

SUMMARY The river flow outlook for February and February-April is similar: normal to above normal flows are most likely in northwestern areas and normal flows are the most likely outcome elsewhere, although normal flows are likely to persist in parts of southern England. Similarly for groundwater, both the February and February-April outlook suggest normal to above normal levels are expected at the national scale, with above normal levels likely to persist in parts of the southern Chalk aquifer.

Rainfall:

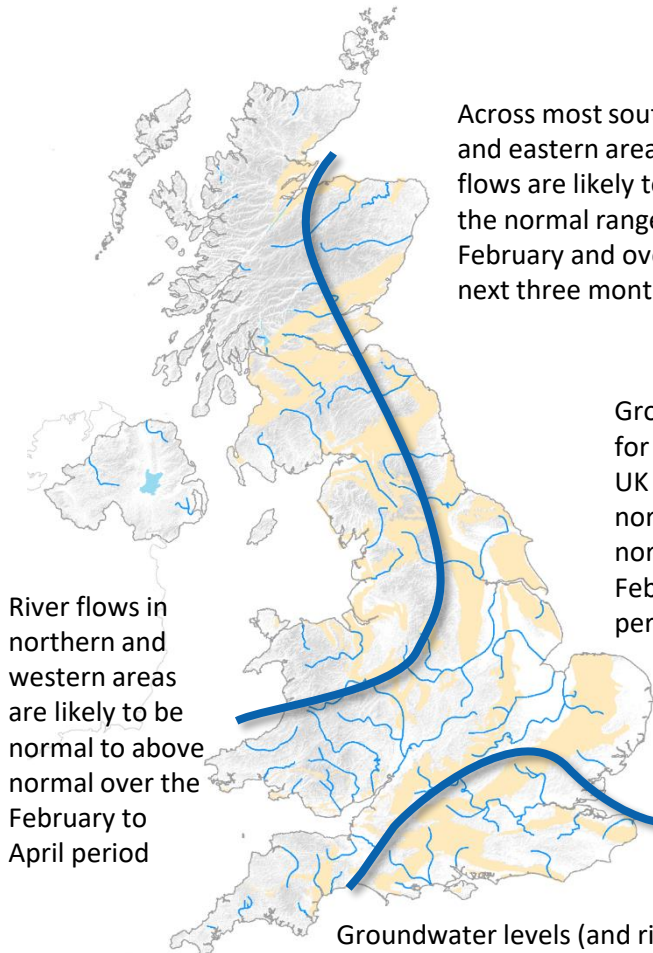
January was dry in Scotland, Northern Ireland, and parts of northwest England and north Wales. Elsewhere it was typically wetter than average, particularly in southern England and parts of northern England. The forecast (issued by Met Office on 27.01.2025) indicates the chance of a wet February is slightly higher than normal, especially in the north. February-April has a higher-than-normal chance of being wet due to an increased likelihood of westerly winds

River flows:

River flows in January were below normal in western Scotland, while across eastern Scotland and the far north of England flows were mostly in the normal range. Further south, river flows were normal to above normal, with notably or exceptionally high flows in some catchments. The outlook for February is for normal to above normal flows in the northwest while normal flows predominate elsewhere – although above normal flows are likely to persist in parts of southern England, particularly in groundwater-dominated catchments. The February-April outlook is for a similar picture, but with greater likelihood of above normal flows in the north and west, reflecting the rainfall forecasts for this period.

Groundwater:

Groundwater levels in January were above normal across much of the Chalk aquifer of central southern and southeast England, and normal to above normal elsewhere. Notably high levels were registered at some sites in central and southern England. The February Outlook is for a similar picture, with normal to above normal levels predominating across the UK, with above normal levels most likely in the Chalk aquifer of southern England. Over the February-April period, normal to above normal levels are also expected. Many aquifer areas will see levels receding into the normal range, although levels in parts of the southern Chalk aquifer are likely to remain above normal, reflecting recent rainfall.



Across most southern and eastern areas river flows are likely to be in the normal range in February and over the next three months

Groundwater levels for the much of the UK are likely to be normal to above normal over the February – April period.

River flows in northern and western areas are likely to be normal to above normal over the February to April period

Groundwater levels (and river flows in groundwater-fed catchments) are likely to remain above normal in parts of southern England over the February-April period

Shaded areas show principal aquifers

The UK Hydrological Outlook provides an outlook for the water situation for the United Kingdom over the next three months and beyond. For guidance on how to interpret the outlook, a wider range of information, and a full description of underpinning methods, please visit the website: www.hyoutuk.net

About the UK Hydrological Outlook:

This document presents an outlook for the UK water situation for the next 1-3 months and beyond, using observational datasets, meteorological forecasts and a suite of hydrological modelling tools. The outlook is produced in a collaboration between the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH), British Geological Survey (BGS), the Met Office, the Environment Agency (EA), Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), and for Northern Ireland, the Department for Infrastructure – Rivers (DfIR).

Data and Models:

The UK Hydrological Outlook depends on the active cooperation of many data suppliers. This cooperation is gratefully acknowledged. Historic river flow and groundwater data are sourced from the [UK National River Flow Archive](#) and the [National Groundwater Level Archive](#). Contemporary data are provided by the EA, SEPA, NRW and DfIR. These data are used to initialise hydrological models, and to provide outlook information based on statistical analysis of historical analogues.

Climate forecasts are produced by the Met Office. Hydrological modelling is undertaken by UKCEH using the Grid-to-Grid and GR6J hydrological models. Hydrogeological modelling uses the AquilMod model run by BGS. Supporting documentation is available from the Outlooks website: <https://hydoutuk.net/about/methods>

Presentation:

The language used in the summary presented overleaf generally places flows and groundwater levels into just three classes, i.e. below normal, normal, and above normal. However, the underpinning methods use as many as seven classes as defined in the graphic to the right, i.e. the summary uses a simpler classification than some of the methods. On those occasions when it is appropriate to provide greater discrimination at the extremes the terminology and definitions of the seven class scheme will be adopted.

	Percentile range of historic values for relevant month
Exceptionally high flow	> 95
Notably high flow	87-95
Above normal	72-87
Normal range	28-72
Below normal	13-28
Notably low flow	5-13
Exceptionally low flow	< 5

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Further information:

For more detailed information about the UK Hydrological Outlook, and the derivation of the maps, plots and interpretation provided in this outlook, please visit the UK Hydrological Outlook website. The website features a host of other background information, including a wider range of sources of information which are used in the preparation of this Outlook. Dynamic access to many of the outputs of the UK Hydrological Portal are available on the [UK Hydrological Outlooks Portal](#).

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Reference for the UK Hydrological Outlook:

UK Hydrological Outlook, 11 February 2025, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Oxfordshire UK, Online, <https://www.hydoutuk.net/latest-outlook/>

Other Sources of Information:

The UK Hydrological Outlook should be used alongside other sources of up-to-date information on the current water resources status and flood risk.

Environment Agency Water Situation Reports: provides summary of water resources status on a monthly and weekly basis for England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-situation-reports-for-england>

Flood warnings are continually updated, and should be consulted for an up-to-date and localised assessment of flood risk:

- Environment Agency: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/map>
- Natural Resources Wales: <https://flood-warning.naturalresources.wales/>
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/flooding.aspx>

Hydrological Summary for the UK: provides summary of current water resources status for the UK: <https://nra.ceh.ac.uk/monthly-hydrological-summary-uk>

UK Met Office forecasts for the UK: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>

UK Water Resources Portal: monitor the UK hydrological situation in near real-time including rainfall, river flow, groundwater and soil moisture from COSMOS-UK: <https://eip.ceh.ac.uk/hydrology/water-resources/>