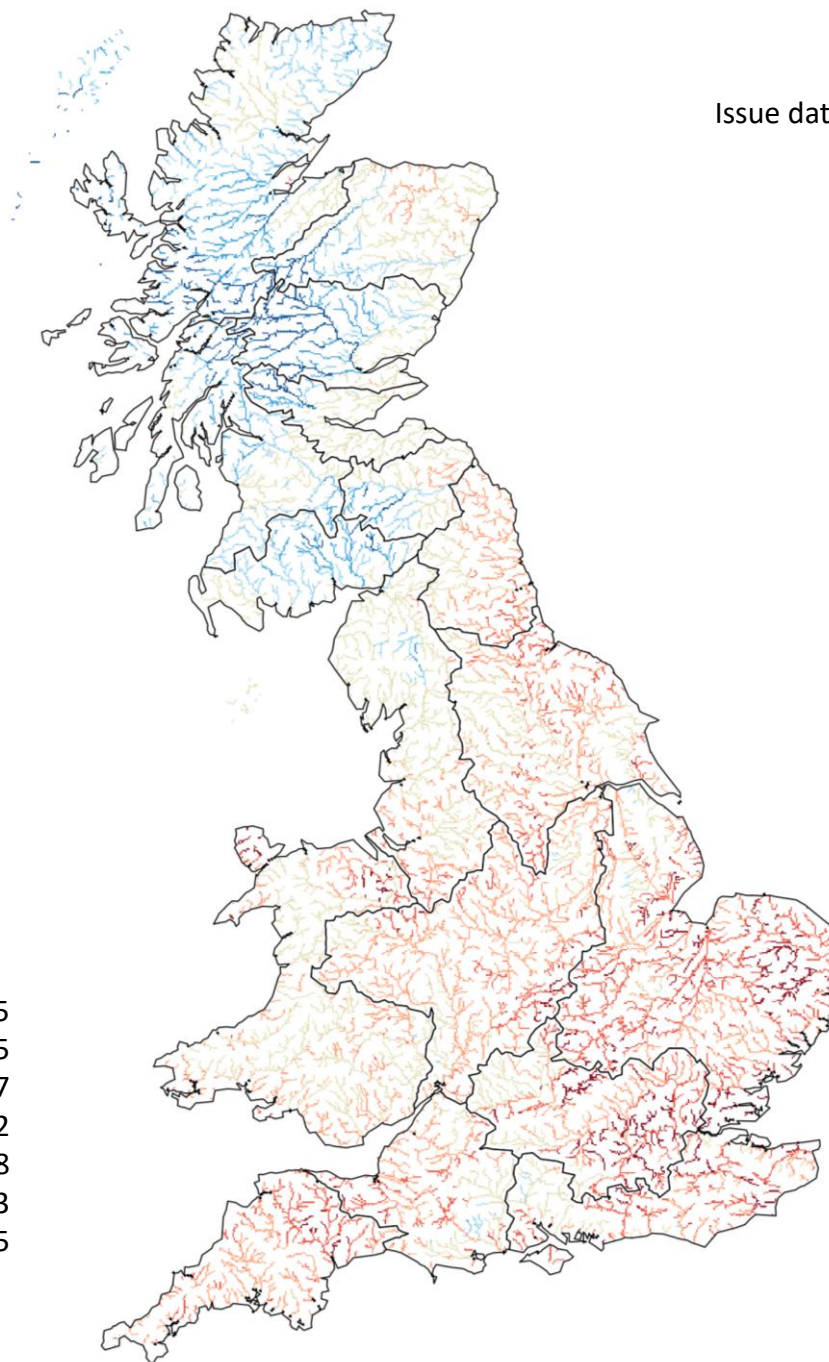
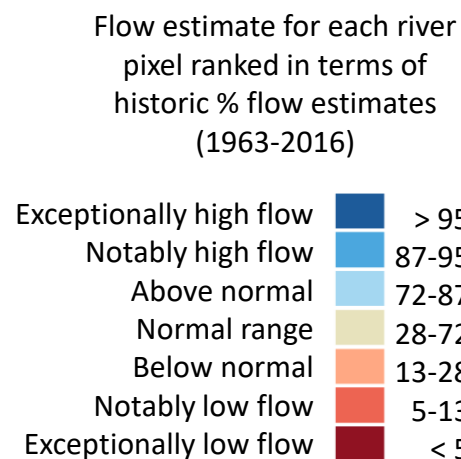


Issue date: 11.05.2026

This map shows the simulated monthly mean flow across Great Britain for last month, ranked in terms of 54 years of historical flow estimates (1963 – 2016).

These flows are produced by the 1km resolution Grid-to-Grid (G2G) hydrological model, which is run up to the end of each calendar month using observed rainfall and MORECS potential evaporation as input.

Note that the G2G model provides estimates of natural flows.

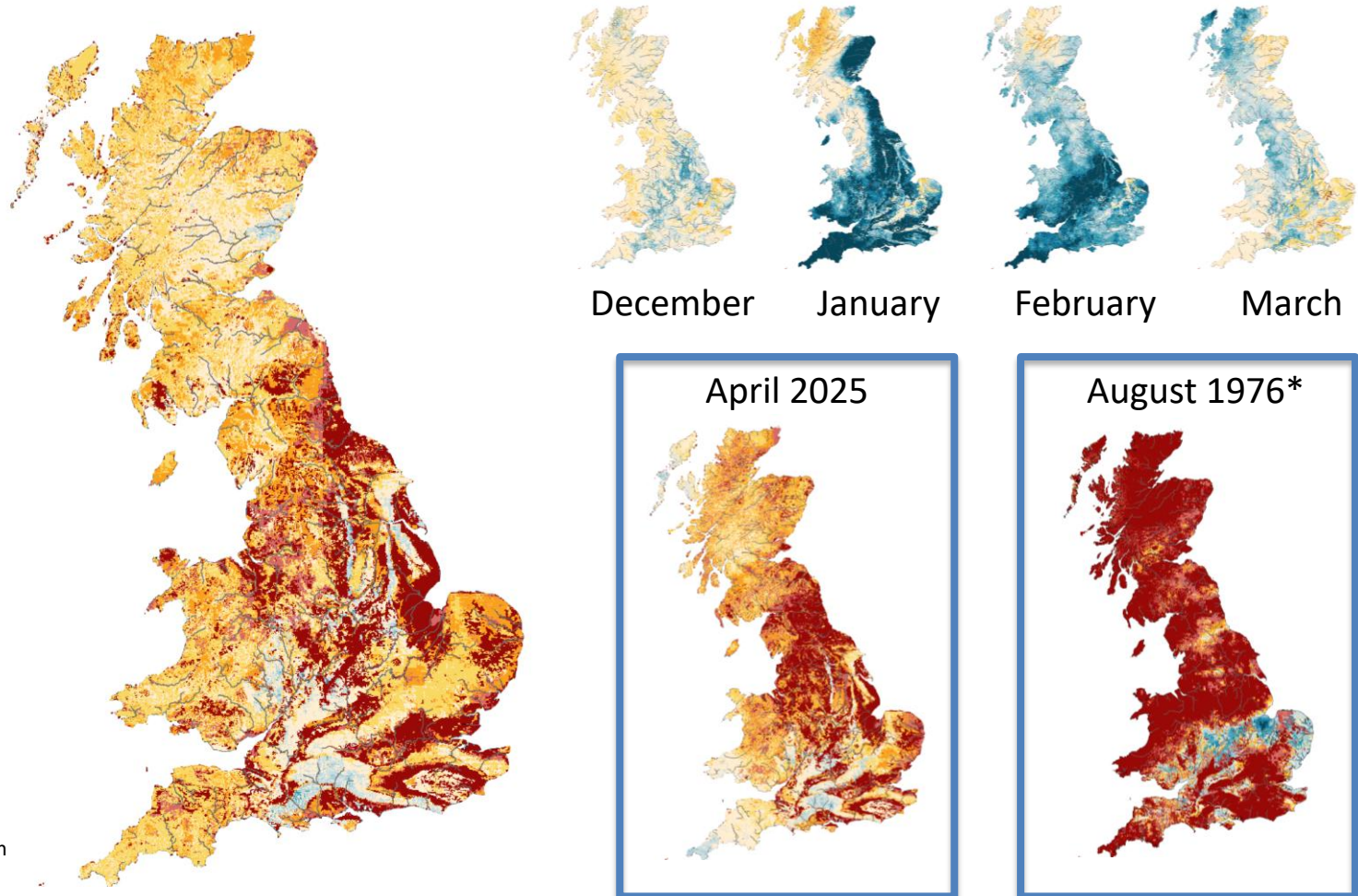
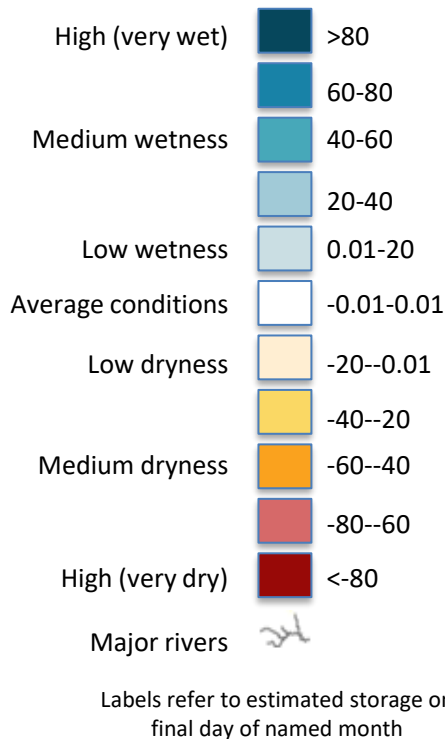


These maps are based on Grid-to-Grid (G2G) hydrological model simulated subsurface water storage (water in the soil and groundwater), expressed as an anomaly from the historical monthly mean. To highlight areas that are particularly wet or dry, the storage anomaly is presented relative to historical extremes. Rainfall in WET areas with high positive relative wetness could result in flooding in the coming days/weeks. Areas of negative relative wetness indicate locations which are particularly DRY, and little or no rain in these areas could potentially lead to (or prolong) a drought. Maps of soil moisture only are available on the next page.

SUMMARY: Subsurface water stores have declined across Great Britain and are now low (dry) in almost all areas.

Relative wetness

Water storage anomaly as a % of maximum (positive wetness) or minimum (negative wetness) storage anomaly (zero indicates average value)



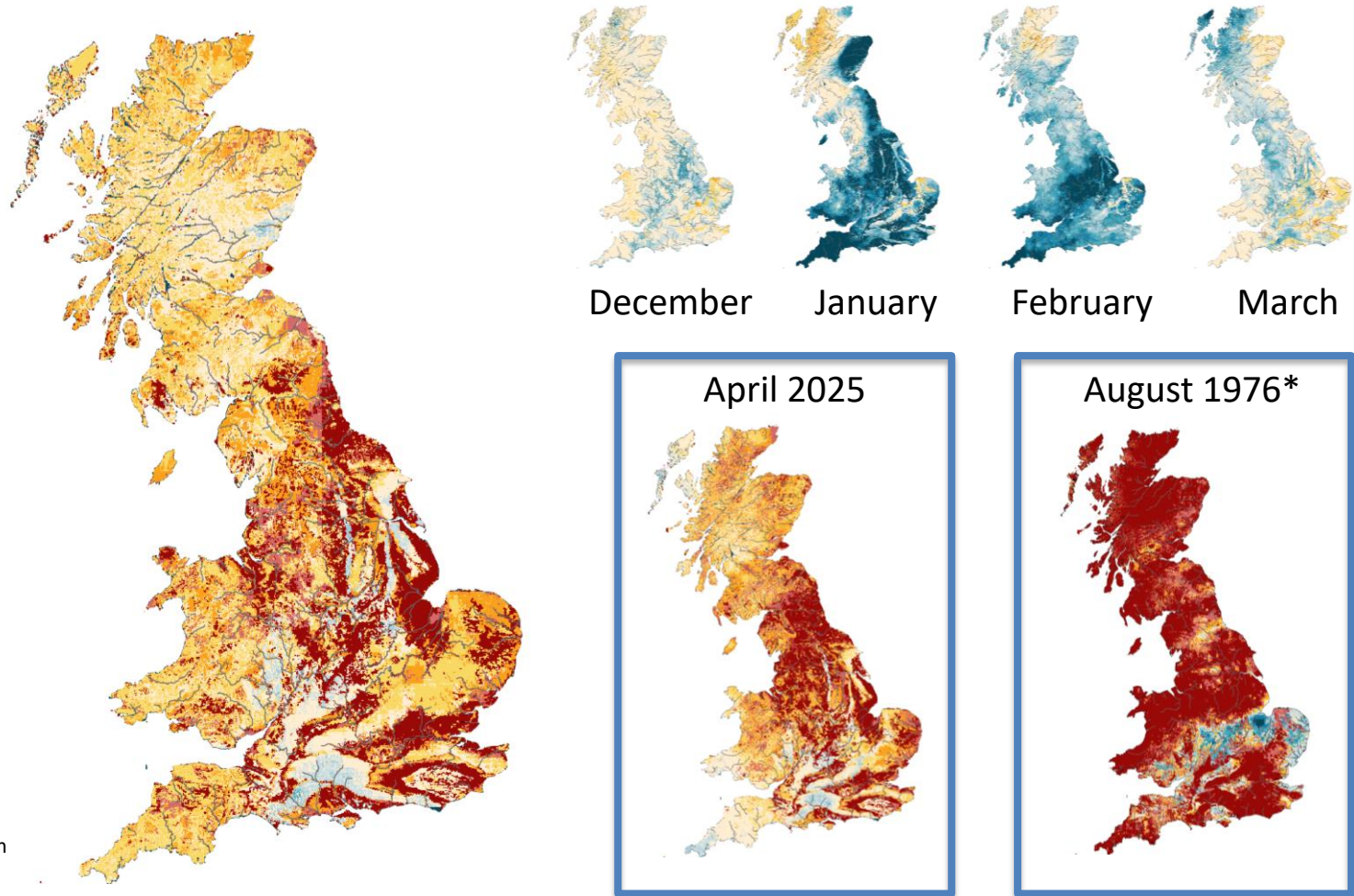
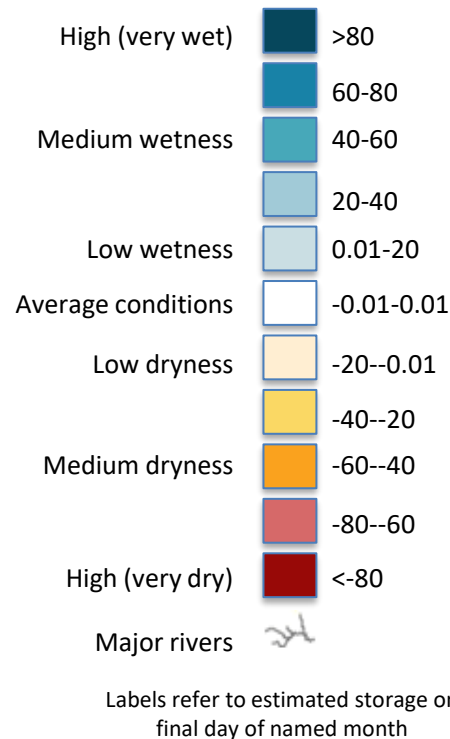
May 2026

These maps are based on Grid-to-Grid (G2G) hydrological model simulated soil moisture, expressed as an anomaly from the historical monthly mean. To highlight areas that are particularly wet or dry, the soil moisture anomaly is presented relative to historical extremes. These maps are not a forecast; rather an indication of current conditions. Soil moisture will often look similar to total storage (shown on the previous slide), since total storage comprises both soil moisture and storage in the saturated zone.

SUMMARY: Soil water stores have declined across Great Britain and are now low (dry) in almost all areas.

Relative wetness

Soil moisture anomaly as a % of maximum (positive wetness) or minimum (negative wetness) storage anomaly (zero indicates average value)



*Example month displaying extreme negative wetness

May 2026

These maps show the Grid-to-Grid (G2G) hydrological model simulated subsurface water storage, expressed as an anomaly from the historical monthly mean (1981-2010), presented on a 1km grid and as regional means. Subsurface storage deficits, i.e. where the subsurface water storage anomaly is less than zero, are highlighted in red/pink.

The subsurface storage deficit (mm) can be interpreted as an estimate of additional rainfall that would be required in future months to overcome dry conditions (i.e. rainfall in addition to what is expected on average). Regional mean values of additional rainfall required are provided in the table below.

Regional estimate of additional rainfall required (mm)

SCOTLAND

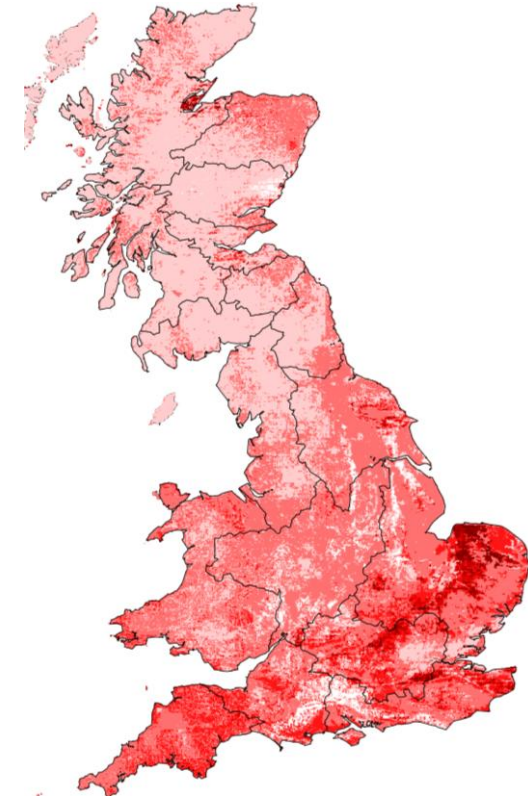
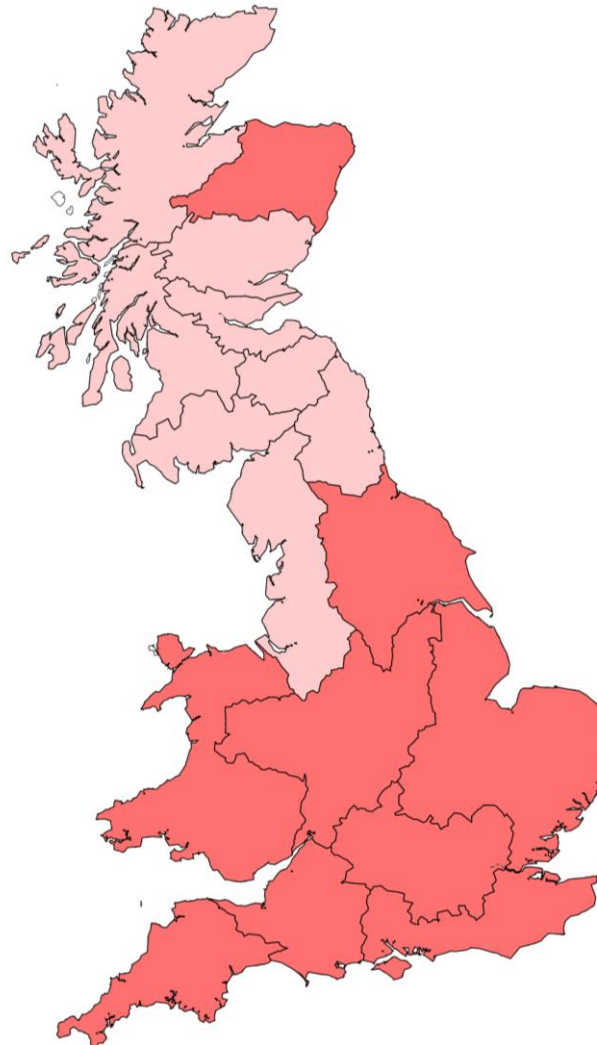
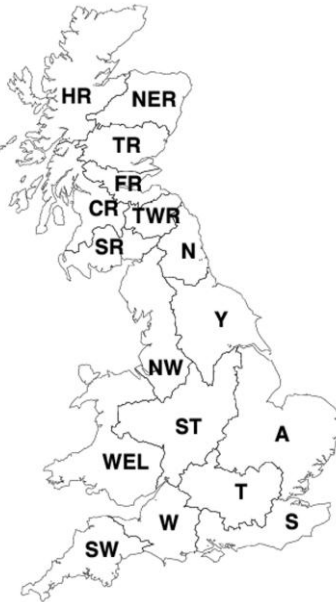
- 21 HR Highlands Region
- 26 NER North East Region
- 13 TR Tay Region
- 24 FR Forth Region
- 21 CR Clyde Region
- 21 TWR Tweed Region
- 19 SR Solway Region

ENGLAND

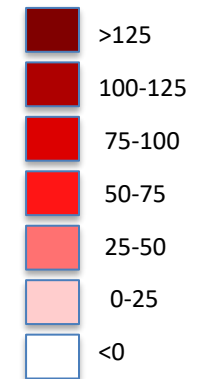
- 22 N Northumbria
- 23 NW North West
- 29 Y Yorkshire
- 27 ST Severn Trent
- 47 A Anglian
- 42 T Thames
- 28 W Wessex
- 35 S Southern
- 47 SW South West

WALES

- 32 WEL Welsh



Water storage deficit (anomaly; mm)



These maps show the return period of the rainfall required to overcome dry conditions simulated using the Grid-to-Grid (G2G) hydrological model. The maps are coloured according to the return period of accumulated rainfall required to overcome the estimated current subsurface water storage deficit over the next one to six months (areas with no storage deficit will always be white). These maps do not provide a drought forecast; instead they indicate whether particularly heavy rainfall would be required to return to normal conditions for the time of year.

SUMMARY:

Water storage deficits are now present in all regions. In Wales and central and southern England these require unusually high (>5-year return period) to recover within the next month. Deficits in eastern England are likely to persist across the summer.

- SCOTLAND**
 HR Highlands Region
 NER North East Region
 TR Tay Region
 FR Forth Region
 CR Clyde Region
 TWR Tweed Region
 SR Solway Region
- ENGLAND**
 N Northumbria
 NW North West
 Y Yorkshire
 ST Severn Trent
 A Anglian
 T Thames
 S Southern
 W Wessex
 SW South West
- WALES**
 WEL Welsh

