

SUMMARY The outlook for June indicates below normal river flows in central and southern England, with flows in eastern Scotland likely to be normal to below normal. Flows in north-west Britain are likely to be normal. Below normal river flows in central and southern England are likely to persist through June-August, while for the rest of the UK, river flows are likely to be normal. Groundwater levels are likely to remain normal to above normal in most areas.

Rainfall:

May rainfall was below average for the UK (78%), with dry conditions across Scotland, Wales and central and southern England. Large parts of south-east England received less than half of the average monthly rainfall. In contrast, rainfall was average or above average in northern England, with particularly high rainfall in Northumberland.

The one-month forecast for June (issued by the Met Office on 29.05.2026) indicates the chances of a wet or dry month are balanced. Over the next three months, the forecast indicates that near-average rainfall is most likely, although a wet three-month period is more probable than a dry one.

River flows:

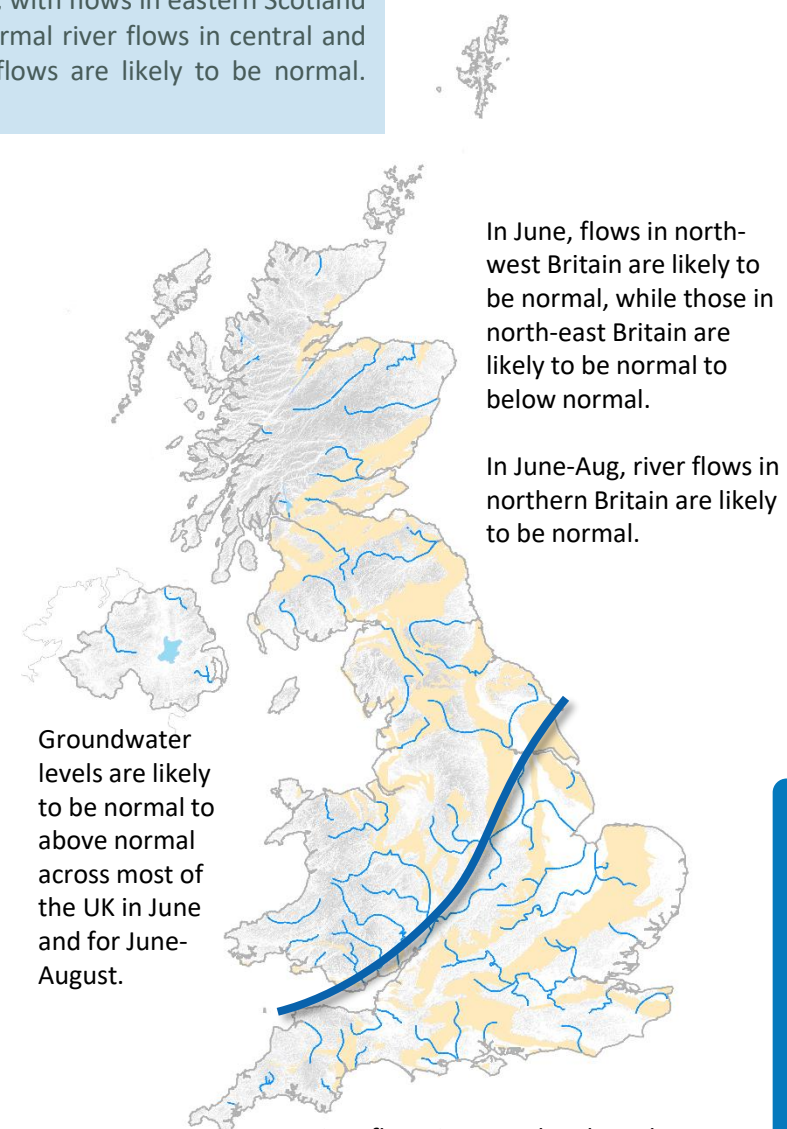
River flows in May were widely below normal across the UK, with notably and exceptionally low flows prevalent in East Anglia and eastern Scotland. Flows in Wales, north-west England and western Scotland were in the normal range.

Following a dry May and depleted catchment storage in some areas, the outlook is for below normal flows across central and southern England and eastern Scotland, although flows may be bolstered to the normal range in groundwater-dominated catchments of the south-east. Elsewhere, flows in north-west England and western Scotland are likely to be in the normal range. The outlook for the next three months (June-August) is for below normal flows to persist in central and southern England, while flows in northern Britain are likely to be normal.

Groundwater:

Groundwater levels at the end of May were mostly normal to above normal in most principal aquifers, except for eastern Britain, Northern Ireland and south Wales, where some boreholes recorded notably or exceptionally low levels.

The outlook for June is for groundwater levels to remain normal to above normal across much of the UK. Above normal levels are likely for some boreholes in the southern, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Chalk, while levels in south Wales are expected to be below normal to exceptionally low. Over the next three months, groundwater levels are likely to remain normal to above normal.



In June, flows in north-west Britain are likely to be normal, while those in north-east Britain are likely to be normal to below normal.

In June-Aug, river flows in northern Britain are likely to be normal.

Groundwater levels are likely to be normal to above normal across most of the UK in June and for June-August.

River flows in central and southern England are likely to be below normal in June and over June-August.

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](#).

Contact:

UK Hydrological Outlooks, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8BB
t: 01491 838800 e: <https://hydoutuk.net/contact>

Reference for the UK Hydrological Outlook:

UK Hydrological Outlook, 08 June 2026, 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://nrf.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/>