

SUMMARY The outlook for April is for river flows to be below normal or lower in most areas, with the exception of normal to above normal river flows in groundwater-dominated chalk catchments in southern England. The April-June outlook for river flows is similar, with a shift towards normal for western Scotland and below normal elsewhere. Groundwater levels in the sandstone and in parts of the southern chalk are likely to be normal to above normal, and elsewhere groundwater levels are likely to be normal to below normal across the April to June period.

Rainfall:

March rainfall for the UK was low. Southern England, Wales and Northern Ireland saw notably low rainfall, with large areas recording less than 30% of the March average. Rainfall for Scotland and northern England was below normal, broadly receiving less than 70% of the March average with more local areas seeing less than 30%. The forecast (issued by the Met Office on 31.03.2025) shows for April, there is an increased chance of drier conditions compared to normal. For April-June the chances of a dry or wet period are similar to normal.

River flows:

River flows in March were normal in southern England, and above normal at some groundwater-dominated sites. Elsewhere in the UK flows were notably low, and in some cases in Northern Ireland, southern Scotland, Wales, and Northern England, flows were exceptionally low. The outlook for April is for below normal to low flows in many areas, with flows expected to be normal to above normal in chalk groundwater-dominated sites in southern England. In western Scotland, river flows are likely to be below normal in April. For April-June, the outlook is similar, with below normal flows in most areas, and rivers flows in western Scotland shifting towards the normal range.

Groundwater:

Groundwater levels in March were above normal in the Permo-Triassic sandstone of northern Wales and central England, and parts of the southern Chalk. Normal and below normal levels were recorded at sites elsewhere in the UK. The outlook for April is for normal to above normal levels to persist in parts of the southern Chalk and the Permo-Triassic sandstone in northern Wales. Groundwater levels at the majority of sites elsewhere in the UK are likely to be normal to below normal, with sites in the Carboniferous Limestones in south Wales likely to see notably low levels. For the three-month outlook, this pattern is likely to persist for most of the UK, with levels at some sites in the southern Chalk trending towards the normal range.

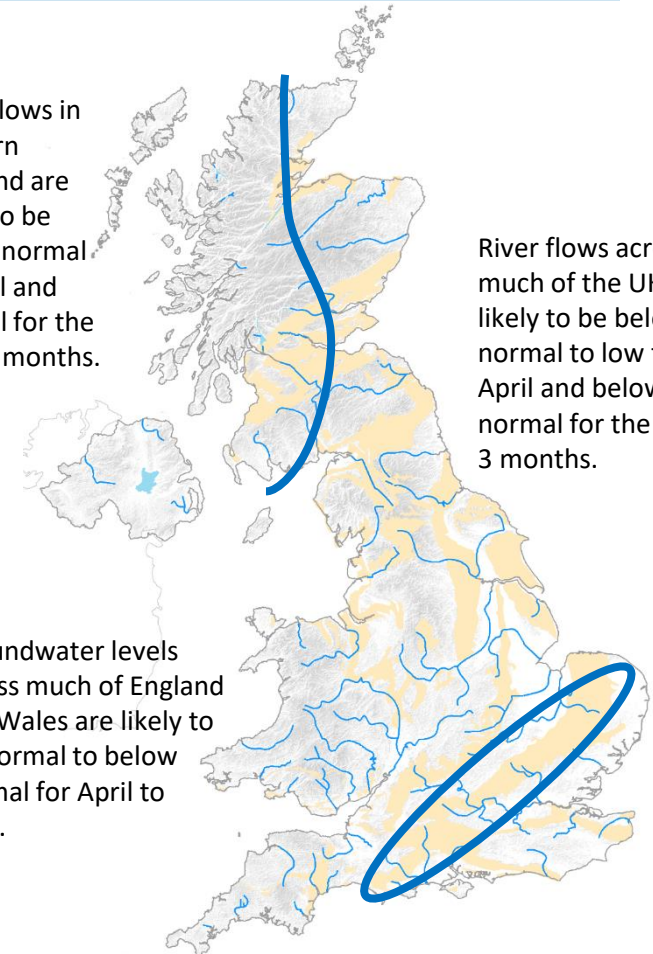
River flows in western Scotland are likely to be below normal in April and normal for the next 3 months.

River flows across much of the UK are likely to be below normal to low for April and below normal for the next 3 months.

Groundwater levels across much of England and Wales are likely to be normal to below normal for April to June.

Groundwater levels in the southern chalk, and river flows in groundwater-dominated catchments are likely to be normal to above normal for April to June.

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.hydoutuk.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, 10 April 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:

- i. Environment Agency: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/map>
- ii. Natural Resources Wales: <https://flood-warning.naturalresources.wales/>
- iii. 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://nrfa.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/>