

SUMMARY The outlook for September indicates normal to below normal flows across southern and eastern areas of the UK. Northwestern parts are likely to see normal to above normal flows. The September–November outlook for river flows indicates a continuation of normal to below normal flows across southern and eastern areas, and above normal flows in northwestern areas of the UK. Groundwater levels across the UK are likely to be normal to below normal for September, with some boreholes likely to see notably low levels. For September–November, groundwater levels are expected to trend closer to normal.

Rainfall:

August rainfall for the UK was below normal. The majority of England recorded less than half of the August average, with large areas recording below 30%. Rainfall across Wales and Northern Ireland was below normal, with less than 90% of the August average recorded widely, and less than 50% recorded locally. Rainfall for parts of western Scotland was slightly above average. The forecast (issued by the Met Office on 01.09.2025) shows there is an increased chance of wetter conditions compared to normal for September, particularly for northwestern areas. The September–November forecast suggests a continuation of the increased chance of wetter conditions.

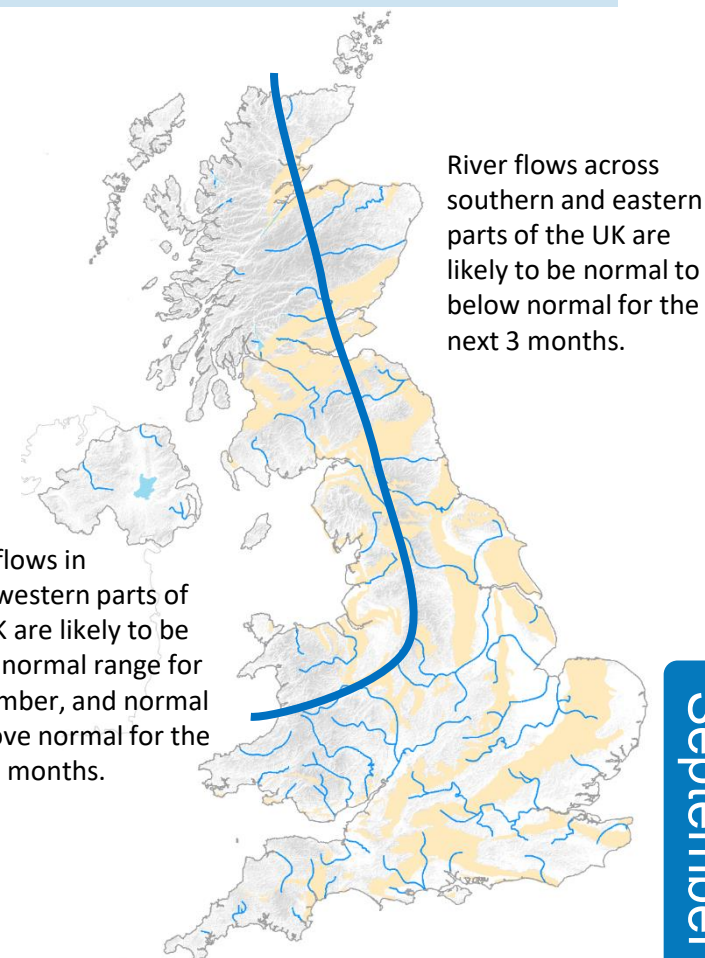
River flows:

River flows in August were in the normal range for western Scotland and some catchments in the far southeast of England. Elsewhere, flows were below normal and some catchments in Wales and northern England saw exceptionally low flows. For September, flows are expected to be in the normal range for Northern Ireland, northern Wales, northwestern England, and western Scotland. Elsewhere in the UK, flows are likely to be normal to below normal. For September–November, the outlook is similar, with river flows in northwestern areas shifting towards normal to above normal. Normal to below normal flows are likely to persist across southern and eastern areas of the UK, and some catchments are likely to see a continuation of low flows for the time of year.

Groundwater:

Groundwater levels in August were above normal in the Permo-Triassic sandstone of northern Wales and central England, and parts of the southern Chalk. Normal to exceptionally low levels were recorded at sites elsewhere in the UK. The outlook for September is for above normal levels to persist in the Permo-Triassic sandstone in northern Wales and parts of the southern Chalk. Groundwater levels at the majority of sites elsewhere in the UK are likely to be normal to below normal, with sites in central England, South Wales, the South Downs, and central Scotland likely to see notably to exceptionally low levels. For the September–November outlook, this pattern is likely to persist for most of the UK, with levels gradually trending towards the normal range.

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



Groundwater levels are likely to be normal to below normal across much of the UK for September to November.

Shaded areas show principal aquifers

September 2025

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 AquMod 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, 09 September 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://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/>