

Monthly water situation report: Thames Area

1 Summary - June 2026

June was a month of two halves. June saw 69mm of rainfall, which was 131% of the long term average (LTA), however one-third of the month's rain fell on 1 June, and there was little to no rain from 12 June. It was also the hottest June on record. Despite the rainfall, soil moisture deficits (SMDs) were much drier than the LTA. Monthly mean river flows decreased at the majority of sites in Thames area in June. Two-thirds of our indicator sites were normal for the time of the year. However daily mean flows decreased towards the end of the month. 7 sites were below normal, 2 sites were notably low, while 2, Kingston and Windsor, both on the Thames, were exceptionally low for the time of year. Groundwater levels continued their seasonal decline, with the majority ending the month normal for the time of the year.

1.1 Rainfall

Thames area received 69mm of rainfall in June, 131% of the LTA. One-third of the month's rain fell on 1 June, 22mm, and the first 11 days accounted for 89% of the month's rain. The remainder of the month had little to no rain, apart from 5mm on 22 June. This coincided with the warmest June on record. The majority of rainfall units received above normal rainfall for the time of year, while central Thames area and Cherwell in the north received normal rainfall. Over the past 3 months Thames area has received below normal and notably low rainfall.

1.2 Soil moisture deficit and recharge

Despite the rainfall, the heatwave at the end of June increased soil moisture deficits to 117mm, well above the 67mm LTA. The Enborne and Loddon had a SMDs of 135mm and 132mm respectively. Due to the prevailing dry conditions, there was no significant effective rainfall across most of our areal units.

1.3 River flows

Monthly mean river flows decreased at the majority of sites (13 out of 15) in Thames area in June. Two-thirds of our indicator sites were normal for the time of the year. Two sites were above normal, two were below normal and one, the River Coln at Bibury was notably low. The rain at the start of the month supported monthly mean totals, but the heatwave has caused daily mean flows to decrease towards the end of month. 7 sites were below normal, 2 sites were notably low, while 2, Kingston and Windsor, both on the Thames, were exceptionally low for the time of year.

1.4 Groundwater levels

Like last month, groundwater levels continued their seasonal decline at all our indicator sites in June, and mostly remained normal for the time of the year (7 out of 11 sites). Levels at Jackaments Bottom (Inferior Oolite) remained notably low. The Lower Greensand sites continued to have higher levels than typical for the time of year with above normal levels at Frith Cottage and notably high levels at The Flashes. The only change was Rockley (Berkshire Downs Chalk) where groundwater levels fell more rapidly than typical for the time of year and became below normal.

1.5 Reservoir stocks

Farmoor Reservoir slightly increased and ended the month at 98.9%, above the LTA for the time of the year whereas the Lower Thames Reservoirs decreased and ended the month at 88.1%, below the LTA.

1.6 Environmental impact

At the end of June, 32 abstraction licences were having their flow constrained in order to protect the environment.

Author: Thames Area Groundwater Resources and Hydrology, enquiriesWT@environment-agency.gov.uk

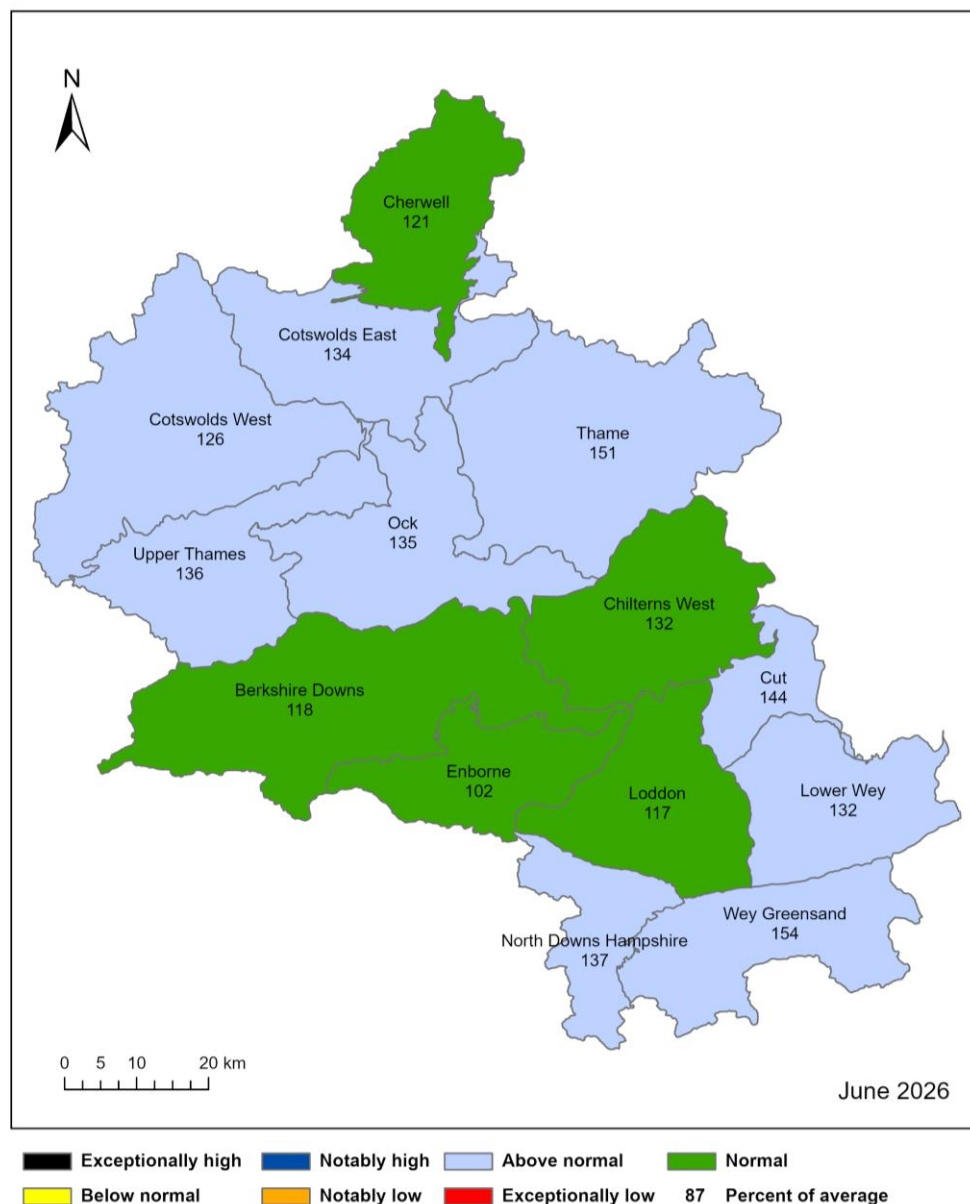
Contact Details: 030708 506 506

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2 Rainfall

2.1 Rainfall map current month

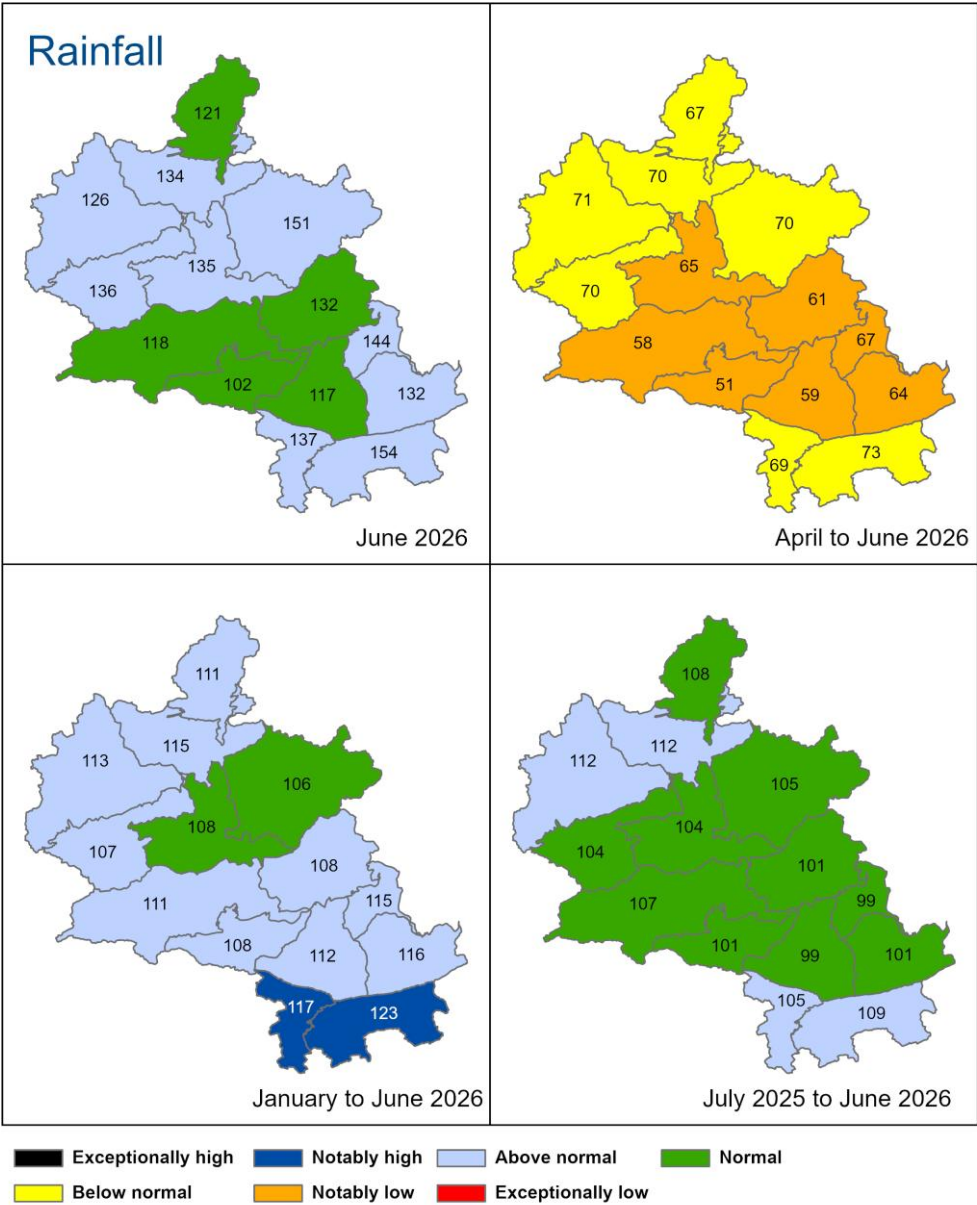
Figure 2.1: Total rainfall for hydrological areas for the current month (up to 30 June 2026), classed relative to an analysis of respective historic totals. Table available in the appendices with detailed information.



Rainfall data for Jan 2025 onwards, 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 Jan 2025, extracted from Met Office HadUK 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from registered rain gauges (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026).

2.2 Rainfall map cumulative totals

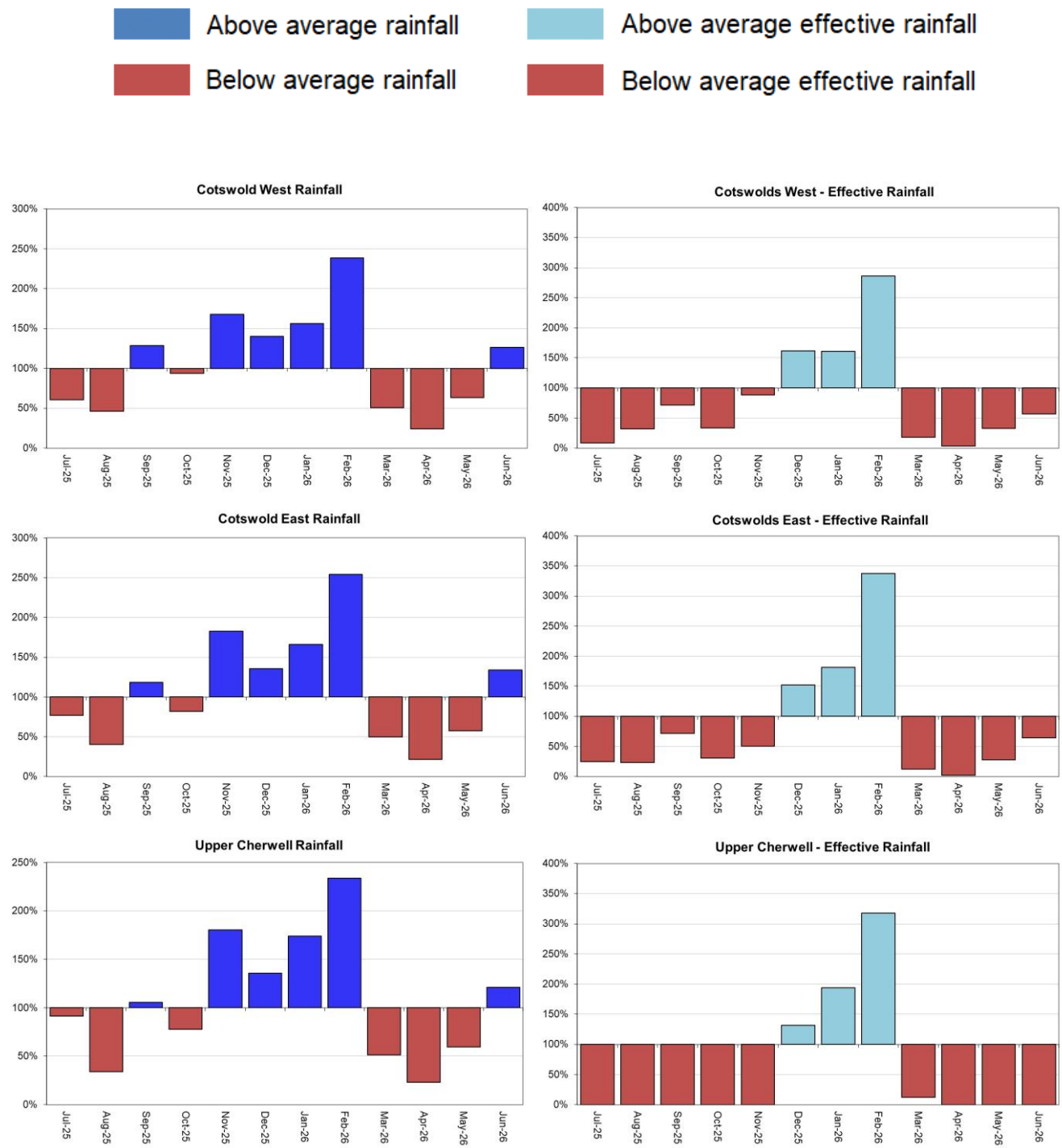
Figure 2.2: Total rainfall for hydrological areas for the current month (up to 30 June 2026), the last 3 months, the last 6 months, and the last 12 months, classed relative to an analysis of respective historic totals. Table available in the appendices with detailed information.

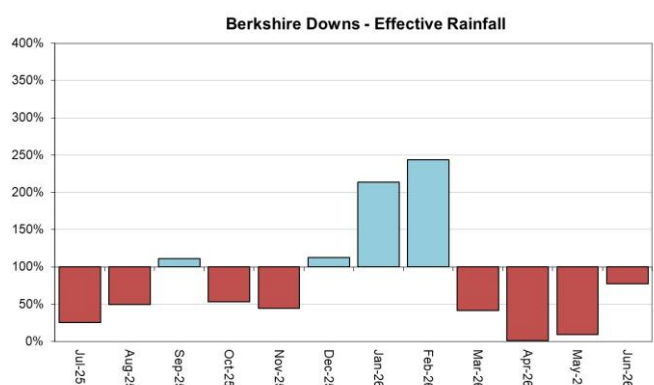
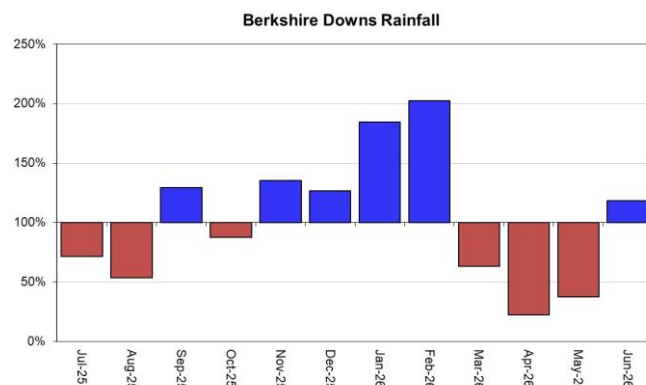
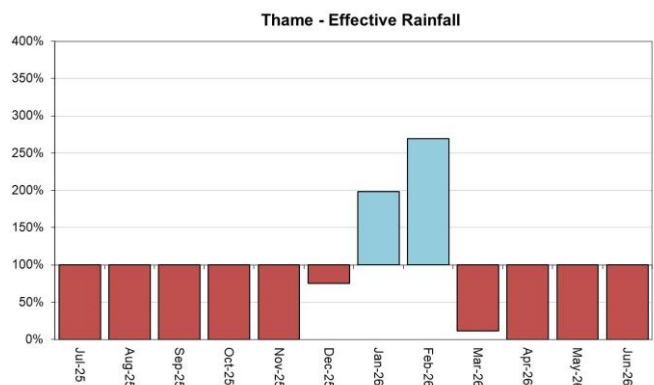
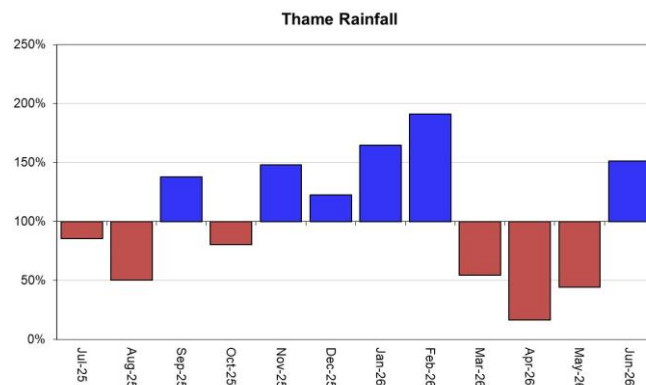
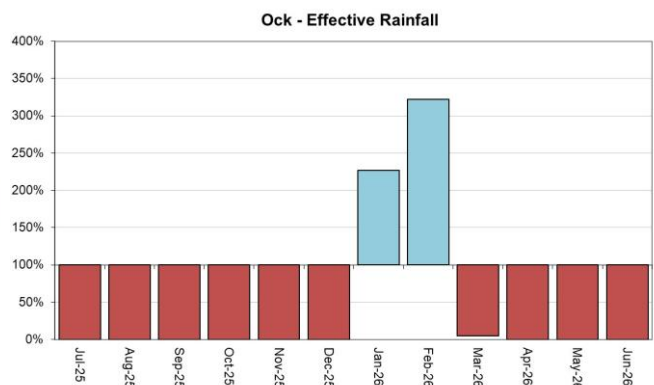
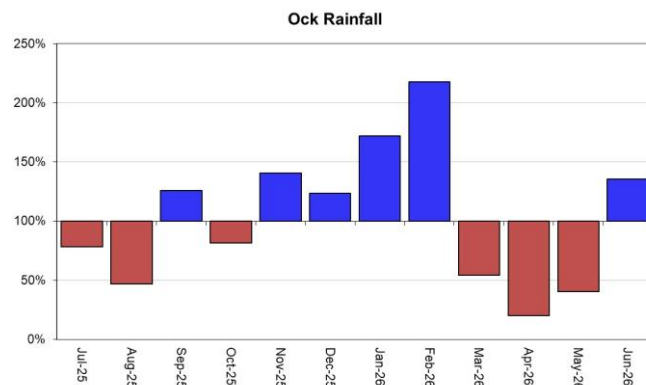
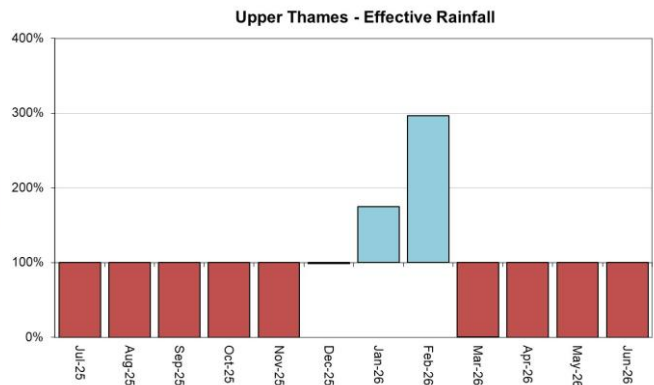
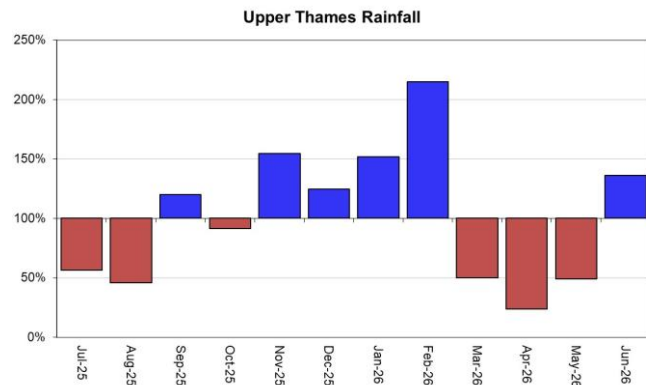


HadUK data based on the Met Office 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from rain gauges (Source: Met Office). Provisional data based on Environment Agency 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from Environment Agency intensity rain gauges. (Source: Environment Agency). © Ordnance Survey Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2026 – AC0000807064.

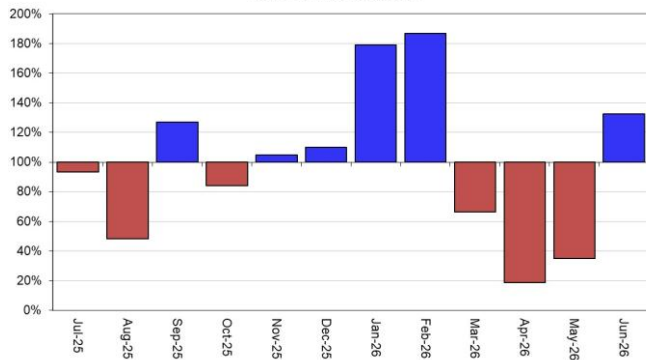
2.3 Rainfall charts

Figure 2.3: Monthly rainfall totals for the past 12 months as a percentage of the 1991 to 2020 long term average for each areal unit.

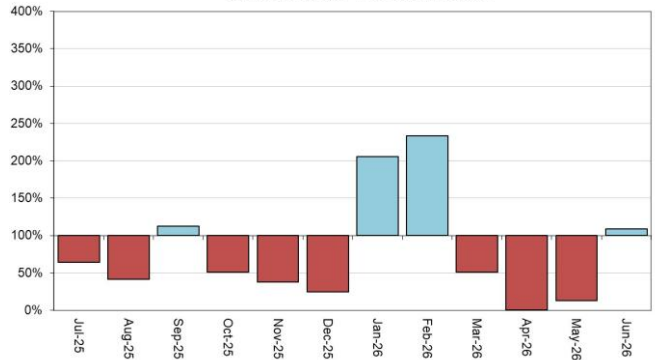




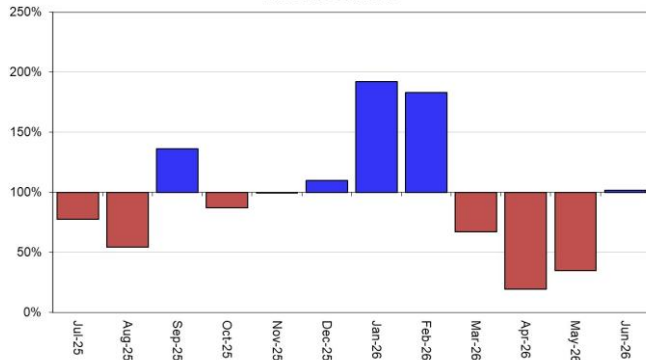
Chilterns West Rainfall



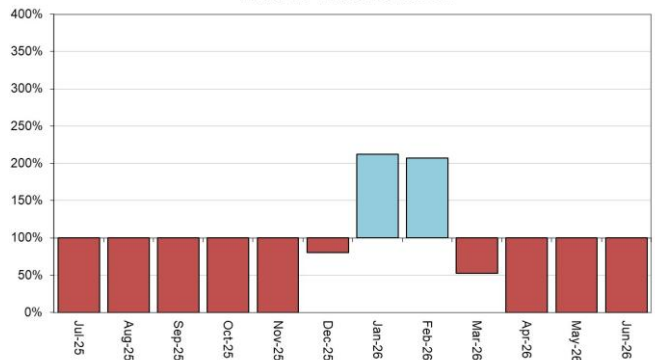
Chilterns West - Effective Rainfall



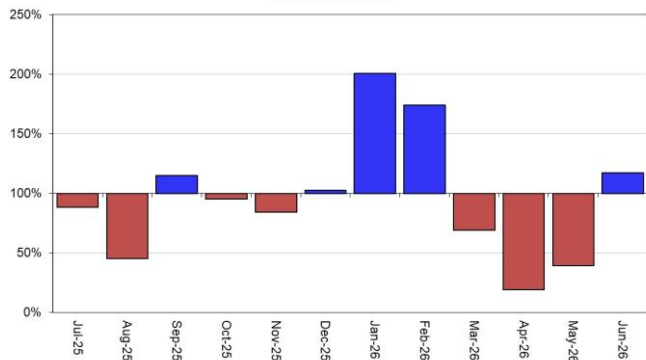
Enborne Rainfall



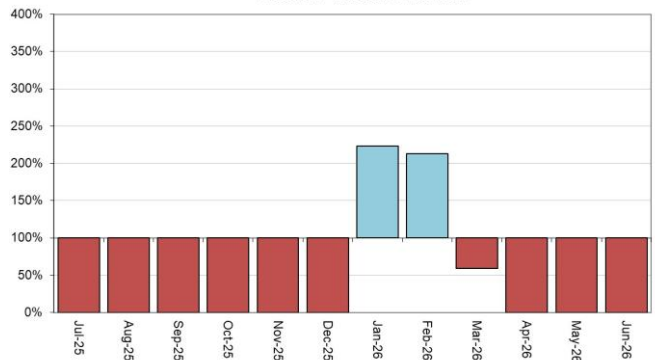
Enborne - Effective Rainfall



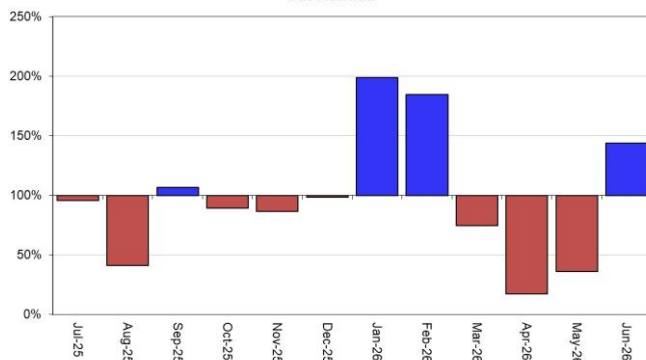
Loddon Rainfall



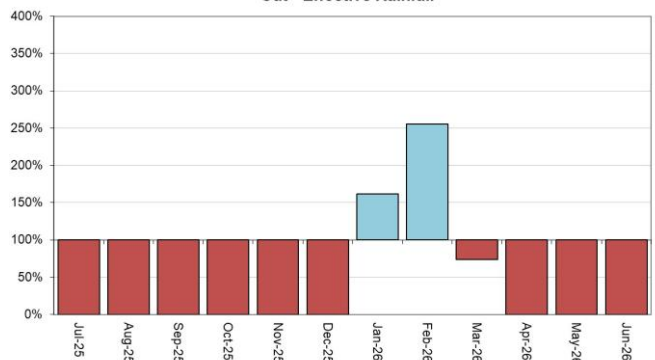
Loddon - Effective Rainfall

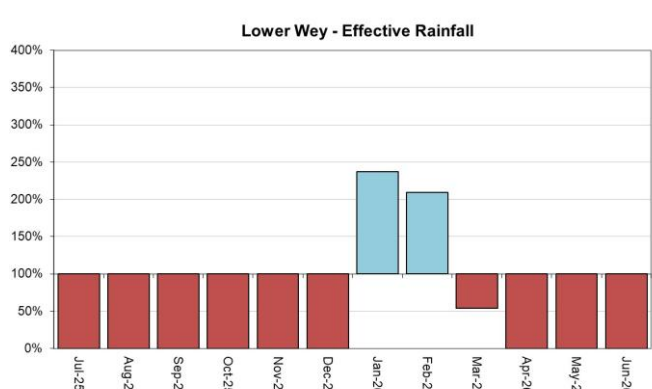
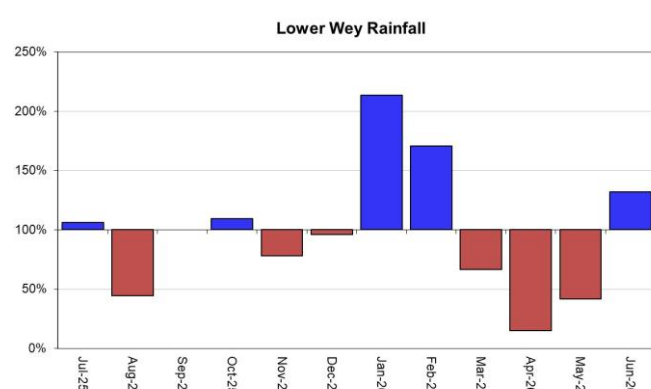
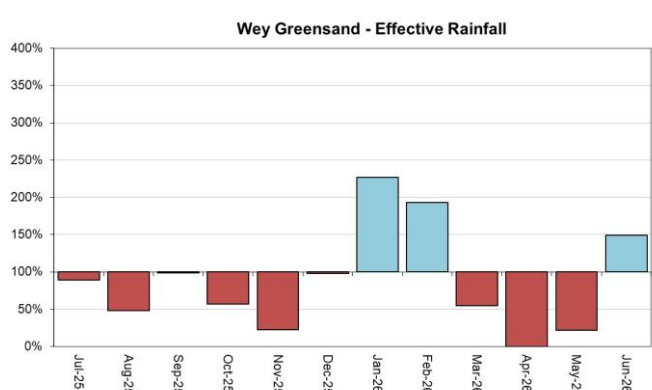
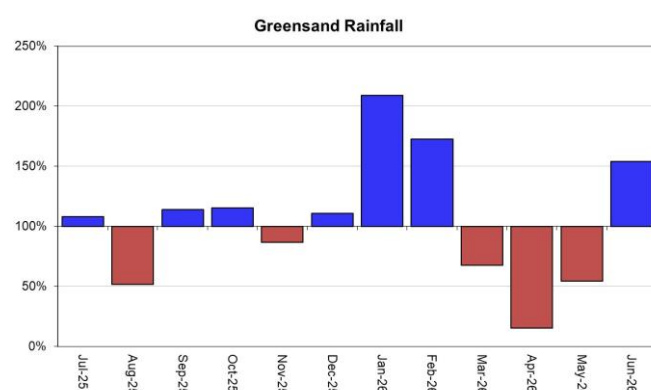
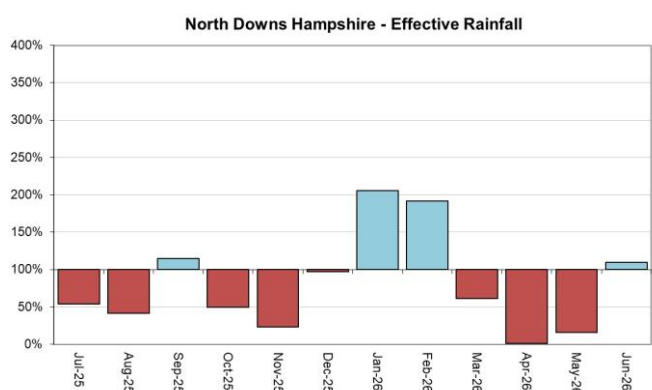
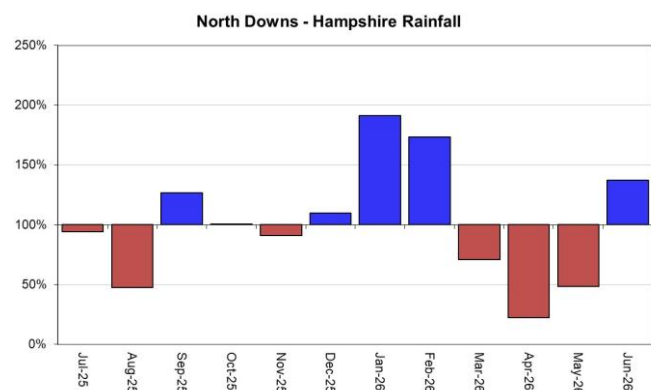


Cut Rainfall



Cut - Effective Rainfall





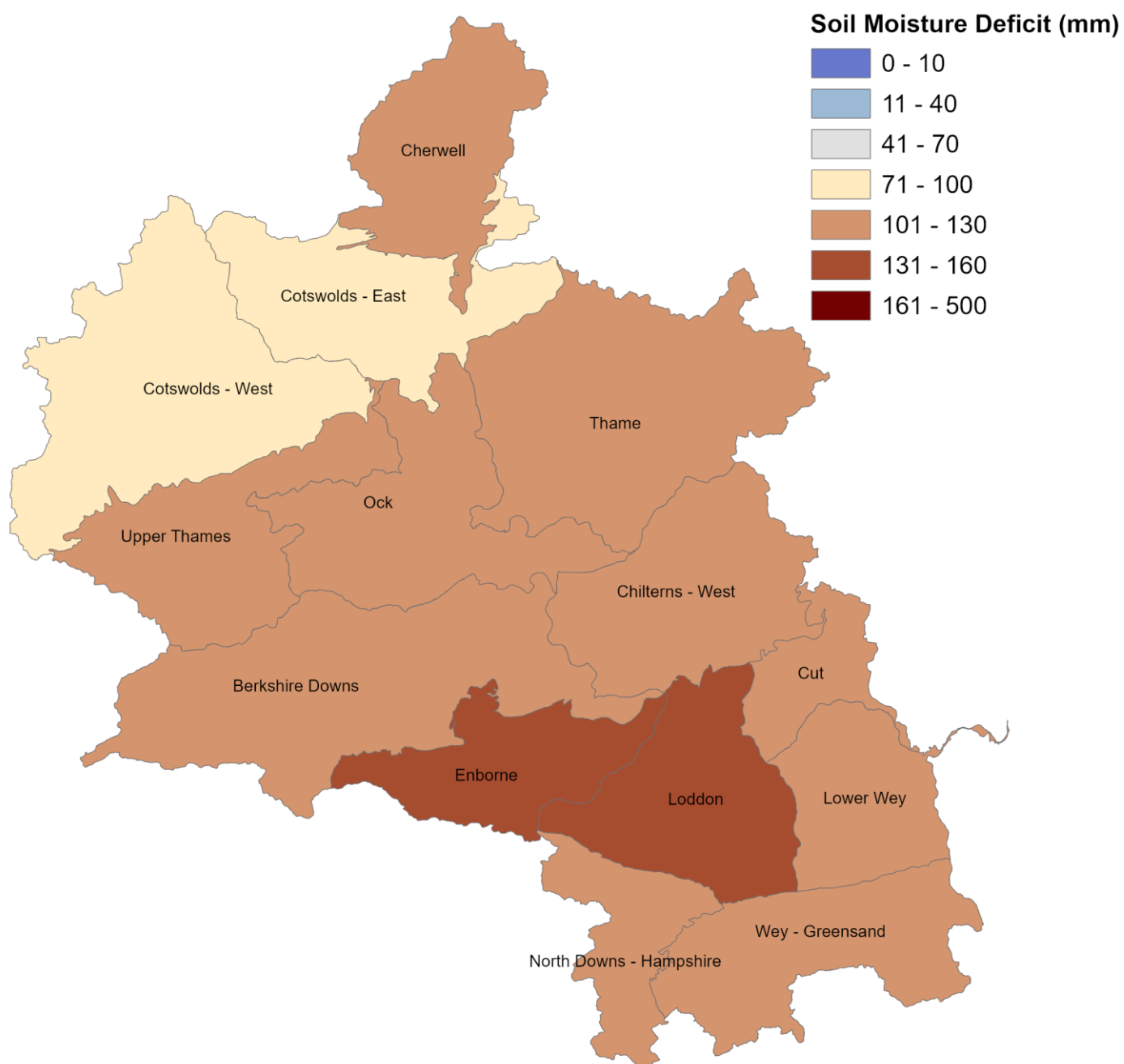
HadUK rainfall data. (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026).

EA effective rainfall data (Source: EA Soil Moisture Model)

3 Soil moisture deficit

3.1 Soil moisture deficit map

Figure 3.1: Soil moisture deficits for the week ending 30 June 2026. Shows the areal SMD estimate in millimetres.

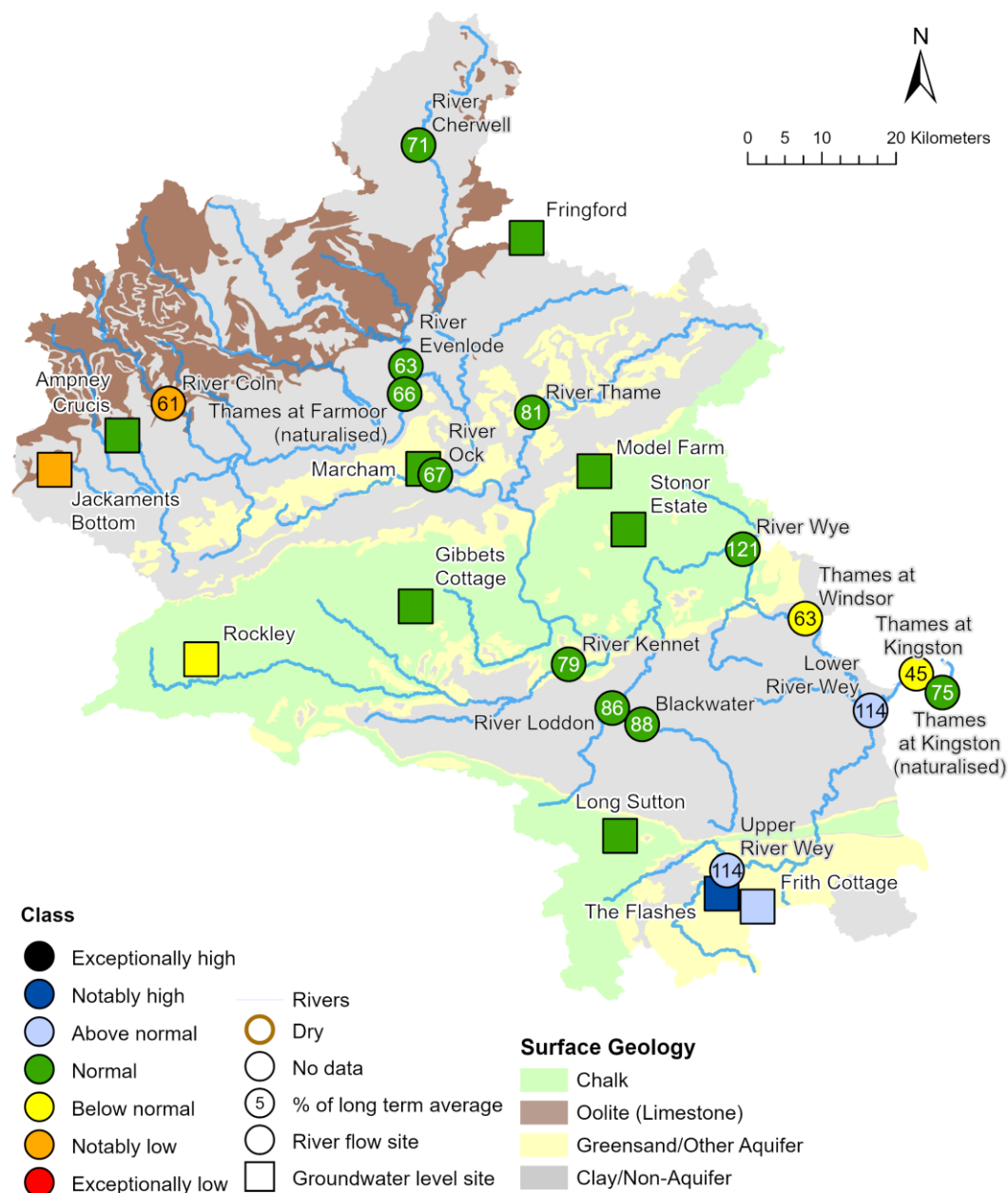


(Source: Environment Agency). © Ordnance Survey Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2026 – AC0000807064.

4 River Flow and Groundwater Status

4.1 River flow and groundwater level map

Figure 4.1: Monthly mean river flow for indicator sites and end of month groundwater levels for indicator sites for June 2026. Monthly mean river flows are expressed as a percentage of the respective long term average and classed relative to an analysis of historic June means.

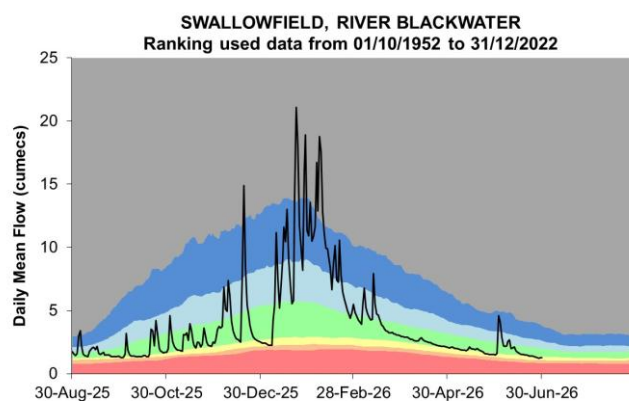
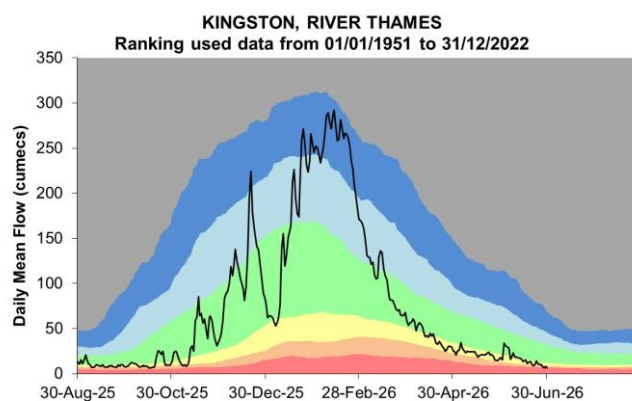
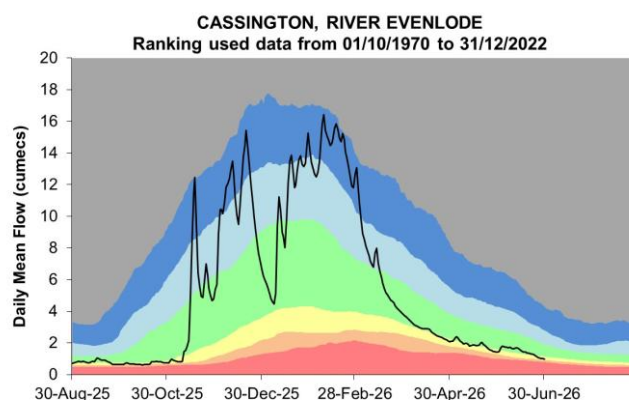
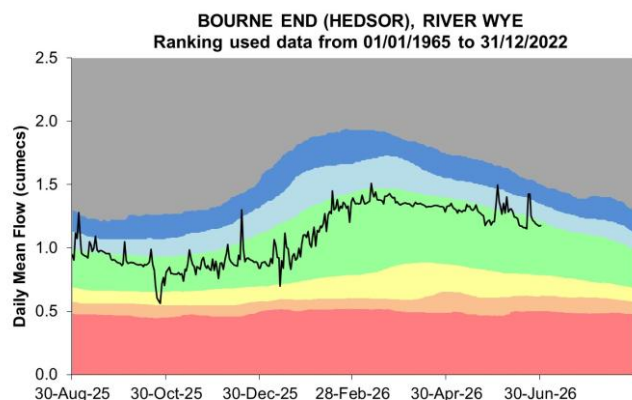
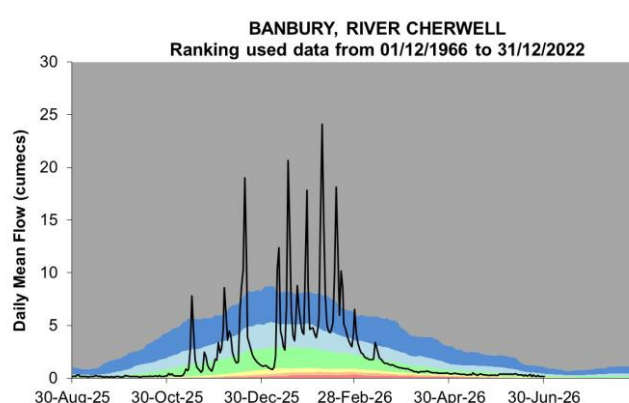
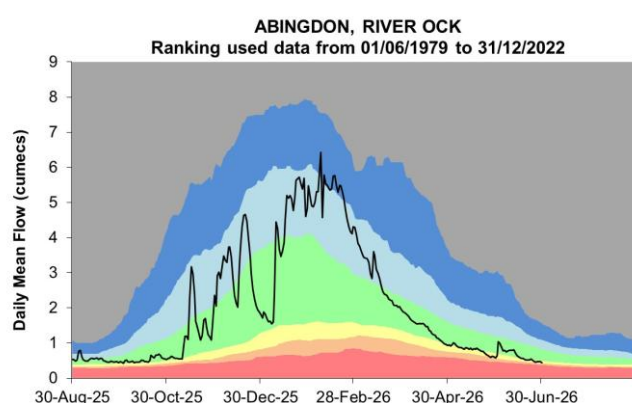
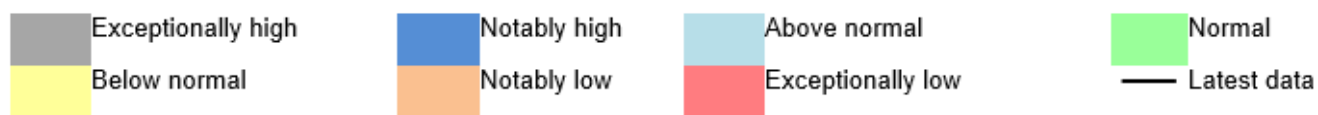


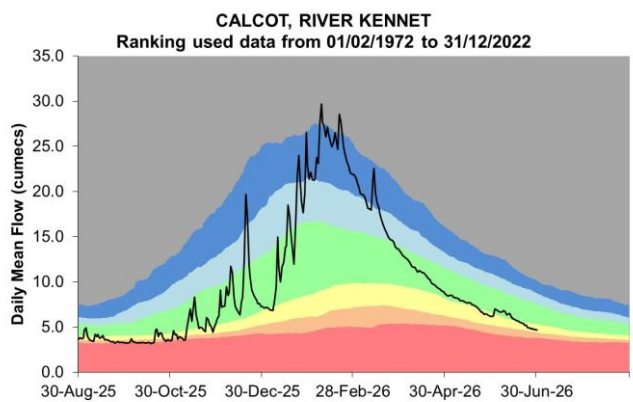
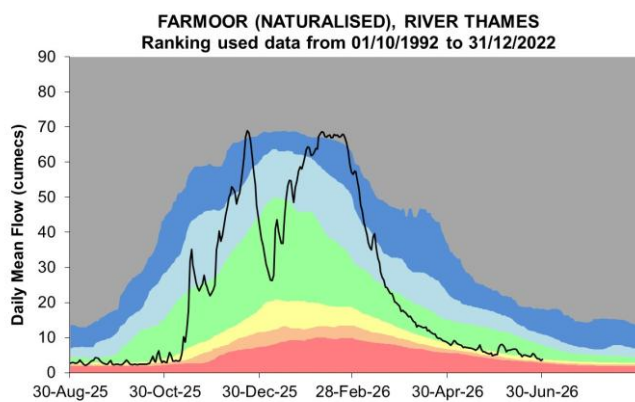
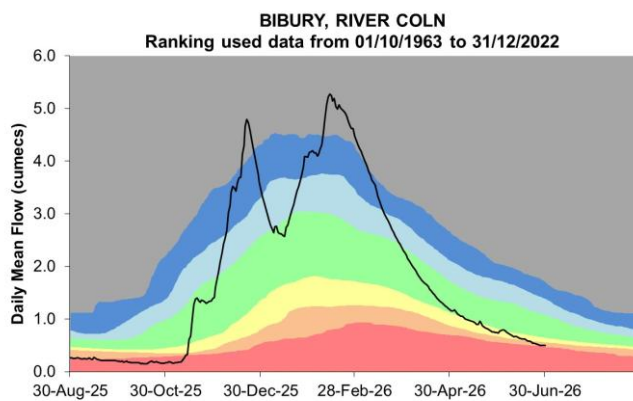
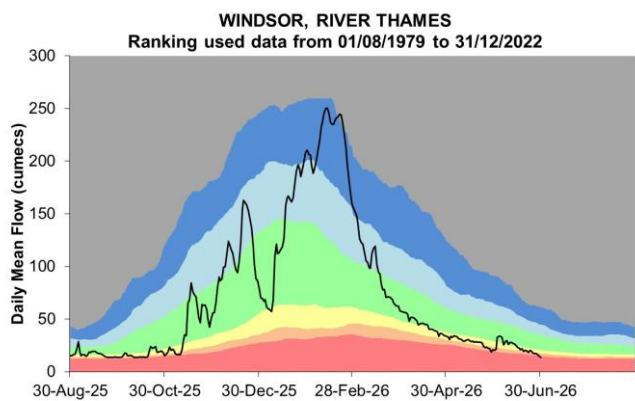
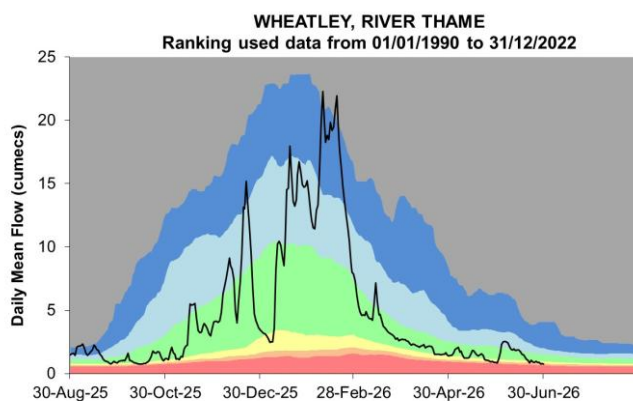
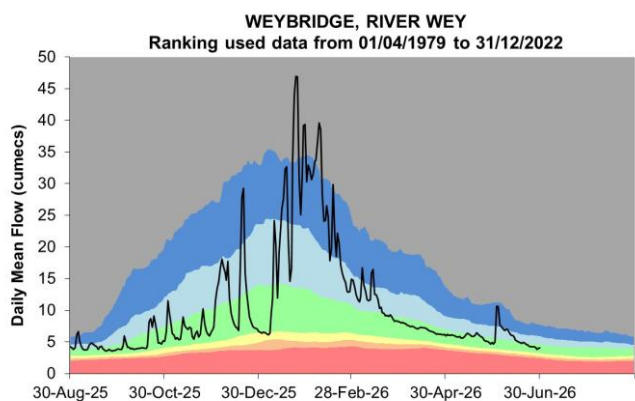
(Source: Environment Agency). Geological map reproduced with kind permission from UK Groundwater Forum, BGS copyright NERC. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. © Ordnance Survey Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2026 – AC0000807064.

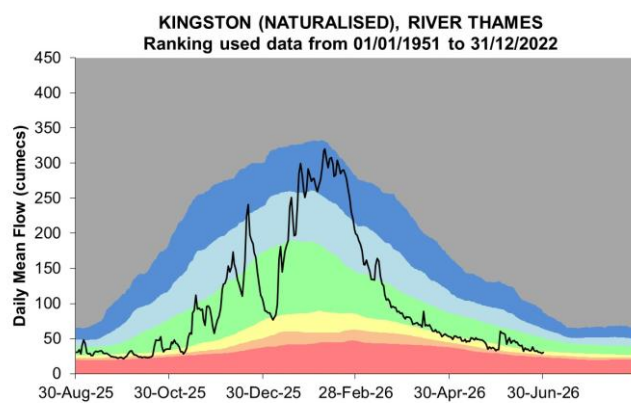
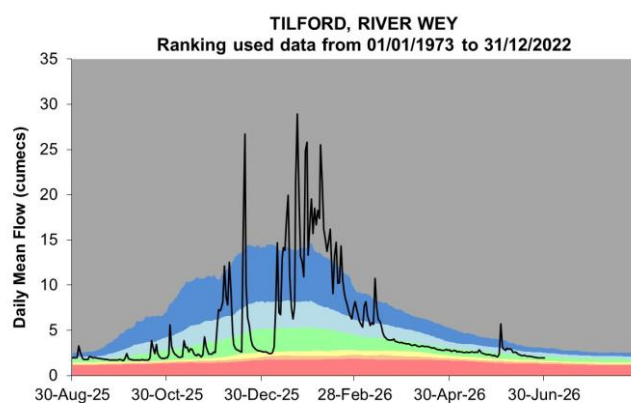
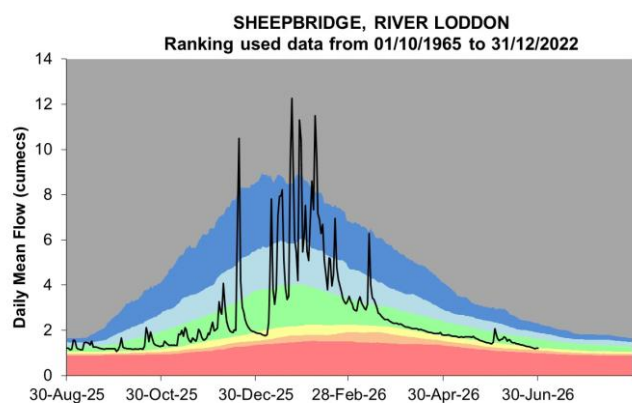
5 River flows

5.1 River flow charts

Figure 5.1: Daily mean river flows for indicator sites compared to an analysis of historic daily mean flows.





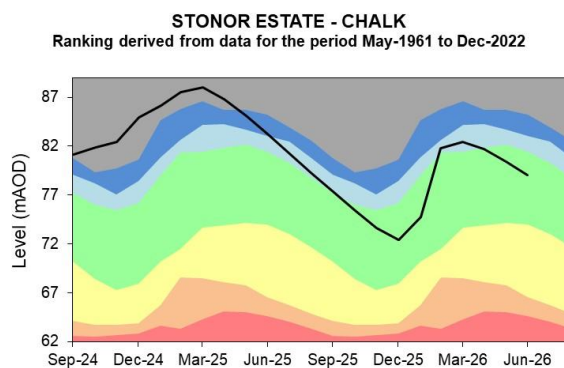
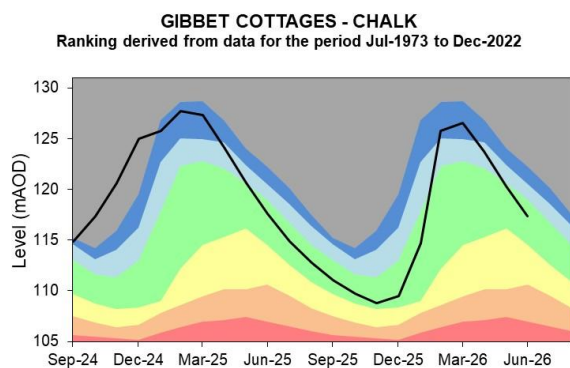
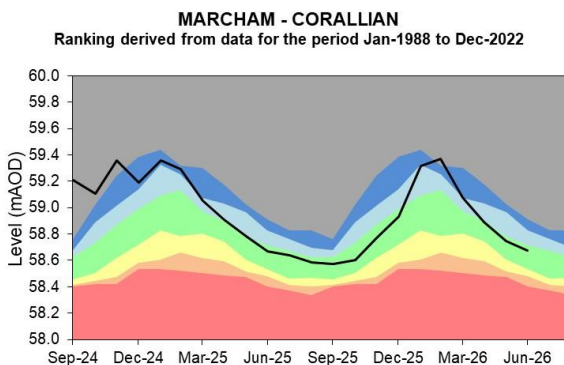
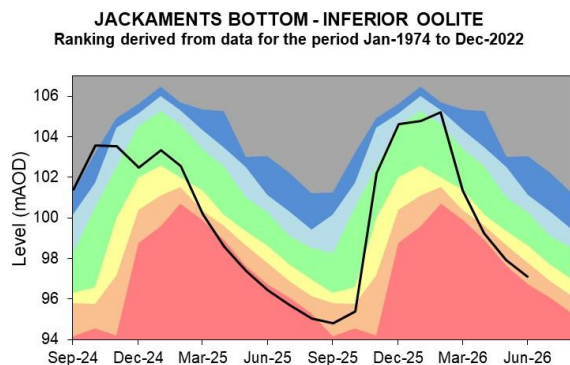
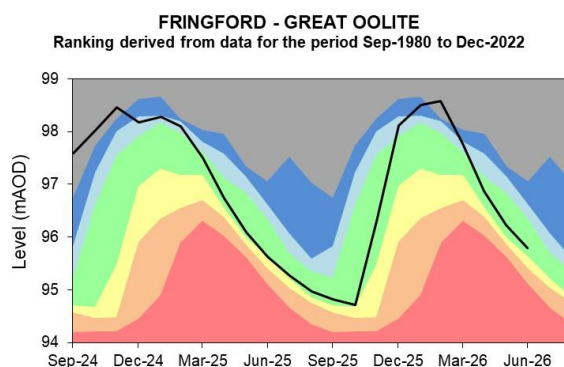
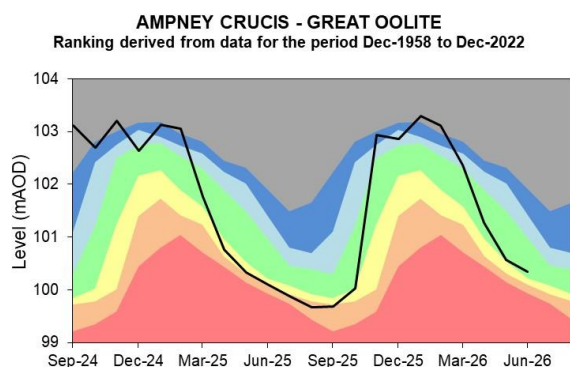
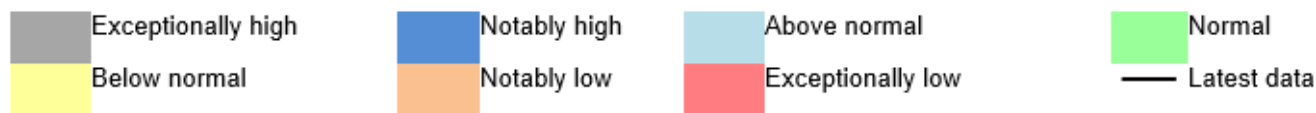


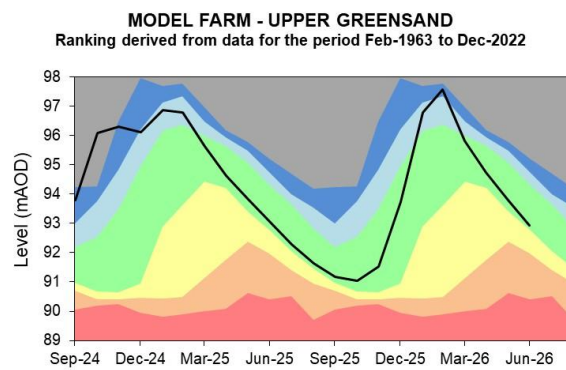
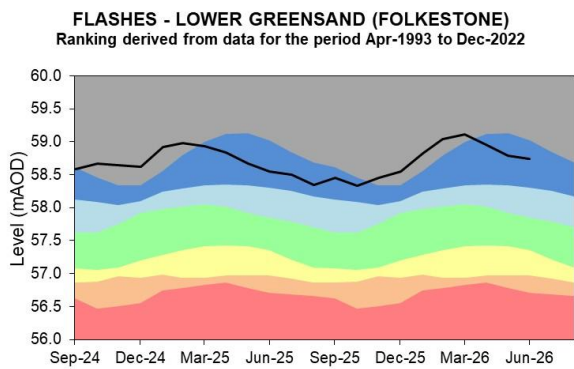
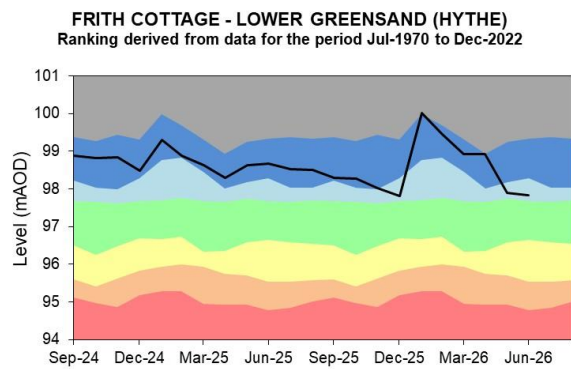
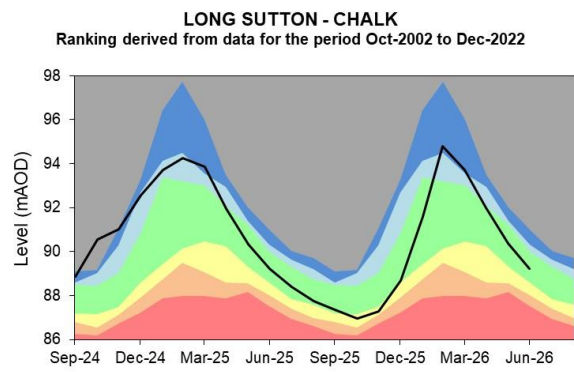
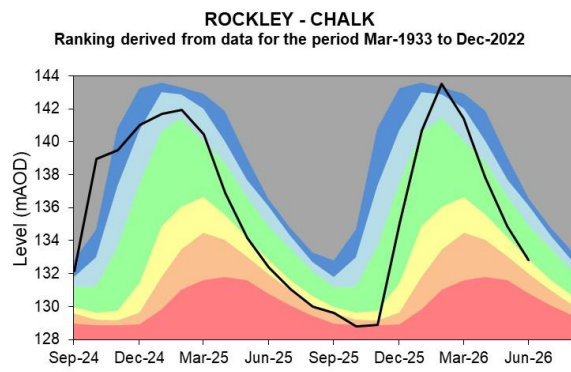
Source: Environment Agency.

6 Groundwater levels

6.1 Groundwater level charts

Figure 6.1: End of month groundwater levels for indicator sites, compared to an analysis of historic end of month levels.

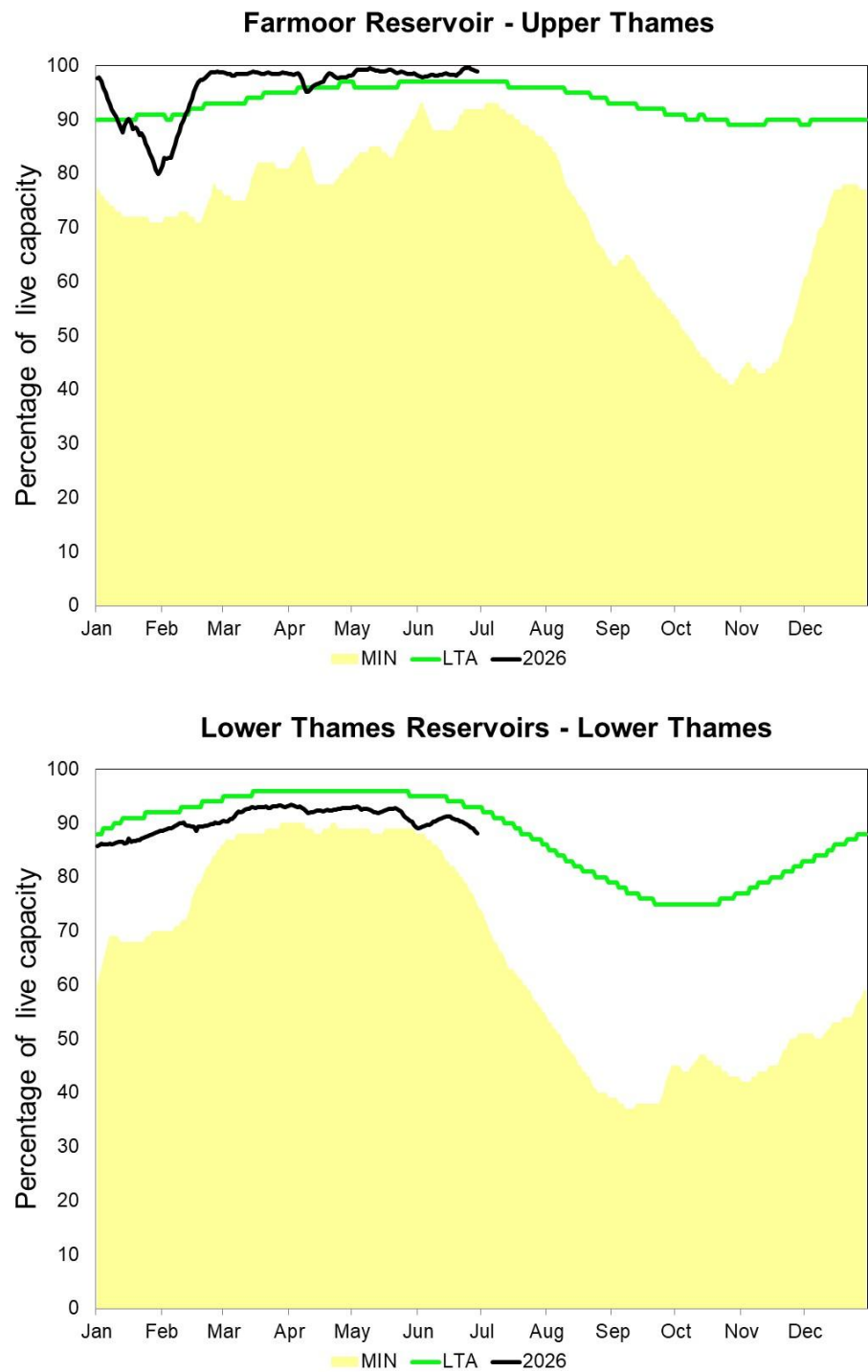




Source: Environment Agency, 2026.

7 Reservoir stocks

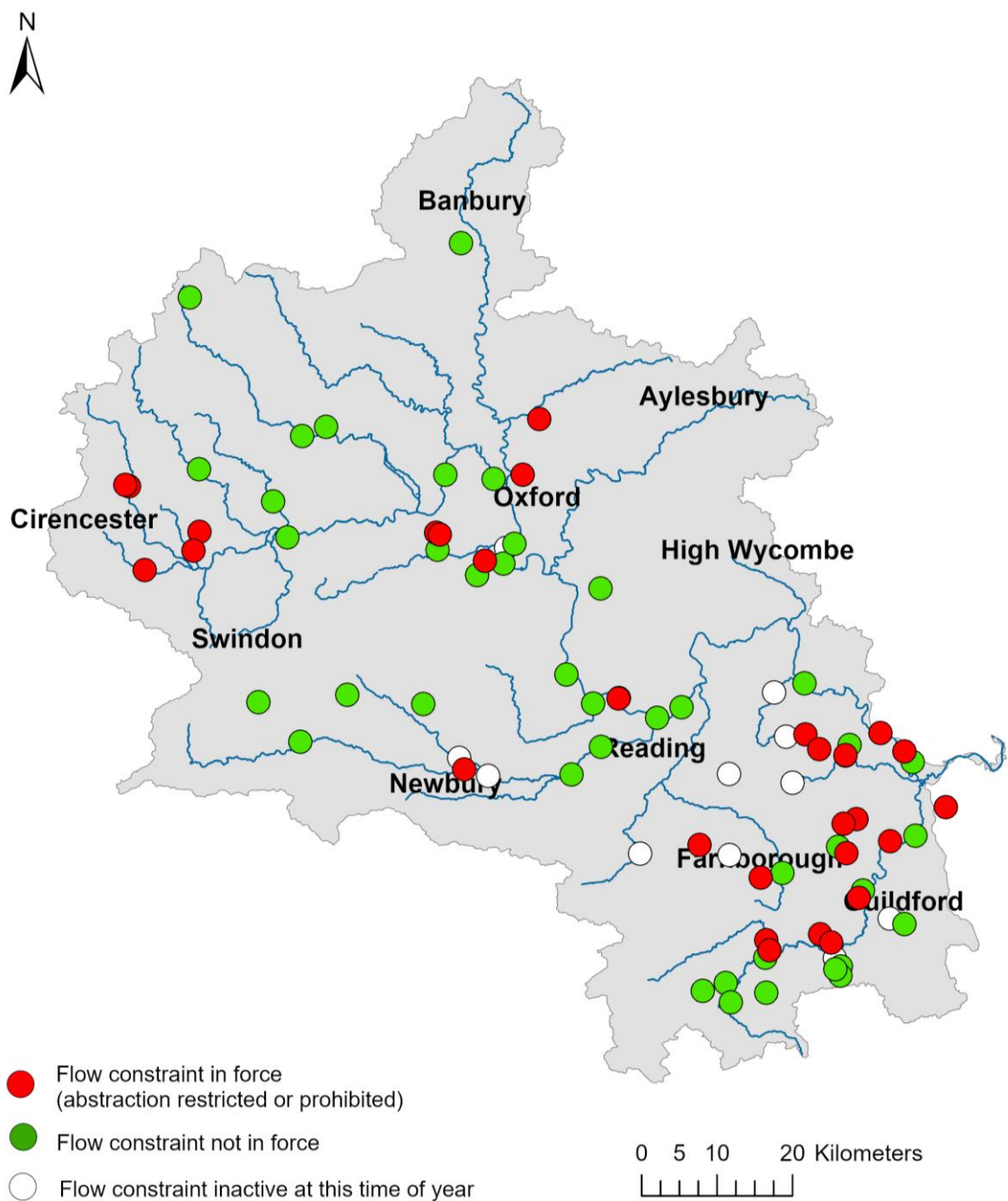
Figure 7.1: End of month reservoir stocks compared to minimum and average stocks.



(Source: Thames Water).

8 Flow Constraints

8.1 Figure 8.1: End of month flow constraints in Thames Area.



8.2 Summary of flow constraints

Week ending	07/06/26	14/06/26	21/06/26	28/06/26
Number of constraints active	3	29	31	32

9 Summary of rainfall, effective rainfall and soil moisture deficit

9.1 Rainfall and effective rainfall

Hydrological Area	Rainfall (mm) June Total	Rainfall (mm) June LTA	Rainfall (mm) % LTA	Effective rainfall (mm) June total	Effective rainfall (mm) June LTA	Effective rainfall (mm) % LTA
Cotswolds - West	74	59	126	5	9	57
Cotswolds - East	71	54	133	5	7	64
Berkshire Downs	64	54	118	4	6	77
Chilterns - West	69	52	131	5	5	109
North Downs - Hampshire	81	59	138	7	7	109
Wey - Greensand	84	55	154	8	5	149
Upper Thames	71	52	136	0	1	0
Cherwell	63	52	121	0	2	0
Thame	73	48	151	0	1	0
Loddon	59	50	118	0	0	0
Lower Wey	67	51	132	0	0	0
Ock	66	49	135	0	1	0
Enborne	53	53	100	0	2	0
Cut	69	48	143	0	0	0
Thames Area	69	53	131	2	3	74

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

EA effective rainfall and soil moisture deficit data (Source EA Soil Moisture Model 2026.)

9.2 Soil moisture deficit

Hydrological Area	SMD (mm) End Jun	SMD (mm) LTA
Cotswolds - West	82	39
Cotswolds - East	87	41
Berkshire Downs	122	69
Chilterns - West	125	73
North Downs - Hampshire	113	70
Wey - Greensand	116	72
Upper Thames	119	70
Cherwell	116	63
Thame	116	69
Loddon	132	76
Lower Wey	125	74
Ock	127	75
Enborne	135	70
Cut	120	81
Thames Area	117	67

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

EA effective rainfall and soil moisture deficit data (Source EA Soil Moisture Model 2026.)

9.3 Summer rainfall and effective rainfall

Summer period: 01/04/2026 to 30/06/2026						
Hydrological Area	Rainfall (mm) Total	Rainfall (mm) LTA	Rainfall (mm) % LTA	Effective rainfall (mm) Total	Effective rainfall (mm) LTA	Effective rainfall (mm) % LTA
Cotswolds - West	130	184	71	9	36	25
Cotswolds - East	118	169	70	7	30	24
Berkshire Downs	99	171	58	5	29	19
Chilterns - West	98	161	61	6	24	25
North Downs - Hampshire	122	176	69	9	35	24
Wey - Greensand	122	168	73	9	32	29
Upper Thames	112	160	70	0	11	0
Cherwell	110	163	67	0	16	0
Thame	105	151	70	0	10	0
Loddon	87	148	59	0	11	0
Lower Wey	94	146	64	0	10	0
Ock	97	151	65	0	9	0
Enborne	83	162	51	0	17	0
Cut	94	141	67	0	7	0
Thames Area	105	161	65	3	20	16

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

EA effective rainfall and soil moisture deficit data (Source EA Soil Moisture Model 2026.)

10 Glossary

10.1 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 1 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).

10.2 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.

11 Appendices

11.1 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
Berkshire Downs	118	Normal	Notably low	Above normal	Normal
Chilterns West	133	Normal	Notably low	Above normal	Normal
Cotswold East	134	Above Normal	Below normal	Above normal	Above normal
Cotswold West	126	Above Normal	Below normal	Above normal	Above normal
Cut	144	Above Normal	Notably low	Above normal	Normal
Enborne	102	Normal	Notably low	Above normal	Normal
Loddon	117	Normal	Notably low	Above normal	Normal
Lower Wey	132	Above Normal	Notably low	Above normal	Normal
North Downs - Hampshire	137	Above Normal	Below normal	Notably high	Above normal
Ock	135	Above Normal	Notably low	Normal	Normal
Thame	151	Above Normal	Below normal	Normal	Normal
Upper Cherwell	121	Normal	Below normal	Above normal	Normal
Upper Thames	136	Above Normal	Below normal	Above normal	Normal
Wey - Greensand	154	Above Normal	Below normal	Notably high	Above normal

11.2 River flows table

Site name	River	Catchment	Jun 2026 band	May 2026 band
Abingdon	River Ock	Ock	Normal	Below normal
Banbury	River Cherwell	Cherwell Upper	Normal	Normal
Bibury	River Coln	Coln	Normal	Normal
Bourne End (Hedsor)	River Wye	Wye Bucks	Normal	Normal
Calcot	River Kennet	Kennet	Normal	Below normal
Cassington	River Evenlode	Evenlode	Normal	Below normal
Farmoor (Naturalised)	River Thames	Thames	Normal	Below normal
Kingston	River Thames	Thames	Below normal	Below normal
Sheepbridge	River Loddon	Loddon	Normal	Below normal
Swallowfield	River Blackwater	Loddon	Normal	Below normal
Tilford	River Wey	Wey Addleston Bourne	Above normal	Normal
Weybridge	River Wey	Wey Addleston Bourne	Above normal	Normal
Wheatley	River Thame	Thame	Normal	Below normal
Windsor	River Thames	Thames	Below normal	Notably low
Kingston (Naturalised)	River Thames	Thames North Bank	Normal	Below normal

11.3 Groundwater table

Site name	Aquifer	End of Jun 2026 band	End of May 2026 band
Ampney Crucis OBH	Burford Oolitic Limestone (great)	Normal	Normal
Frith Cottage	Godalming Lower Greensand	Above normal	Above normal
Gibbet Cottages OBH	Berkshire Downs Chalk	Normal	Normal
Jackaments Bottom OBH	Burford Oolitic Limestone (inferior)	Notably low	Notably low
Long Sutton	North Downs Chalk	Normal	Normal
Marcham OBH	Shrivenham Corallian	Normal	Normal
Model Farm	Chiltern Upper Greensand	Normal	Normal
Rockley OBH	Berkshire Downs Chalk	Below normal	Normal
Stonor Estate	South-west Chilterns Chalk	Normal	Normal
The Flashes OBH	Godalming Lower Greensand	Notably high	Notably high
Fringford P.S.	Upper Bedford Ouse Oolitic Limestone (great)	Normal	Normal