

Monthly water situation report: Kent and South London Area

1 Summary - June 2026

The Kent, South London and East Sussex (KSLES) area received 143% of the long-term average (LTA) rainfall in June, with effective rainfall reaching 109% of the LTA. Rainfall was above normal across the area. Soil moisture deficits (SMDs) increased to 125mm during June. Monthly mean river flows (MMFs) at key flow indicator sites either stayed the same, or increased from May records. River flows were normal for the majority of the area, with 3 sites registering below normal. Groundwater levels across KSLES continued to decline at all indicator sites, with Chipstead now falling within the below-normal range. Reservoir storage levels also decreased during June, ranging from exceptionally low to notably high.

1.1 Rainfall

During June, the KSLES area received 71mm, 143% of the LTA rainfall for the time of year, based on a whole-area average. All catchments in KSLES area received above normal rainfall. The percentage of LTA rainfall received ranged from 161% in the Sheppey catchment in the north of the area, to 125% in the Eastern Rother catchment in the south. The highest daily rainfall total of 35.6mm was observed on 22 June at Beckenham College RG in the South London area. June 2026 was the wettest June since 2021.

In June, the top 5 highest rainfall days were 22, 1, 10, 2, and 3 June. There were 3 dry days in June that recorded rainfall less than 0.2mm. The start of the month saw sustained showers until day 12. The middle and end of the month were predominantly dry, however peak daily rainfall occurred on day 22. Storms on this day brought an average of 12.4mm across all KSLES rain gauges.

1.2 Soil moisture deficit and recharge

SMDs across the KSLES area increased during June, recording a cross-area deficit of 125mm, 40mm higher than the LTA of 85mm. Although effective rainfall was 109% during the month, rainfall mainly occurred in the initial 11 days. A relatively dry period from 12 June saw the area receive an average of under 0.2mm rainfall for 14 of 19 days. A heatwave also occurred late in the month, with provisional temperatures reaching above 35 degrees Celsius. Combining record temperatures during June's heatwave, with dry prior months of April and May, soil moisture loss continued.

1.3 River flows

MMFs across the catchment were mostly normal, with three sites in southern areas recording below normal flows. Below normal flows were observed in the Eden at Vexour/Penshurst, the East Stour at South Willesborough and the Rother at Udiam. This pattern reflects both geology and rainfall. Reduced flows were found in southern clay catchments that received between 125% and 139% of LTA rainfall. Comparatively the rest of KSLES area received between 132% and 161% of LTA rainfall.

1.4 Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels across the KSLES area have continued to fall steadily at all 7 groundwater level sites. Levels across the catchment were mostly normal with the exception of Chipstead, which is now recording below normal. Groundwater levels in the Chalk aquifer sites at all other sites are now in normal range. This includes Little Bucket which previously recorded levels falling within the above-normal category. In the Lower Greensand aquifer, levels at Riverhead remained in the normal range. The fall in groundwater levels is consistent with the lack of effective rainfall over the last three-month period and the SMDs registered by the end of June.

1.5 Reservoir stocks

Levels across all 5 reservoirs fell during June and range from notably high to exceptionally low. By the end of June, the reservoirs held the following live storage capacities and LTA class:

- Weir Wood – 96% Notably high
- Bough Beech – 81% Normal
- Bewl – 81% Normal
- Darwell – 61% Notably low
- Powdermill – 41% Exceptionally low

Weir Wood reservoir remains offline.

1.6 Environmental impact

Hands-off flow (HoF) restrictions remained in place for abstractors across the Medway and Stour catchments throughout June, having been implemented during March and April. In the Rother catchment, HoF restrictions were introduced for several abstractors in mid-June and persisted until month end.

There was 1 fluvial flooding alert issued during June for the Shuttle and Cray area, this was removed the next day. There were no groundwater flooding alerts or warnings issued in June.

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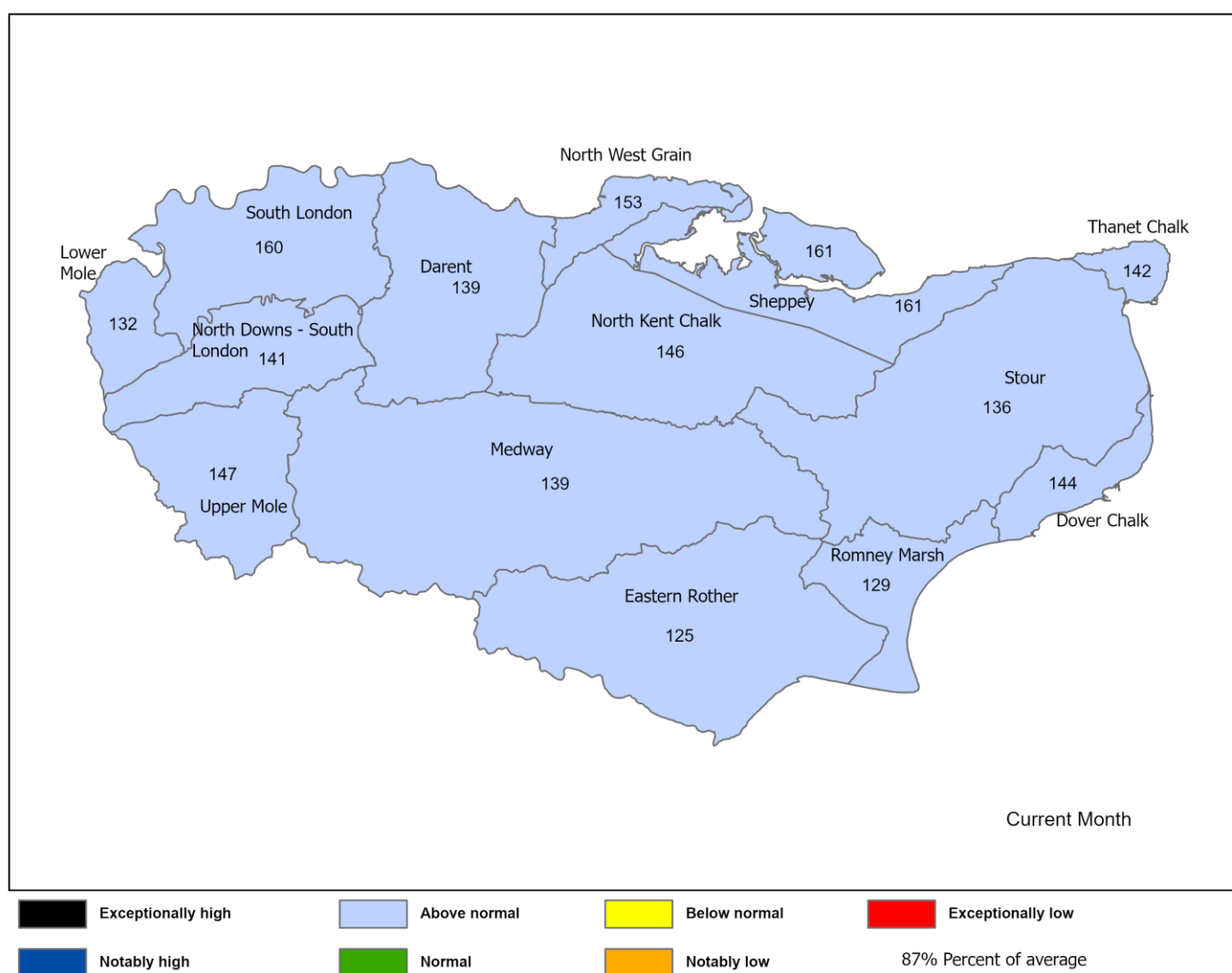
Contact Details: 03708 506 506

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2 Rainfall

2.1 Rainfall map one

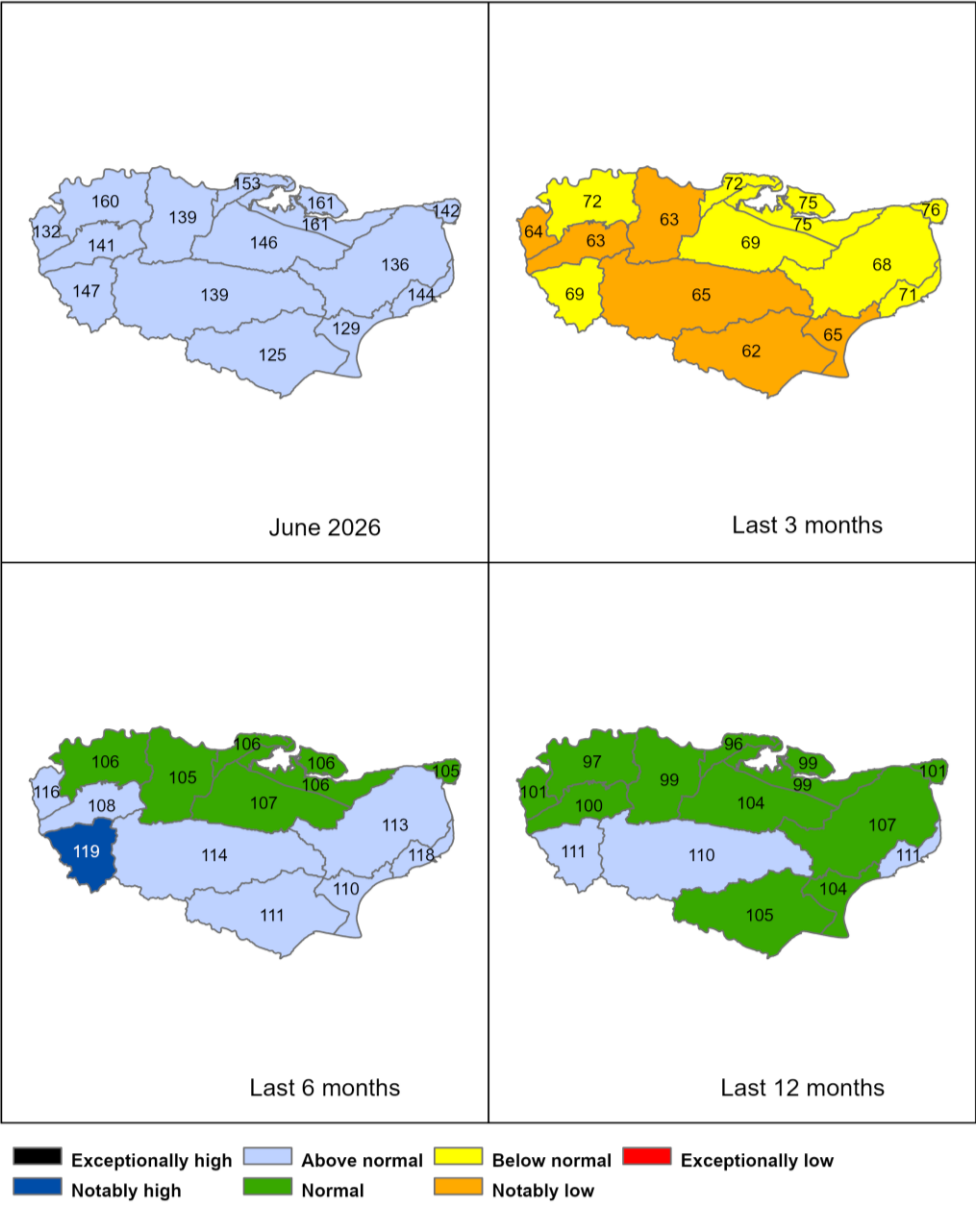
Figure 2.1: Total rainfall for hydrological areas across Kent and South London for the current month (up to 30 June 2026), classed relative of historic totals. The percentage of average uses the period of 1991 – 2020. Table available in the appendices with more detailed information.



HadUK data for October 2023 onwards, 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. Includes material based on Ordnance Survey 1:50 000 maps with the permission of the controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2026.

2.2 Rainfall map two

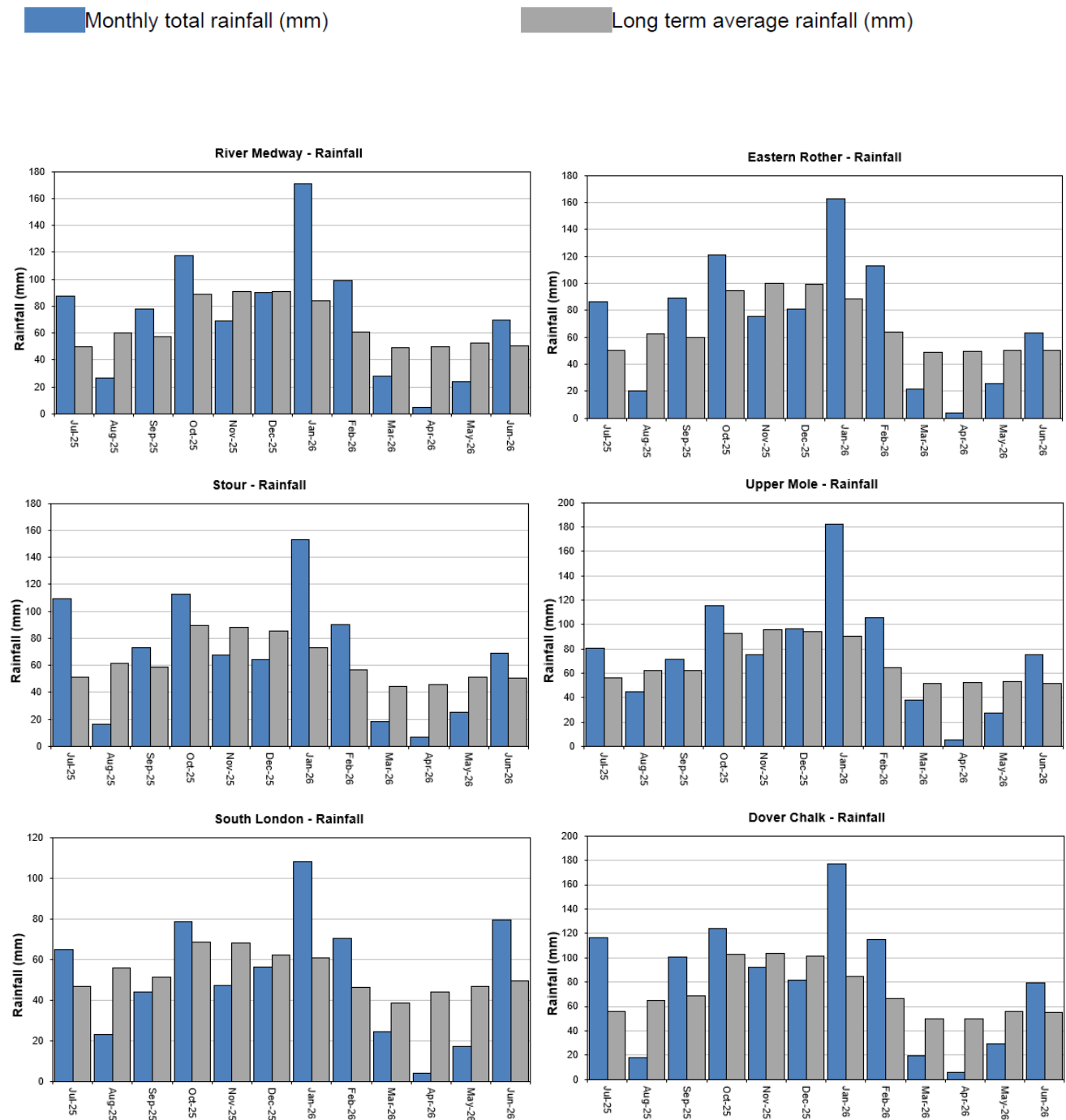
Figure 2.2: Total rainfall for hydrological areas for the current month (up to 30 June 2026), the last 3 months, the last 6 months, and the last 12 months, classed relative of historic totals. The percentage of average uses the period of 1991 – 2020. Table available in the appendices with detailed information.

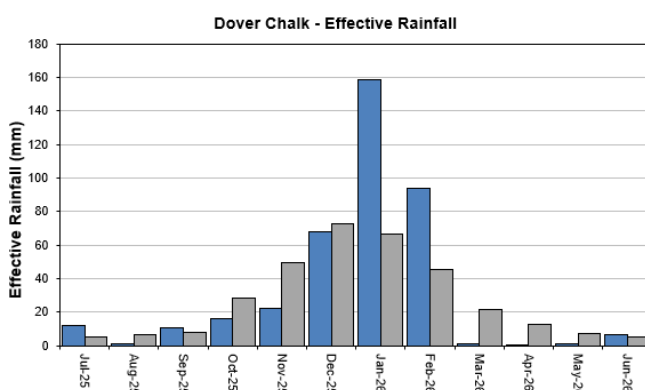
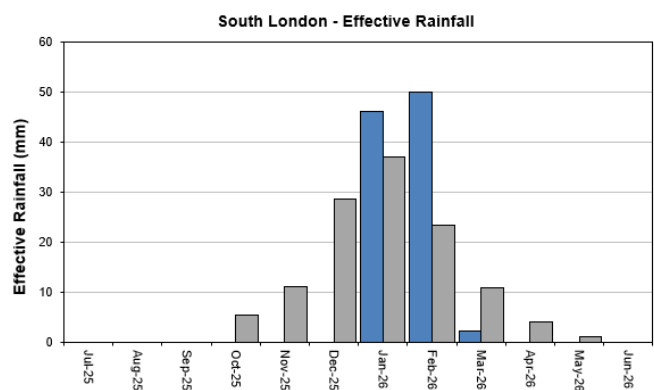
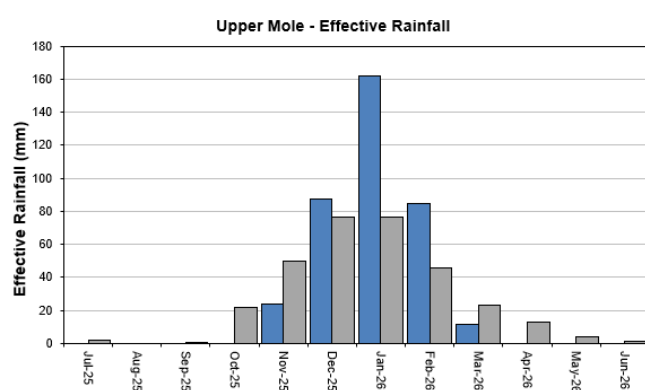
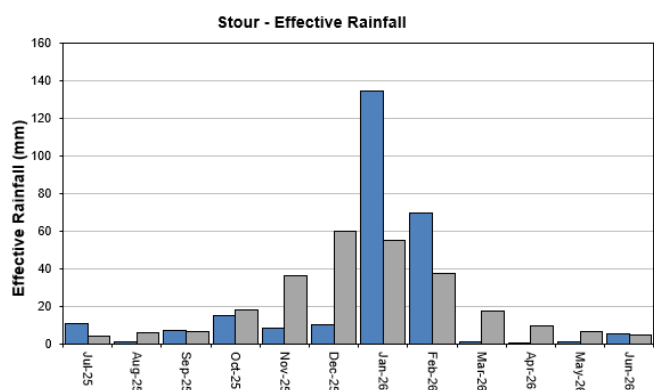
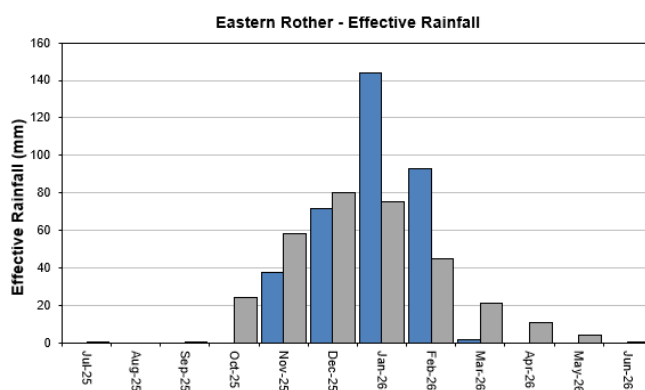
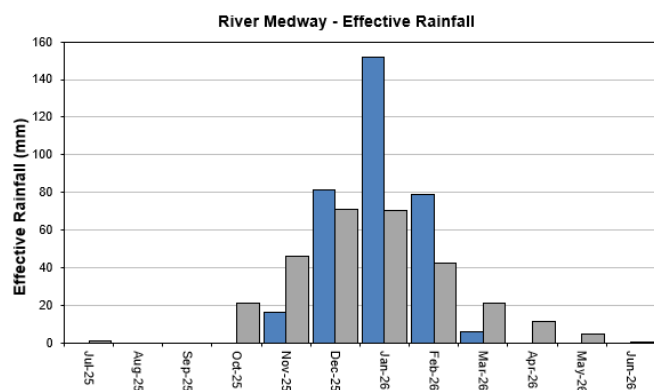


HadUK data for October 2023 onwards, based the Met Office 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from rain gauges (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026). Provisional data based on Environment Agency 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from Environment Agency intensity rain gauges. Includes material based on Ordnance Survey 1:50 000 maps with the permission of the controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2026.

2.3 Rainfall and effective rainfall charts

Figure 2.3: Monthly rainfall and effective rainfall totals for the past 12 months as a percentage of the 1991 to 2020 long term average (LTA) for a selection of areal units. HadUK rainfall data. (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026). EA effective rainfall data (Source EA Soil Moisture Model).





2.4 Rainfall and effective rainfall table

Figure 2.4: This is a second estimate of areal rainfall and effective rainfall (percolation or runoff) for a selection of the hydrological areas across the Kent and South London area. There may be significant variation within each area which must be considered when interpreting these data. When additional meteorological data is available estimates are revised which will affect the period totals in section 2.5.

Number	Hydrological Area	Rainfall (mm) 30 day Total	Jun LTA %	Effective Rainfall (mm) 30 day total	Jun LTA %
6230TH	North Downs - South London	75	141%	6	123%
6505TH	Upper Mole	75	147%	0	0%
6508TH	South London	79	160%	0	0%
6706So	Darent	70	139%	5	124%
6707So	North Kent Chalk	74	146%	5	119%
6708So	Stour	69	136%	5	112%
6709So	Dover Chalk	80	144%	6	124%
6710So	Thanet Chalk	70	142%	5	107%
6809So	Medway	70	139%	0	0%
6810So	Eastern Rother	63	125%	0	0%

6811So	Romney Marsh	61	129%	0	0%
6812So	North West Grain	69	153%	0	0%
6813So	Sheppey	71	161%	0	0%
	Kent, South London & East Sussex Average	71	143%	3	109%

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

EA effective rainfall data (Source EA Soil Moisture Model)

2.5 Seasonal summary table of rainfall and effective rainfall

Figure 2.5: This is a seasonal estimate of areal rainfall and effective rainfall (percolation or runoff) for a selection of the hydrological areas across the Kent and South London area, expressed as totals and as a percentage of the LTA. There may be significant variation within each area which must be considered when interpreting these data. When additional meteorological data is available estimates are revised which will affect the period totals.

Summer period 01/04/2026 to 30/06/2026

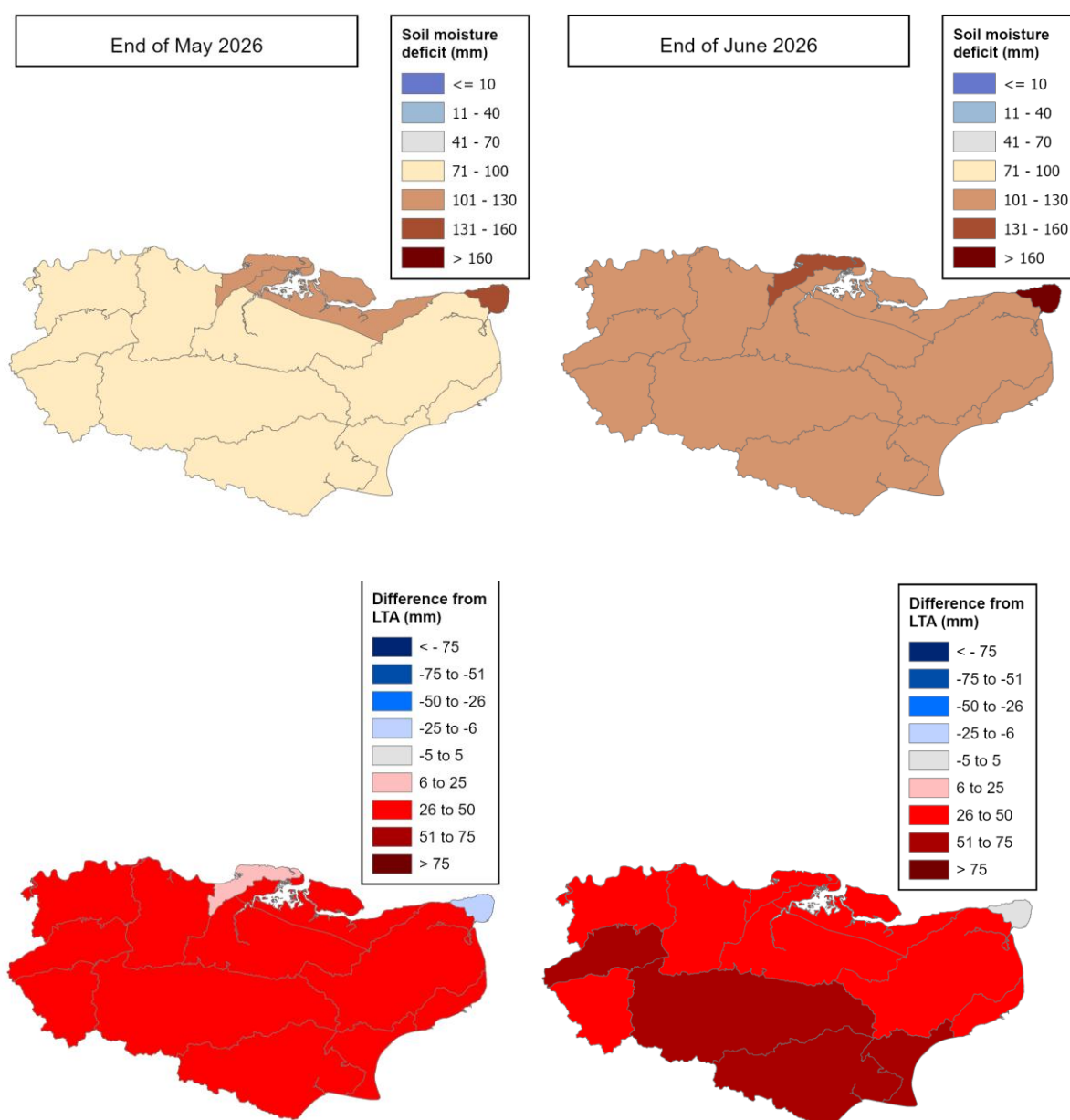
Number	Hydrological Area	Seasonal Rainfall (mm) Total	% LTA	Seasonal Effective Rainfall (mm) Total	% LTA
6230TH	North Downs - South London	102	62%	7	25%
6505TH	Upper Mole	107	68%	0	0%
6508TH	South London	100	72%	0	0%
6706So	Darent	93	63%	6	30%
6707So	North Kent Chalk	103	69%	6	30%
6708So	Stour	101	68%	6	31%
6709So	Dover Chalk	115	71%	8	31%
6710So	Thanet Chalk	99	75%	5	45%
6809So	Medway	99	64%	0	0%
6810So	Eastern Rother	92	61%	0	0%

6811So	Romney Marsh	87	65%	0	0%
6812So	North West Grain	90	72%	0	0%
6813So	Sheppey	95	75%	0	0%
	Kent, South London & East Sussex Average	99	68%	3	20%

3 Soil moisture deficit

3.1 Soil moisture deficit map

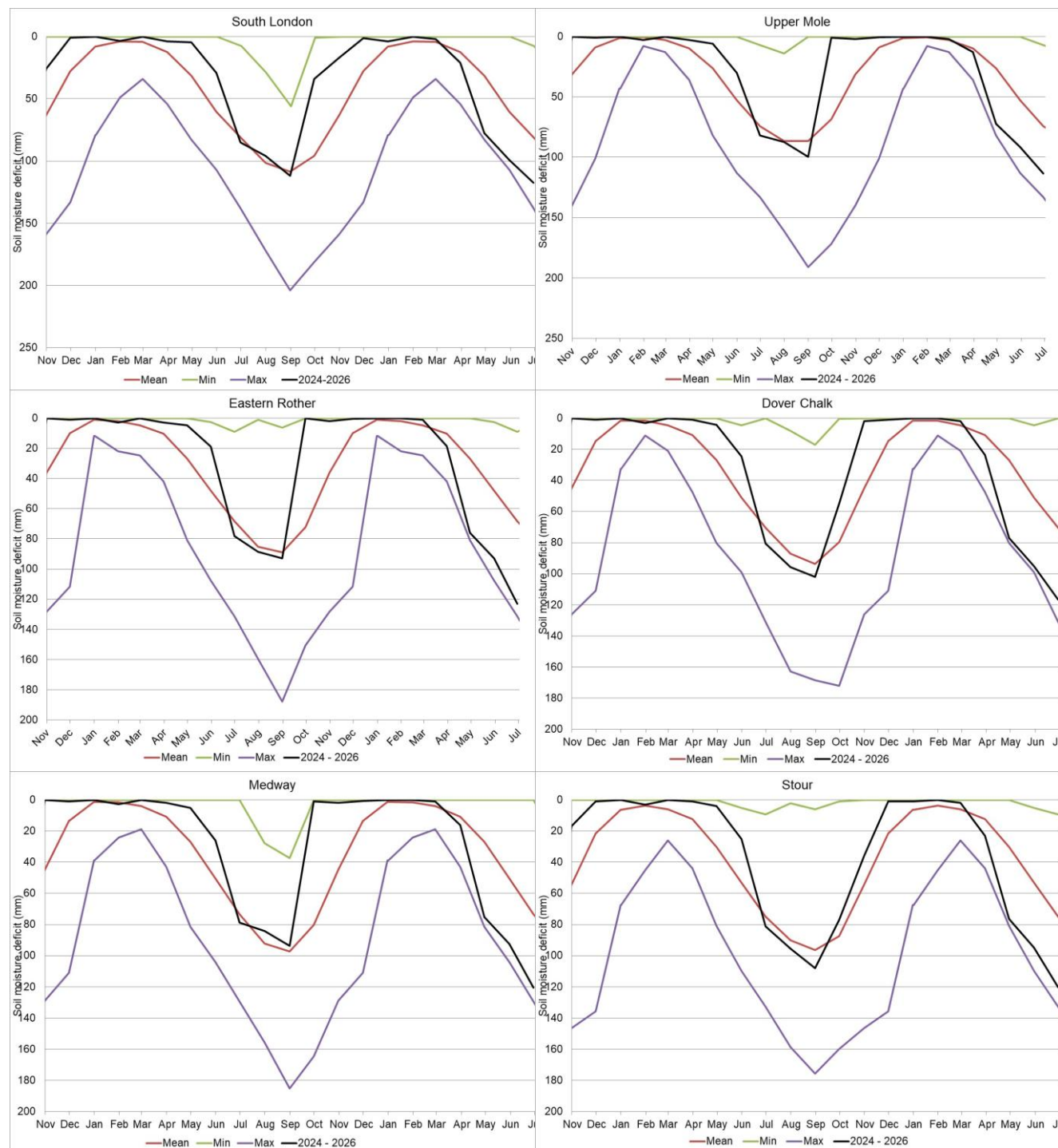
Figure 3.1: Soil moisture deficits for weeks ending 31 May (left panel) and 30 June 2026 (right panel). Top row shows actual soil moisture deficits (mm) and bottom row shows the difference (mm) of the actual from the 1991 to 2020 long term average soil moisture deficits. EA Soil Moisture Deficit data (Source EA Soil Moisture Model).



(Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026). All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100024198, 2026.

3.2 Soil moisture deficit charts

Figure 3.2: Latest soil moisture deficit compared to maximum, minimum, and 1991 to 2020 long term average. EA soil moisture deficit data (Source EA Soil Moisture Model).



(Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026). All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100024198, 2026

3.3 Soil moisture deficit table

Figure 3.3: This is a second estimate of soil moisture deficit for the hydrological areas across the Kent and South London area. There may be significant variation within each area which must be considered when interpreting these data.

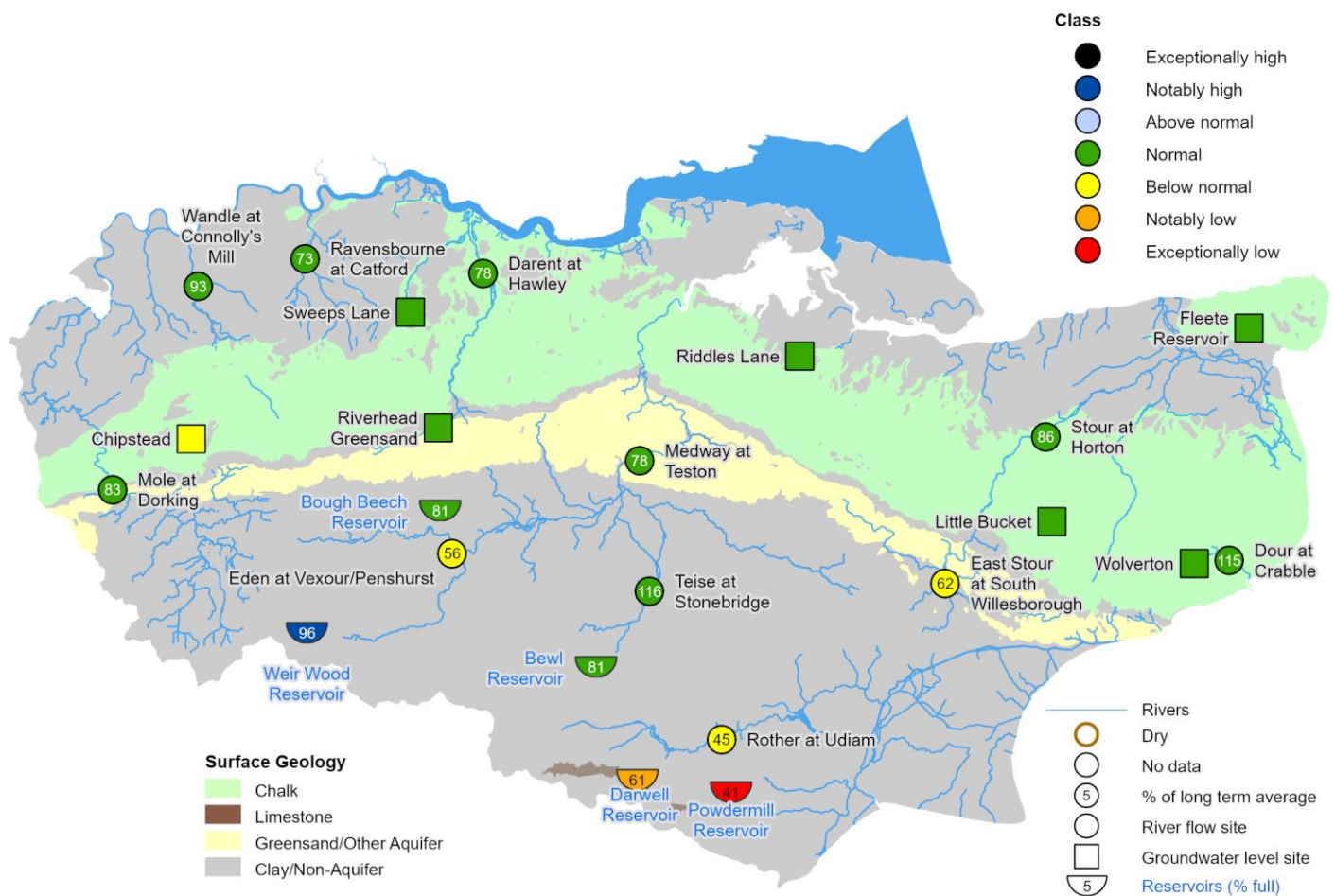
Number	Hydrological Area	SMD (mm) Day 30	End Jun	LTA
6230TH	North Downs - South London (W)	124	70	
6505TH	Upper Mole	114	69	
6508TH	South London	117	82	
6706So	Darent	125	77	
6707So	North Kent Chalk	117	75	
6708So	Stour	120	76	
6709So	Dover Chalk	117	72	
6710So	Thanet Chalk	166	168	
6809So	Medway	121	69	
6810So	Eastern Rother	123	70	
6811So	Romney Marsh	128	76	
6812So	North West Grain	133	104	
6813So	Sheppey	125	93	
	Kent & South London Average	125	85	

EA soil moisture deficit data (Source EA Soil Moisture Model).

4 River flows, groundwater levels and reservoir stocks

4.1 River flows, groundwater levels and reservoir stocks map

Figure 4.1: Monthly mean river flows* for indicator sites for June 2026, expressed as a percentage of the respective long term average (period 1992 – 2020) and classed relative to an analysis of historic June monthly means. End of month groundwater levels for indicator sites for June 2026, expressed as a percentage of the respective long term average and classed relative to an analysis of historic June levels. Tables available in the appendices with detailed information. End of month levels for reservoirs** for June 2026, expressed as percent full. (Source: Water Companies).



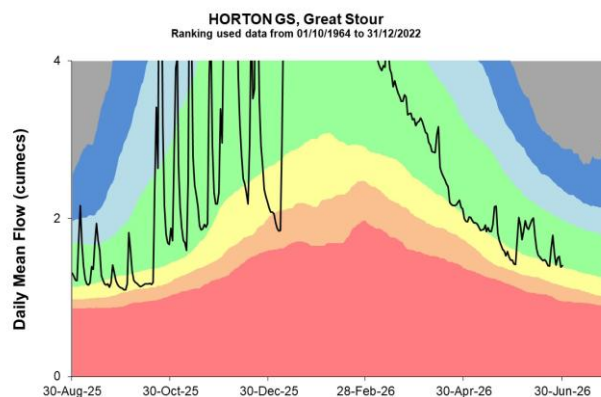
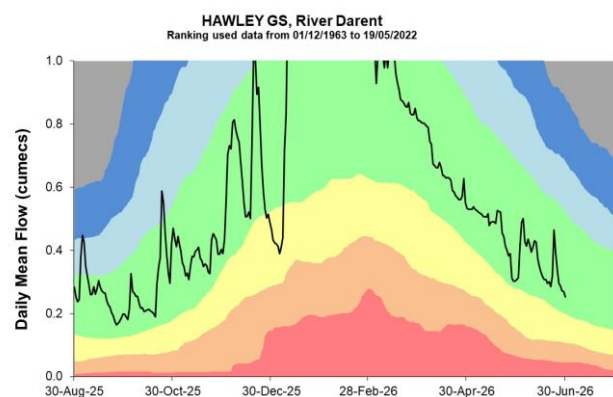
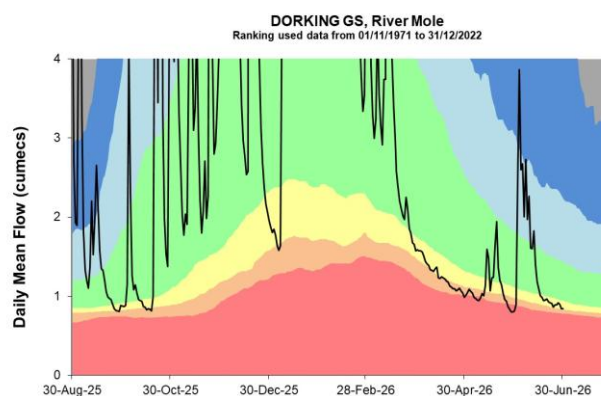
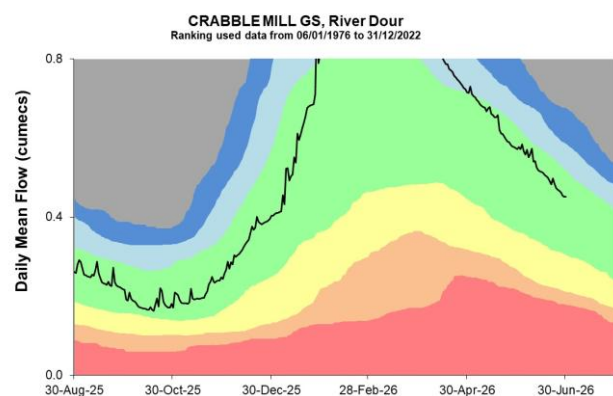
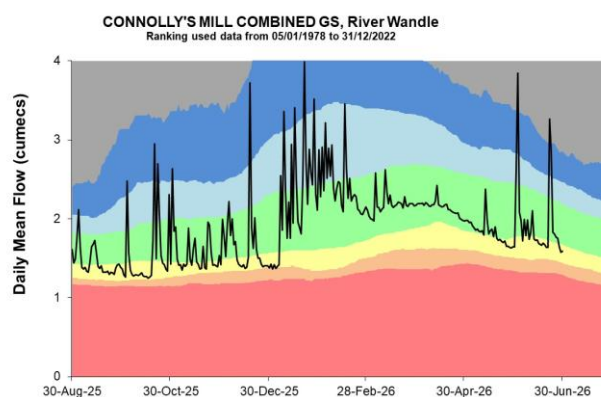
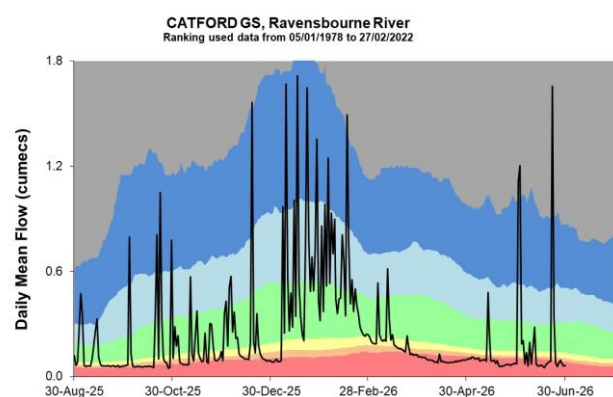
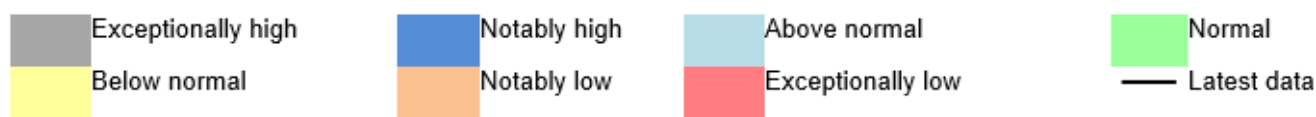
*Flows at gauging stations in the Medway catchment might be affected by upstream reservoir releases

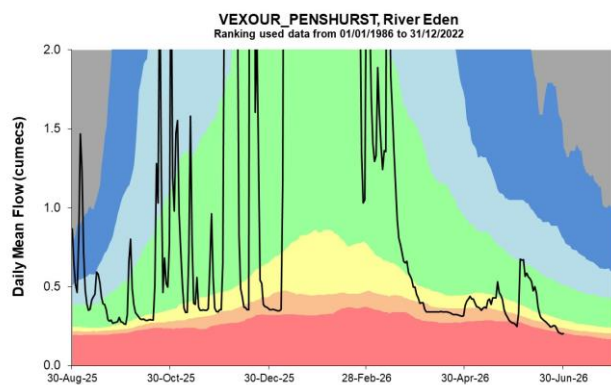
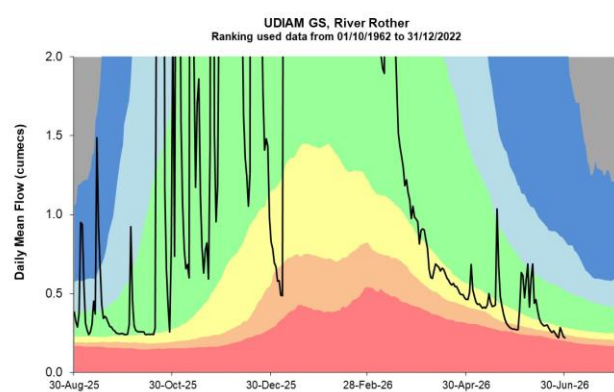
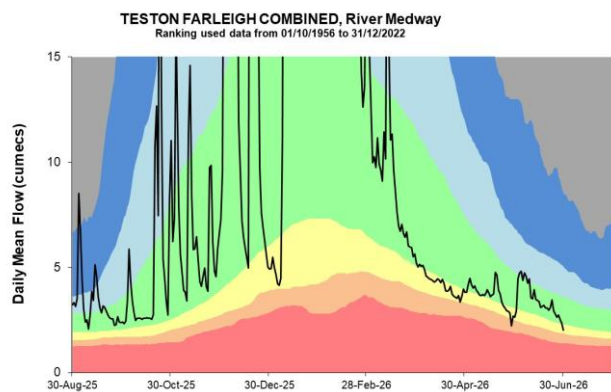
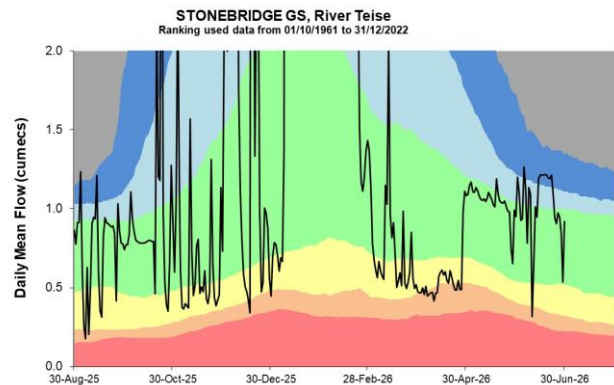
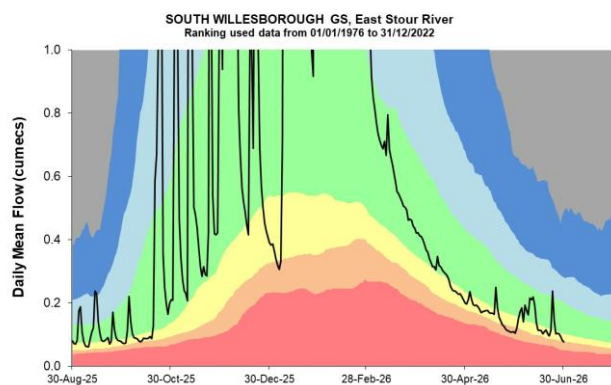
**Weir Wood Reservoir is currently offline

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4.2 River flow charts

Figure 4.1: 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.



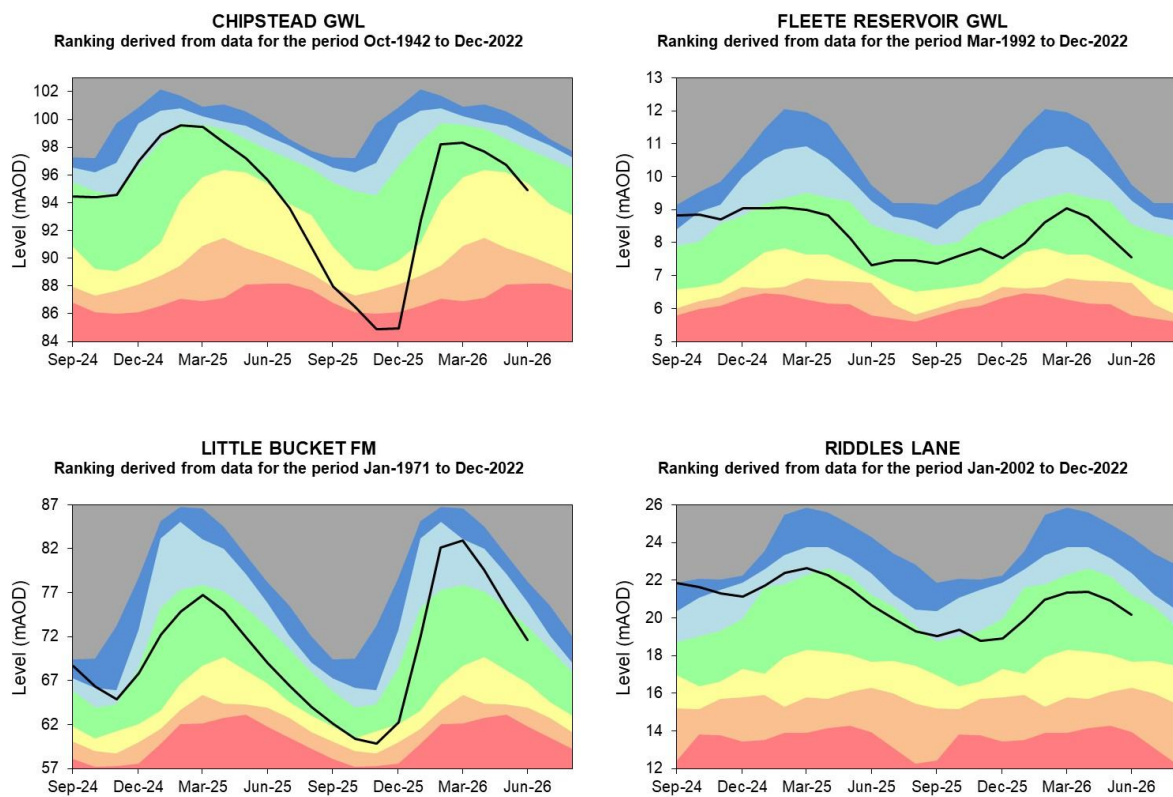
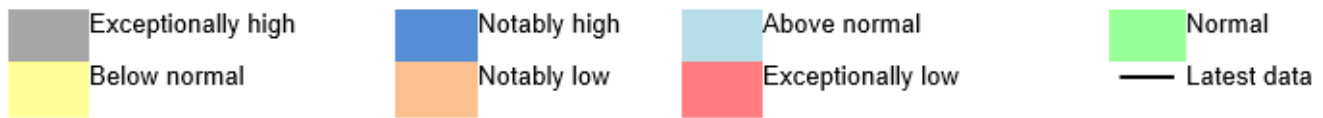


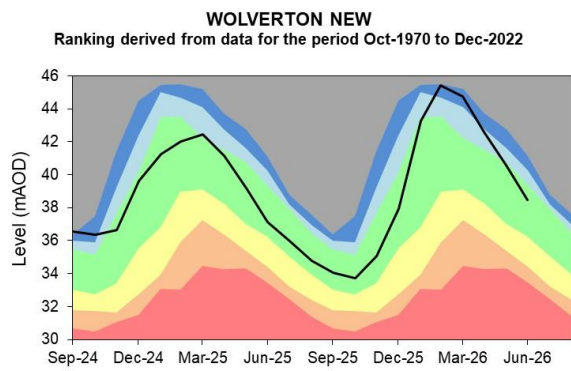
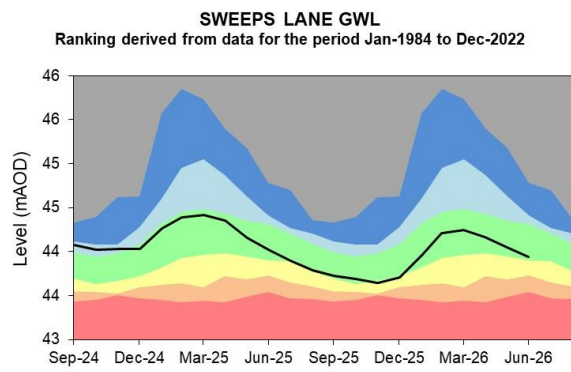
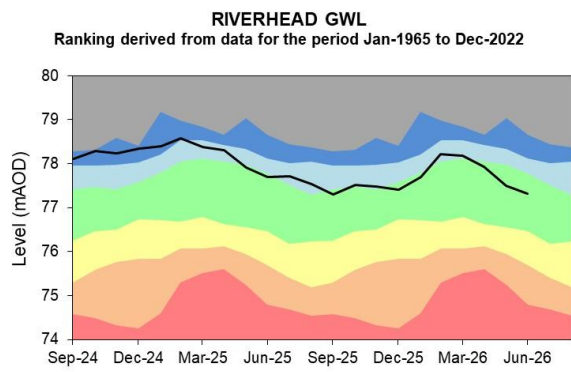
Source: Environment Agency.

5 Groundwater levels

5.1 Groundwater level charts

Figure 5.1: 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.



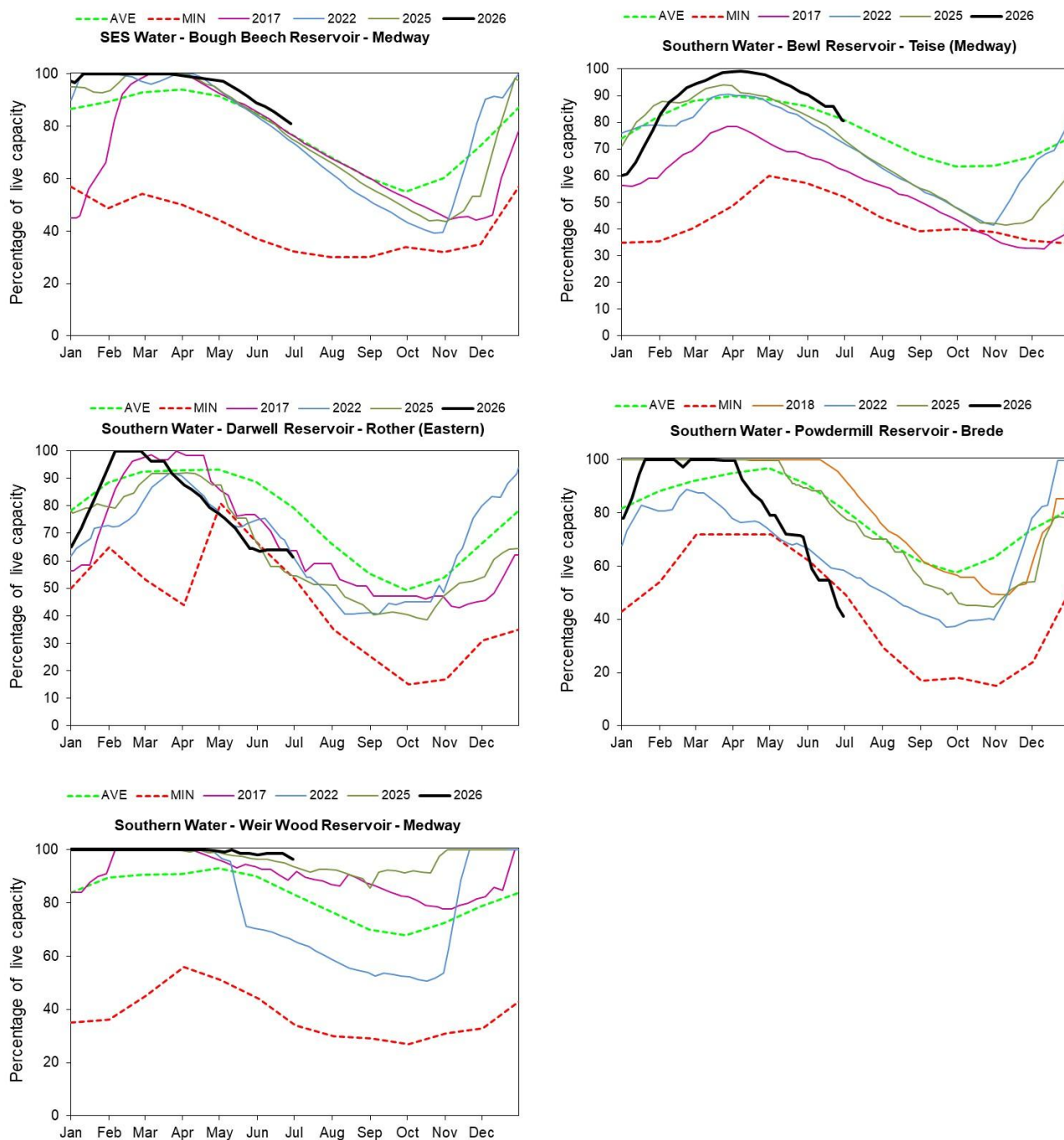


Source: Environment Agency, 2026.

6 Reservoir stocks

6.1 Reservoir stocks charts

Figure 7.1: End of month regional reservoir stocks compared to long term maximum, minimum and average stocks. (Source: Water Companies). Note: Historic records of individual reservoirs and reservoir groups making up the regional values vary in length.



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).

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.

8 Appendices

8.1 Rainfall table

Hydrological area	Jun 2026 rainfall % of long term average 1991 to 2020	Jun 2026 band	Apr 2026 to June cumulative band	Jan 2026 to June cumulative band	Jul 2025 to June cumulative band
North Downs - South London	141	Above Normal	Notably low	Above normal	Normal
Upper Mole	147	Above Normal	Below normal	Notably high	Above normal
South London	160	Above Normal	Below normal	Normal	Normal
River Darent	139	Above Normal	Notably low	Normal	Normal
North Kent Chalk	146	Above Normal	Below normal	Normal	Normal
Stour	136	Above Normal	Below normal	Above normal	Normal
Dover Chalk	144	Above Normal	Below normal	Above normal	Above normal
Thanet Chalk	142	Above Normal	Below normal	Normal	Normal
River Medway	139	Above Normal	Notably low	Above normal	Above normal

Eastern Rother	125	Above Normal	Notably low	Above normal	Normal
Romney Marsh	129	Above Normal	Notably low	Above normal	Normal
North West Grain	153	Above Normal	Below normal	Normal	Normal
Sheppey	161	Above Normal	Below normal	Normal	Normal

8.2 River flows table

Site name	River	Catchment	Jun 2026 band	May 2026 band
Catford Gs	River Ravensbourne	Ravensbourne	Normal	Exceptionally low
Connolly's Mill Combined Gs	River Wandle	Wandle	Normal	Normal
Crabble Mill Gs	River Dour	Dour	Normal	Normal
Dorking Gs	River Mole	Mole Surrey	Normal	Notably low
Hawley Gs	River Darent and Cray	Darent and Cray	Normal	Normal
Horton Gs	Great Stour River	Great Stour	Normal	Below normal
South Willesborough Gs	East Stour River	East Stour	Below normal	Notably low
Stonebridge Gs	River Teise	Teise	Normal	Normal
Teston Farleigh Combined	River Medway	Medway (Middle)	Normal	Below normal
Udiam Gs	River Rother	Rother (Kent)	Below normal	Below normal
Vexour_penshurst	River Eden	Eden (Kent)	Below normal	Notably low

8.3 Groundwater table

Site name	Aquifer	End of Jun 2026 band	End of May 2026 band
Fleete Reservoir Gwl	Isle Of Thanet Chalk	Normal	Normal
Chipstead Gwl	Epsom North Downs Chalk	Below normal	Normal
Little Bucket Fm	East Kent Chalk - Stour	Normal	Above normal
Riddles Lane	North Kent Swale Chalk	Normal	Normal
Riverhead Gwl	Kent Greensand	Normal	Normal
Sweeps Lane Gwl	West Kent Chalk	Normal	Normal
Wolverton New	East Kent Chalk - Stour	Normal	Normal