

Monthly water situation report: Wessex Area

1 Summary - June 2026

The dry weather was briefly interrupted in June 2026, with an average of 79mm of rain falling across Wessex, 132% of the long term average (LTA). The majority of days in June were dry with most rain falling during the first 10 days of the month. Over the last 3 months, Wessex has still only received 76% of the LTA rainfall. Soil moisture deficit (SMD) initially fell during the first week of June in response to the rain, before rising for the remainder of the month. At the end of June, SMD was similar to the same time last year. River flows peaked early in June in response to the rain. Monthly mean flows were predominantly normal across Wessex with some sites to the west and in the Hampshire Avon catchment recording below normal flows. Groundwater levels also fell during June. At the end of the month, most sites monitoring the Wessex Basin Chalk reported below normal levels while most sites monitoring other geologies in the north and west reported normal levels. The 2 sites which reported notably low levels at the end of June were Woodyates (monitoring the Wessex Basin Chalk) and Chipley (monitoring the Otter Sandstone). At the end of June, reservoirs storage for Wessex Water and Bristol Water were at approximately 73% and 79% capacity respectively.

1.1 Rainfall

An average of 79mm of rain fell across Wessex in June, 132% of the LTA. It was a wet start to the month with 82% of the total monthly rain falling between 1 and 10 June. The remainder of the month was largely dry. The largest rainfall event occurred on 1 June when 28% of the total monthly rain fell. Rainfall was mostly higher in the north of Wessex than the south. Most hydrological areas recorded normal or above normal rainfall except for 3 catchments in the north which recorded notably high rainfall. The highest total monthly rainfall was recorded in the Mendips and River Chew area with an average of 113mm, 173% of the LTA. The lowest total monthly rainfall was reported in the Tone catchment with 63mm, 99% of the LTA.

Despite the wet start to June, the last 3-month period (April to June) has been drier than average across Wessex with 76% of the LTA. Over the last 3 months, rainfall was normal in the north of Wessex and below normal across the south and west. The Upper Hampshire Avon and Bourne catchments to the east of Wessex were the only areas to record notably low rain over the past 3 months. Over the past 6 months, most hydrological areas have recorded notably to exceptionally high rainfall except for 3 areas to the north and west which only recorded above normal. In the last 12 months, most areas to the north recorded above normal rainfall while most areas to the south recorded notably high rainfall.

1.2 Soil moisture

SMD fell for the first week of June in response to the high rainfall. After the weather became drier, SMD rose for the remainder of the month. At the end of June, SMD was close to the deficit this time last year and not far from the historic maximum. At the end of the month, most hydrological areas in Wessex had SMD levels between 101 and 130mm with some areas to the south east recording levels between 131 and 160mm. At the end of June, SMD was 26 to 50mm greater than the LTA in the north and 51 to 75mm greater than the LTA in the south.

1.3 River flows

Daily mean river flows peaked at the start of June in response to the heavy rainfall and mostly fell for the remainder of the month. Some sites in the north of Wessex also recorded a brief peak in daily mean flows following rain on 22 June. At the end of the month, daily mean flows tended to be lower in catchments in the south on the Wessex Basin Chalk than in the north. All reporting sites in Wessex reported monthly mean flows below the LTA except for the Asker at Bridport East Bridge which reported monthly mean flows of 111% of the LTA. Most sites reported flows within the normal banding. The exceptions were the Hampshire Avon at Amesbury and East Mills Combined and the Wylfe at South Newton to the east and the Tone at Bishops Hull and the Washford at Beggearn Huish in the west which all reported below normal monthly mean flows.

1.4 Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels continued to fall across all of Wessex in June despite the rain early in the month. At the end of June, the majority of monitoring sites on the Wessex Basin Chalk reported below normal levels. The two exceptions were Delcombe which reported normal levels and Woodyates which reported notably low levels. Amongst the 5 sites monitoring other geologies, 3 reported normal levels. Chipley (monitoring the Otter Sandstone) to the west reported notably low levels while Allington (monitoring the Great Oolite) to the north reported below normal levels.

1.5 Reservoir storage

Reservoir storage has fallen through June for both Bristol Water and Wessex Water. Wessex Water ended the month at approximately 73% capacity, similar to last year and slightly higher than in 1995. Bristol Water ended June at approximately 79% capacity, higher than in 2025 and similar to in 1995.

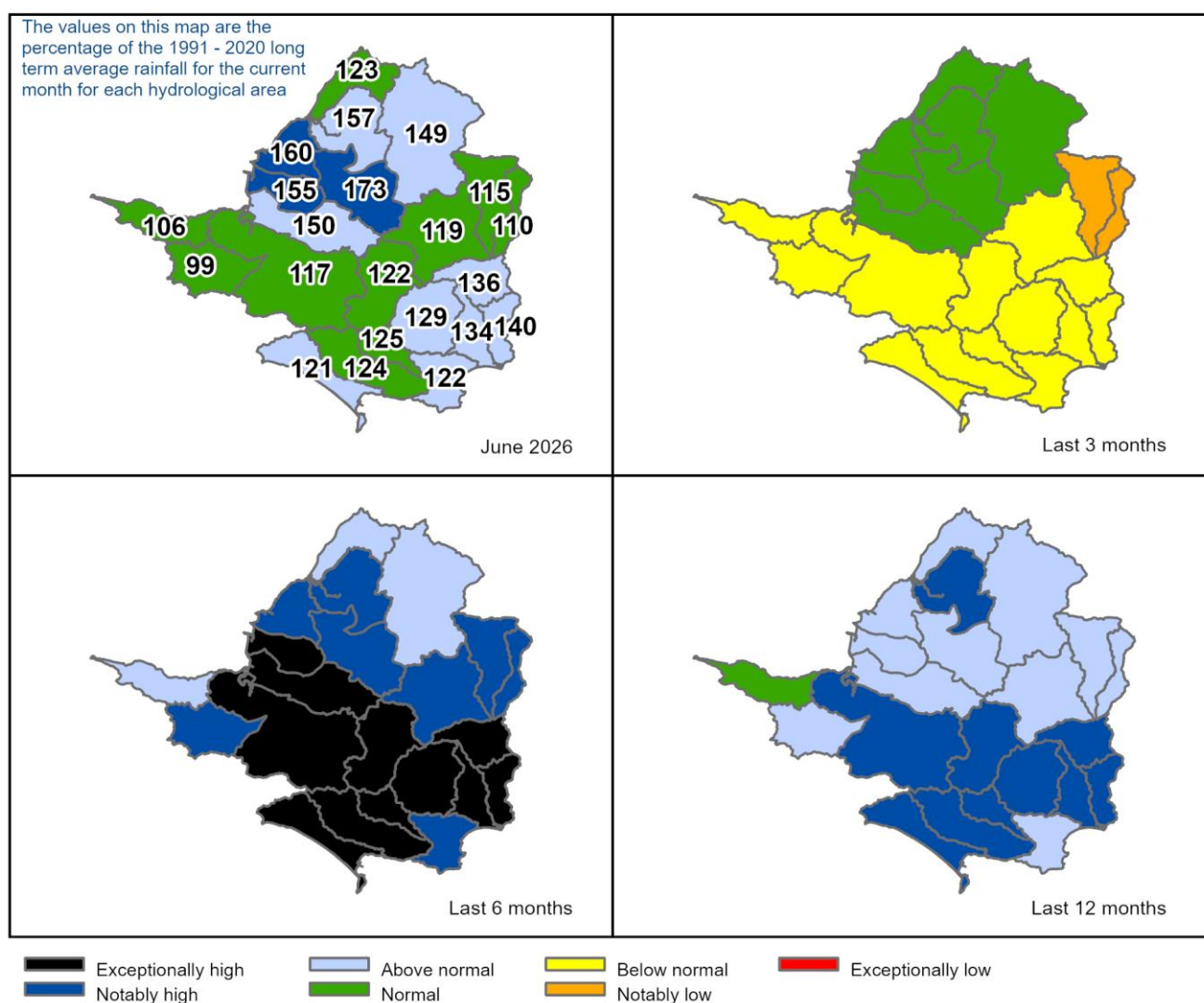
Author: Wessex Hydrology, hydrologywessex@environment-agency.gov.uk

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2 Rainfall

2.1 Rainfall map

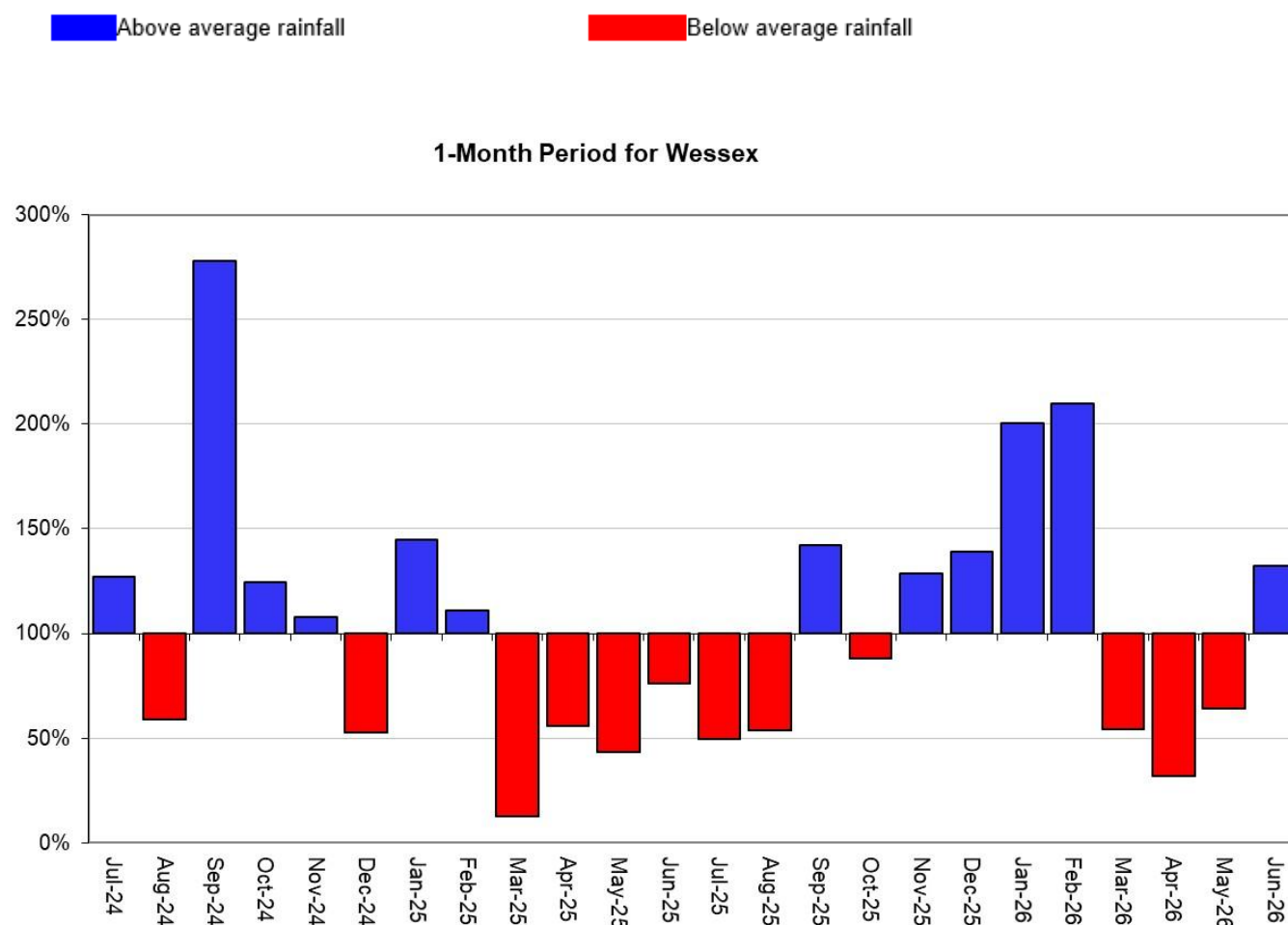
Figure 2.1: Total rainfall for hydrological areas for the current month (up to 30 June 2026), the last 3 months, the last 6 months, and the last 12 months, classed relative to an analysis of respective historic totals between 1991 and 2020. Table available in the appendices with detailed information.



Rainfall data for January 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 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 24 months as a percentage of the 1991 to 2020 long term average for each region and for England.

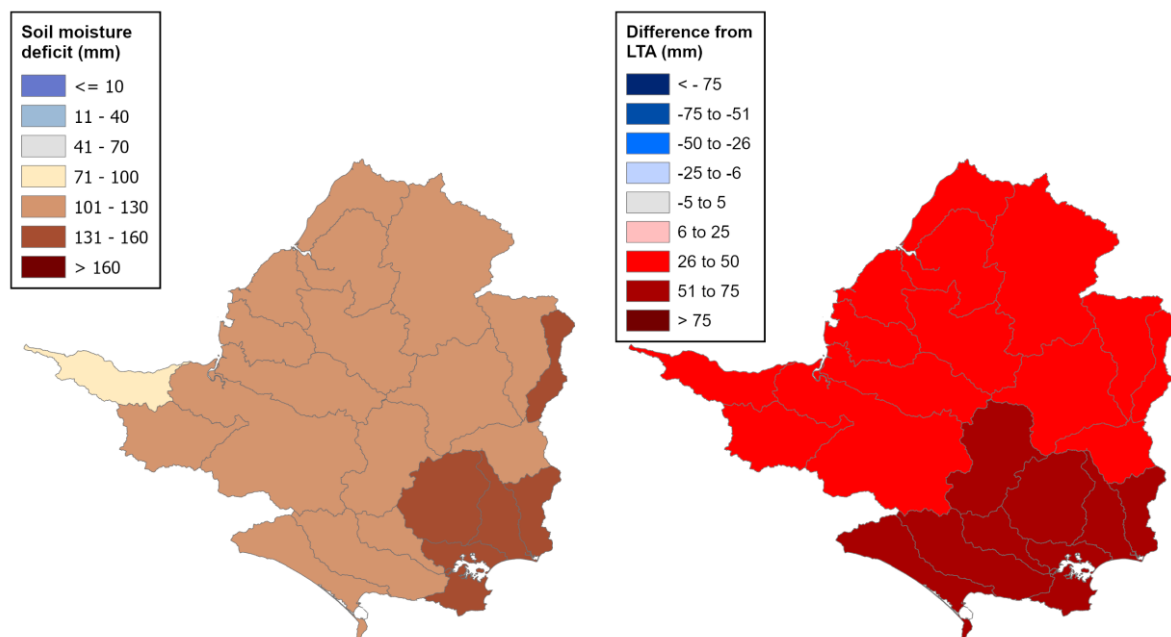


Rainfall data for January 2025 onwards, extracted from Environment Agency 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from Environment Agency intensity rain gauges. (Source: Environment Agency. Crown Copyright, 100024198, 2026). Rainfall data prior to January 2025, extracted from Met Office HadUK 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from registered rain gauges (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026).

3 Soil moisture deficit

3.1 Soil moisture deficit map

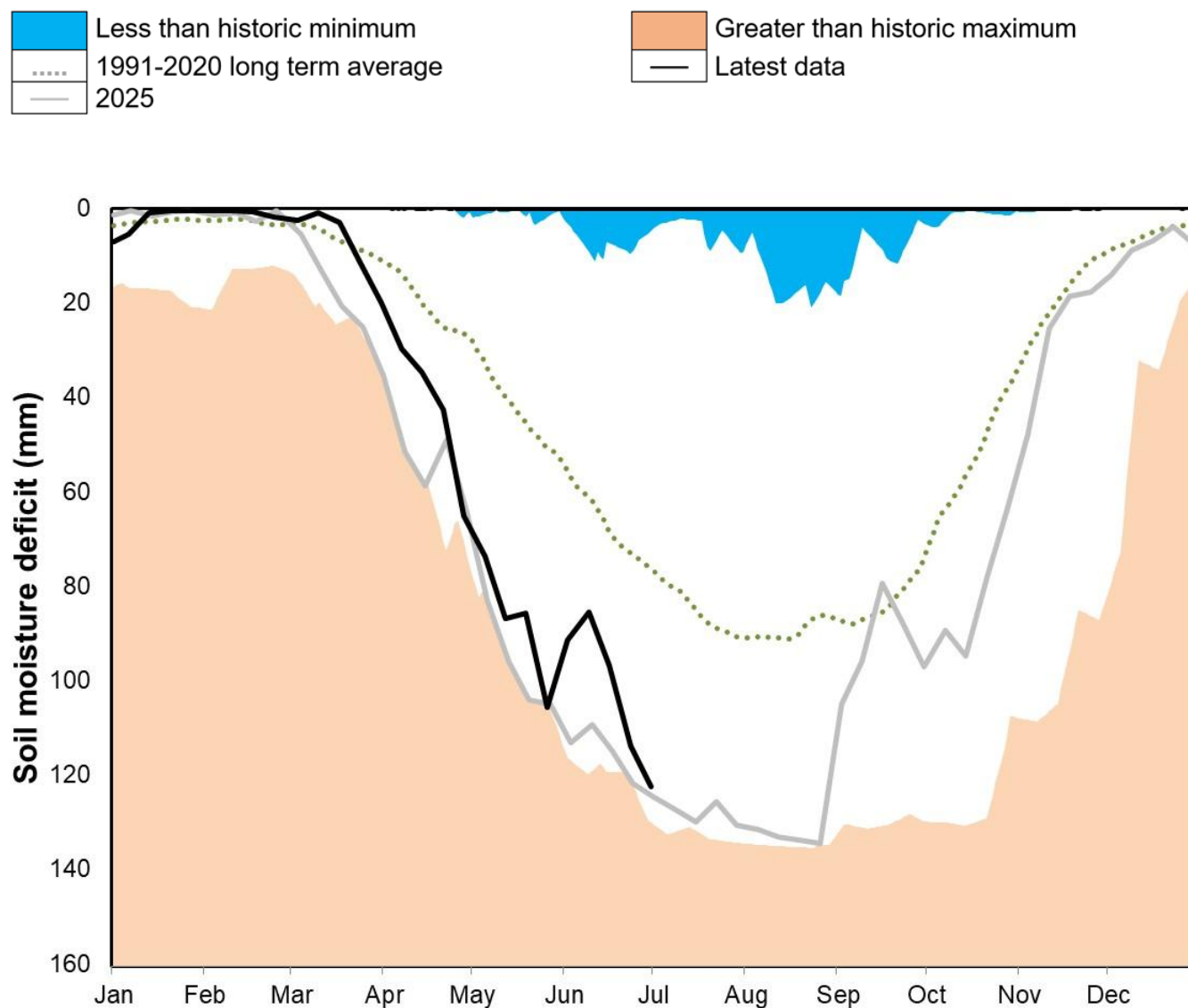
Figure 3.1: Soil moisture deficits for weeks ending 30 June 2026. Shows the difference (mm) of the actual soil moisture deficit from the 1991 to 2020 long term average soil moisture deficits. MORECS data for real land use.



(Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026). All rights reserved. Environment Agency, AC0000807064, 2026.

3.2 Soil moisture deficit charts

Figure 3.2: Latest soil moisture deficit compared to previous year, maximum, minimum, and 1991 to 2020 long term average. Weekly MORECS data for real land use.



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

4 River flows

4.1 River flows map

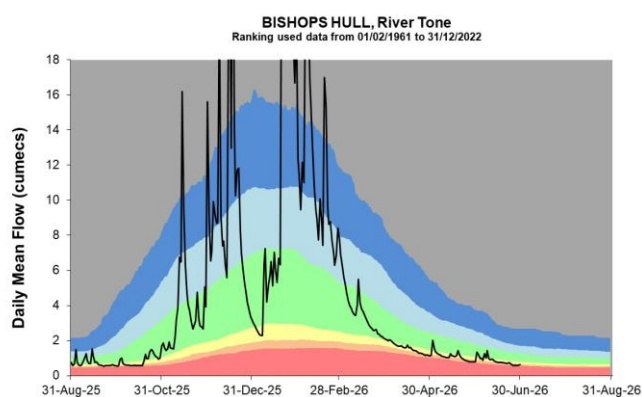
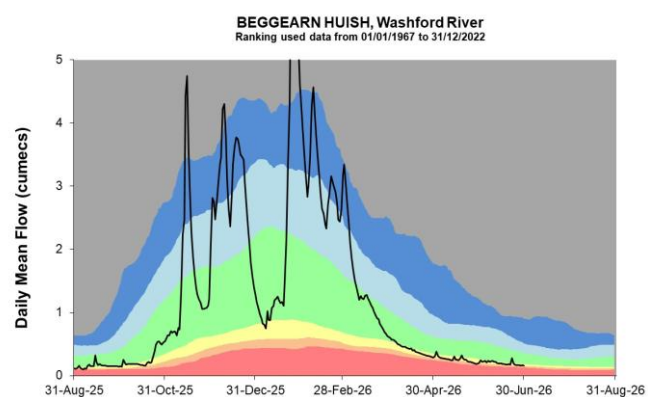
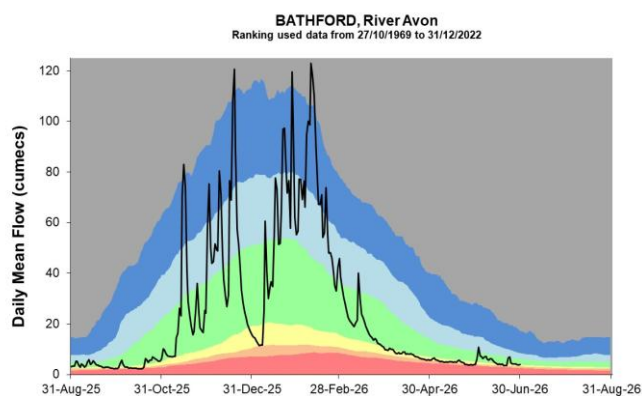
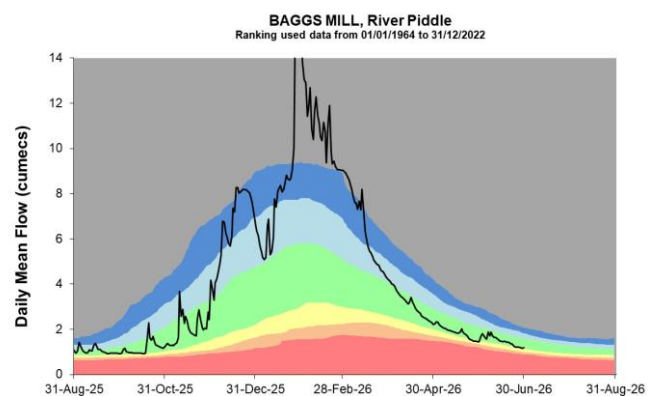
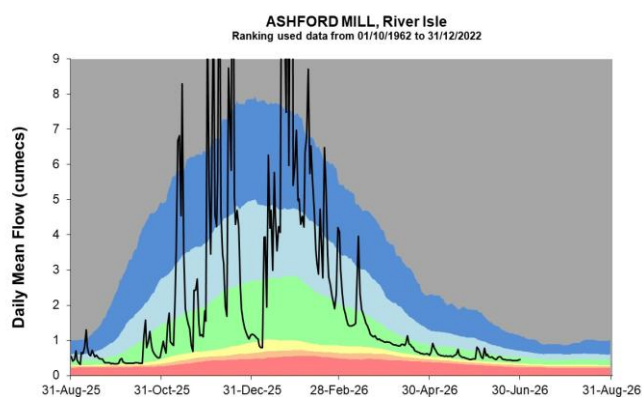
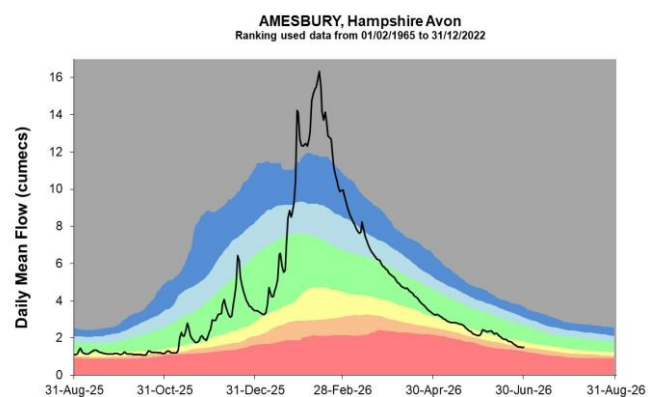
Figure 4.1: Monthly mean river flow for indicator sites for June 2026, expressed as a percentage of the respective long term average and classed relative to an analysis of historic June monthly means Table available in the appendices with detailed information. Flow data at Knapp Mill is omitted due to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



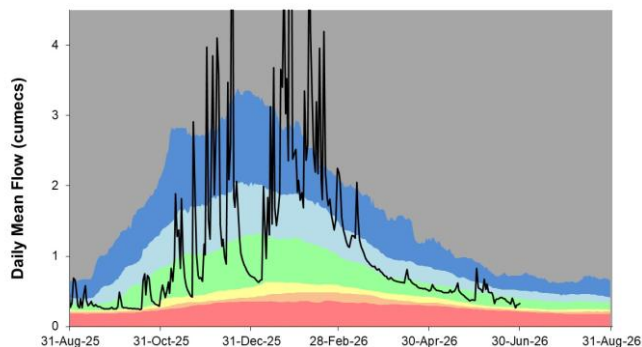
(Source: Environment Agency). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, AC0000807064, 2026.

4.2 River flow charts

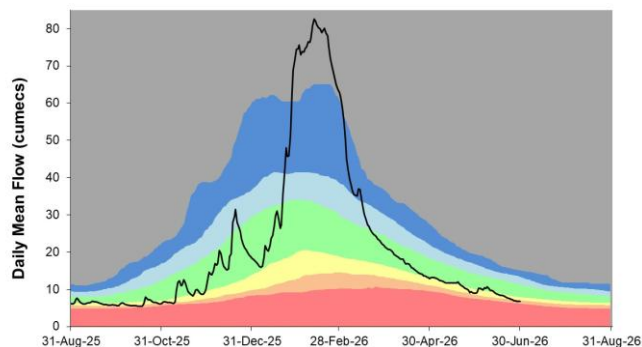
Figure 4.2: Daily mean river flow for index sites over the past year, compared to an analysis of historic daily mean flows.



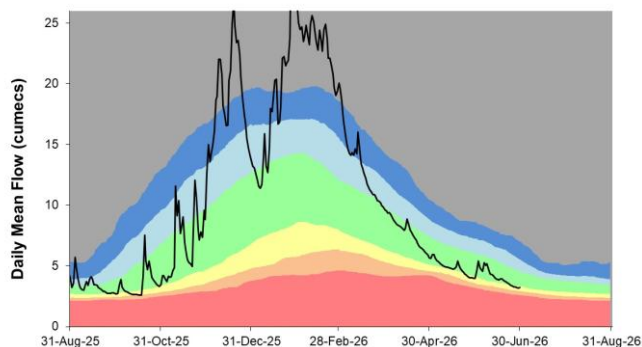
BRIDPORTEAST BRIDGE, River Asker
Ranking used data from 01/03/1996 to 31/12/2022



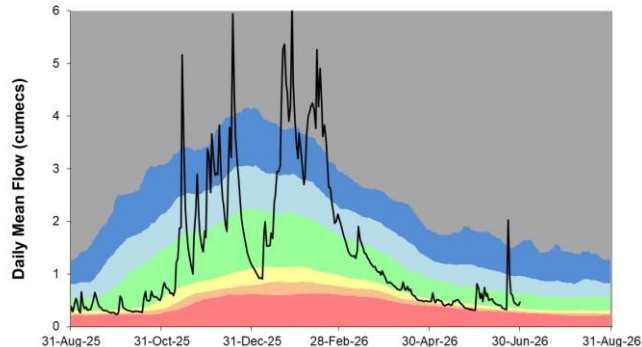
EAST MILLS COMBINED, Hampshire Avon
Ranking used data from 01/11/1965 to 31/12/2022



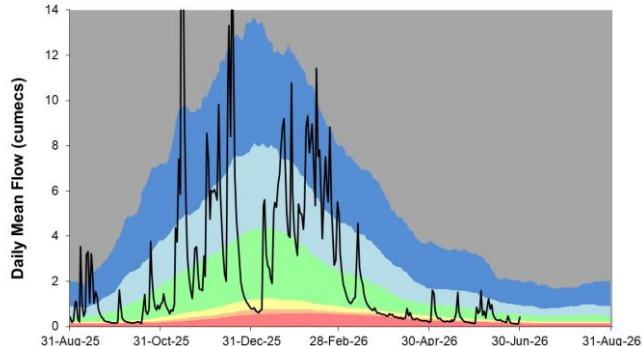
EAST STOKE COMBINED, Dorset Frome
Ranking used data from 01/10/1965 to 31/12/2022



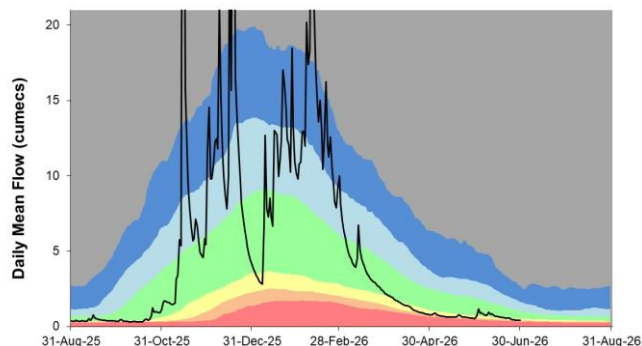
FENNY CASTLE, River Sheppey
Ranking used data from 01/01/1964 to 31/12/2022



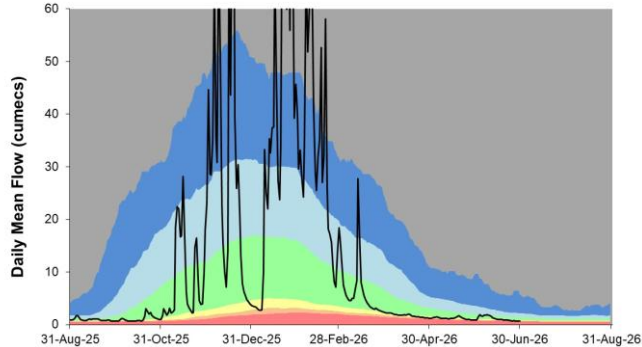
FRENCHAY, Bristol Frome
Ranking used data from 01/09/1961 to 31/12/2022



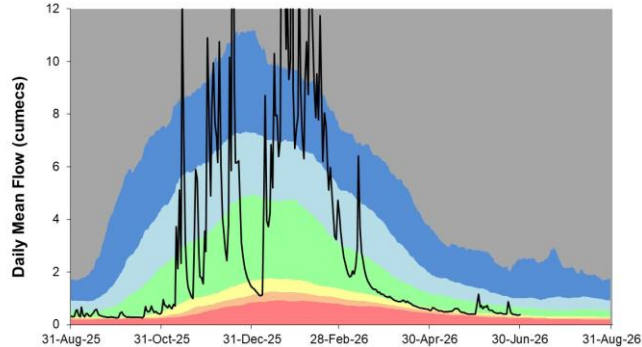
GREAT SOMERFORD, River Avon
Ranking used data from 16/12/1963 to 31/12/2022

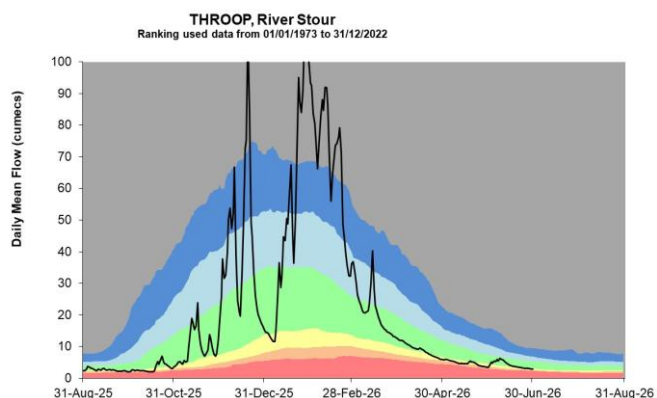
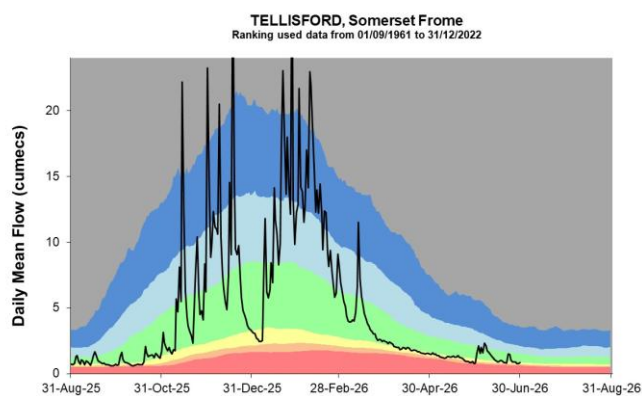
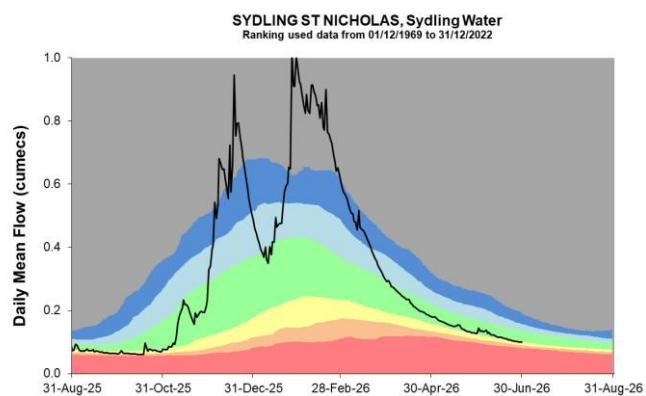
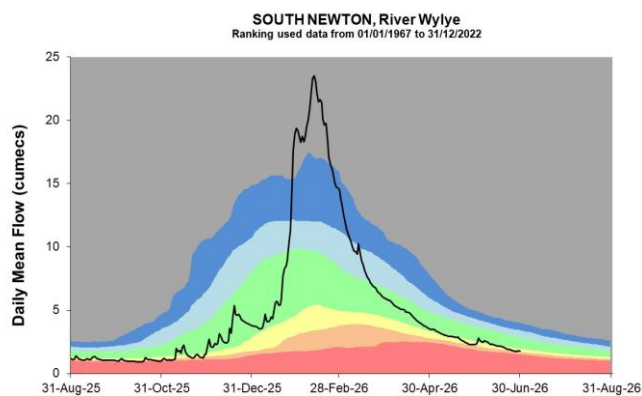
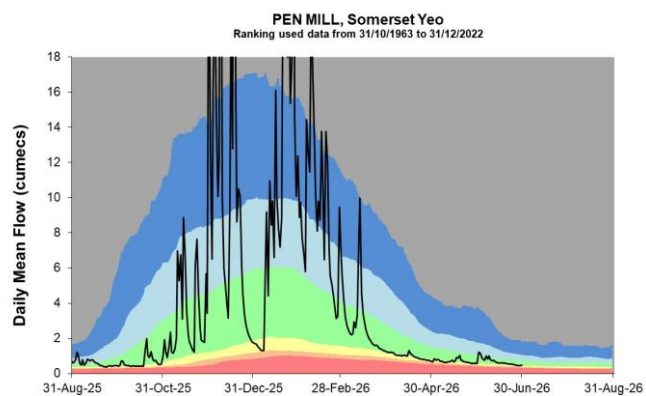


HAMMOON, River Stour
Ranking used data from 01/03/1968 to 31/12/2022



LOVINGTON, River Brue
Ranking used data from 01/10/1964 to 31/12/2022



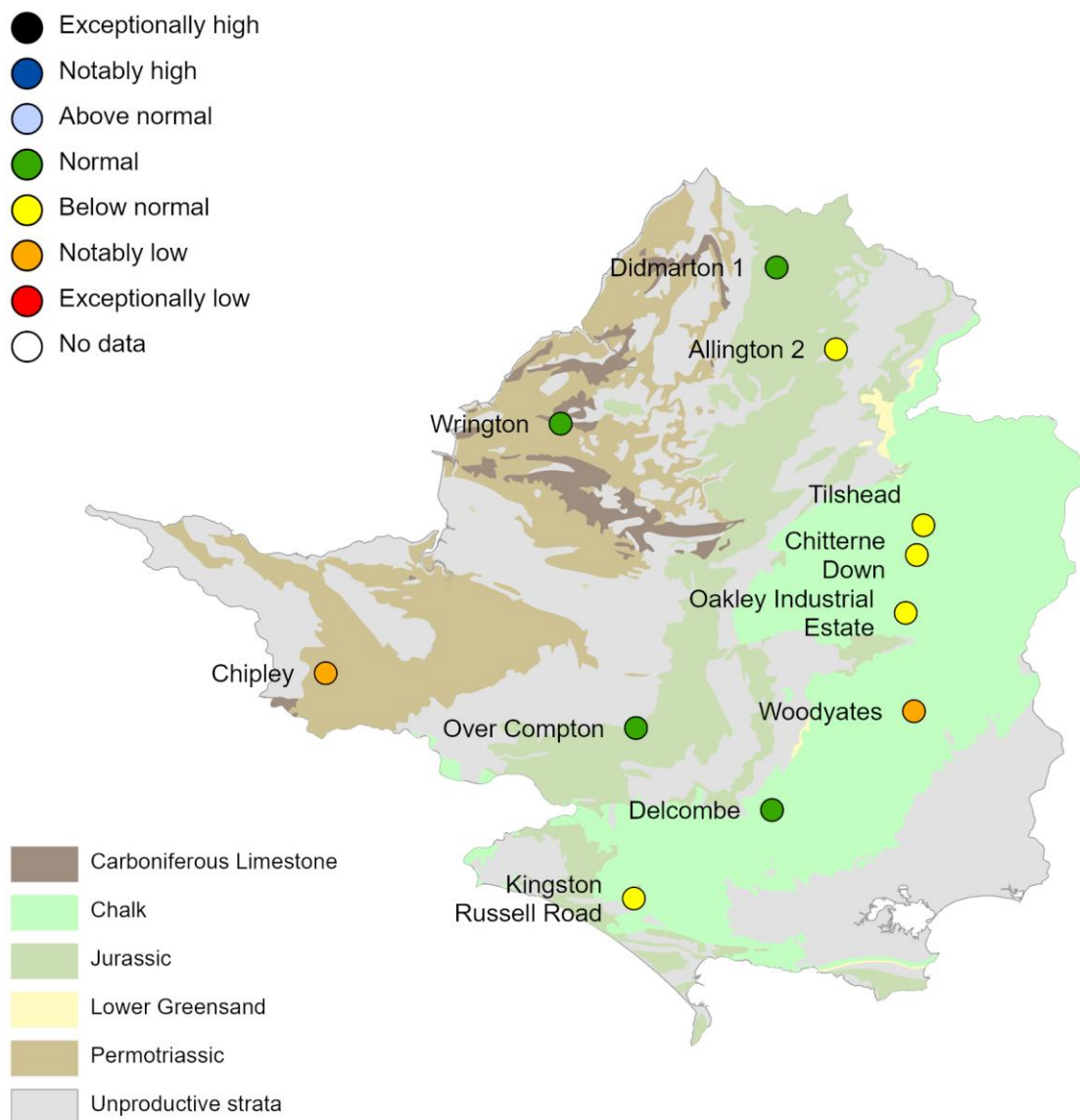


Source: Environment Agency, 2026.

5 Groundwater levels

5.1 Groundwater levels map

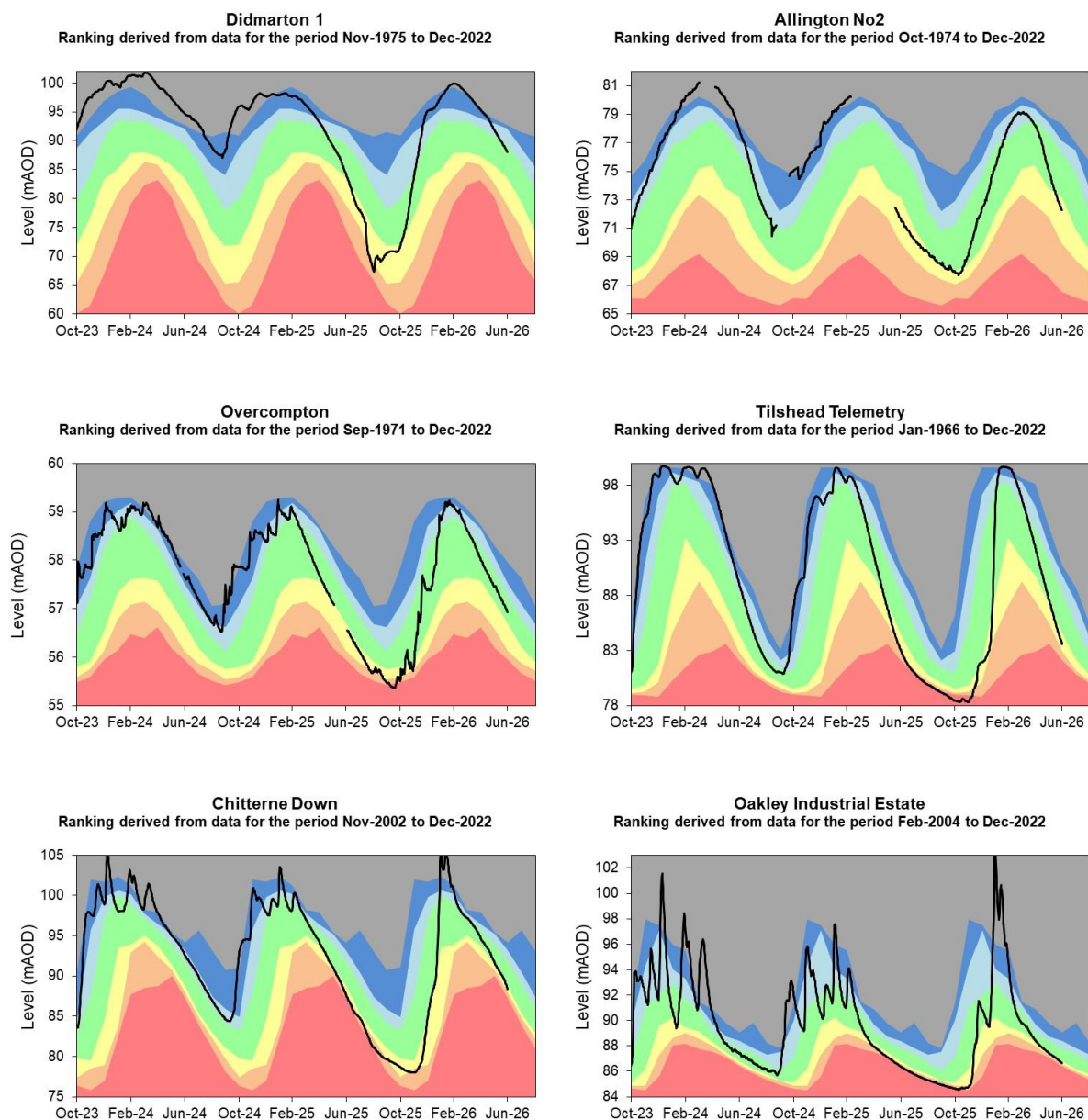
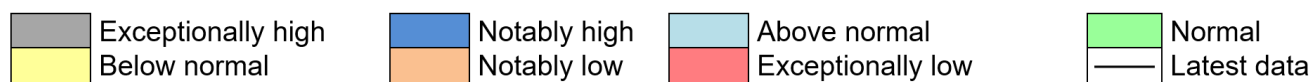
Figure 5.1: Groundwater levels for indicator sites at the end of June 2026, classed relative to an analysis of respective historic end of June levels. Table available in the appendices with detailed information.

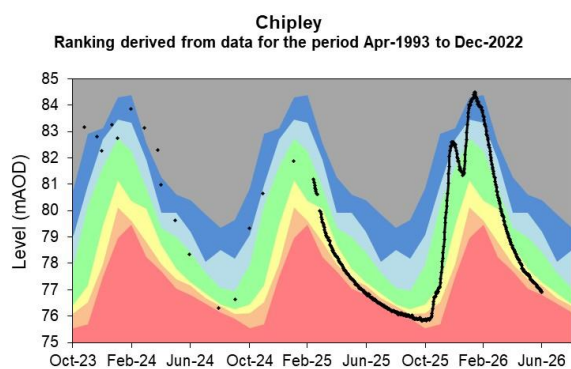
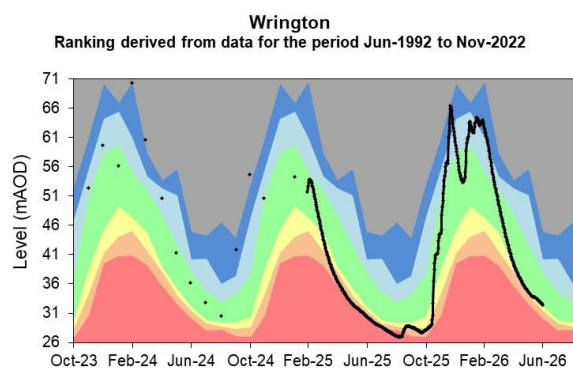
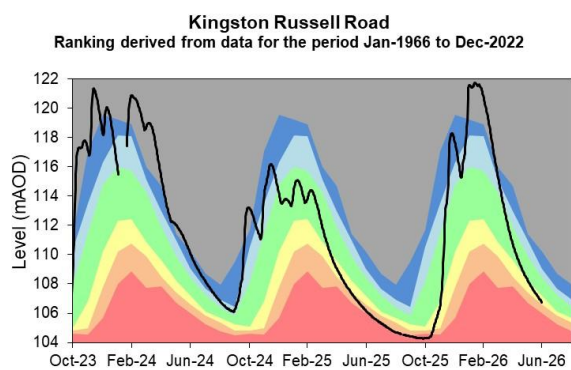
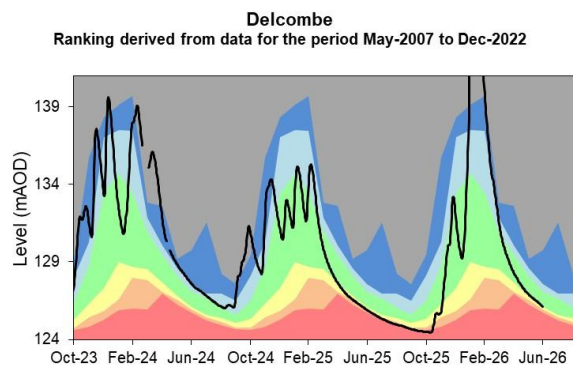
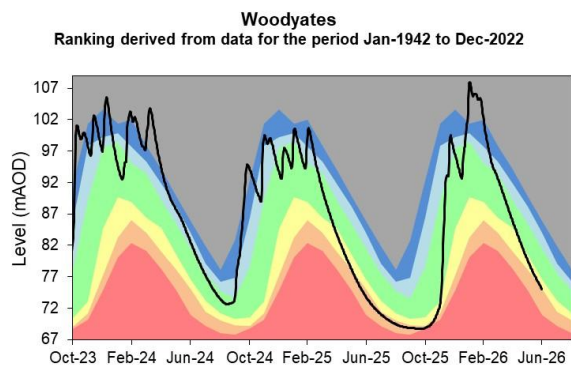


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5.2 Groundwater level charts

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

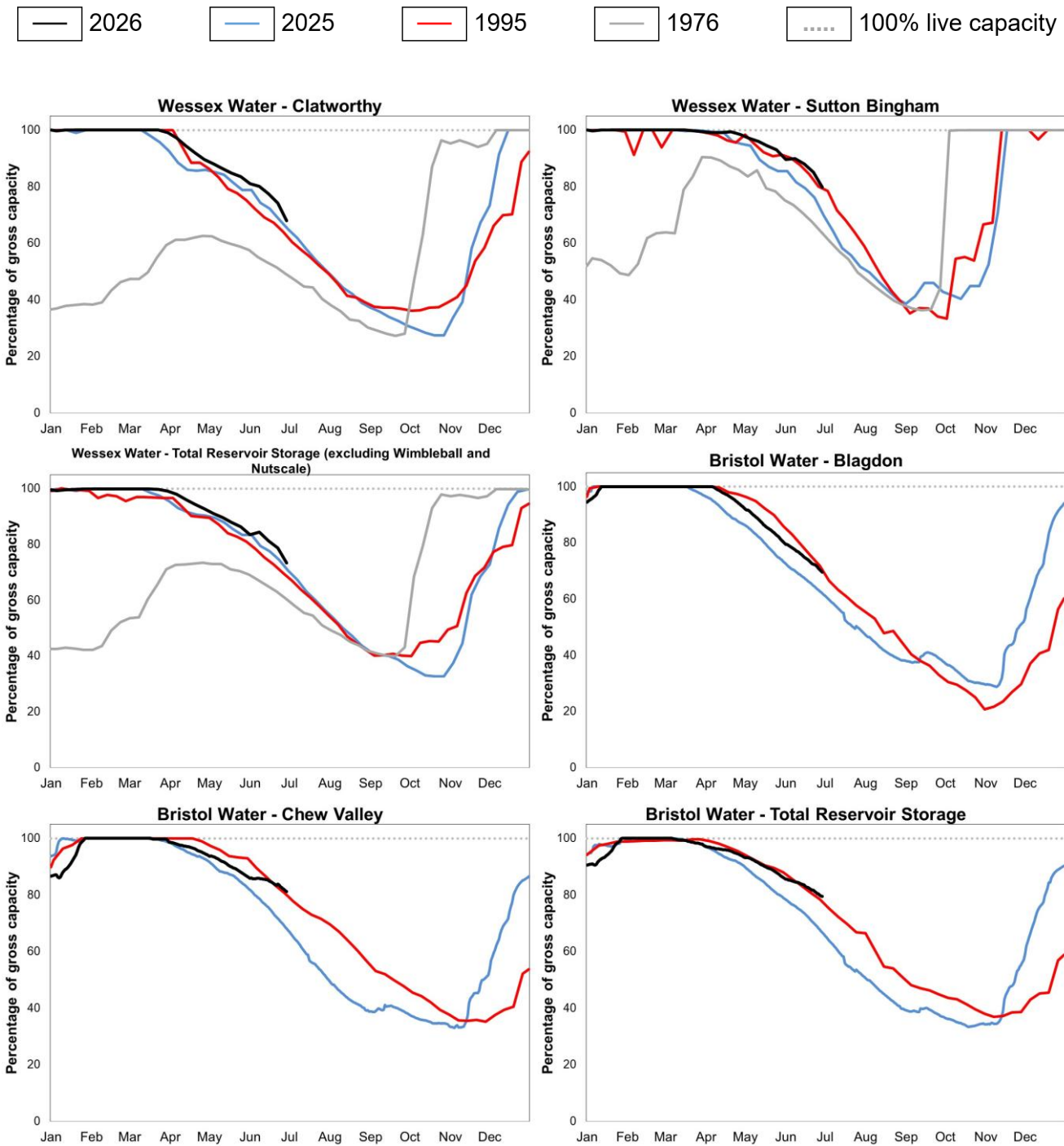




Source: Environment Agency, 2026.

6 Reservoir storage

Figure 6.1: End of month regional reservoir stocks compared to the previous year, and if available, also a comparison to reservoir stocks in 1995 and 1976.



(Source: Wessex Water and Bristol Water).

7 Flood alerts and warnings

Table 7.1: Fluvial, coastal and groundwater flood alerts issued during June

Area	Number of fluvial flood alerts in June	Number of coastal flood alerts in June	Number of groundwater flood alerts in June
North Wessex	1	1	0
South Wessex	0	0	0

Table 7.2: Fluvial, coastal and groundwater flood warnings issued during June

Area	Number of fluvial flood warnings in June	Number of coastal flood warnings in June	Number of groundwater flood warnings in June
North Wessex	0	0	0
South Wessex	0	0	0

Table 7.3: Fluvial, coastal and groundwater severe flood warnings issued during June

Area	Number of fluvial severe flood warnings in June	Number of coastal severe flood warnings in June	Number of groundwater severe flood warnings in June
North Wessex	0	0	0
South Wessex	0	0	0

8 Stream support

Table 8.1: End of June status for stream support sites.

Catchment	River	Stream support site	Gauging station	End of June status
Bristol Avon	Chalfield Brook	South Wraxall	Great Chalfield (Wessex Water)	On
Bristol Avon	Chalfield Brook	Little Chalfield	Great Chalfield (Wessex Water)	Off
Bristol Avon	Charlton Stream	Charlton	Crabb Mill	Off
Bristol Avon	Gauze Brooke	Hullavington	Rodbourne	On
Bristol Avon	Horscombe Stream	Tucking Mill	No Gauge	Off
Bristol Avon	Luckington Brook	Luckington	Fossway	On
Bristol Avon	Rodbourne Brook	Lower Stanton St. Quinton	Startley	On
Bristol Avon	Semington Brook	Easterton	No Gauge	Off
Bristol Avon	Sherston Avon	Stanbridge	Fossway	Off
Bristol Avon	Tetbury Avon	Tetbury	Brokenborough	On
Dorset Frome	South Winterbourne	Winterbourne Abbas	Winterbourne Steepleton	Off
Dorset Frome	Watergates Stream	Watergates	No Gauge	On

Catchment	River	Stream support site	Gauging station	End of June status
Piddle	Devil's Brook	Dewlish	Dewlish Woodsdown Cross	Off
Piddle	Piddle	Alton Mill	South House & Little Puddle	Off
Piddle	Piddle	Morningwell	South House & Little Puddle	On
Piddle	Piddle	Briantspuddle	Briantspuddle	On
Dorset Stour	Crichel Stream	Long Crichel	No Gauge	Off
Dorset Stour	Gussage Stream	Gussage All Saints	Bowerswain	On
Dorset Stour	Allen	Wyke Down	All Hallows	On
Dorset Stour	Pimperne Stream	Pimperne	No Gauge	Off
Hampshire Avon	Bourne	Porton	Salisbury Bourne	On
Hampshire Avon	Chitterne Brook	Codford Road	Codford	On
Hampshire Avon	Wylfe	Brixton Deverill	Brixton Deverill & Heytesbury	On
Hampshire Avon	Wylfe	Kingston Deverill	Brixton Deverill & Heytesbury	On

9 Abstraction licences subject to restrict or cease

Table 9.1: Number of licences at restrict or cease at the end of June.

Catchment	Number of licences at restrict at the end of June	Number of licences at cease at the end of June
Bristol Avon	0	4
Dorset	0	1
Hampshire Avon	0	8
Somerset	0	10

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.

10.3 Rainfall Areas Map

Figure 10.3: Rainfall catchments in Wessex.



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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
Axe	155	Notably High	Normal	Exceptionally high	Above normal
Brue	150	Above Normal	Normal	Exceptionally high	Above normal
Little Avon	123	Normal	Normal	Above normal	Above normal
Lower Bristol Avon And Bristol Frome	157	Above Normal	Normal	Notably high	Notably high
Lower Dorset Stour And River Crane	135	Above Normal	Below normal	Exceptionally high	Notably high
Lower Hampshire Avon	140	Above Normal	Below normal	Exceptionally high	Notably high
Mendips And River Chew	173	Notably High	Normal	Notably high	Above normal
Middle And Upper Bristol Avon	149	Above Normal	Normal	Above normal	Above normal
Middle Dorset Stour	129	Above Normal	Below normal	Exceptionally high	Notably high

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
Middle Hampshire Avon	136	Above Normal	Below normal	Exceptionally high	Notably high
Parrett	117	Normal	Below normal	Exceptionally high	Notably high
Poole Harbour And Purbeck	122	Above Normal	Below normal	Notably high	Above normal
River Bourne	110	Normal	Notably low	Notably high	Above normal
River Frome	124	Normal	Below normal	Exceptionally high	Notably high
River Piddle	125	Normal	Below normal	Exceptionally high	Notably high
Tone	99	Normal	Below normal	Notably high	Above normal
Upper Dorset Stour	122	Normal	Below normal	Exceptionally high	Notably high
Upper Hampshire Avon	115	Normal	Notably low	Notably high	Above normal
West Dorset Streams	121	Above Normal	Below normal	Exceptionally high	Notably high

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
West Somerset Streams	106	Normal	Below normal	Above normal	Normal
Wylfe And Nadder	119	Normal	Below normal	Notably high	Above normal
Yeo And Kenn	160	Notably High	Normal	Notably high	Above normal

11.2 River flows table

Site name	River	Catchment	Jun 2026 band	May 2026 band
Amesbury	Upper Hampshire Avon	Hampshire Avon	Below normal	Below normal
Ashford Mill	Isle	Parrett	Normal	Normal
Baggs Mill	Piddle	Piddle	Normal	Normal
Bathford	Bristol Avon	Bristol Avon	Normal	Notably low
Beggearn Huish	Washford	Washford River	Below normal	Below normal
Bishops Hull	Tone	Tone	Below normal	Notably low
Bridport East Bridge	Asker	Asker	Normal	Normal
Fenny Castle	Sheppey	Brue	Normal	Notably low
East Mills Combined	Middle Hampshire Avon	Hampshire Avon	Below normal	Below normal
East Stoke Combined	Dorset Frome	Dorset Frome	Normal	Below normal
Frenchay	Bristol Frome	Bristol Frome	Normal	Below normal
Great Somerford	Bristol Avon	Bristol Avon	Normal	Notably low
Hammoon	Middle Stour	Dorset Stour	Normal	Notably low

Site name	River	Catchment	Jun 2026 band	May 2026 band
Knapp Mill	Lower Hampshire Avon	Hampshire Avon	Data unavailable	Data unavailable
Lovington	Upper Brue	Brue	Normal	Notably low
Pen Mill	Yeo	Parrett	Normal	Below normal
South Newton	River Wylfe	Hampshire Avon	Below normal	Below normal
Sydling St Nicholas	Sydling Water	Dorset Frome	Normal	Normal
Tellisford	Somerset Frome	Bristol Avon	Normal	Notably low
Throop	Lower Stour	Dorset Stour	Normal	Notably low

11.3 Groundwater table

Site name	Aquifer	End of Jun 2026 band	End of May 2026 band
Allington No2	Upper Bristol Avon Great Oolite	Below normal	Normal
Chitterne Down	Upper Hampshire Avon Chalk	Below normal	Normal
Delcombe	Dorset Frome And Piddle Chalk/upper Greensand	Normal	Normal
Didmarton 1	Upper Bristol Avon Inferior Oolite	Normal	Above normal
Kingston Russell Road	Dorset Frome Chalk	Below normal	Normal
Overcompton	Somerset Yeo Bridport Sand	Normal	Normal
Tilshead	Upper Hampshire Avon Chalk	Below normal	Normal
Woodyates	Dorset Stour Chalk	Notably low	Below normal
Oakley Industrial Estate	Upper Hampshire Avon Chalk	Below normal	Below normal
Chipley	Somerset Tone Otter Sandstone	Notably low	Below normal
Wrington	North Somerset Carboniferous Limestone	Normal	Below normal