Monthly water situation report: Midlands

1 Summary - June 2026

Rainfall – In June, all but one catchment recorded normal rainfall totals compared to their June long term average (LTA). The Welsh Mountains catchment recorded below normal rainfall totals for this time of year.

Soil moisture deficit – Soil moisture deficits (SMDs) in June recorded higher than average across all Midlands catchments. This means soils were drier than average. All catchments increased their SMD compared to May.

River flows – All sites recorded below 100% of their LTA. 15 sites recorded normal flows, one below normal, two notably low and one exceptionally low flows.

Groundwater levels – Groundwater sites in June ranged from exceptionally high groundwater levels to normal groundwater levels.

Reservoir stocks - Reservoir storage levels across the Midlands ranged from 62% to 95% by the end of June.

1.1 Rainfall

In June, all but one catchment recorded normal rainfall totals compared to their June LTA. These ranged from 65% to 112% of their LTAs. The Welsh Mountains catchment was the exception, recording below normal rainfall totals compared to its LTA at 58%.

Over the last 3 months, most catchments recorded below normal rainfall totals compared to the 3-month LTA. The Derwent, Dove and Upper Trent recorded normal rainfall totals, and the Lower Trent and Welsh Mountains recorded notably low rainfall totals. These are all compared to the 3-month April to June LTAs.

Over the past 6 months, 5 catchments recorded notably high rainfall totals and 6 recorded above normal rainfall totals. The Welsh Mountains recorded normal rainfall totals. These are all compared to their 6-month January to June LTAs.

Over the past year, most catchments recorded above normal rainfall totals. The Lower Trent, Derwent and Dove recorded notably high rainfall totals, and the Avon and Mid Severn recorded normal rainfall totals. These are all compared to July 2025 to June 2026 LTAs.

1.2 Soil moisture deficit and recharge

In June, SMD increased across all areas in the Midlands since May. Most sites are recording between 101mm and 130mm of SMD. The exception was the Welsh Mountains, which recorded between 71mm and 100mm of SMD. This means that soils generally got drier over June. For the majority of areas, soils were recording a 26mm to 50mm difference in SMD compared to the LTA. The exception was the Dove, which recorded a 51mm to 75mm difference in SMD compared to the LTA. Overall, this shows soils are drier compared to the average for this time of year.

1.3 River flows

In June, most sites recorded normal flows for this time of year. Llanyblodwel and Bewdley recorded below normal flows, and Butts Bridge and Ebley Mill recorded notably low flows compared to the June LTA. Tenbury recorded exceptionally low flows for the time of year. Overall, the flows in the Midlands ranged from 32% to 96% of their LTA.

Deerhurst gauging station is currently down, and the data has been substituted with flows from the nearby Haw Bridge gauging station. Wedderburn Bridge has been showing unreliable data from September 2024 onwards; therefore, its data has been removed from this report.

1.4 Groundwater levels

At the end of June, all Midlands groundwater sites recorded normal or higher groundwater levels compared to the LTA. Coxmoor in the north-east recorded exceptionally high groundwater levels at the end of June compared to its LTA. Crossley Hill and Anthonys Cross recorded notably high groundwater levels compared to the LTA. Three sites recorded normal groundwater levels, and a further 3 recorded above normal groundwater levels compared to the LTA.

Out of all reported groundwater sites, the majority of sites had a slight decrease in groundwater levels since May. The only exception was Crossley Hill.

1.5 Reservoir stocks

Seven reservoirs are at below average storage for this time year. Clywedog reservoir is slightly below average storage, and Vyrnwy and Draycote are above average storage for this time of year.

All reservoirs had storage levels decrease compared to end of May. All reservoirs had storage between from 62% to 95% by the end of June.

1.6 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. Regulation was instigated when flows dropped below the threshold on 20 June 2026 and as of the end of June there have been 11 days of Severn Regulation so far.

Table 1.1: River Severn operational releases

Water supply (Ml/d)	Total releases	Normal releases	Regulation releases	Flood drawdown releases
Llyn Clywedog	495 Ml/d	18 Ml/d	477 Ml/d	0 Ml/d
Lake Vyrnwy	150 Ml/d	42 Ml/d	108 Ml/d	0 Ml/d
Shropshire Groundwater Scheme	0 Ml/d	N/A	0 Ml/d	N/A

1.7 River Wye operations

In June 2026, regulation releases were in operation. These occurred from 1 June to 3 June, and then from 18 June, continuing through to the end of June.

1.8 Water abstraction restrictions

As of 30 June there are 62 water abstraction licence restrictions in place across the Midlands affecting 236 licences in total.

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

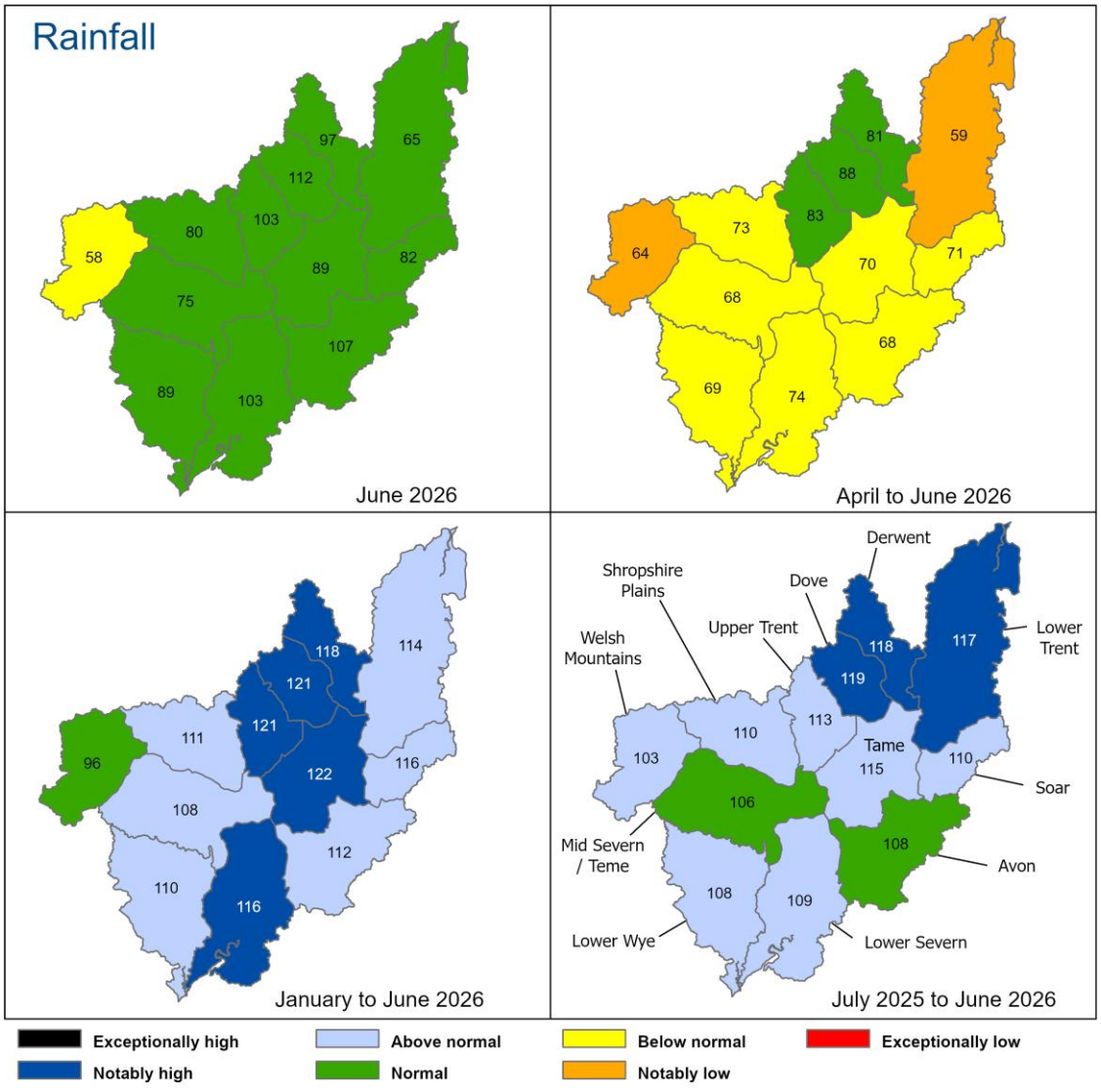
Author: Midlands Hydrology, midlandshydrology@environment-agency.gov.uk

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 30 June 2026), 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.

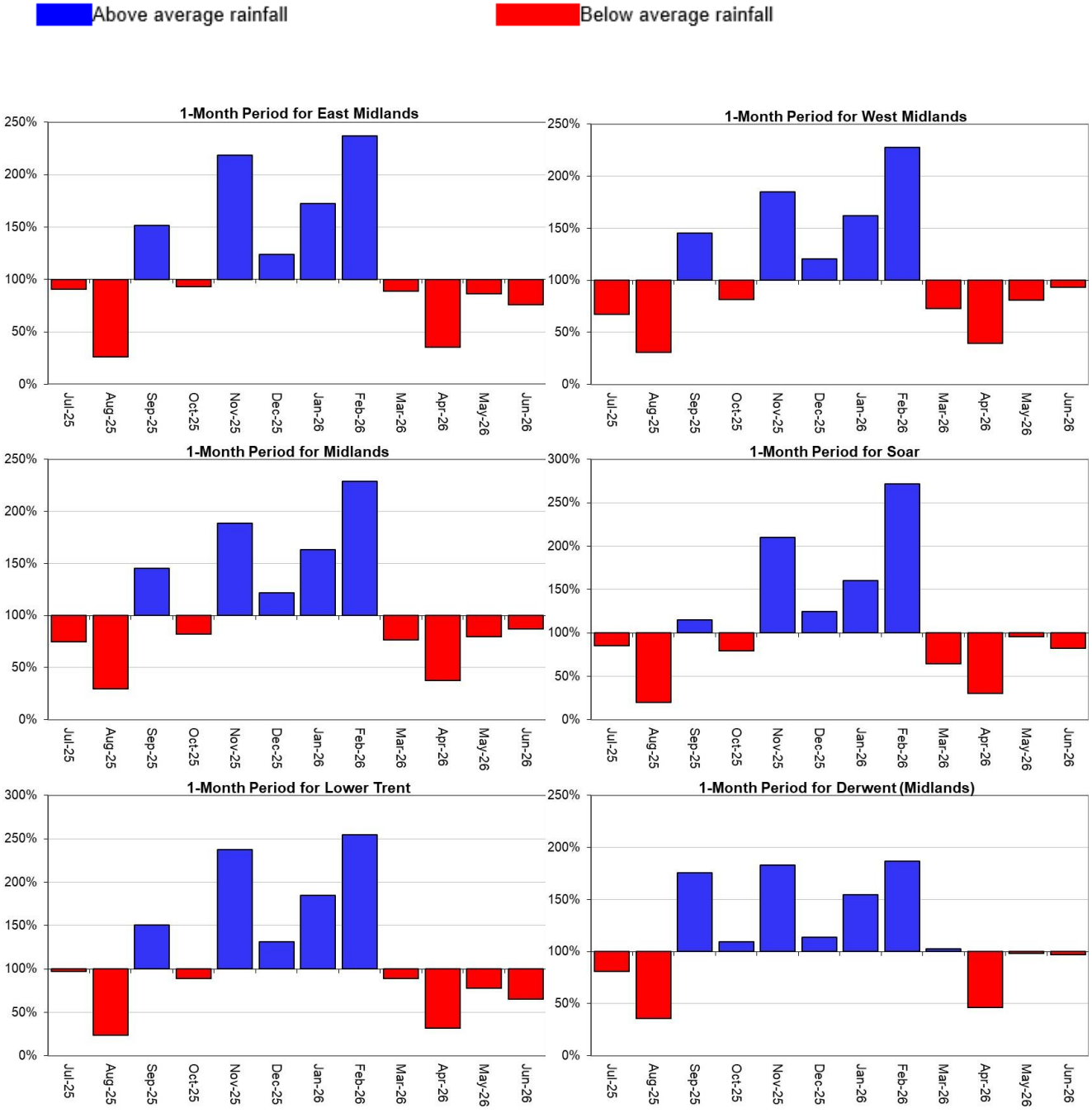


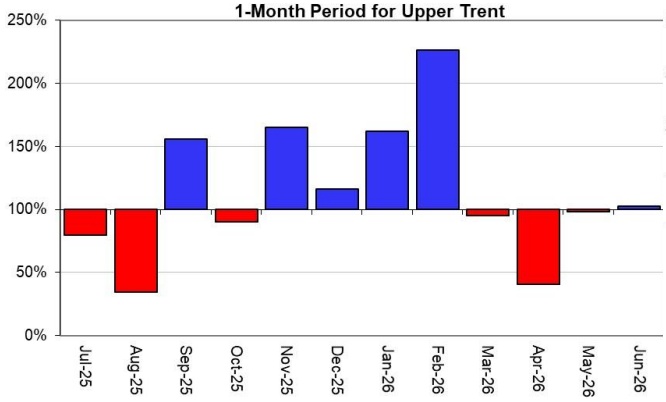
Rainfall data since January 2025, extracted from Environment Agency 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from Environment Agency intensity rain gauges. (Source: Environment Agency. Crown Copyright, AC0000807064, 2026). Rainfall data prior to January 2025,

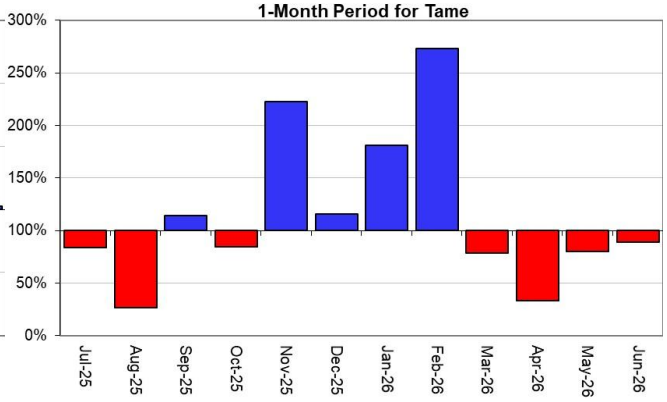
extracted from Met Office HadUK 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from registered rain gauges (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026).

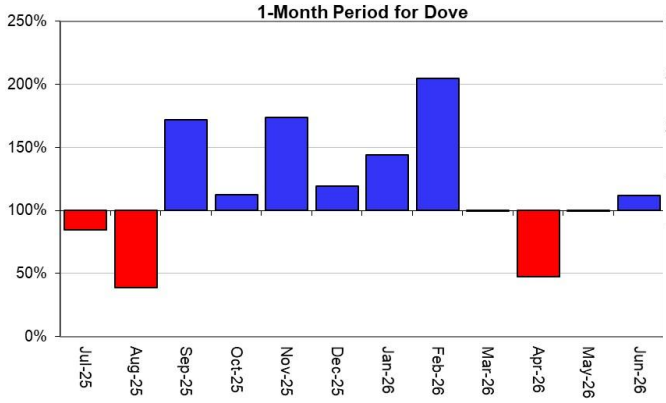
2.2 Rainfall charts

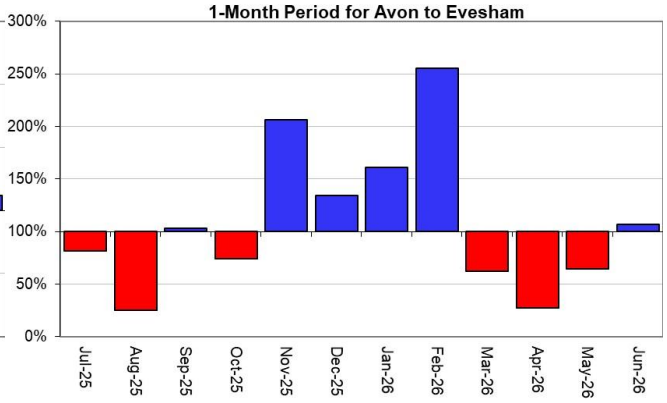
Figure 2.2: Monthly rainfall totals for the past 12 months as a percentage of the 1991 to 2020 long term average for hydrological areas across the Midlands region.

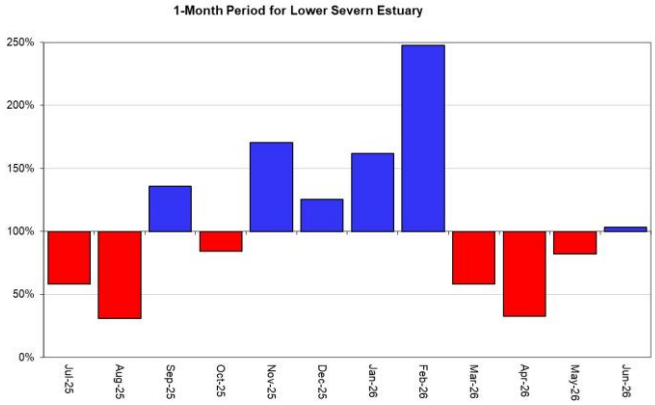


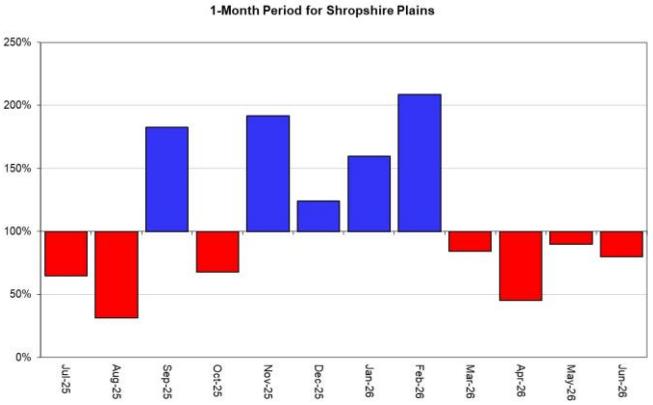

1-Month Period for Upper Trent
250%
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
Jul-25
Aug-25
Sep-25
Oct-25
Nov-25
Dec-25
Jan-26
Feb-26
Mar-26
Apr-26
May-26
Jun-26

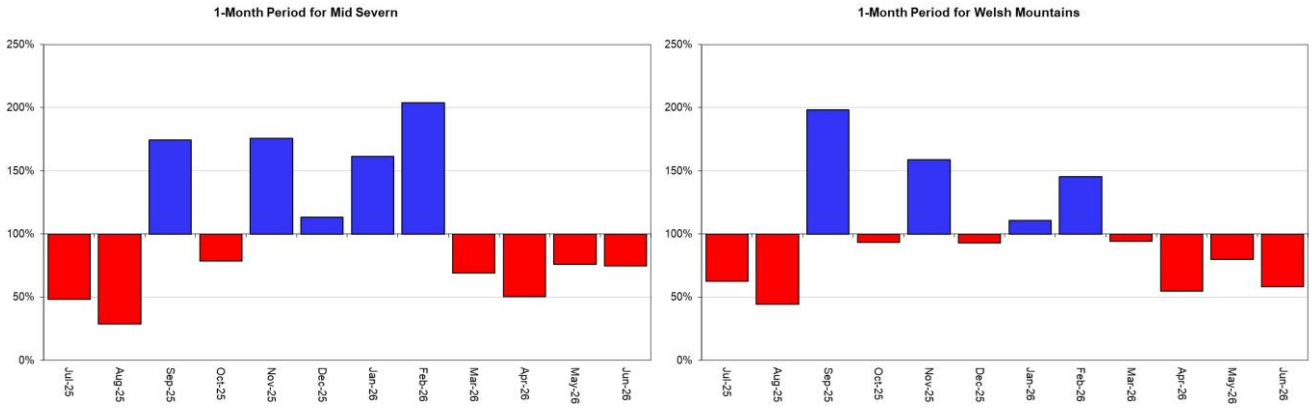

1-Month Period for Tame
300%
250%
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
Jul-25
Aug-25
Sep-25
Oct-25
Nov-25
Dec-25
Jan-26
Feb-26
Mar-26
Apr-26
May-26
Jun-26

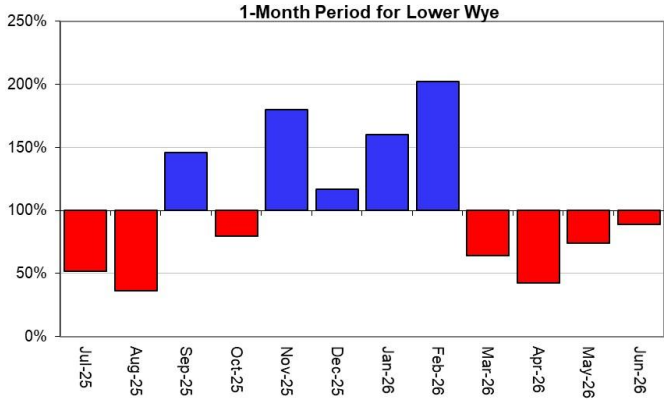

1-Month Period for Dove
250%
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
Jul-25
Aug-25
Sep-25
Oct-25
Nov-25
Dec-25
Jan-26
Feb-26
Mar-26
Apr-26
May-26
Jun-26


1-Month Period for Avon to Evesham
300%
250%
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
Jul-25
Aug-25
Sep-25
Oct-25
Nov-25
Dec-25
Jan-26
Feb-26
Mar-26
Apr-26
May-26
Jun-26


1-Month Period for Lower Severn Estuary
250%
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
Jul-25
Aug-25
Sep-25
Oct-25
Nov-25
Dec-25
Jan-26
Feb-26
Mar-26
Apr-26
May-26
Jun-26


1-Month Period for Shropshire Plains
250%
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
Jul-25
Aug-25
Sep-25
Oct-25
Nov-25
Dec-25
Jan-26
Feb-26
Mar-26
Apr-26
May-26
Jun-26



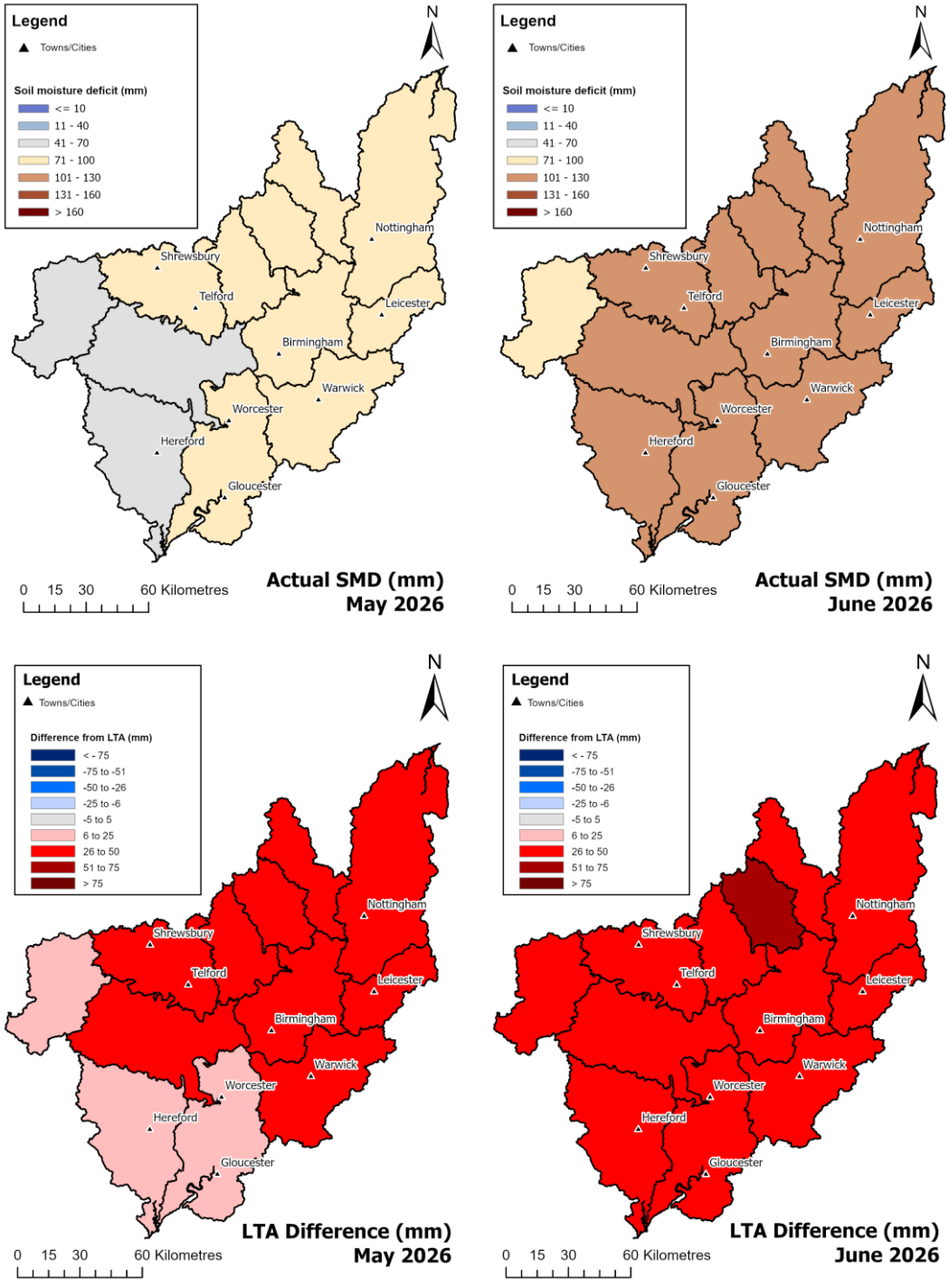


Rainfall data since January 2025, extracted from Environment Agency 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from Environment Agency intensity rain gauges. (Source: Environment Agency. Crown Copyright, AC0000807064, 2026). Rainfall data prior to January 2025, extracted from Met Office HadUK 1km gridded rainfall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

3 Soil moisture deficit

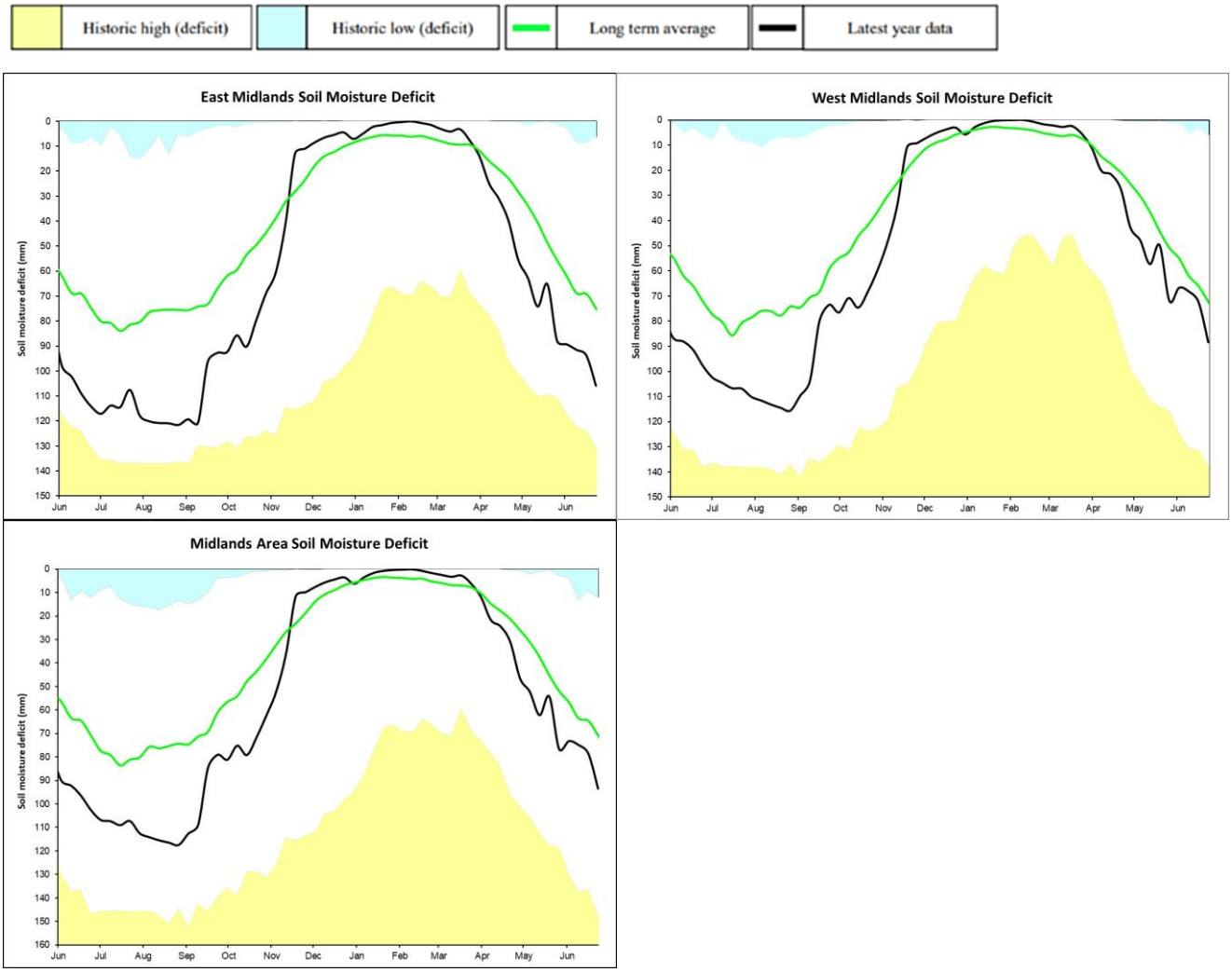
3.1 Soil moisture deficit map

Figure 3.1: Soil moisture deficits for weeks ending 30 June 2026. 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

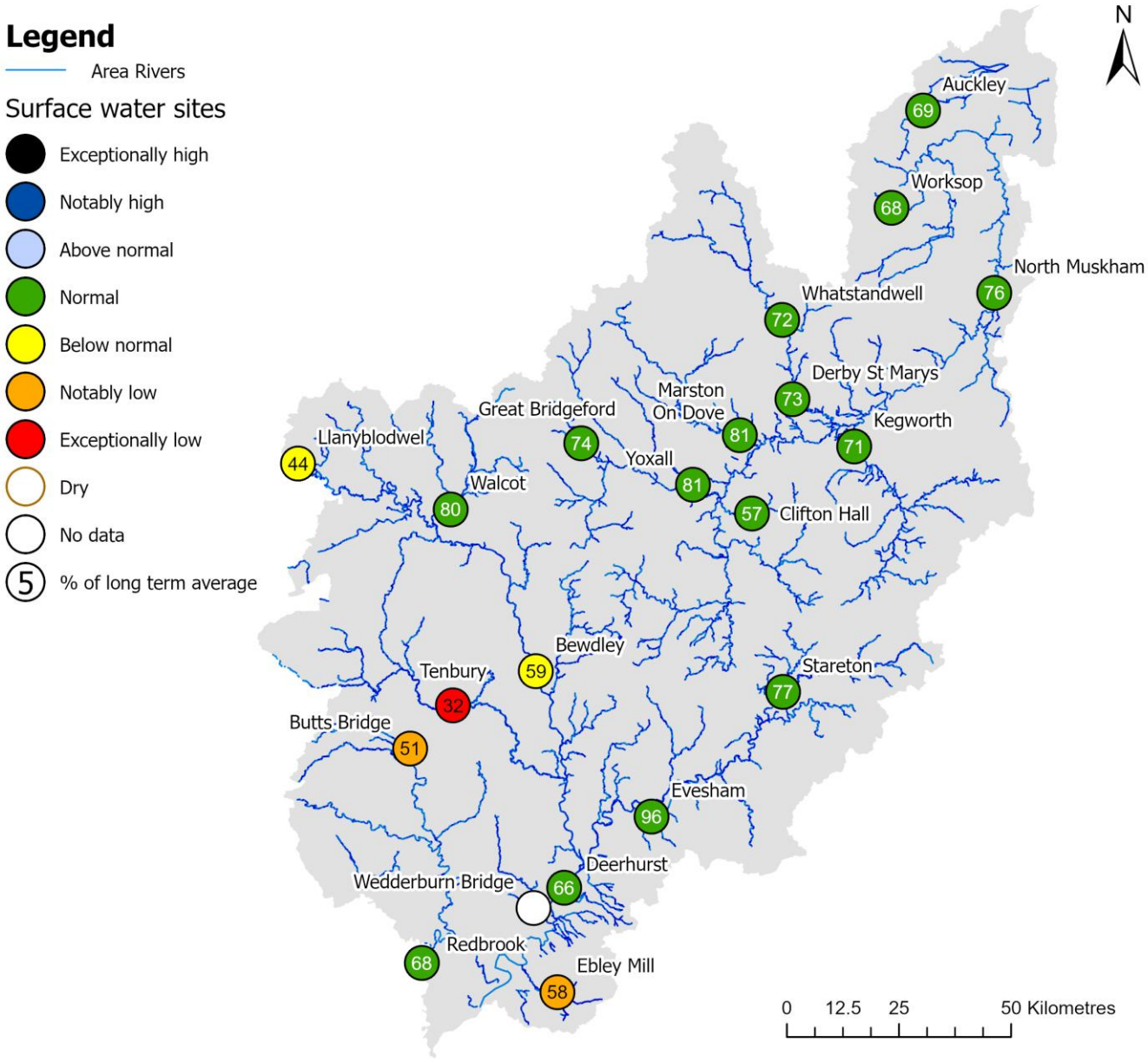
Figure 3.2: Latest soil moisture deficit charts for selected areas across the Midlands.



4 River flows

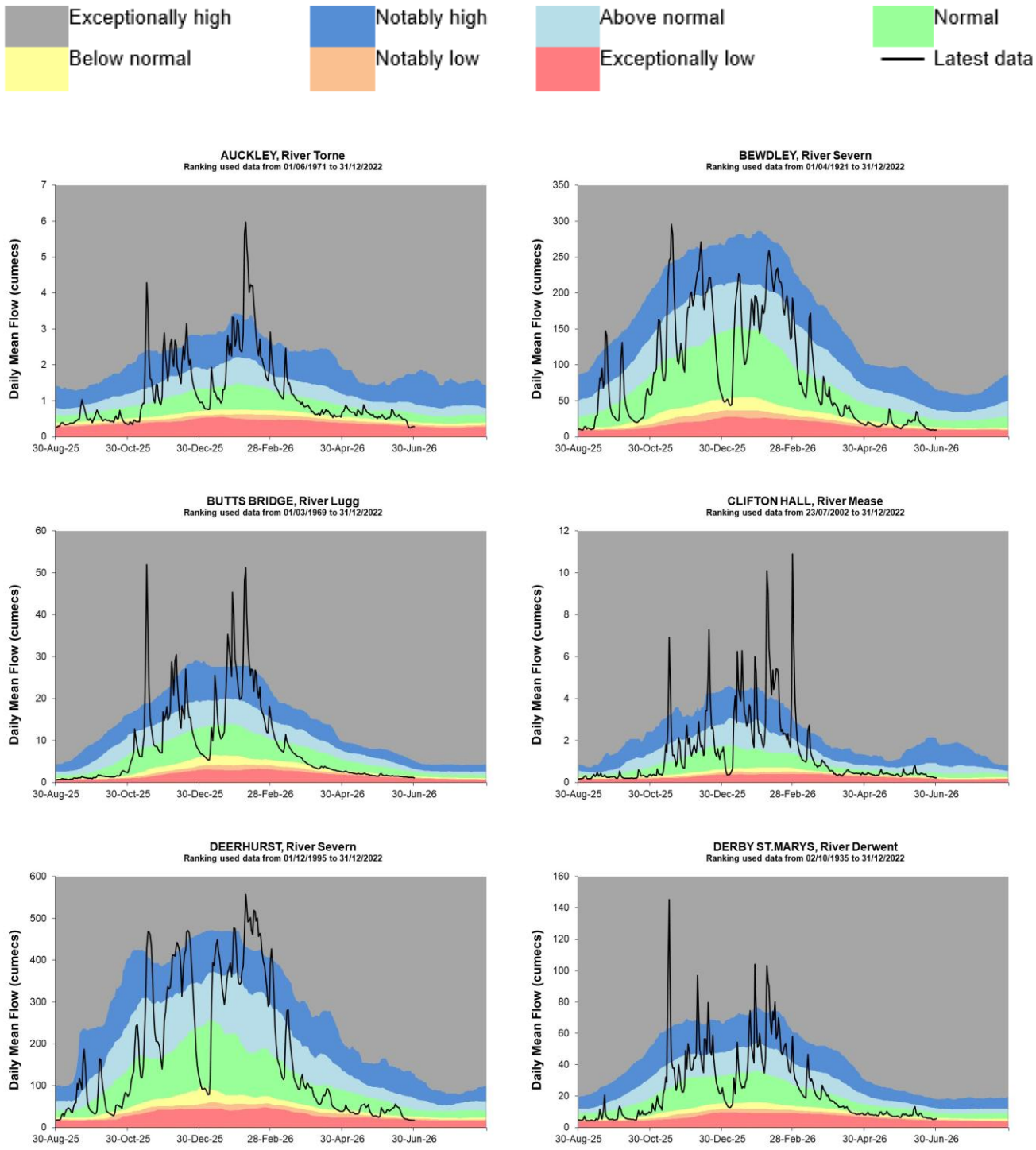
4.1 River flows map

Figure 4.1: Monthly mean river flow for indicator sites for June 2026, expressed as a percentage of the respective long term average and classed relative to an analysis of historic June monthly means. Table available in the appendices with detailed information.

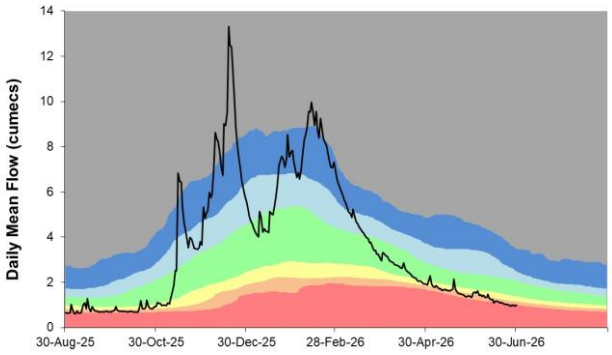


4.2 River flow charts

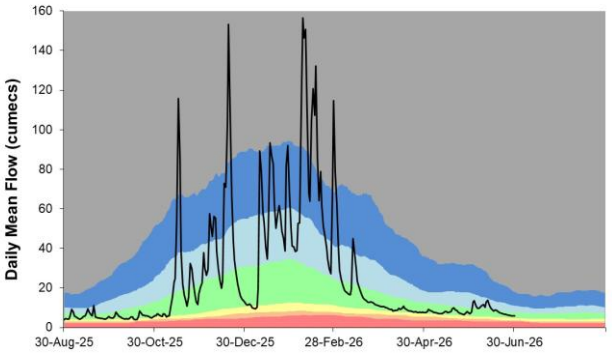
Figure 4.2: Daily mean river flow for index sites over the past year, compared to an analysis of historic daily mean flows, and long term maximum and minimum flows.



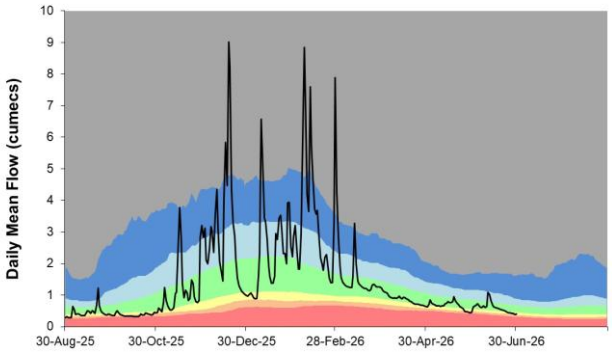
EBLEY MILL, River Frome
Ranking used data from 01/04/1969 to 31/12/2022



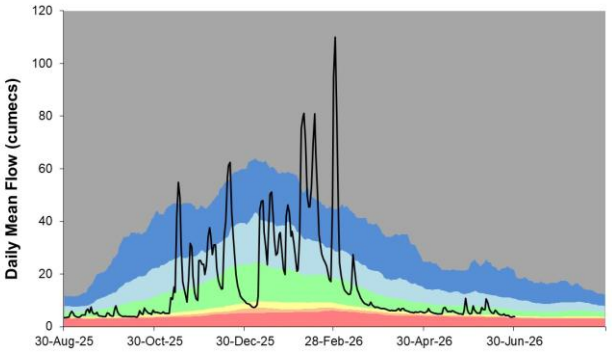
EVESHAM, River Avon
Ranking used data from 01/12/1936 to 31/12/2022



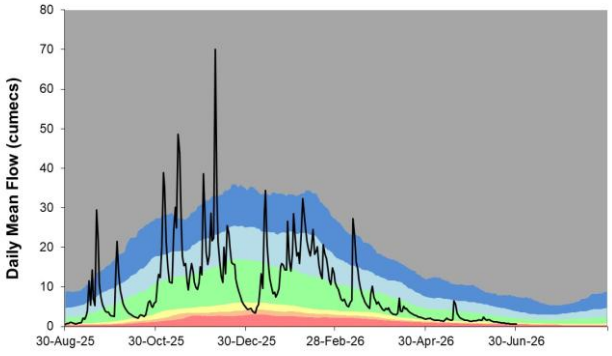
GREAT BRIDGFORD, River Sow
Ranking used data from 18/01/1971 to 31/12/2022



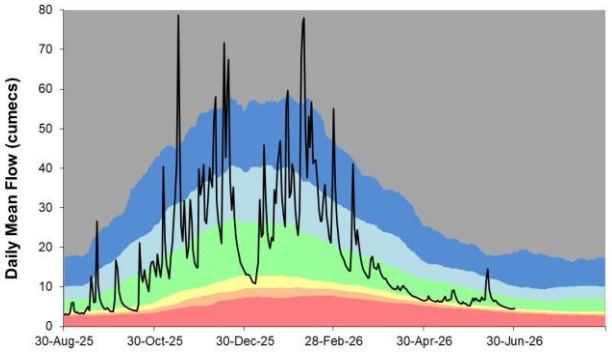
KEGWORTH, River Soar
Ranking used data from 01/12/1978 to 31/12/2022



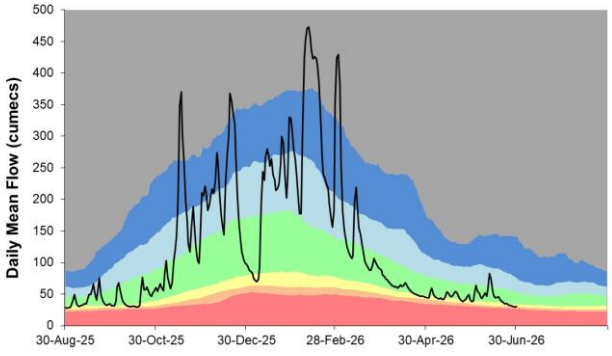
LLANYBLODWEL, Afon Tanat
Ranking used data from 01/06/1973 to 31/12/2022



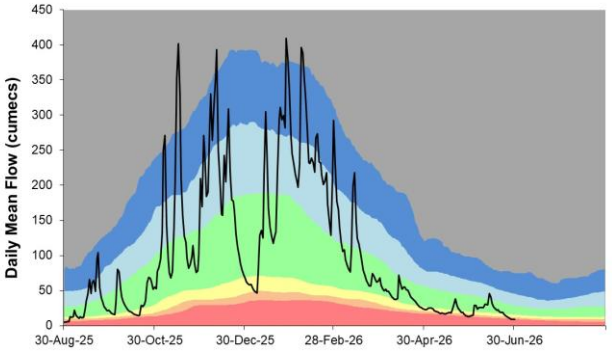
MARSTON ON DOVE, River Dove
Ranking used data from 01/07/1965 to 31/12/2022

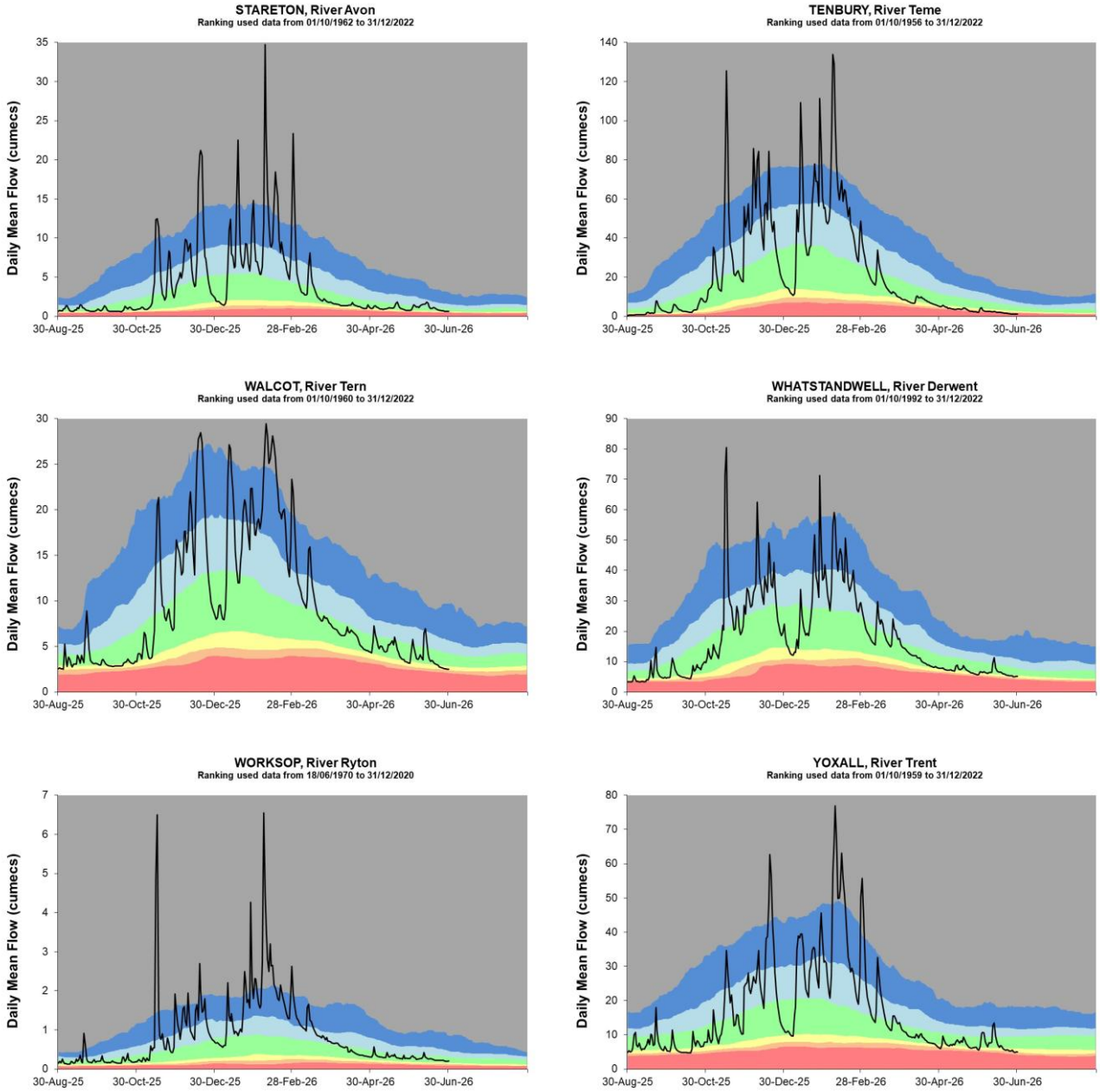


NORTH MUSKHAM, River Trent
Ranking used data from 03/10/1969 to 31/12/2022



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



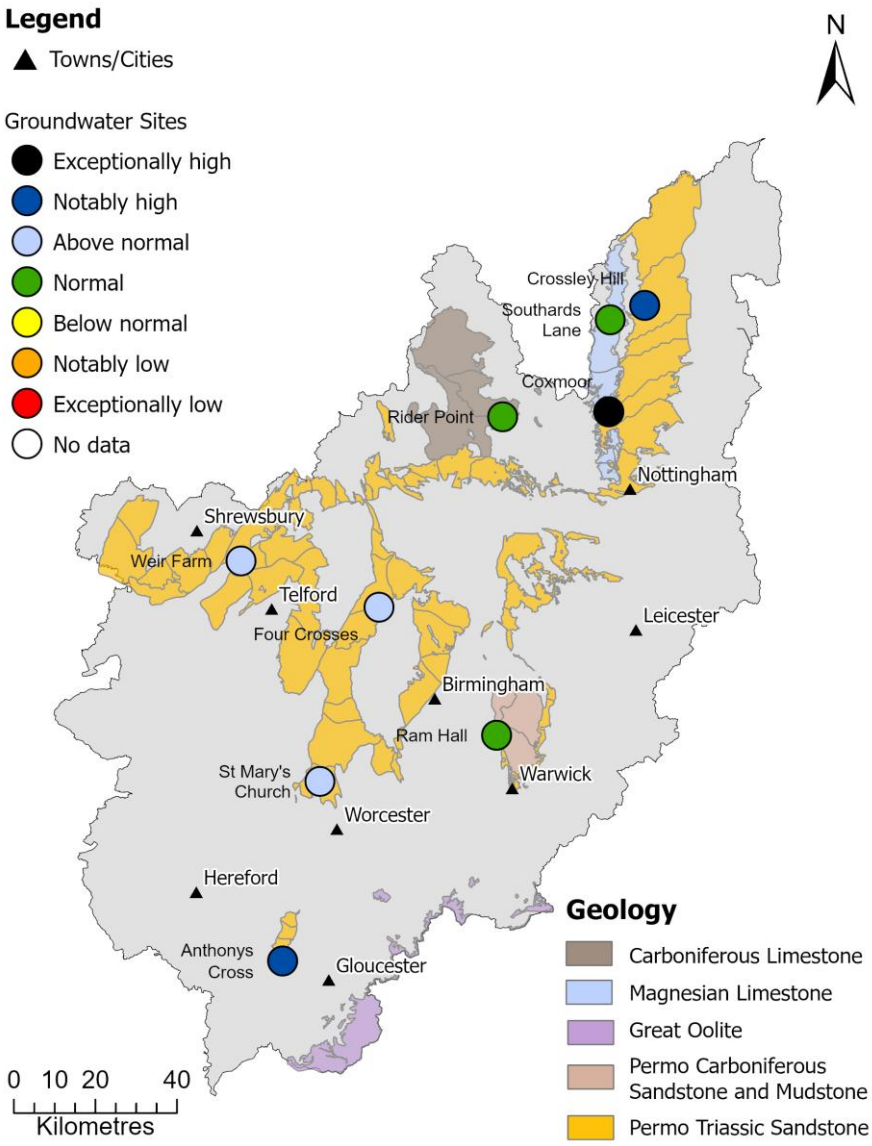


(Source: Environment Agency, 2026).

5 Groundwater levels

5.1 Groundwater levels map

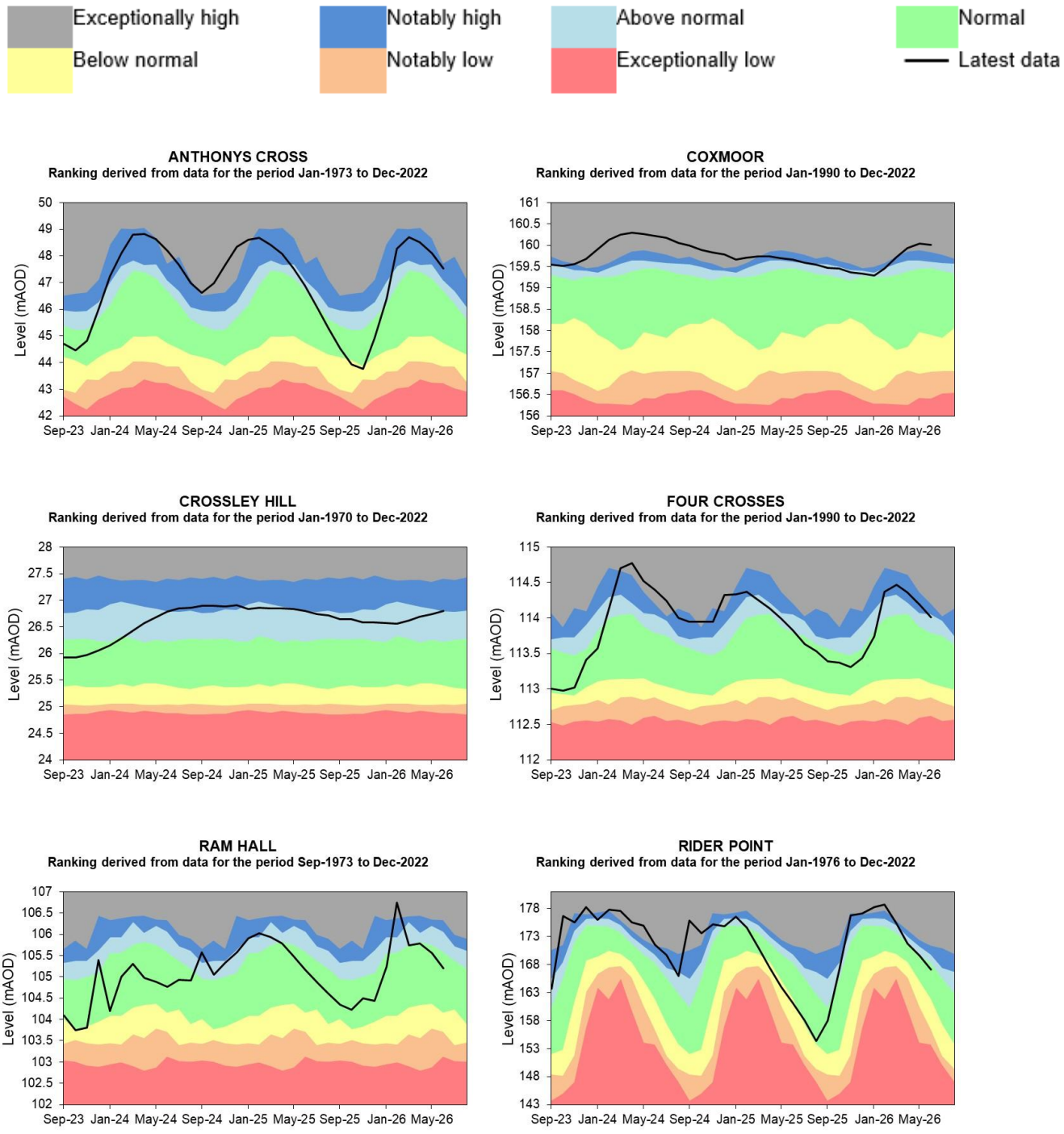
Figure 5.1: Groundwater levels for indicator sites at the end of June 2026, classed relative to an analysis of respective historic June levels. Table available in the appendices with detailed information, including aquifer type.

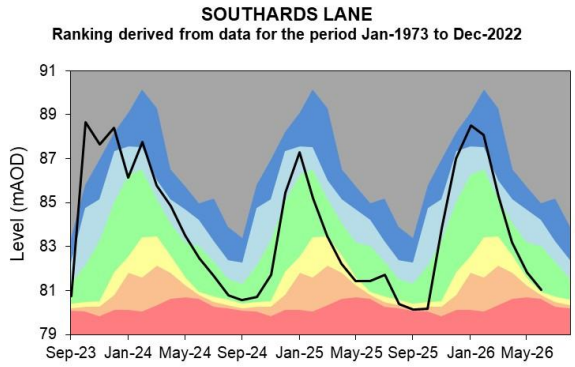


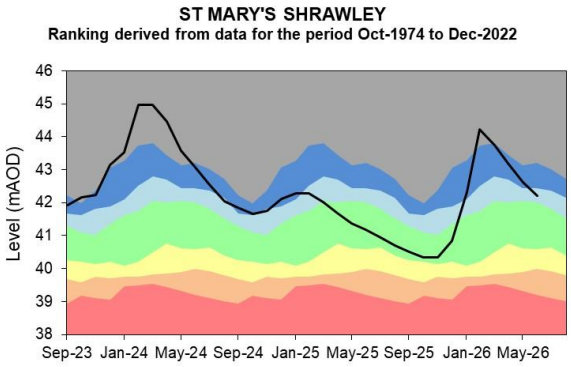
(Source: Environment Agency). Geological map reproduced with kind permission from UK Groundwater Forum, BGS copyright NERC. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, AC0000807064, 2026.

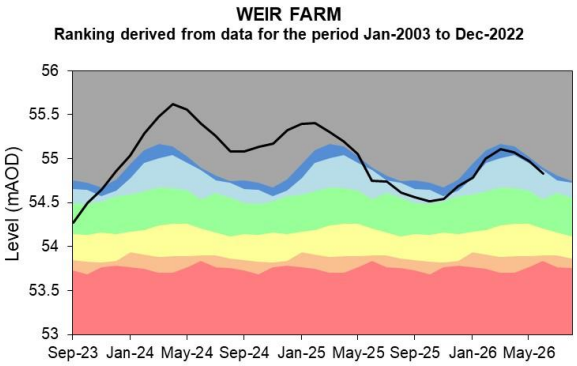
5.2 Groundwater level charts

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.





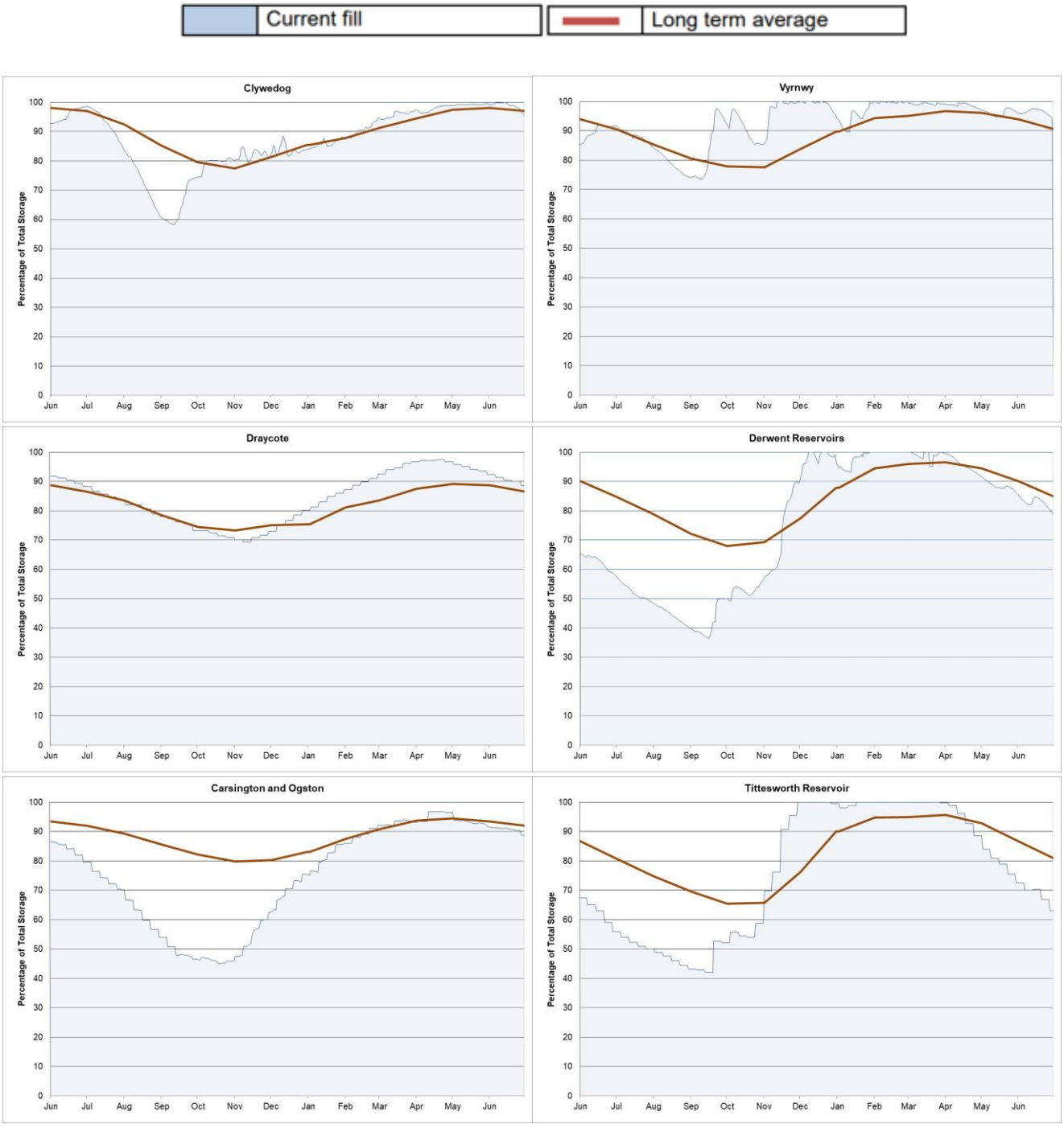




(Source: Environment Agency, 2026).

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

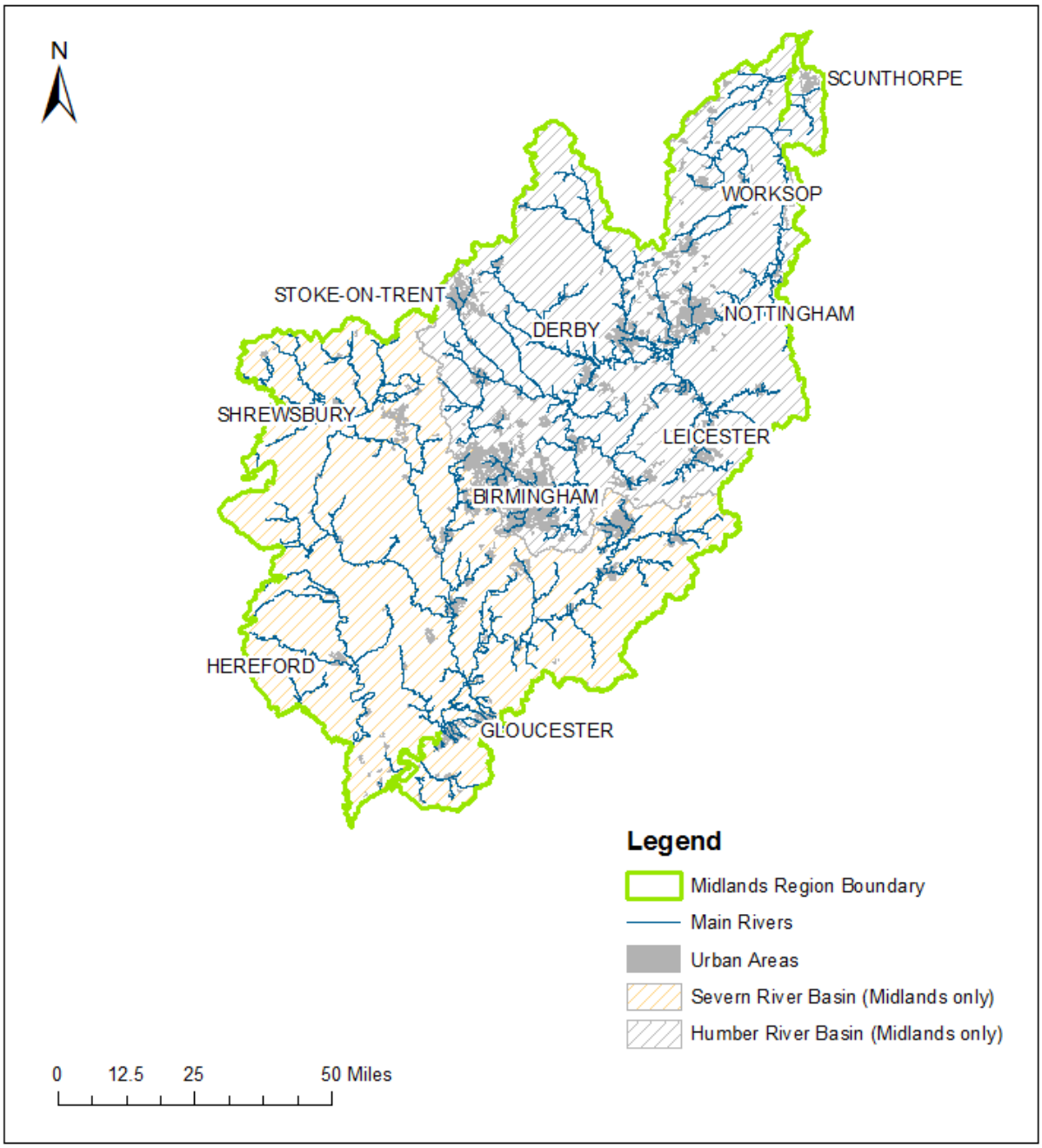
Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time.

Exceptionally low

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

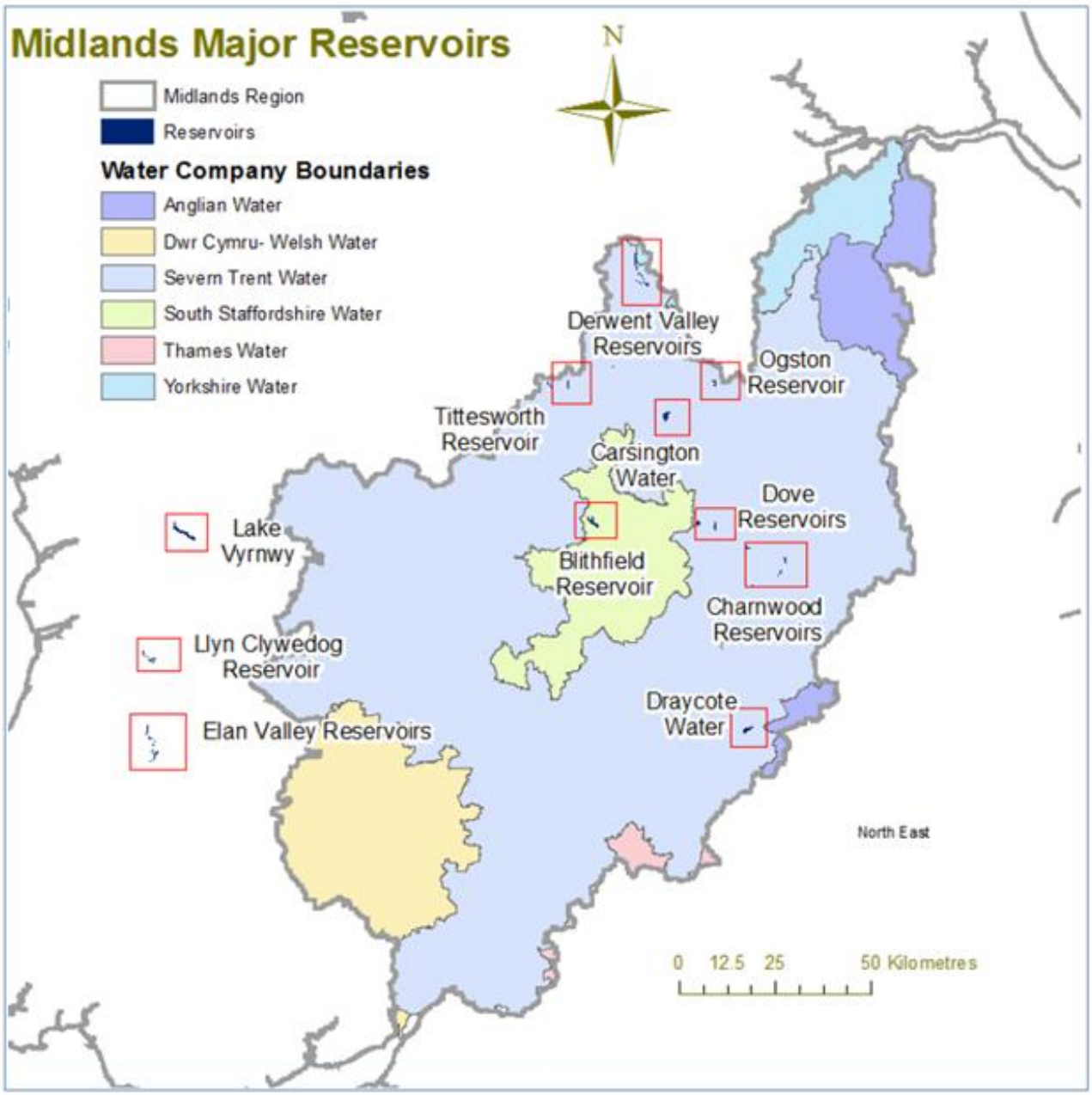
7.3 Midlands regional coverage

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	River Derwent at Derby St. Mary's Rothley Brook at Rothley River Soar at Littlethorpe River Devon at Wensor Bridge River Trent at North Muskham River Ryton at Blyth River Idle at Mattersey
West Midlands	River Arrow at Broom Badsey Brook at Offenham River Dene at Wellesbourne River Isbourne at Hinton River Trent at North Muskham River Severn at Deerhurst Glynch Brook at Bromsberrow River Leadon at Wedderburn Bridge Coley Brook at Coley Bridge River Perry at Yeaton River Rea at Hookagate River Roden at Rodington

Area	Rivers and stations restricted
	River Strine at Crudgington River Tern at Ternhill on Tern River Tern at Ternhill (Bailey Brook) River Tern at Walcot River Sow at Great Bridgford River Trent at Yoxall River Teme at Knightsford Bridge River Teme at Tenbury Borle Brook at Dowles Brook at Oak Cottage Dick Brook at Dowles Brook at Oak Cottage Mor Brook at Dowles Brook at Oak Cottage River Salwarpe at Harford Hill River Stour at Puxton River Wye at Belmont River Wye at Redbrook River Garren at Marstow Mill River Arrow at Titley Mill River Lugg at Butts Bridge River Frome at Yarkhill

8.2 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
Avon To Evesham	107	Normal	Below normal	Above normal	Normal
Derwent (Midlands)	97	Normal	Normal	Notably high	Notably high
Dove	112	Normal	Normal	Notably high	Notably high
Lower Severn Estuary	104	Normal	Below normal	Notably high	Above normal
Lower Trent	65	Normal	Notably low	Above normal	Notably high
Lower Wye	89	Normal	Below normal	Above normal	Above normal
Mid Severn	75	Normal	Below normal	Above normal	Normal
Shropshire Plains	80	Normal	Below normal	Above normal	Above normal
Soar	82	Normal	Below normal	Above normal	Above normal
Tame	89	Normal	Below normal	Notably high	Above normal
Upper Trent	103	Normal	Normal	Notably high	Above normal
Welsh Mountains	58	Below Normal	Notably low	Normal	Above normal

8.3 River flows table

Site name	River	Catchment	Jun 2026 band	May 2026 band
Auckley	Torne	Torne	Normal	Normal
Bewdley	Severn	Severn Lower Mid	Below normal	Below normal
Butts Bridge	Lugg	Lugg	Notably low	Notably low
Clifton Hall	River Mease	Mease	Normal	Below normal
Deerhurst	Severn	Severn Lower	Normal	Below normal
Derby St. Marys	Derwent	Derwent Der to Markeaton confl.	Normal	Below normal
Ebley Mill	Frome (Gloucs.)	Frome Gloucs.	Notably low	Below normal
Evesham	Avon (Midlands)	Avon Warwks Lower	Normal	Normal
Great Bridgford	Sow	Sow Upper	Normal	Below normal
Kegworth	Soar	Soar to Kingston Brook confl.	Normal	Below normal
Llanyblodwel	Tanat	Severn Upper River Tanat	Below normal	Normal
Marston On Dove	Dove (Midlands)	Dove Derb to Hilton Br confl.	Normal	Below normal

Site name	River	Catchment	Jun 2026 band	May 2026 band
North Muskham	Trent	Trent to Cromwell	Normal	Below normal
Redbrook	Wye (Herefordshire)	Wye H and W d s Lugg	Normal	Below normal
Stareton	Avon (Midlands)	Avon Warwks Upper	Normal	Normal
Tenbury	Teme	Teme	Exceptionally low	Notably low
Walcot	Tern	Tern	Normal	Normal
Wedderburn Bridge	Leadon	Leadon	No data	No data
Whatstandwell	Derwent	Derwent Derb to Amber confl.	Normal	Normal
Worksop	Ryton	Ryton Upper to Oldcoates Dyke	Normal	Normal
Yoxall	Trent	Trent to Tame Mease confl.	Normal	Below normal

8.4 Groundwater table

Site name	Aquifer	End of Jun 2026 band	End of May 2026 band
Anthonys Cross	Severn Vale Permo Triassic Sandstone	Notably high	Notably high
Coxmoor	Permo Triassic Sandstone	Exceptionally high	Exceptionally high
Crossley Hill	Permo Triassic Sandstone	Notably high	Above normal
Four Crosses	Permo Triassic Sandstone	Above normal	Notably high
Ram Hall, Meriden	Permo Carboniferous Sandstones and Mudstones	Normal	Normal
Rider Point Via Gellia	Carboniferous Limestone	Normal	Normal
Southards Lane, Bolsover	Magnesian Limestone	Normal	Normal
St Mary's Church, Shrawley	Triassic Sandstone	Above normal	Notably high
Weir Farm	Bridgnorth Sandstone Formation	Above normal	Notably high