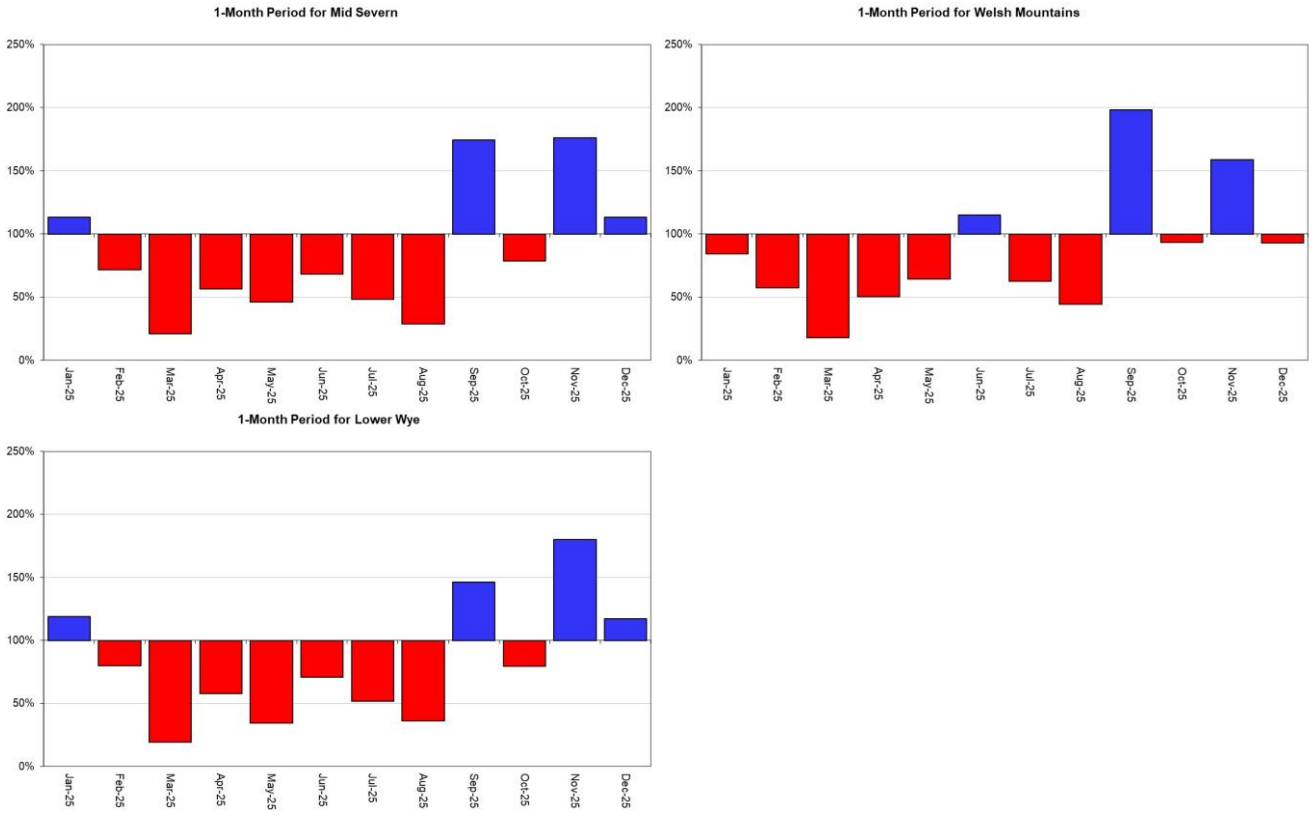
Aug-25
Sep-25
Oct-25
Nov-25
Dec-25


1-Month Period for Avon to Evesham
250%
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
Jan-25
Feb-25
Mar-25
Apr-25
May-25
Jun-25
Jul-25
Aug-25
Sep-25
Oct-25
Nov-25
Dec-25


1-Month Period for Lower Severn Estuary
250%
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
Jan-25
Feb-25
Mar-25
Apr-25
May-25
Jun-25
Jul-25
Aug-25
Sep-25
Oct-25
Nov-25
Dec-25


1-Month Period for Shropshire Plains
250%
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
Jan-25
Feb-25
Mar-25
Apr-25
May-25
Jun-25
Jul-25
Aug-25
Sep-25
Oct-25
Nov-25
Dec-25

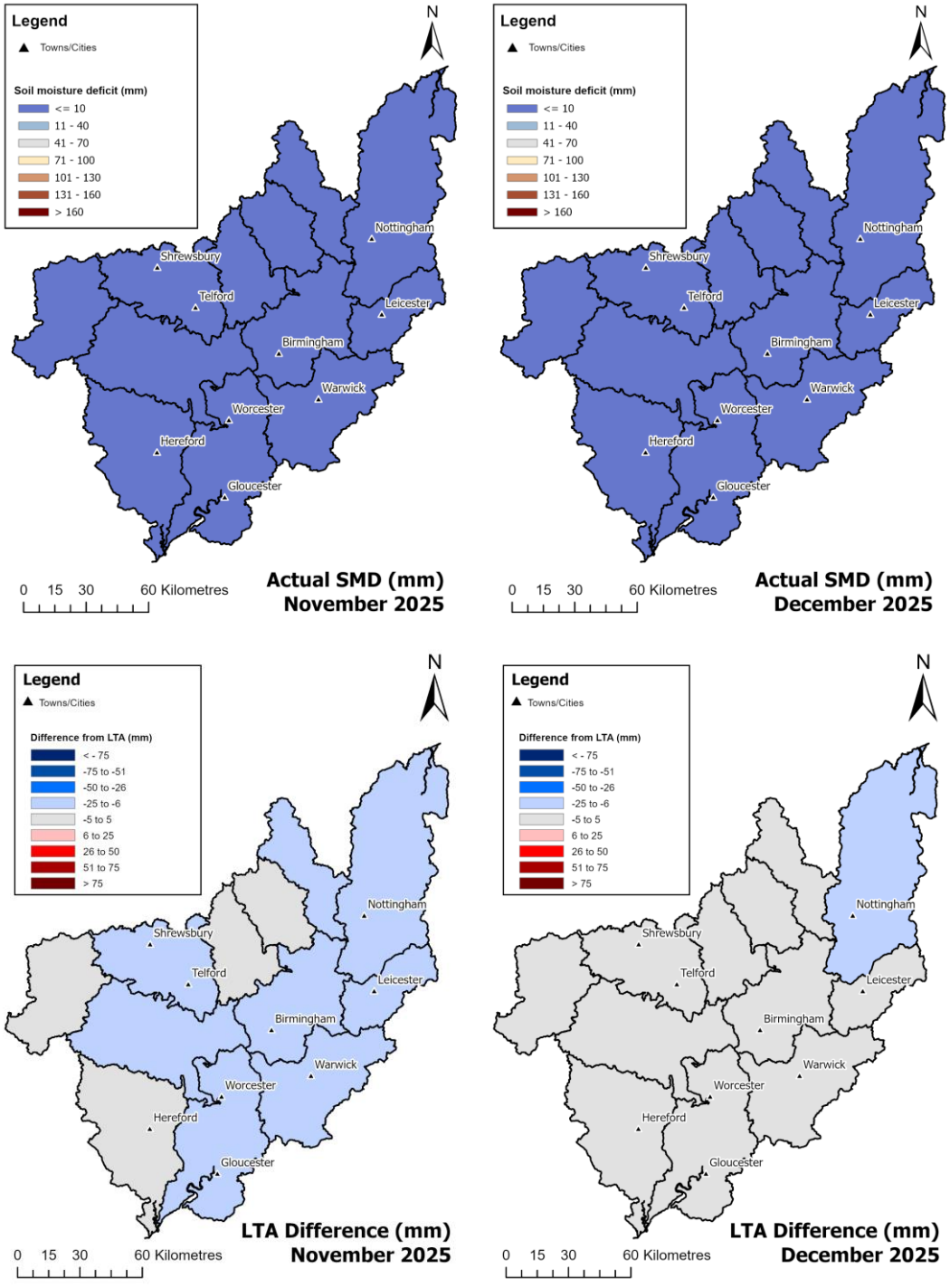


Rainfall data since January 2025, extracted from Environment Agency 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from Environment Agency intensity rain gauges. (Source: Environment Agency. Crown Copyright, AC0000807064, 2025). Rainfall data prior to January 2025, extracted from Met Office HadUK 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from registered rain gauges (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026).

3 Soil moisture deficit

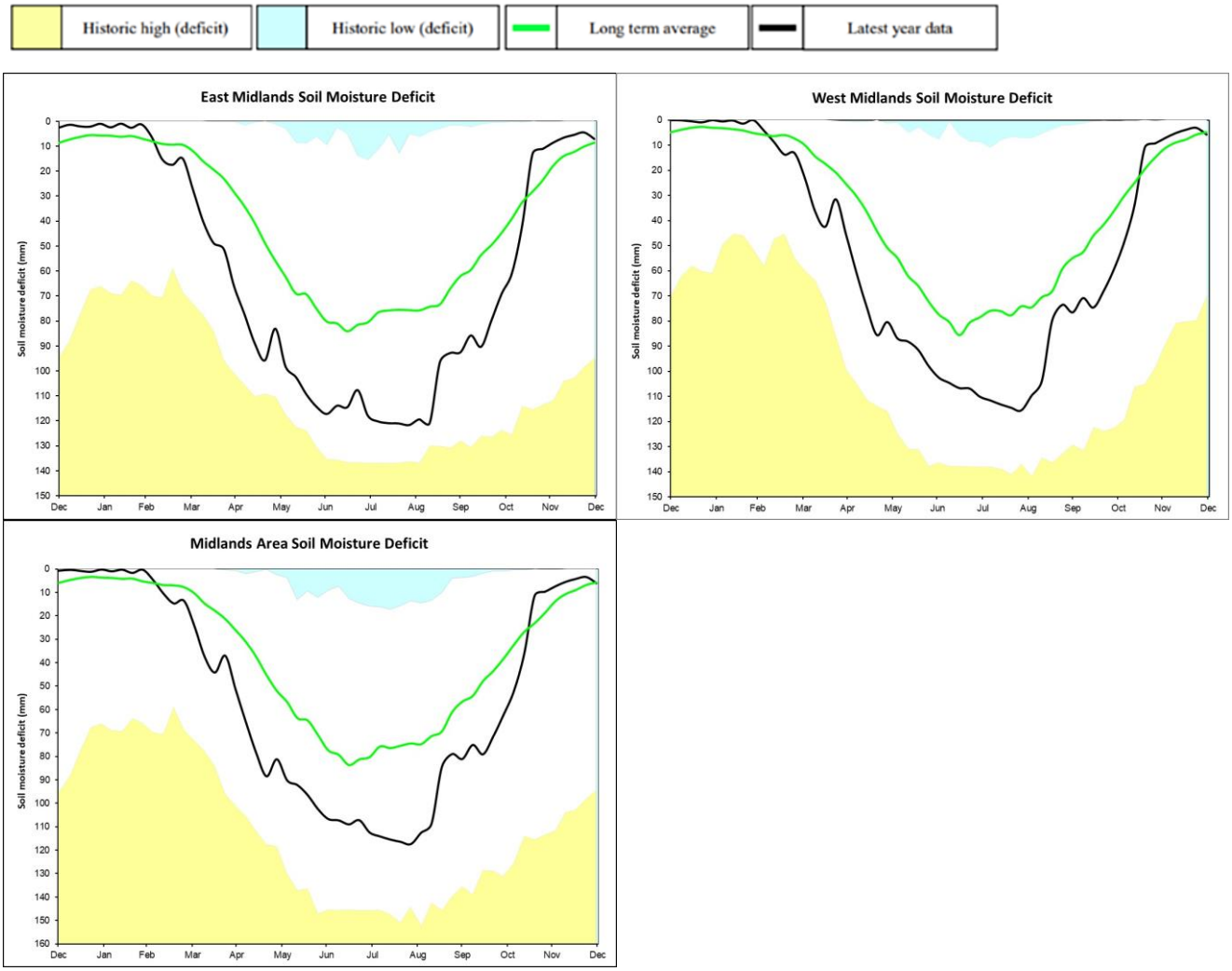
3.1 Soil moisture deficit map

Figure 3.1: Soil moisture deficits for weeks ending 31 December 2025. The difference (mm) of the actual soil moisture deficit from the 1991 to 2020 long term average soil moisture deficits. MORECS data for real land use.



3.2 Soil moisture deficit charts

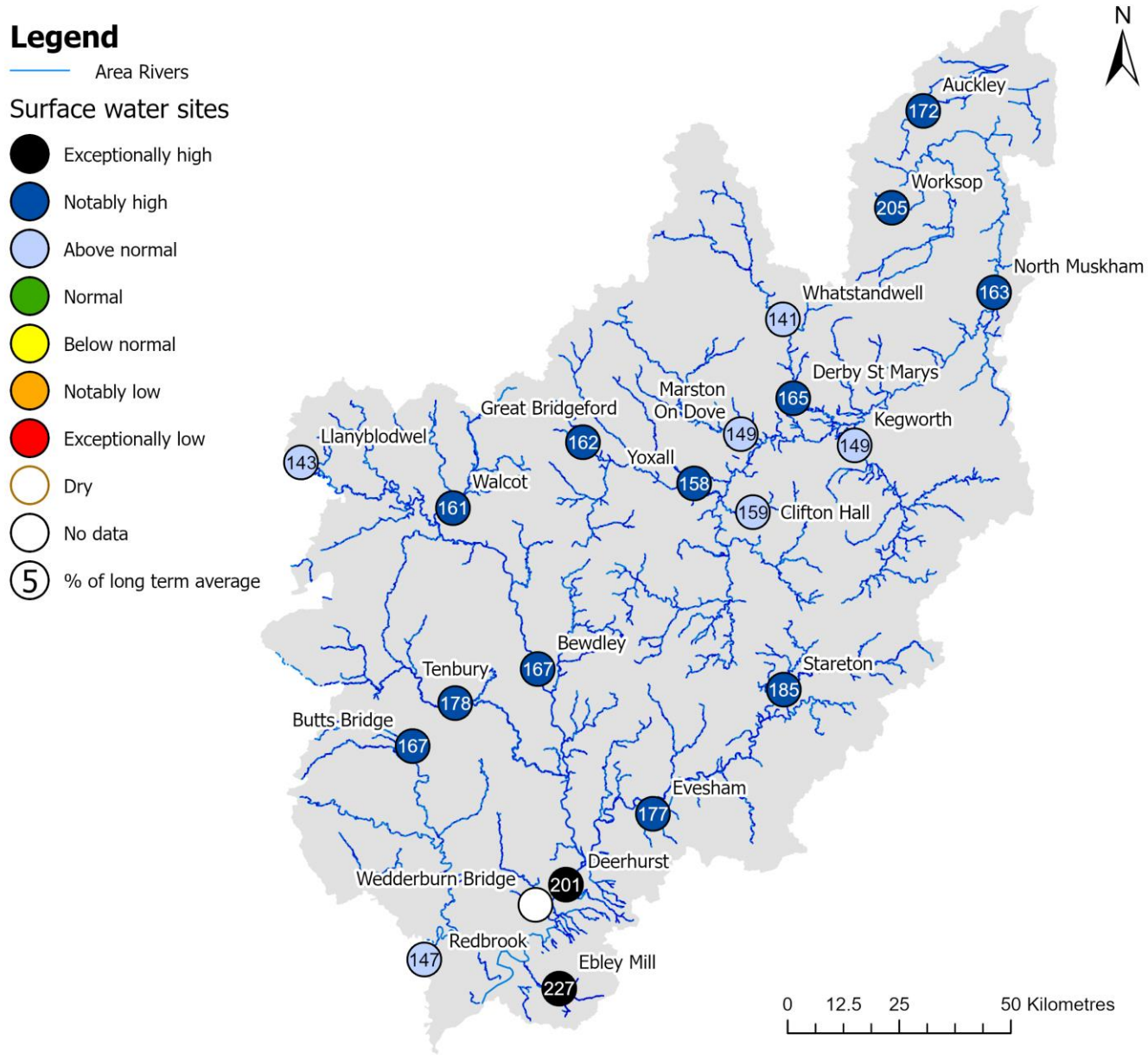
Figure 3.2: Latest soil moisture deficit charts for selected areas across the Midlands.



4 River flows

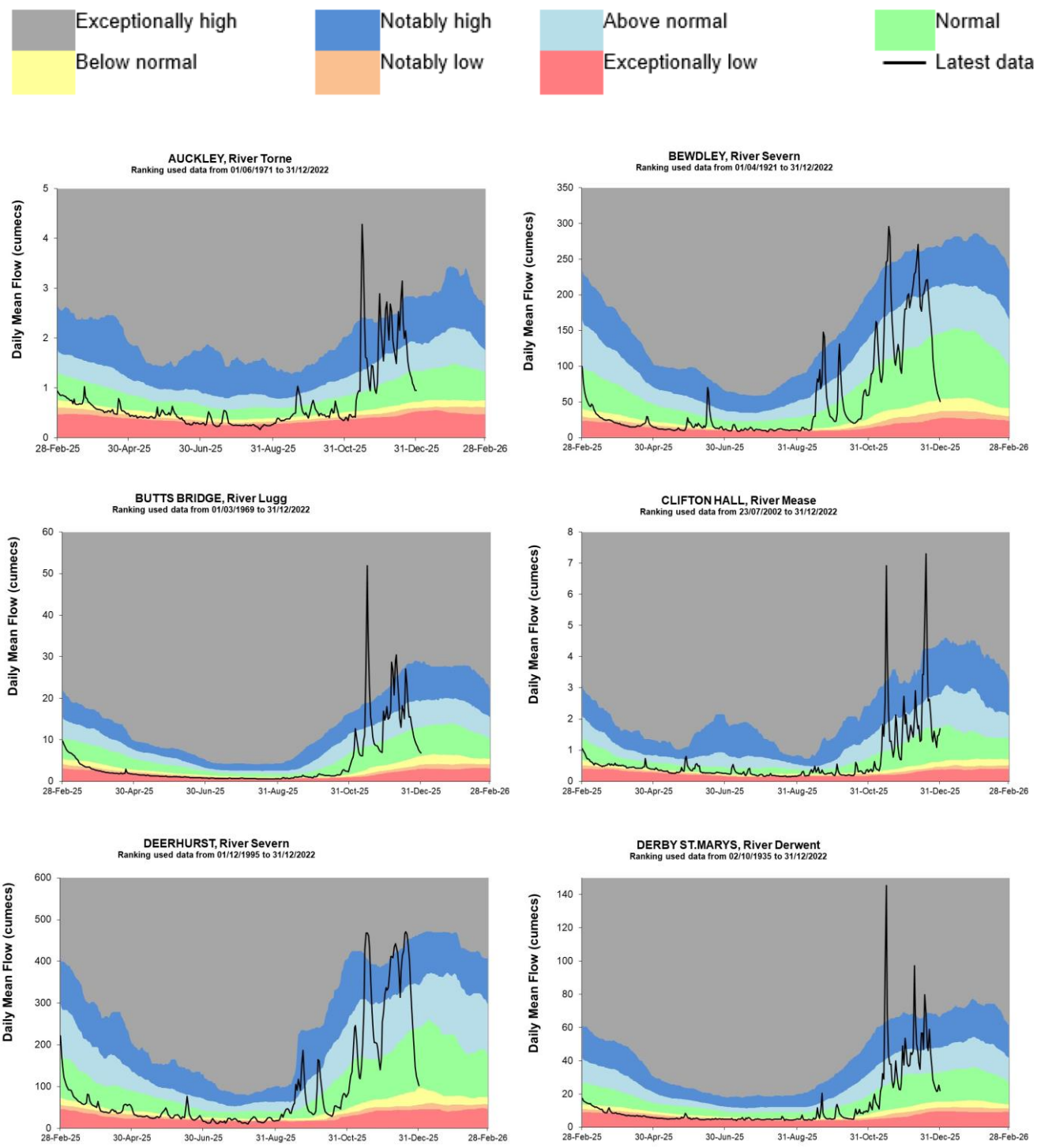
4.1 River flows map

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.

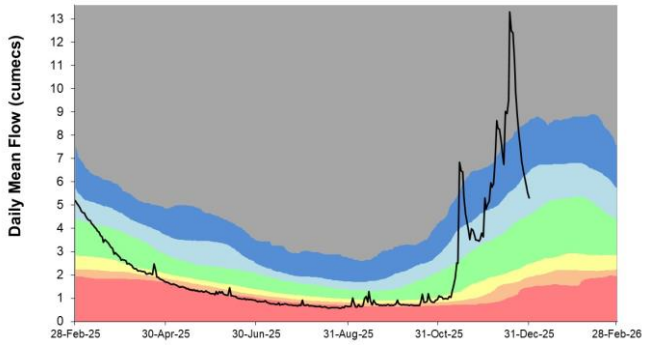


4.2 River flow charts

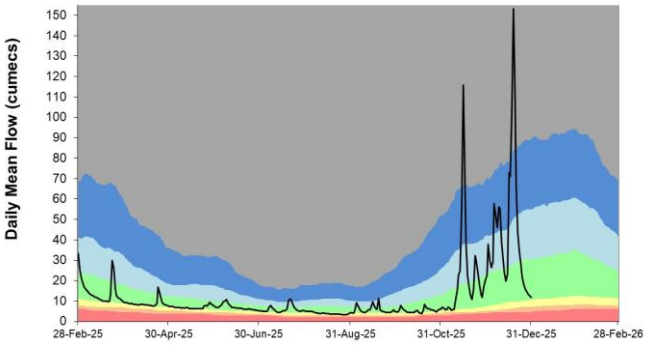
Figure 4.2: Daily mean river flow for index sites over the past year, compared to an analysis of historic daily mean flows, and long term maximum and minimum flows.



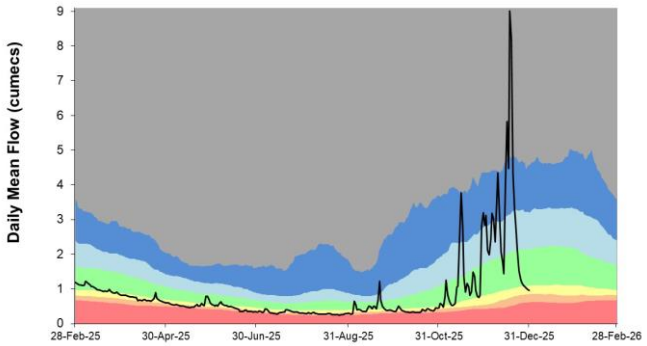
EBLEY MILL, River Frome
Ranking used data from 01/04/1969 to 31/12/2022



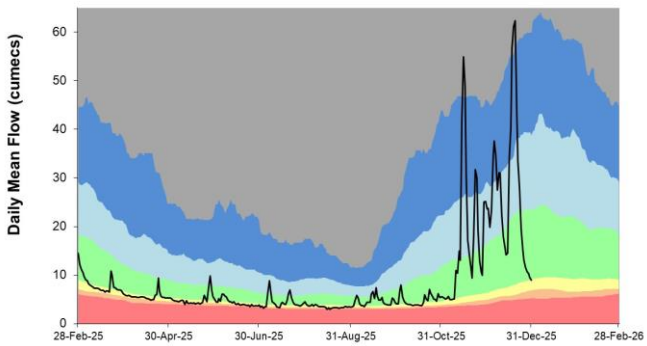
EVESHAM, River Avon
Ranking used data from 01/12/1936 to 31/12/2022



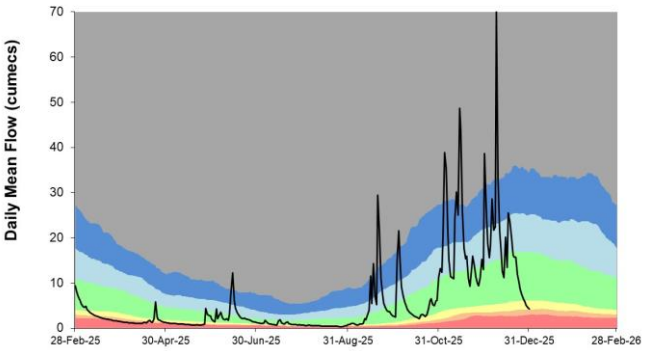
GREAT BRIDGFORD, River Sow
Ranking used data from 18/01/1971 to 31/12/2022



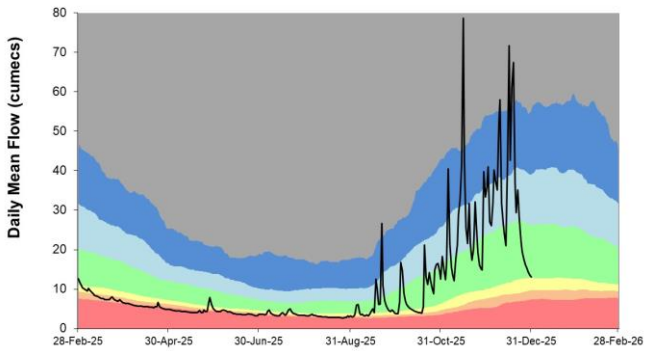
KEGWORTH, River Soar
Ranking used data from 01/12/1978 to 31/12/2022



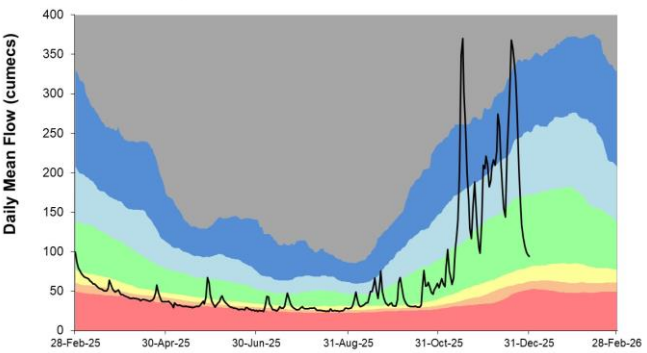
LLANYBLODWEL, Afon Tanat
Ranking used data from 01/06/1973 to 31/12/2022



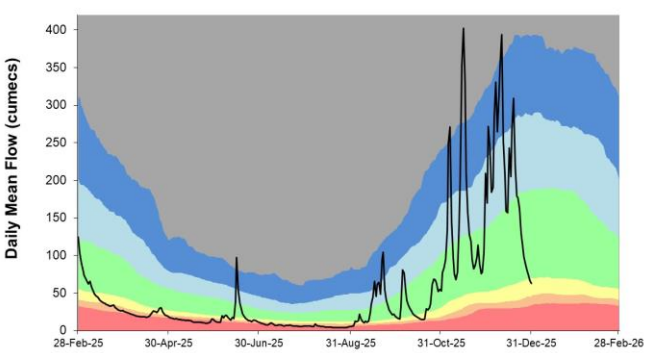
MARSTON ON DOVE, River Dove
Ranking used data from 01/07/1965 to 31/12/2022

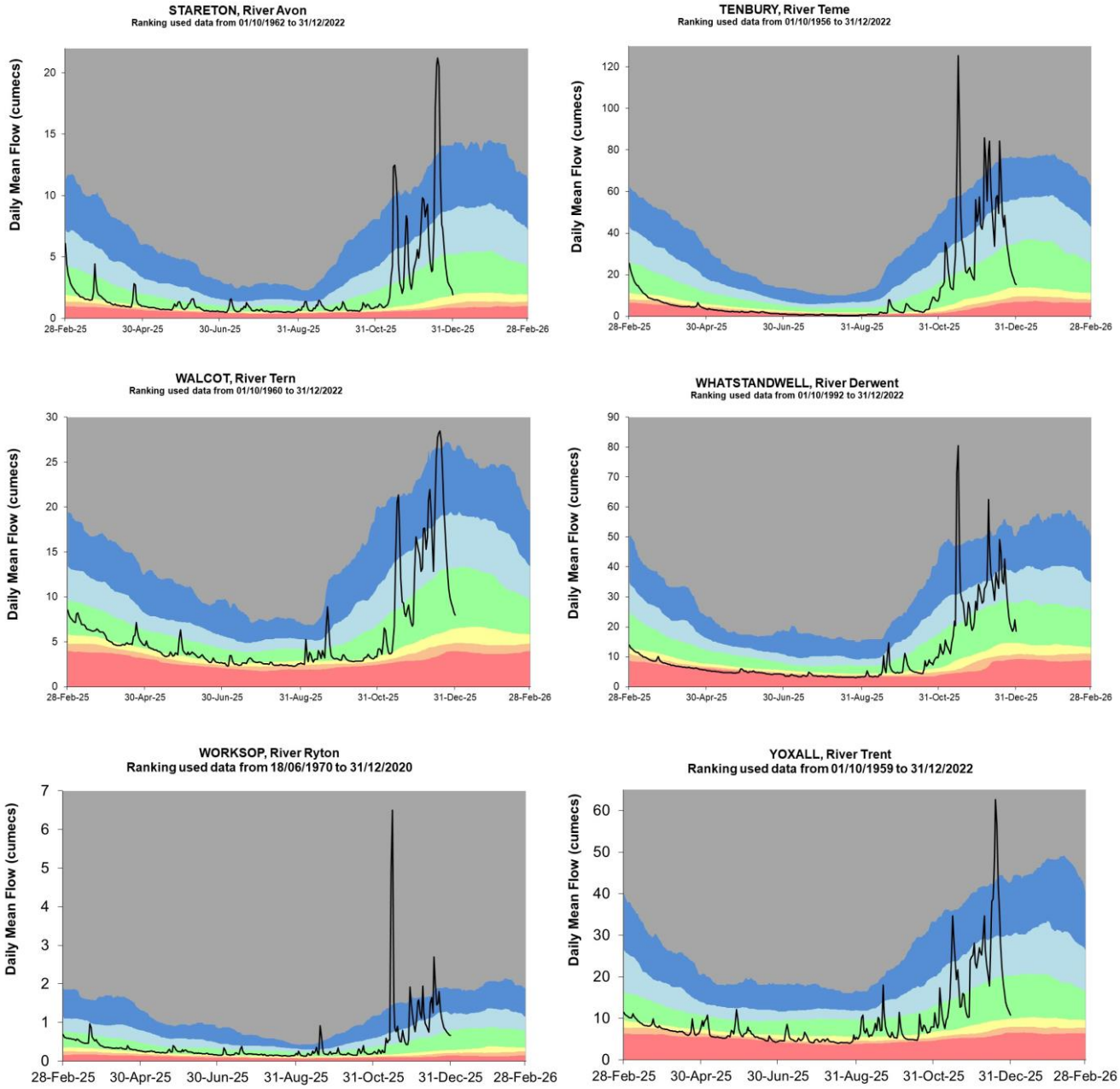


NORTH MUSKHAM, River Trent
Ranking used data from 03/10/1969 to 31/12/2022



REDBROOK, River Wye
Ranking used data from 01/10/1969 to 31/12/2022



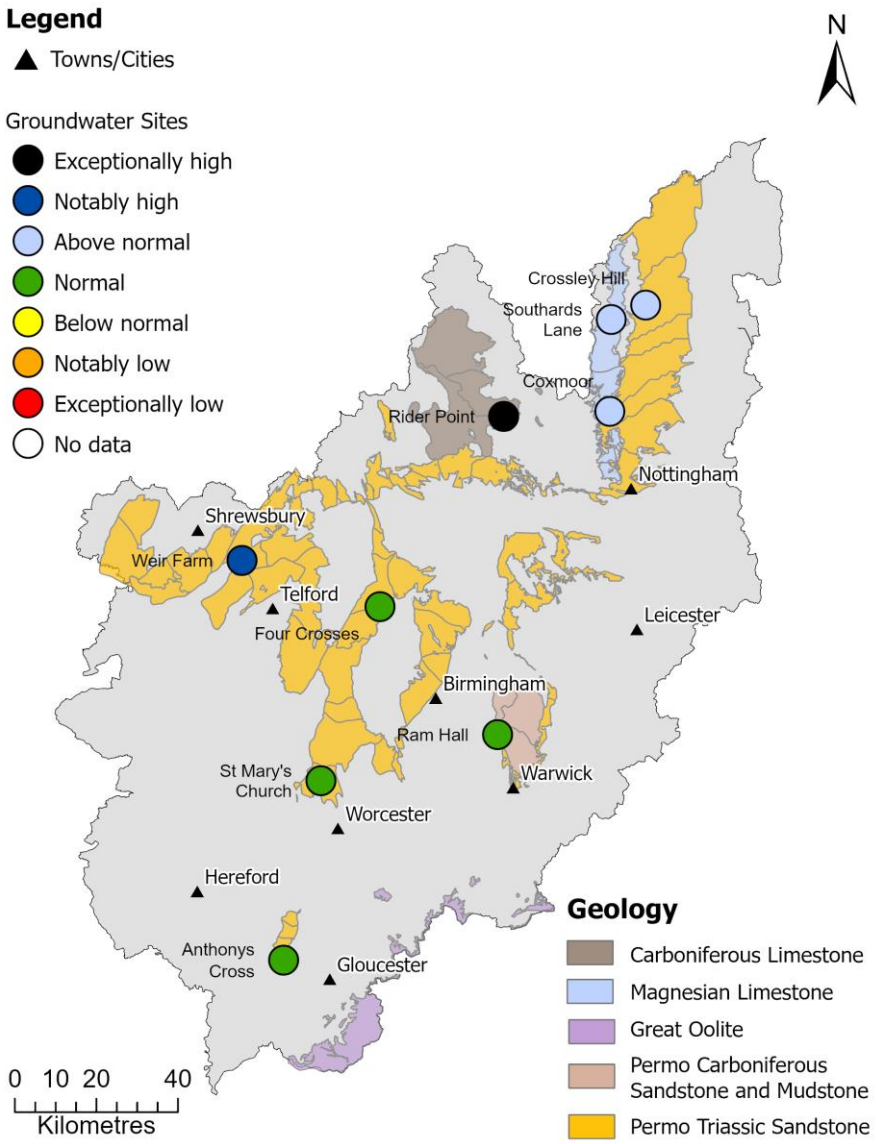


(Source: Environment Agency, 2026).

5 Groundwater levels

5.1 Groundwater levels map

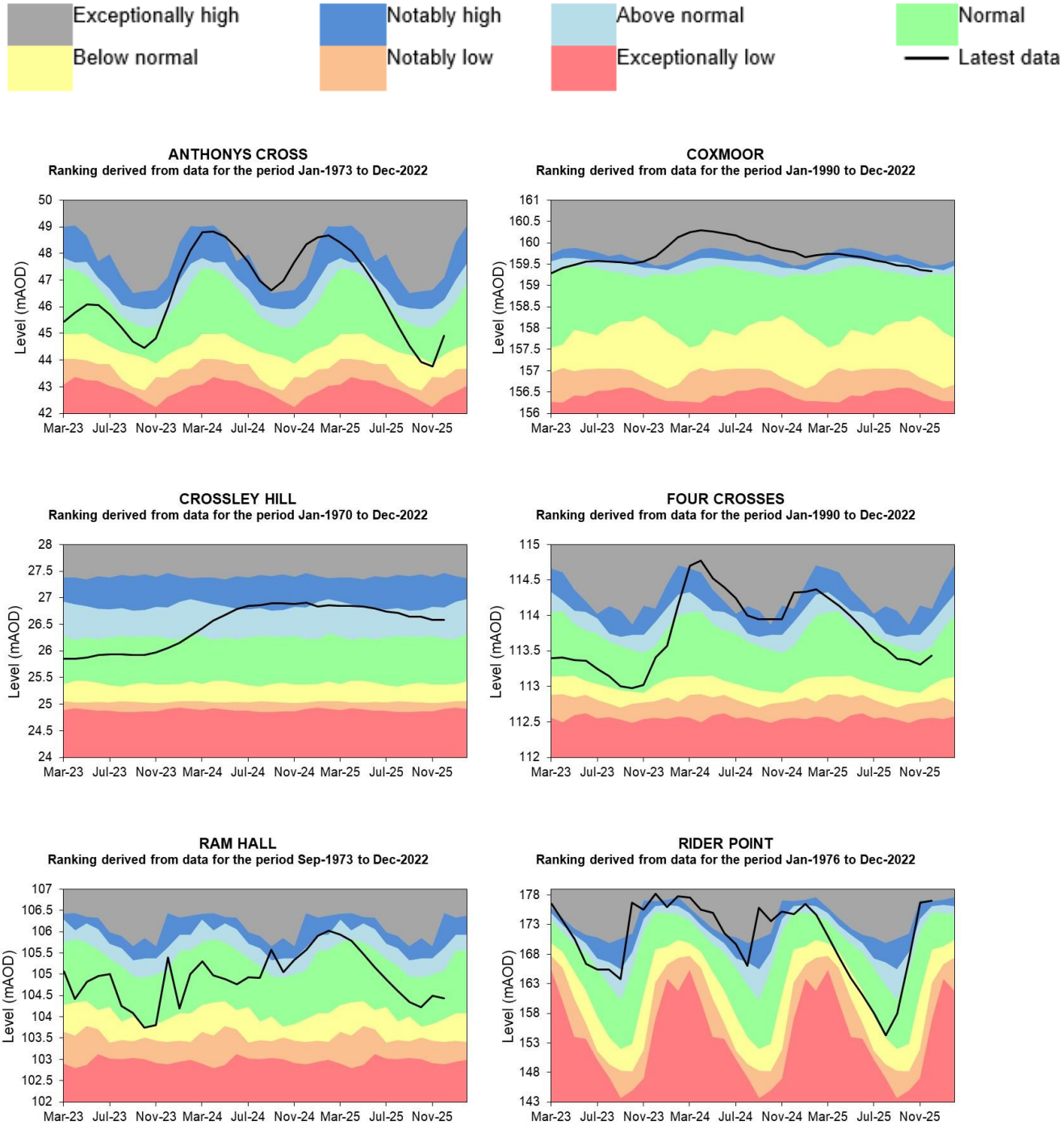
Figure 5.1: Groundwater levels for indicator sites at the end of December 2025, classed relative to an analysis of respective historic December levels. Table available in the appendices with detailed information, including aquifer type.

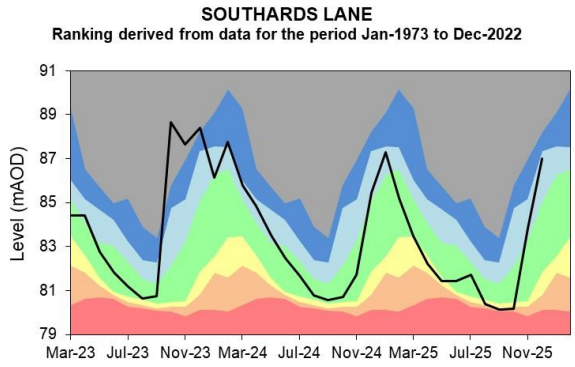


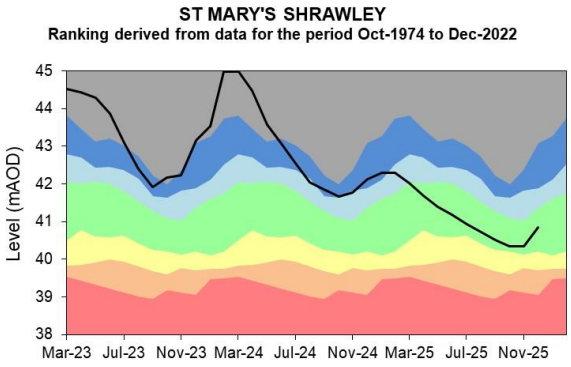
(Source: Environment Agency). Geological map reproduced with kind permission from UK Groundwater Forum, BGS copyright NERC. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, AC0000807064, 2026.

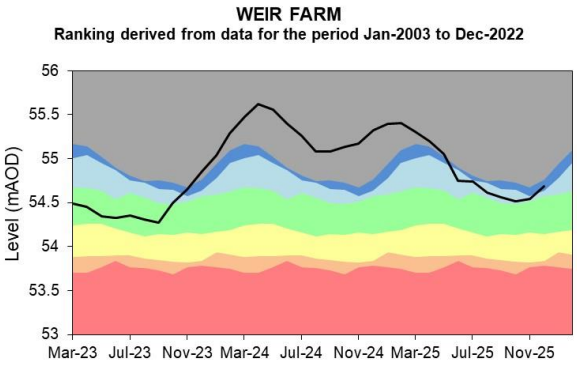
5.2 Groundwater level charts

Figure 5.2: End of month groundwater levels at index groundwater level sites for major aquifers. 34 months compared to an analysis of historic end of month levels.





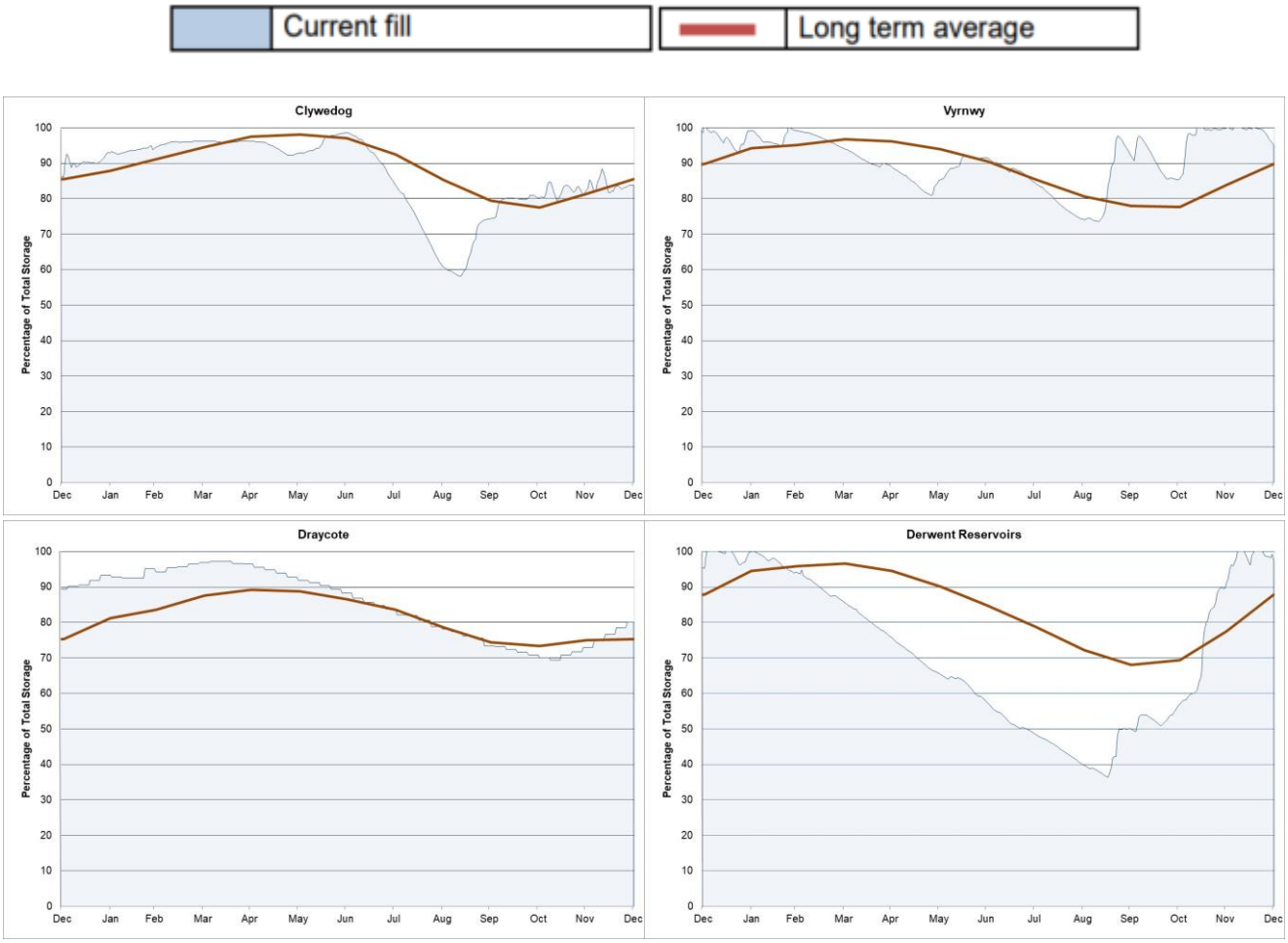


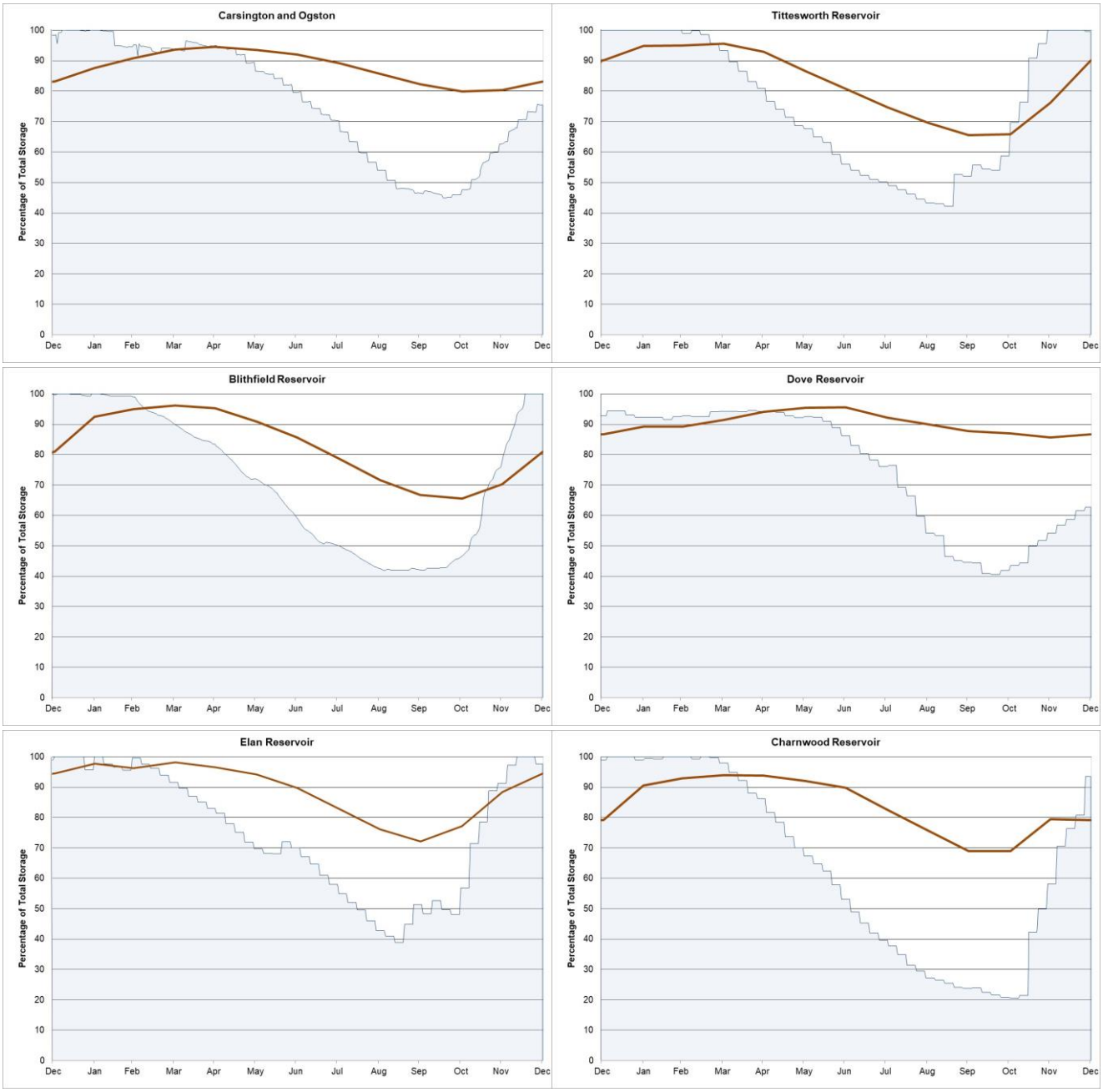


(Source: Environment Agency, 2026).

6 Reservoir stocks

Figure 6.1: End of month regional reservoir stocks compared to long term average stocks. Note: Historic records of individual reservoirs and reservoir groups making up the regional values vary in length. Please see Section 7.4 for a map detailing the locality of the Midlands reservoirs reported on.





(Source: water companies).

7 Glossary

7.1 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).

Field capacity

Soil at field capacity is holding all of the water which it can hold against gravity.

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).

7.2 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

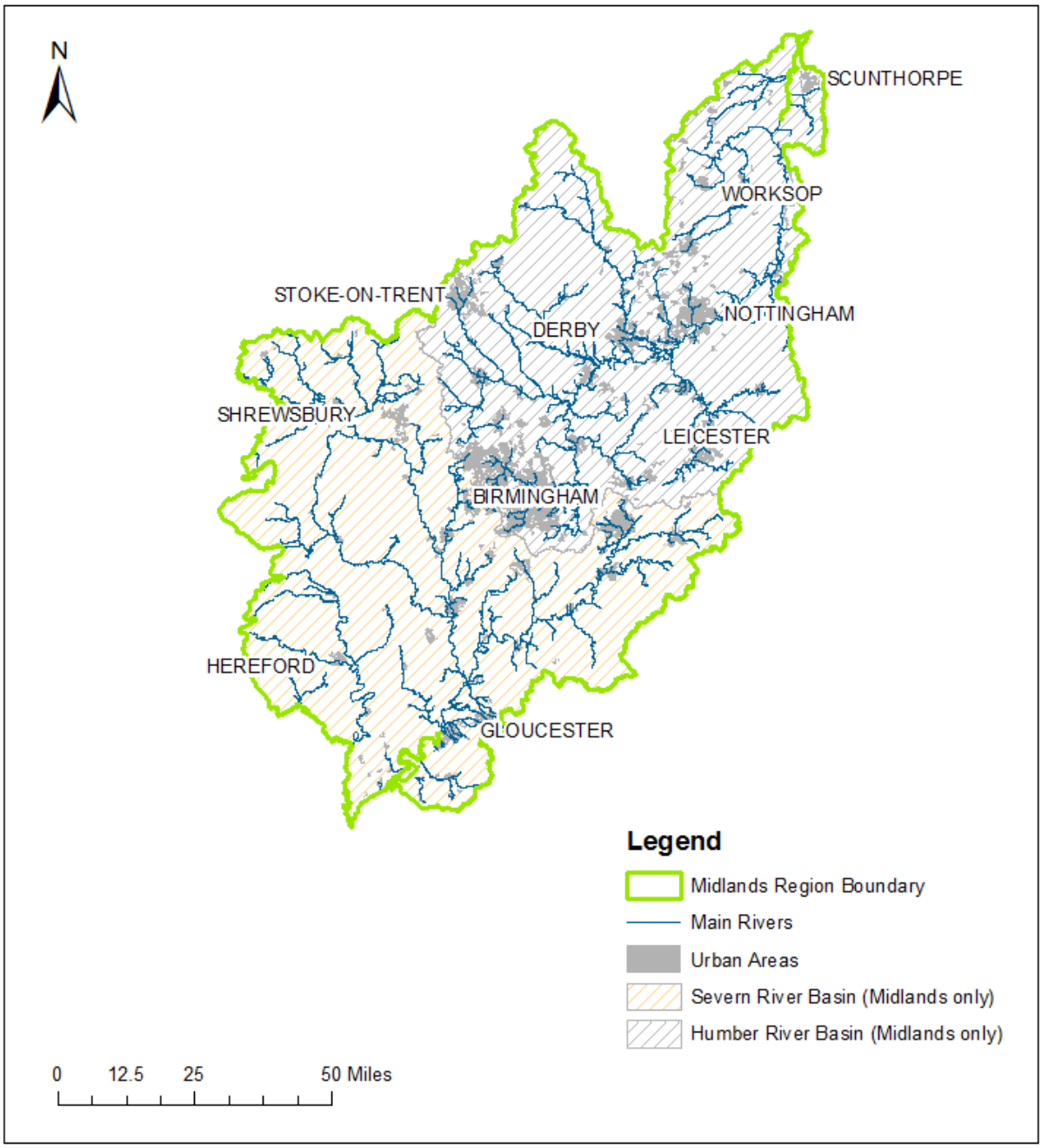
Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time.

Exceptionally low

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

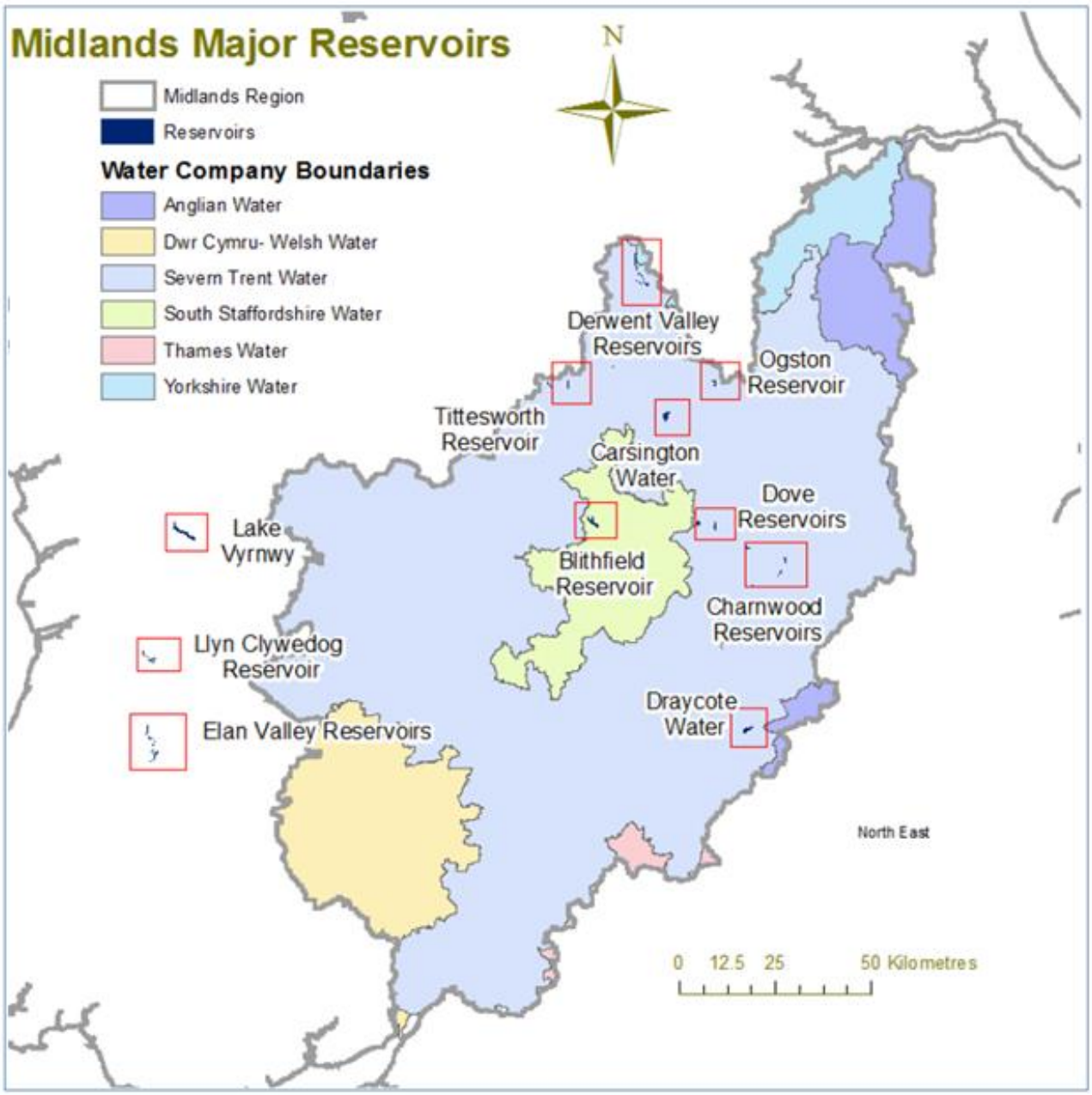
7.3 Midlands regional coverage

Figure 7.1: The Midlands regional boundary and the hydrological boundaries of the River Severn and River Trent.



7.4 Midlands major reservoirs

Figure 7.2: Location of major reservoirs in the Midlands.



8 Appendices

8.1 Water abstraction licence restrictions table

Area	Rivers and stations restricted
East Midlands	None
West Midlands	Garren Brooks at Marstow Mill, River Leadon at Wedderburb Bridge, Yazor Brook at Three Elms, River Sow at Great Bridgford, River Stour at Puxton.

8.2 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
Avon To Evesham	134	Above normal	Notably high	Normal	Below normal
Derwent (Midlands)	114	Above normal	Exceptionally high	Notably high	Normal
Dove	119	Above normal	Notably high	Notably high	Normal
Lower Severn Estuary	126	Above normal	Notably high	Normal	Normal

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
Lower Trent	131	Above normal	Exceptionally high	Above normal	Normal
Lower Wye	117	Above normal	Notably high	Normal	Normal
Mid Severn	113	Normal	Above normal	Normal	Below normal
Shropshire Plains	124	Above Normal	Notably high	Above normal	Normal
Soar	125	Above normal	Notably high	Normal	Normal
Tame	116	Normal	Notably high	Above normal	Below normal
Upper Trent	117	Above normal	Above normal	Normal	Below normal
Welsh Mountains	93	Normal	Above normal	Above normal	Normal

8.3 River flows table

Site name	River	Catchment	Dec 2025 band	Nov 2025 band
Auckley	Torne	Torne	Notably high	Above normal
Bewdley	Severn	Severn Lower Mid	Notably high	Above normal
Butts Bridge	Lugg	Lugg	Notably high	Notably high
Clifton Hall	River Mease	Mease	Above normal	Above normal
Deerhurst	Severn	Severn Lower	Exceptionally high	Above normal
Derby St. Marys	Derwent	Derwent Der to Markeaton confl.	Notably high	Above normal
Ebley Mill	Frome (Gloucs.)	Frome Gloucs.	Exceptionally high	Above normal
Evesham	Avon (Midlands)	Avon Warwks Lower	Notably high	Normal
Great Bridgford	Sow	Sow Upper	Notably high	Normal
Kegworth	Soar	Soar to Kingston Brook confl.	Above normal	Above normal
Llanyblodwel	Tanat	Severn Upper River Tanat	Above normal	Exceptionally high
Marston On Dove	Dove (Midlands)	Dove Derb to Hilton Br confl.	Above normal	Notably high

Site name	River	Catchment	Dec 2025 band	Nov 2025 band
North Muskham	Trent	Trent to Cromwell	Notably high	Above normal
Redbrook	Wye (Herefordshire)	Wye H and W d s Lugg	Above normal	Above normal
Stareton	Avon (Midlands)	Avon Warwks Upper	Notably high	Above normal
Tenbury	Teme	Teme	Notably high	Notably high
Walcot	Tern	Tern	Notably high	Normal
Whatstandwell	Derwent	Derwent Derb to Amber confl.	Above normal	Above normal
Worksop	Ryton	Ryton Upper to Oldcoates Dyke	Notably high	Notably high
Yoxall	Trent	Trent to Tame Mease confl.	Notably high	Normal

8.4 Groundwater table

Site name	Aquifer	End of Dec 2025 band	End of Nov 2025 band
Anthony's Cross	Severn Vale Permo Triassic Sandstone	Normal	Below normal
Coxmoor	Permo Triassic Sandstone	Above normal	Above normal
Crossley Hill	Permo Triassic Sandstone	Above normal	Above normal
Four Crosses	Permo Triassic Sandstone	Normal	Normal
Ram Hall, Meriden	Permo Carboniferous Sandstones and Mudstones	Normal	Normal
Rider Point Via Gellia	Carboniferous Limestone	Exceptionally high	Notably high
Southards Lane, Bolsover	Magnesian Limestone	Above normal	Above normal
Weir Farm	Bridgnorth Sandstone Formation	Notably high	Above normal