

As requested, the Environment Agency provided a summary of why MPC receive this report.

This monthly report provide local summaries on rainfall, soil moisture deficit, river flows, groundwater levels and reservoir levels.

The Parish Council in Melbourn have worked with the Environment Agency in the past as there is a Groundwater Support Scheme which we operate on the River Mel. This is influenced predominantly by the groundwater status in the area and as such the water situation reports can be used to gain an understanding of how these may be changing.

Helpful hints to read the report.

If you look on the first page of the report the first paragraph under "Summary – (Month Year)" provides an overview of the whole report and so should give you an overview without having to go through the rest of the report. Essentially it will describe the status of the different measurements of water we take (rainfall, soils, rivers, groundwater and reservoirs) and how they compare to longer term averages. There is a glossary in section 7 for technical terms.

See the attached report with highlighted sections as advised above.

Monthly water situation report: East Anglia

Summary - June 2026

June rainfall across East Anglia ranged from 68% to 131% of the long term average for the month. The majority of catchments received close to or above their respective long term average rainfall within the first 11 days of the month. A minor reduction in the area average soil moisture deficit occurred following rainfall received at the beginning of June. However, with above average temperatures and minimal rainfall received in the final two weeks of June, the average soil moisture deficit for East Anglia returned to exceptionally high, ending the month at 118mm. River flows were varied across East Anglia during June, with report sites ranging from normal to exceptionally low for the time of year. Groundwater levels at all report sites for which there is data available continued to fall, although the majority remain normal to below normal for the time of year. Public water supply reservoirs within East Anglia ended June 2026 with levels ranging from 83% to 90% of full storage capacity.

1.1 Rainfall

June 2026 rainfall across East Anglia ranged from 68% to 131% of the long term average (LTA) for the month. The East Anglia area averaged rainfall for June 2026 was 58mm. This total is approximately 108% of the 1991 to 2020 LTA for June and is considered normal for the time of year. The majority of catchments received close to or above their respective LTA rainfall by 11 June, with minimal rainfall received across East Anglia for the remainder of the month. The cumulative 3 month totals ranged from exceptionally low in North Norfolk and Northwest Norfolk and Wissey to below normal in the Upper and Lower Bedford Ouse catchments. Cumulative 12 month totals show all catchments to be normal, except for North Norfolk which was below normal.

1.2 Soil moisture deficit and recharge

After decreasing briefly at the beginning of the month with the rainfall, soil moisture deficits (SMDs) have continued to rise through June 2026. Most regions have an SMD of 101mm to 130mm, while Central Area Fenland and Northwest Norfolk and Wissey catchments are above 130mm. While the brief decrease lowered regional average SMD to notably high, the average returned to exceptionally high, ending the month at 118mm.

1.3 River flows

River flows were varied across East Anglia during June, ranging between 18% and 84% of the LTA. Report sites along the Bedford Ouse, and its tributaries, recorded June 2026 flows considered normal for the time of year. Both the Ely Ouse and Wissey catchments recorded exceptionally low flows for the time of year, with the June 2026 month mean flow for the Ely

Ouse at Denver being 18% of the LTA. All river flow report sites in the east of the area, except for the Chelmer, recorded below normal or notably low flows for the times of year.

1.4 Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels continue to fall in line with the expected seasonal pattern. The majority of report sites ended June 2026 with groundwater levels categorised as normal or below normal for the time of year. The lowest groundwater levels are to the north-east with Hindolveston, Norfolk Chalk, and The Spinney, Wensum Chalk, respectively recording notably low levels for June 2026.

1.5 Reservoir stocks

Public water supply reservoirs within East Anglia finished June 2026 with levels ranging from 83% to 90% of full storage capacity. All reservoirs ended the month with levels below their respective target curves for the time of year.

Author: Hydrology Team, hydrology-ean-and-lna@environment-agency.gov.uk

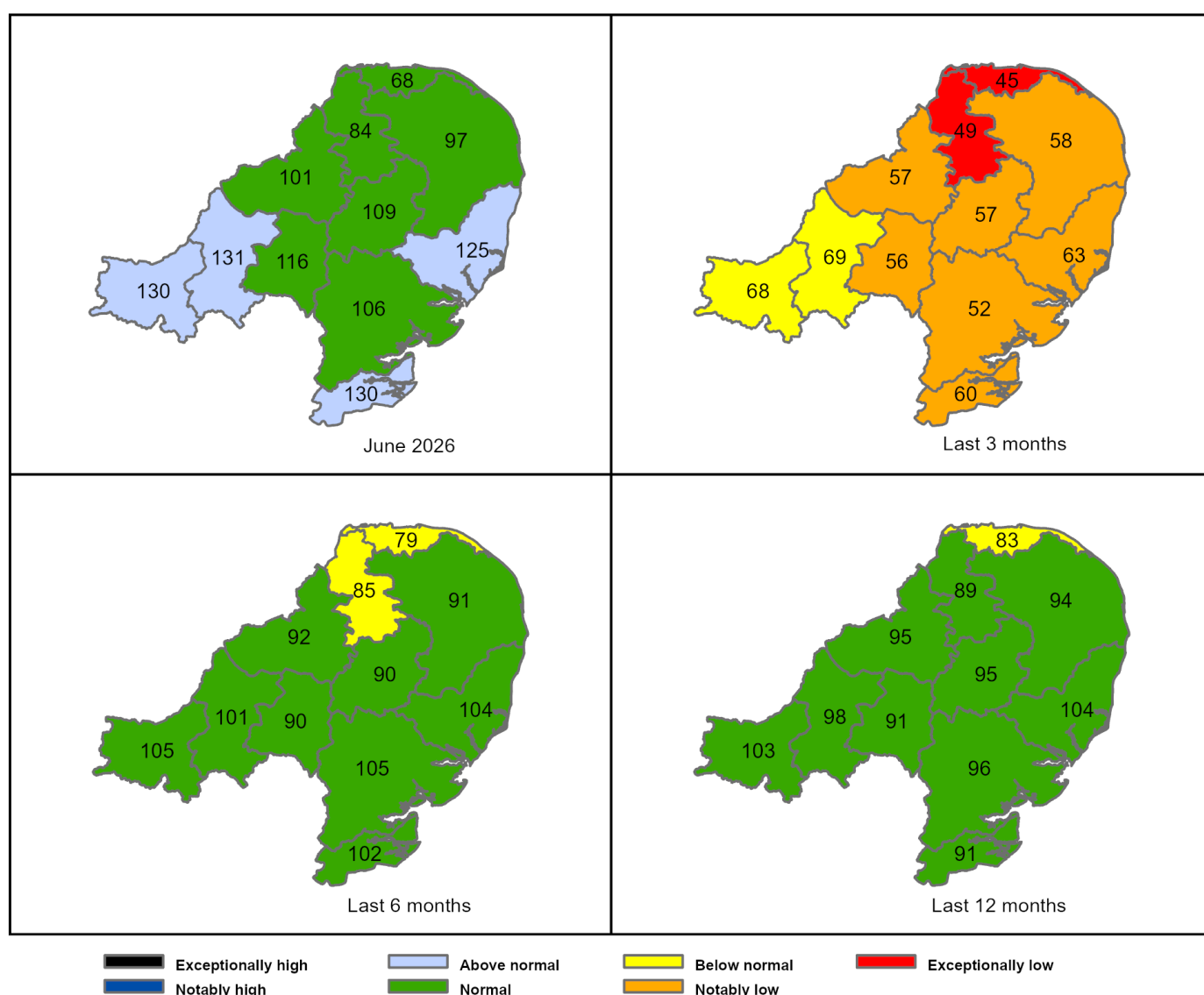
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Contact Details: 03708 506 506

2 Rainfall

2.1 Rainfall map

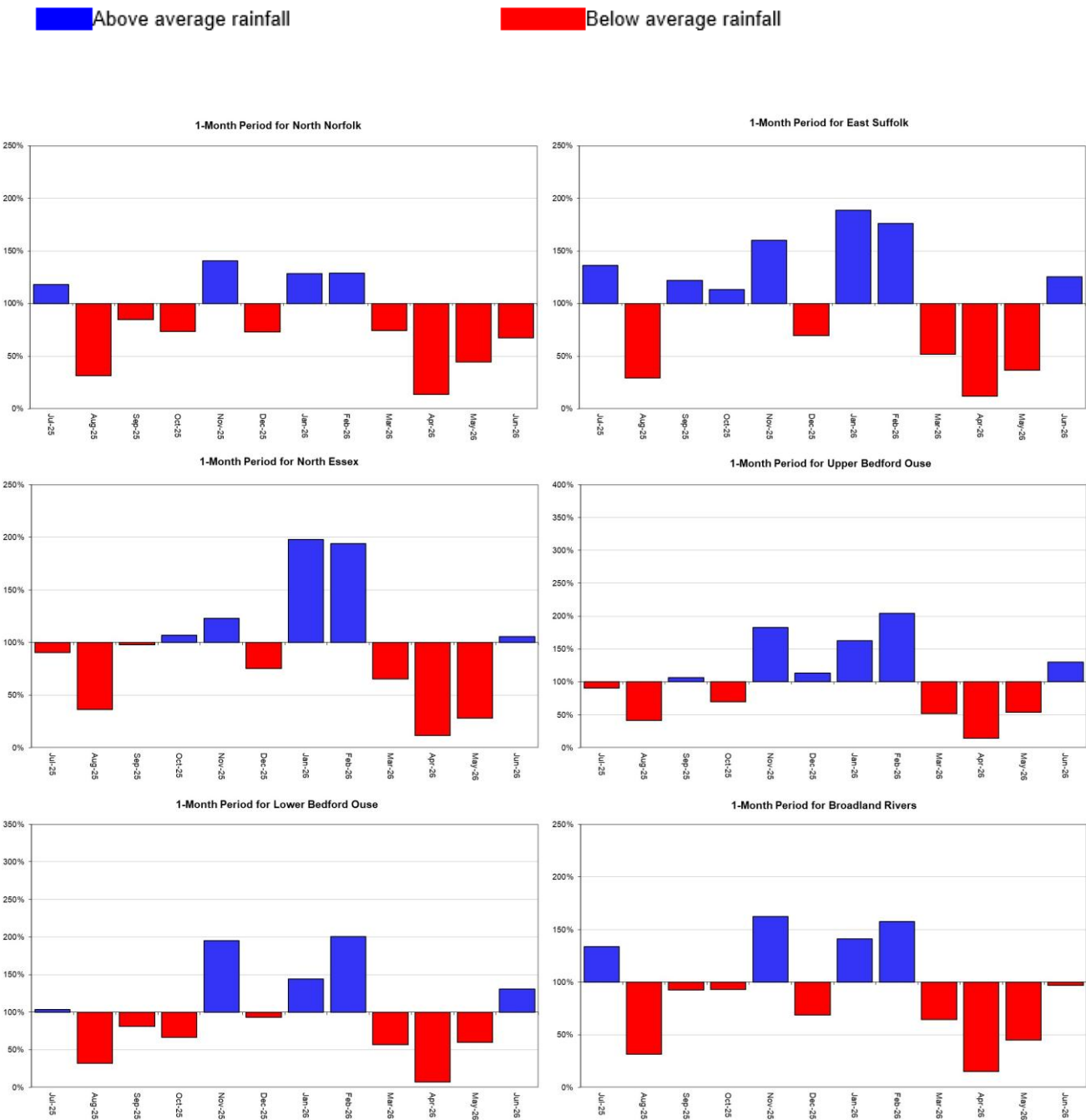
Figure 2.1: Total rainfall for hydrological areas across East Anglia, expressed as a percentage of long term average rainfall for the current month (up to 30 June 2026), the last 3 months, the last 6 months, and the last 12 months. Category classes are based on an analysis of respective historic totals. Table available in the appendices with detailed information.

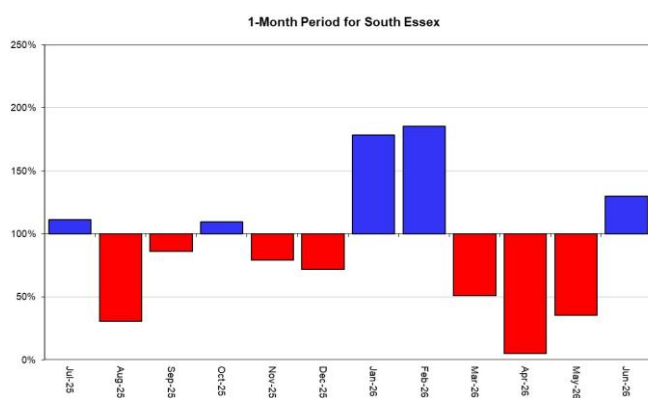
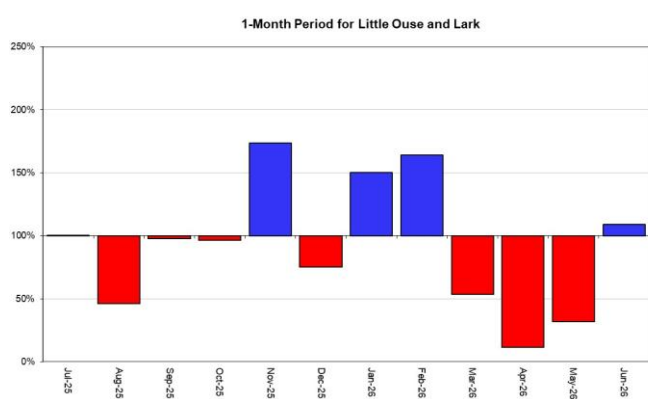
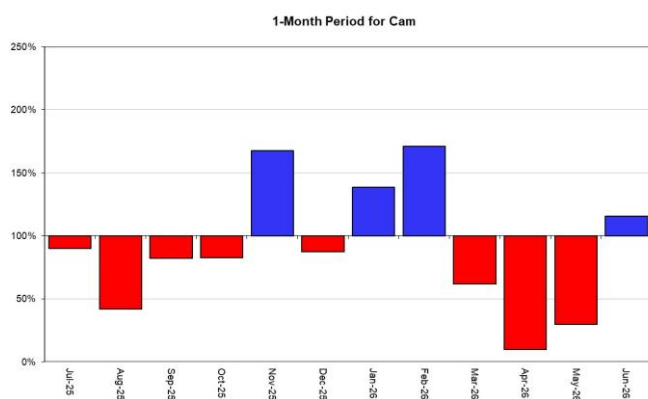
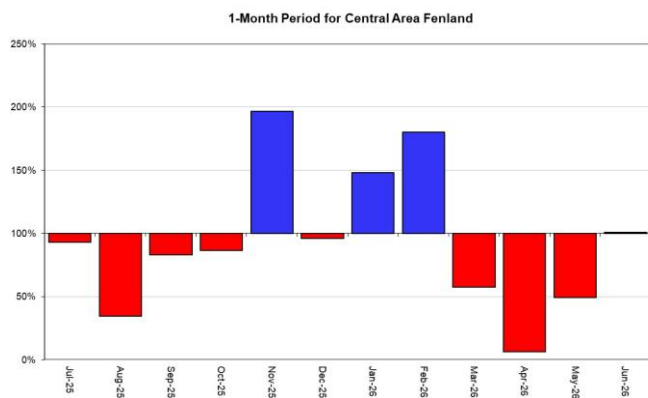
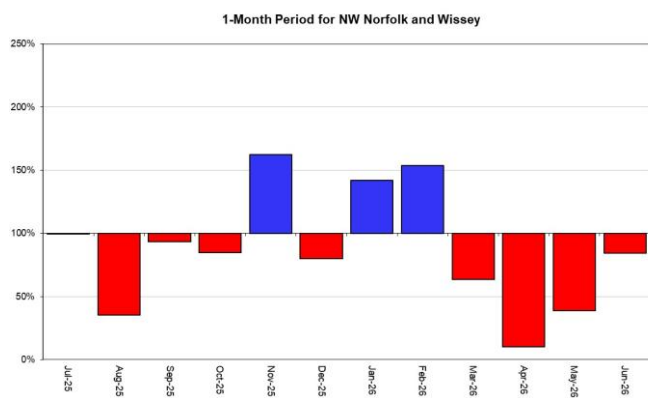


HadUK data based on the Met Office 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from rain gauges (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026). Provisional data based on Environment Agency 1km gridded rainfall dataset derived from Environment Agency intensity rain gauges. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100024198, 2026.

2.2 Rainfall charts

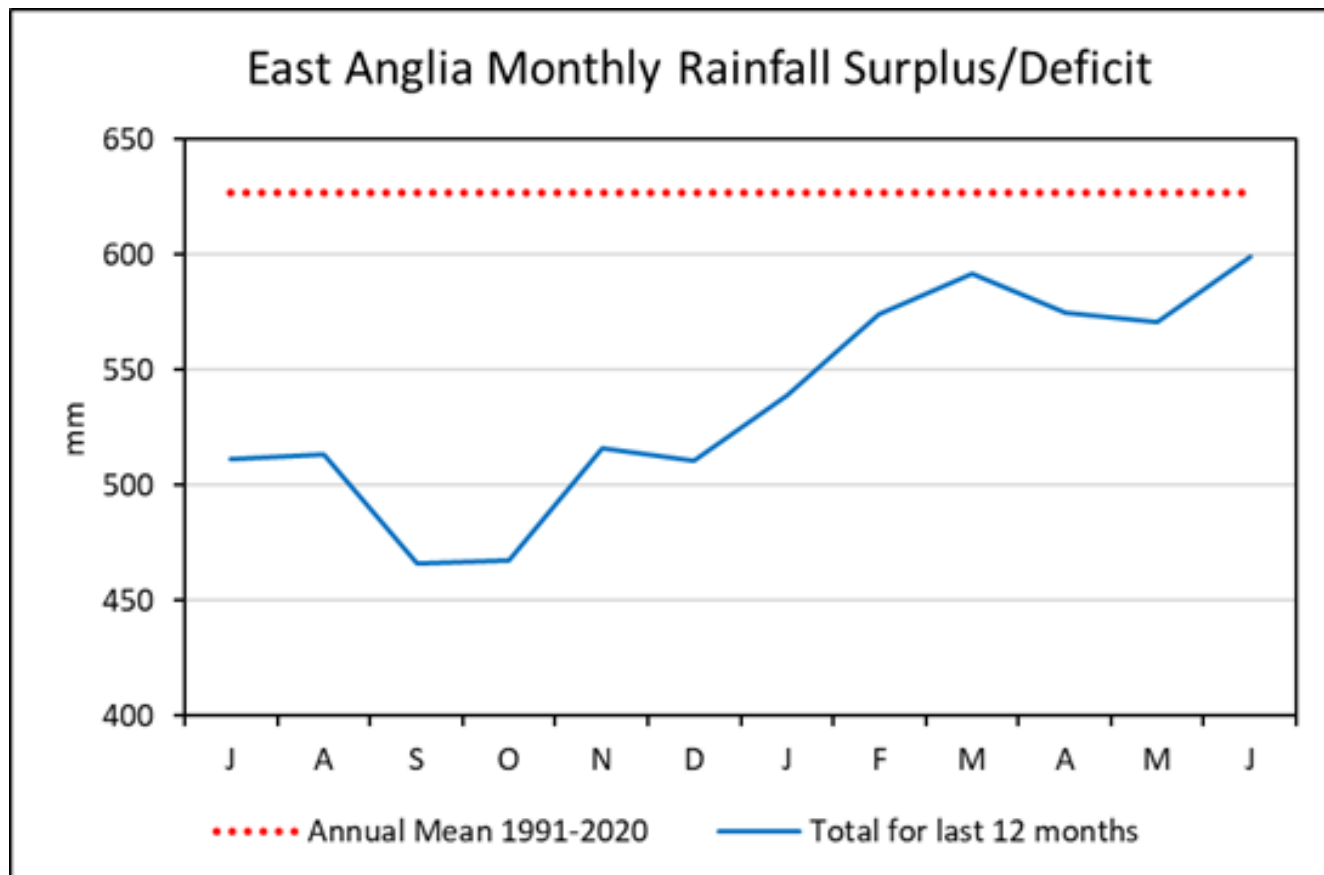
Figure 2.2: Monthly rainfall totals for the past 12 months as a percentage of the 1991 to 2020 long term average for each region and for England.





HadUK rainfall data. (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026).

2.3 Monthly rainfall surplus deficit chart



HadUK rainfall data. (Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026).

3 Soil moisture deficit

3.1 Soil moisture deficit map

Figure 3.1a: Soil moisture deficit values for 30 June 2026. Values based on the weekly MORECS data for real land use.

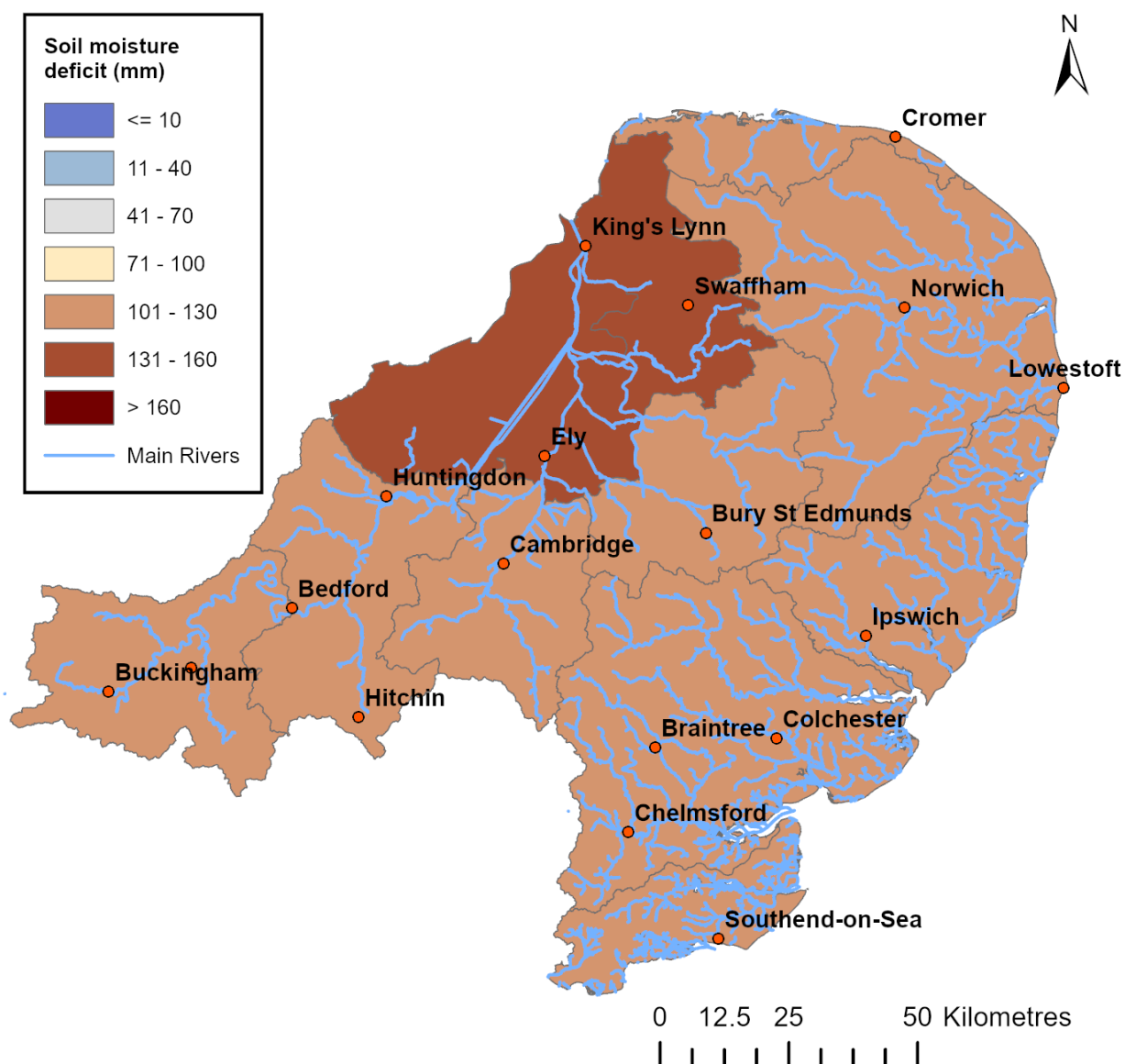
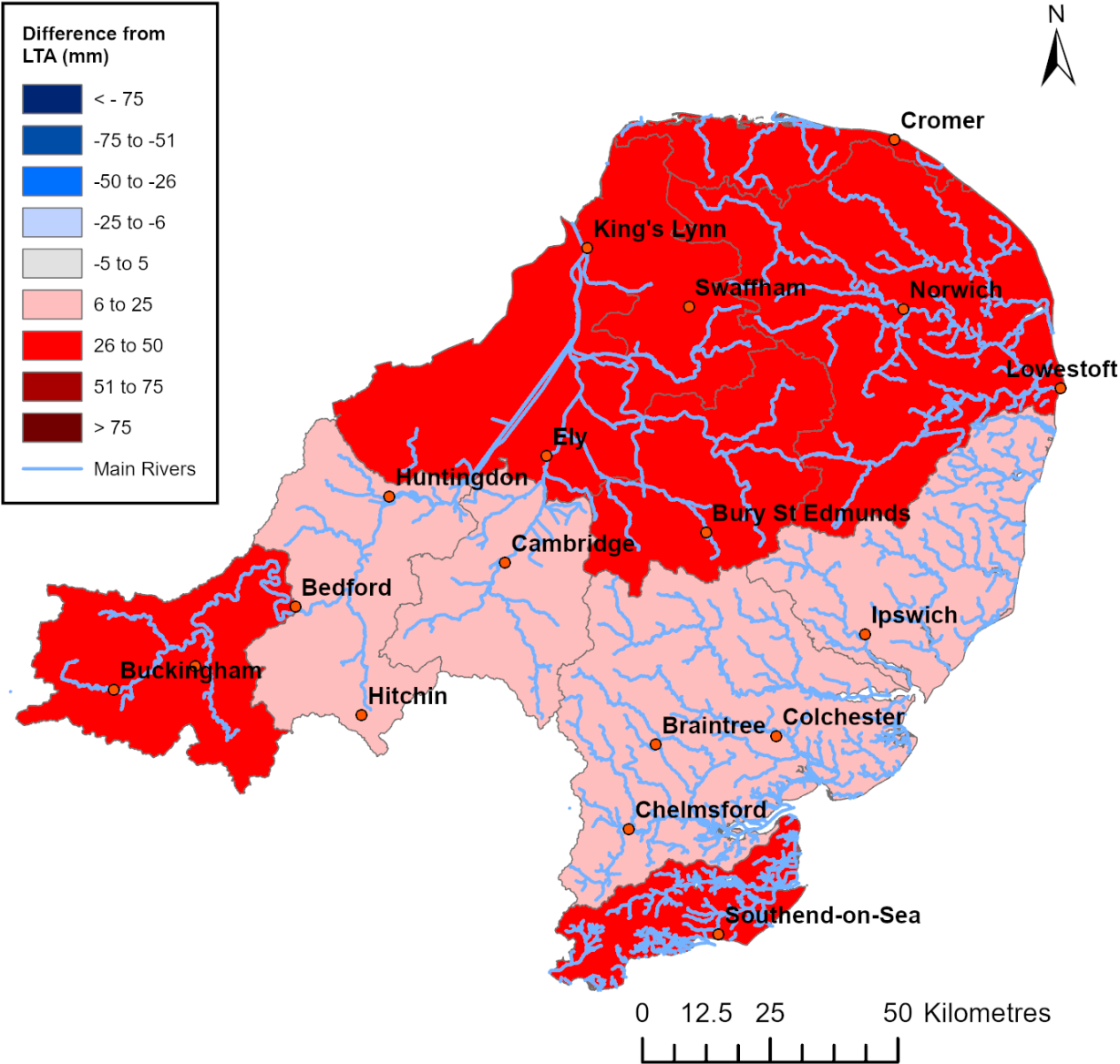


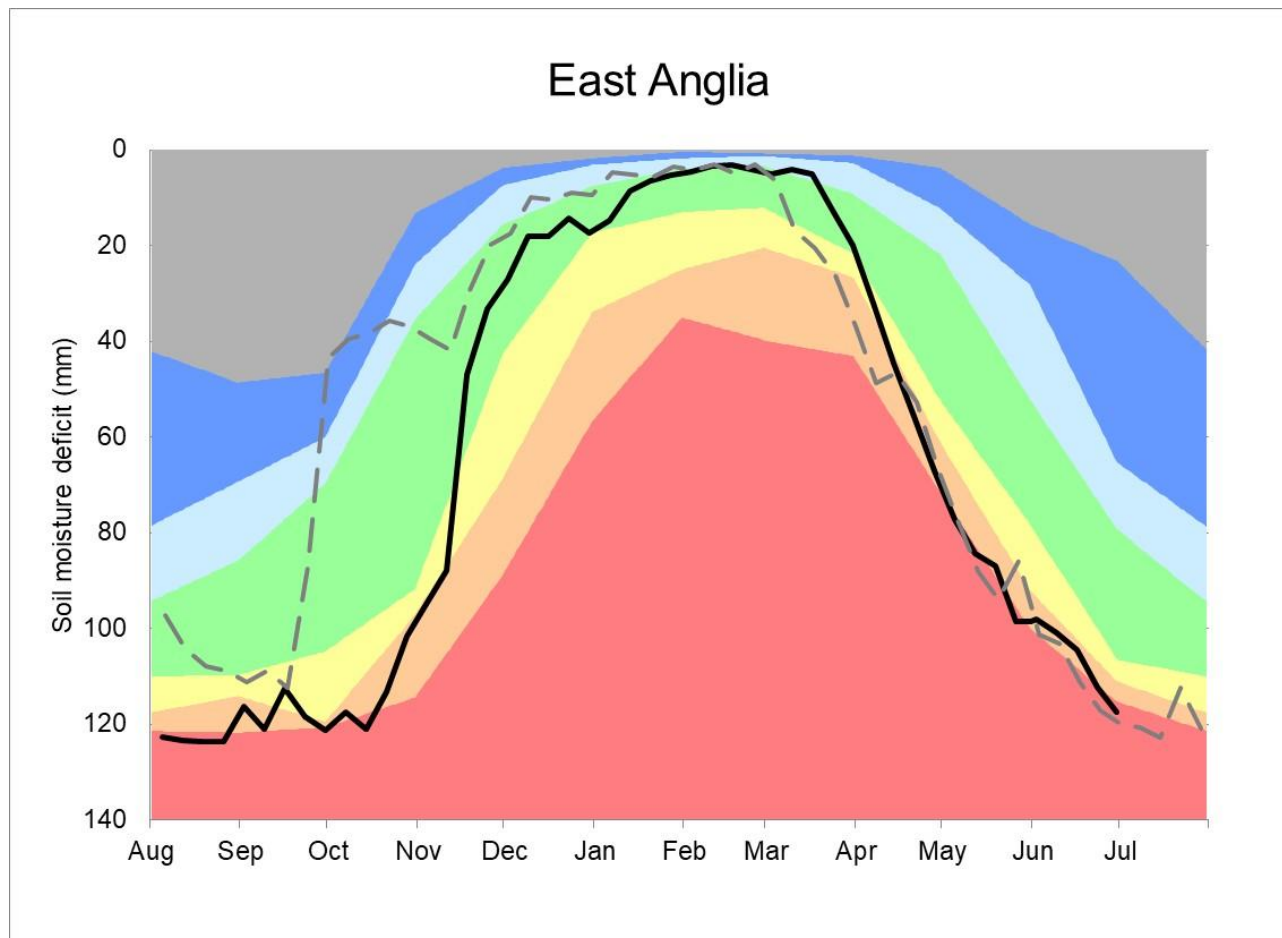
Figure 3.1b: A map displaying soil moisture deficit values (for 30 June 2026) relative to long term average end of June soil moisture deficit values for hydrological catchments across East Anglia. Values based on the weekly MORECS data for real land use.



(Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026). All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100024198, 2026.

3.2 Soil moisture deficit charts

Figure 3.2: Latest soil moisture deficit compared to an analysis of historic 1991 to 2020 long term data set. Weekly MORECS data for real land use.

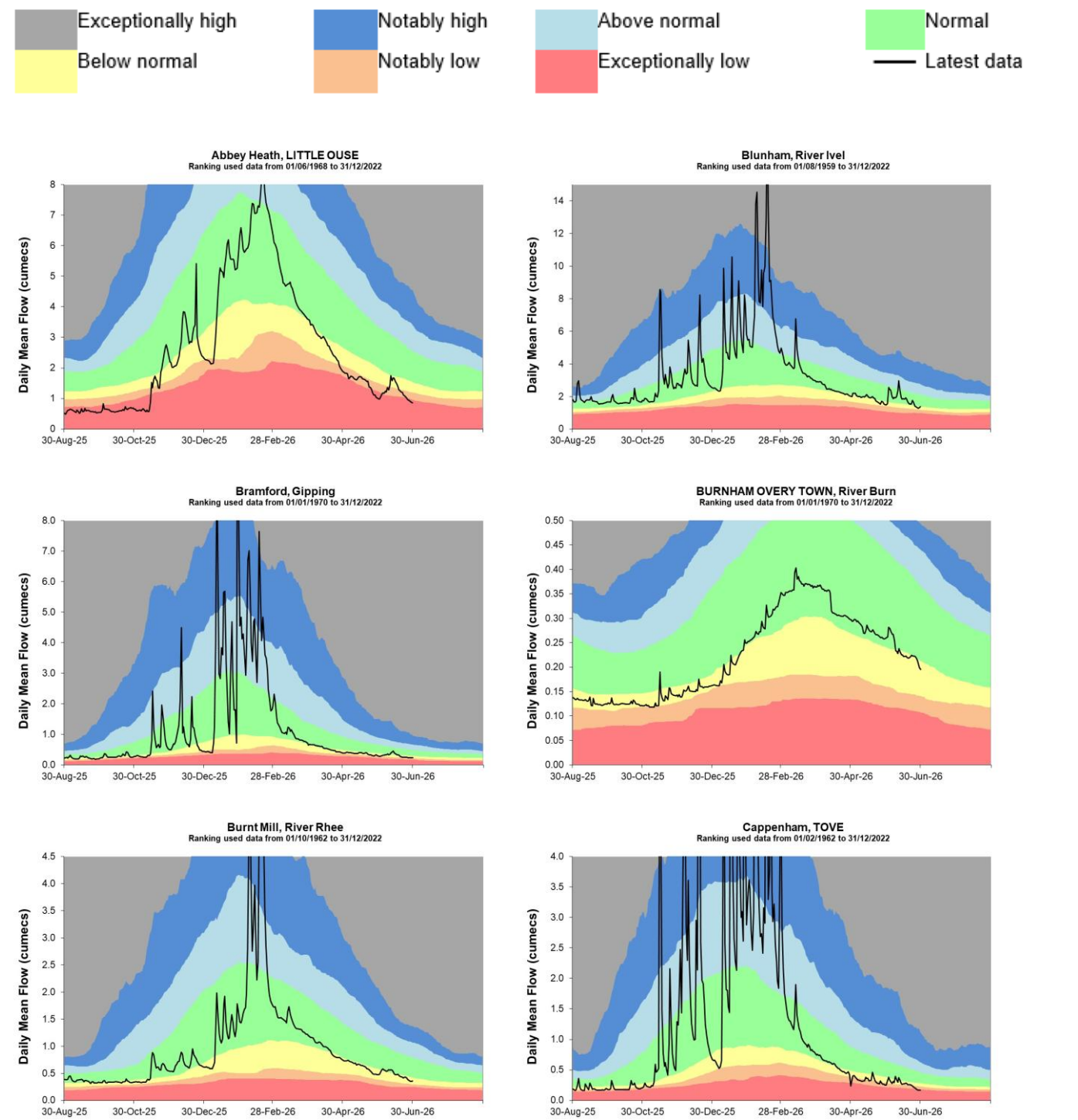


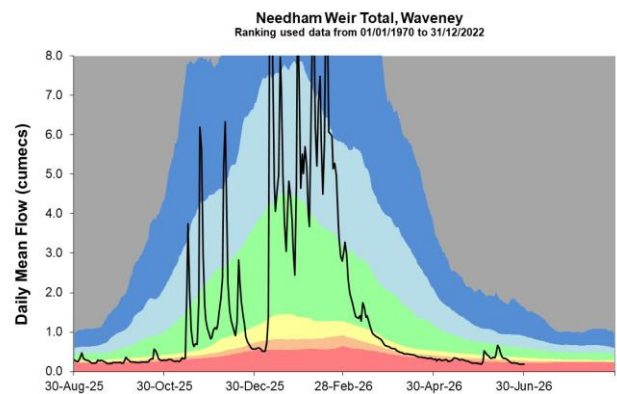
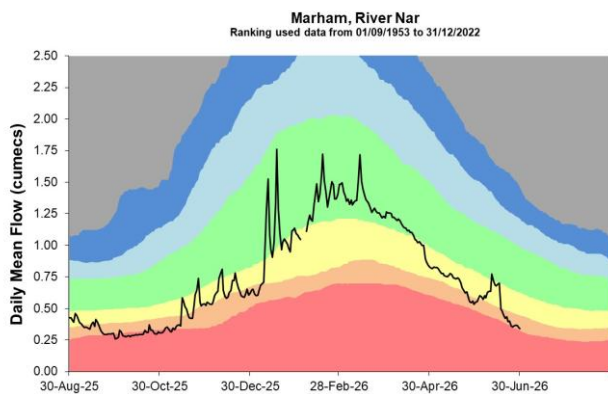
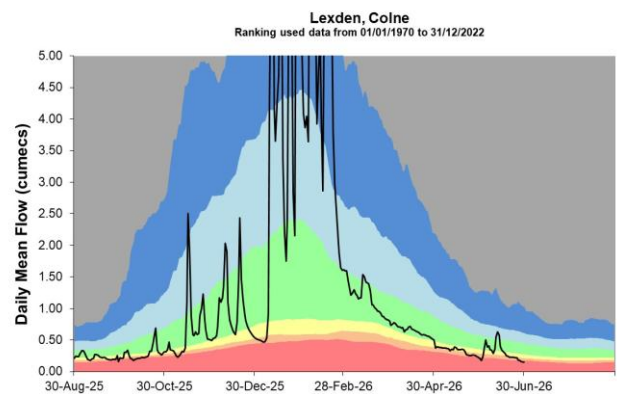
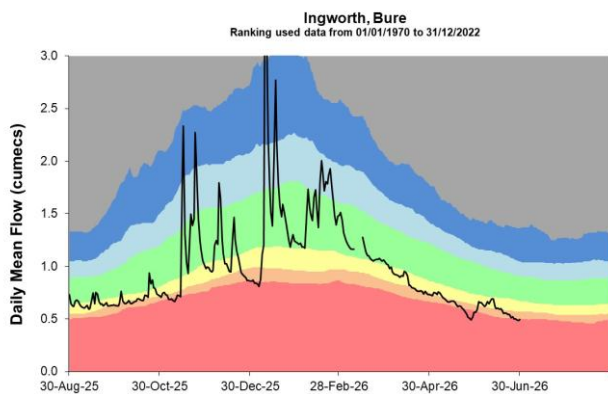
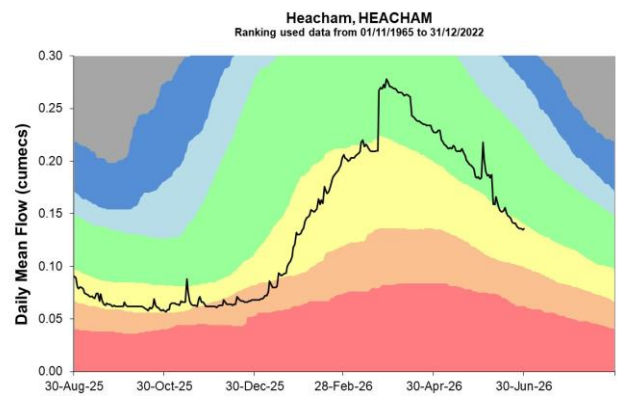
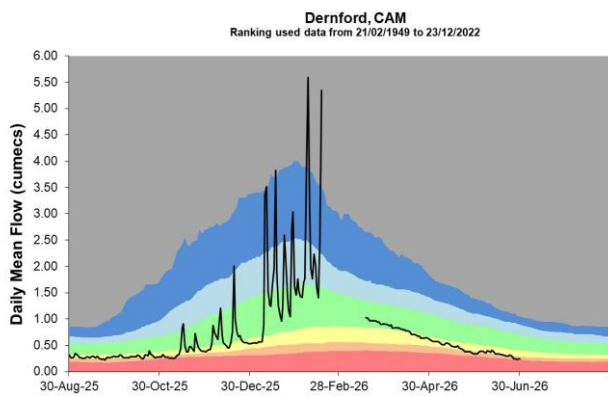
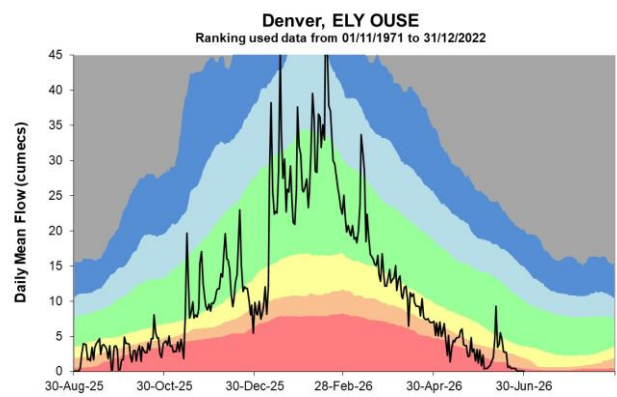
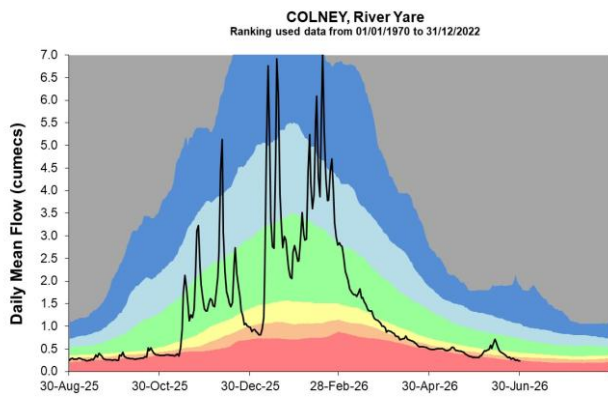
(Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026). All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100024198, 2026

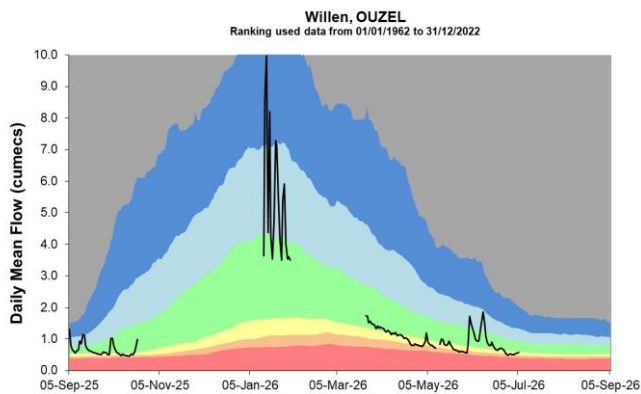
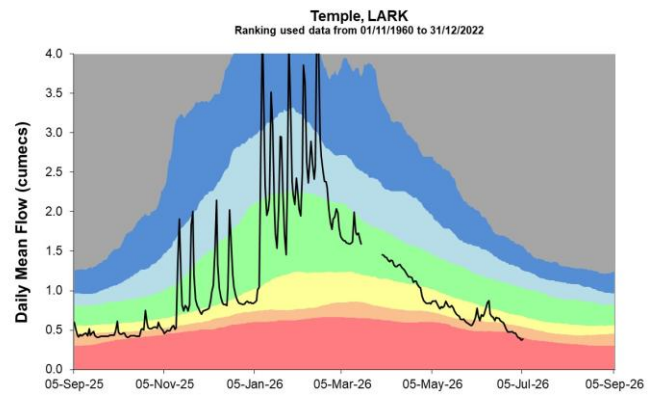
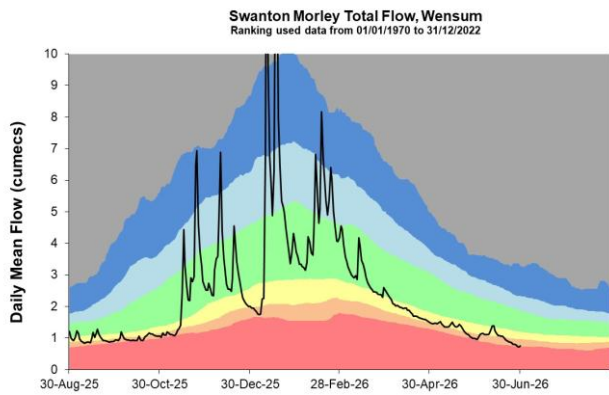
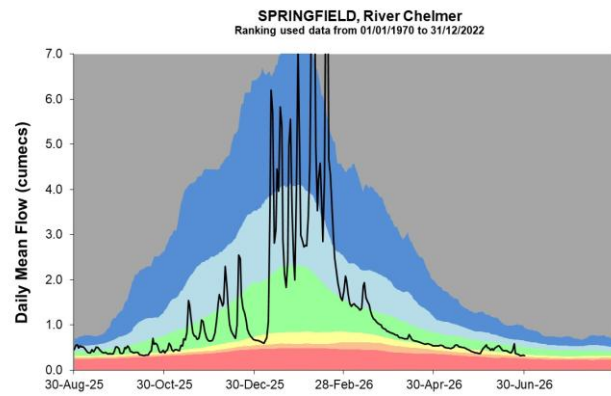
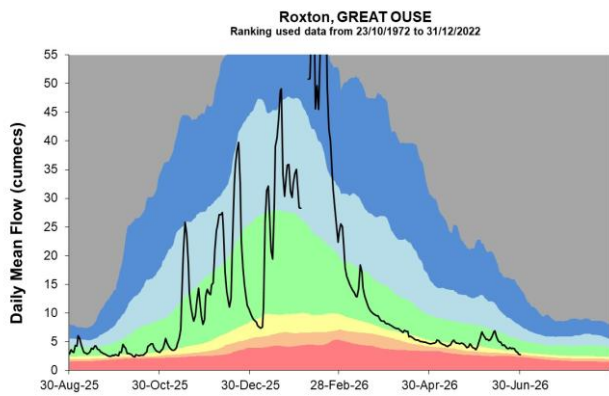
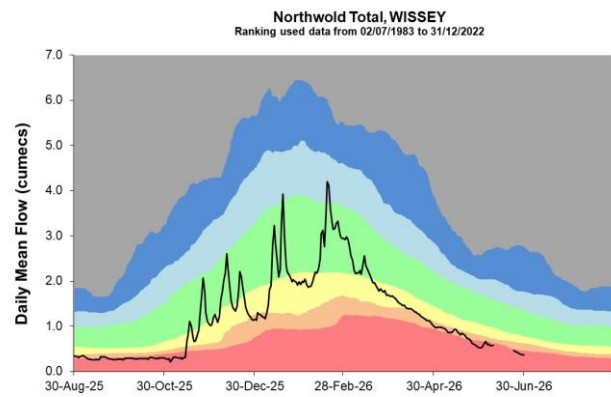
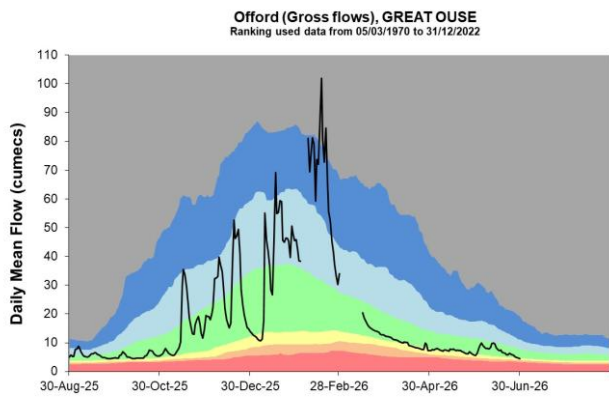


4.2 River flow charts

Figure 4.2: Daily mean river flow for index sites over the past year, compared to an analysis of historic daily mean flows, and long term maximum and minimum flows.





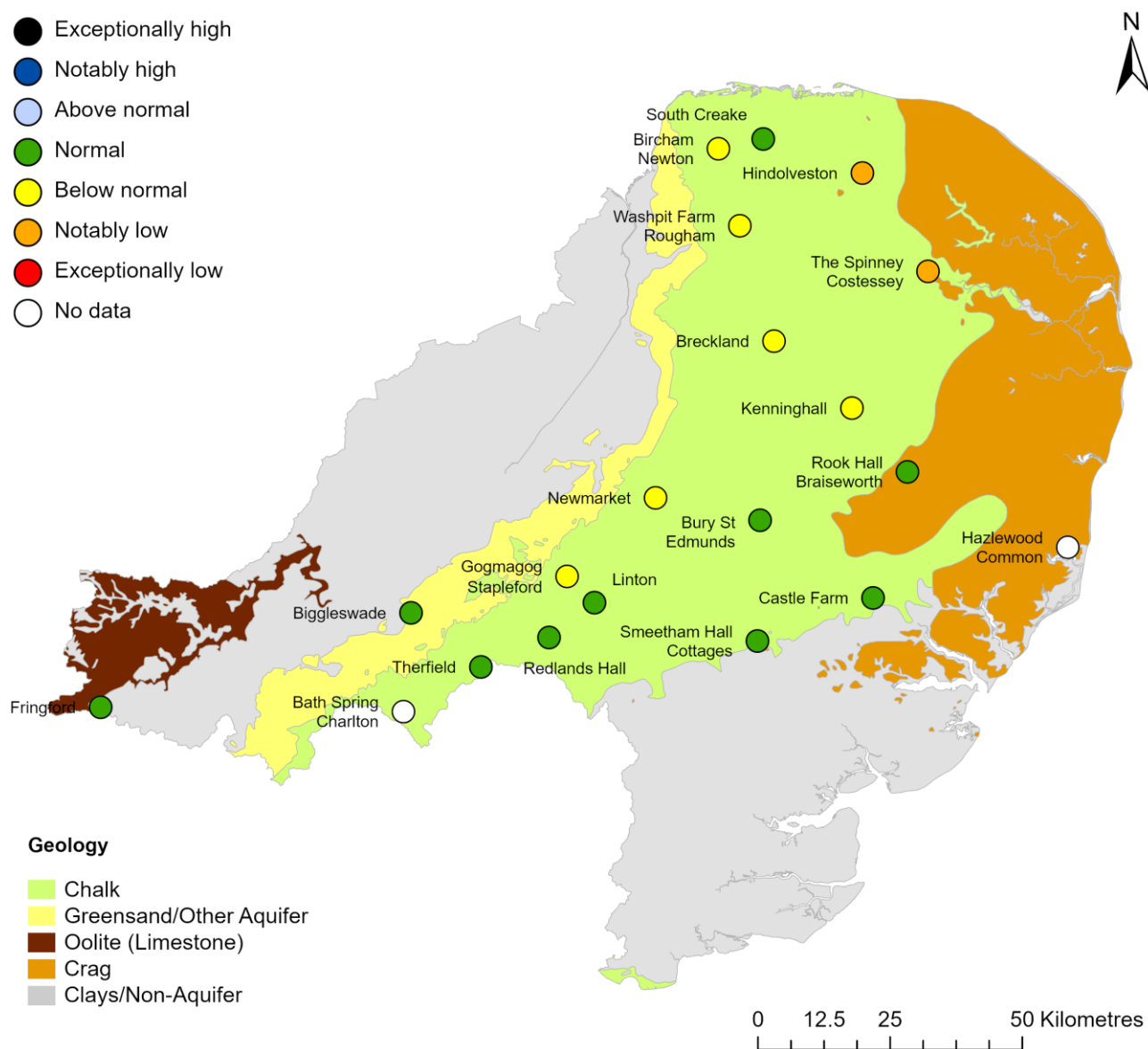


Source: Environment Agency.

5 Groundwater levels

5.1 Groundwater levels map

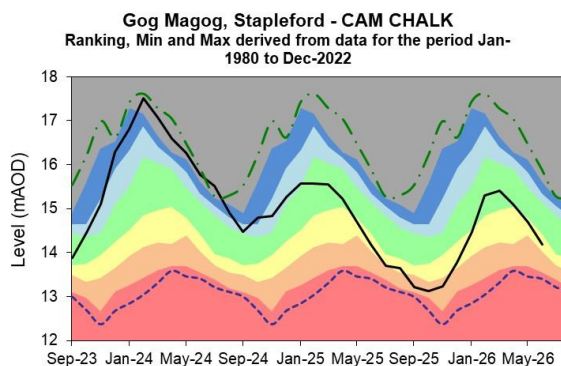
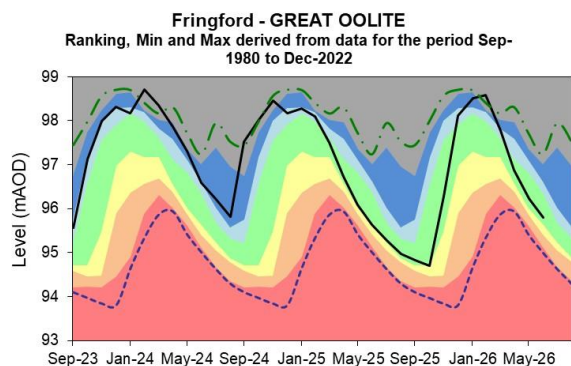
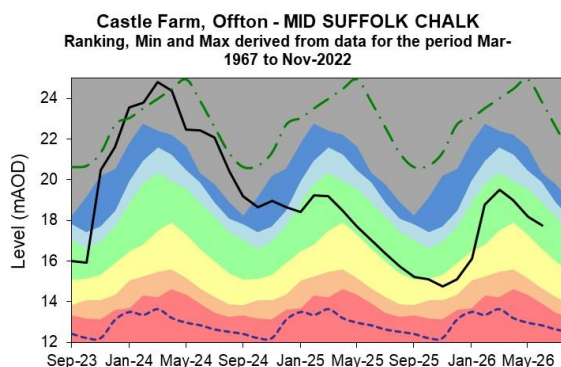
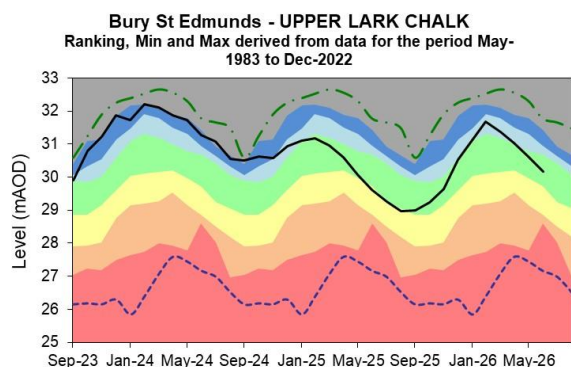
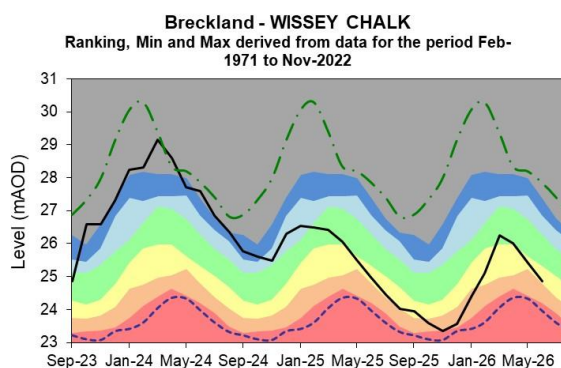
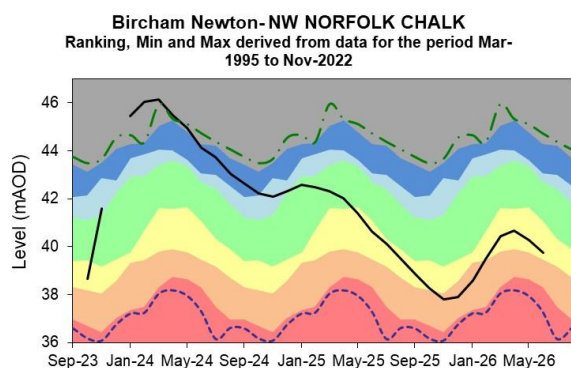
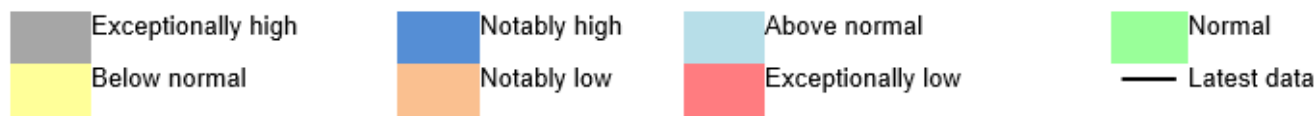
Figure 5.1: Groundwater levels for indicator sites at the end of June 2026, classed relative to an analysis of respective historic June levels. Table available in the appendices with detailed information.



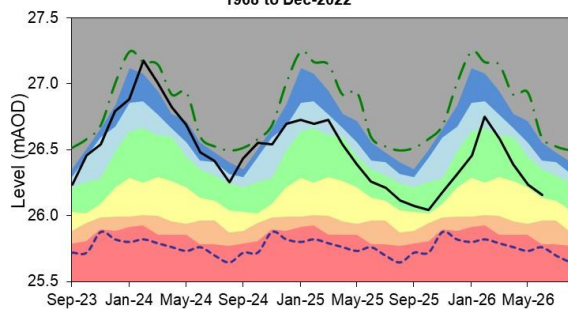
(Source: Environment Agency). Geological map reproduced with kind permission from UK Groundwater Forum, BGS copyright NERC. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100024198, 2026.

5.2 Groundwater level charts

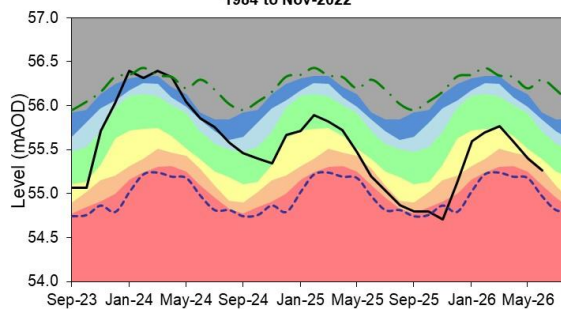
Figure 5.2: End of month groundwater levels at index groundwater level sites for major aquifers. 22 months compared to an analysis of historic end of month levels and long term maximum and minimum levels.



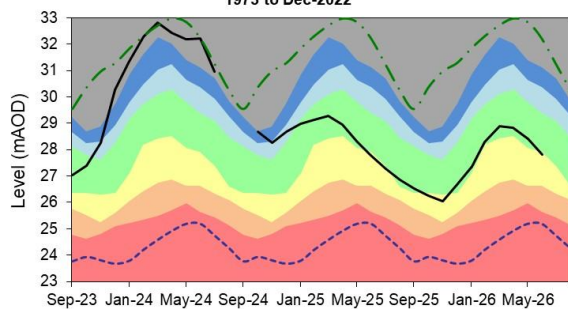
Biggleswade - IVEL SANDSTONE
 Ranking, Min and Max derived from data for the period Mar-1968 to Dec-2022



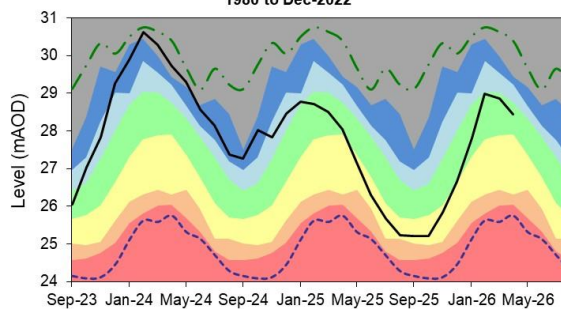
Hindolveston - NORFOLK CHALK
 Ranking, Min and Max derived from data for the period Sep-1984 to Nov-2022



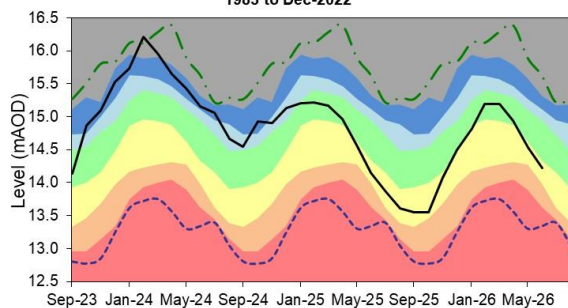
Kenninghall - LITTLE OUSE CHALK
 Ranking, Min and Max derived from data for the period Aug-1973 to Dec-2022



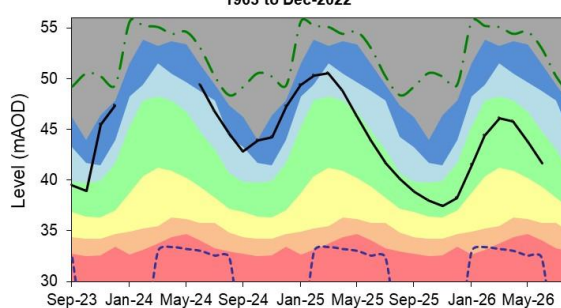
Linton-CAM CHALK
 Ranking, Min and Max derived from data for the period Jan-1980 to Dec-2022



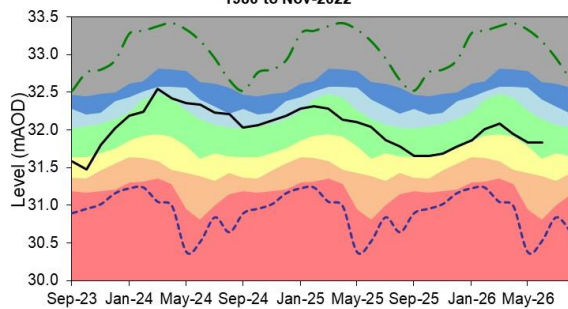
Newmarket - SNAIL CHALK
 Ranking, Min and Max derived from data for the period Feb-1983 to Dec-2022



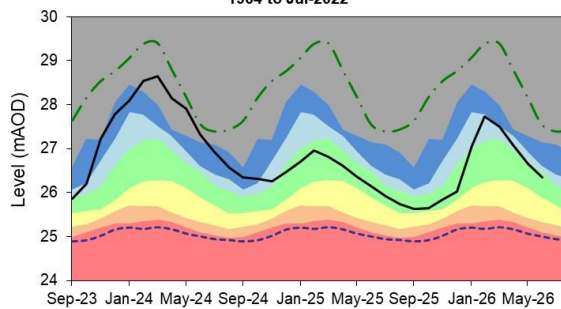
Redlands Hall, Ickleton - CAM CHALK
 Ranking, Min and Max derived from data for the period Aug-1963 to Dec-2022

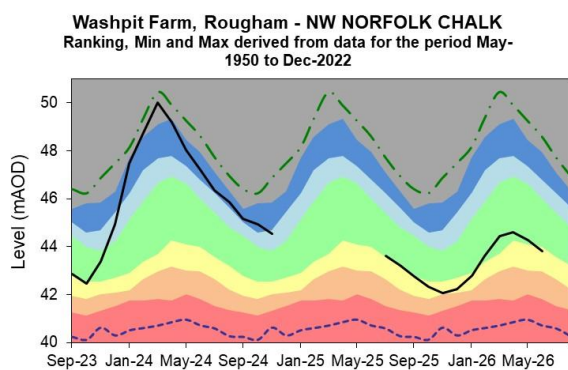
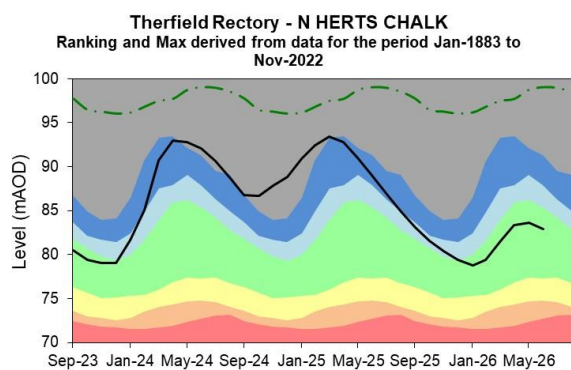
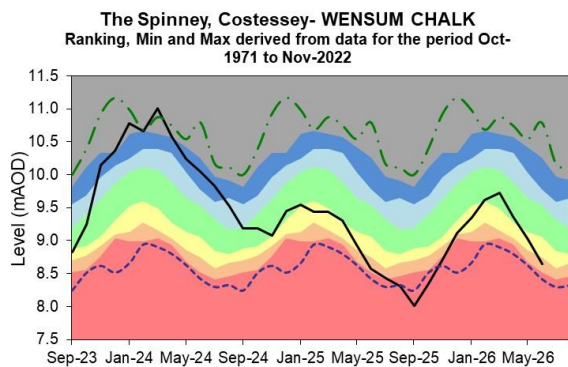
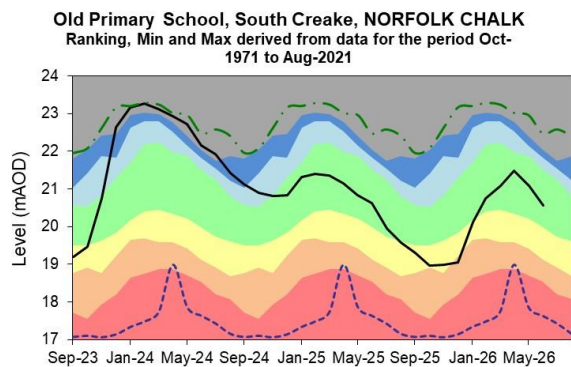


Rook Hall, Braiseworth-SUFFOLK CHALK
 Ranking, Min and Max derived from data for the period Jan-1980 to Nov-2022



Smeetham Hall Cottages, Bulmer - ESSEX CHALK
 Ranking, Min and Max derived from data for the period Jan-1964 to Jul-2022

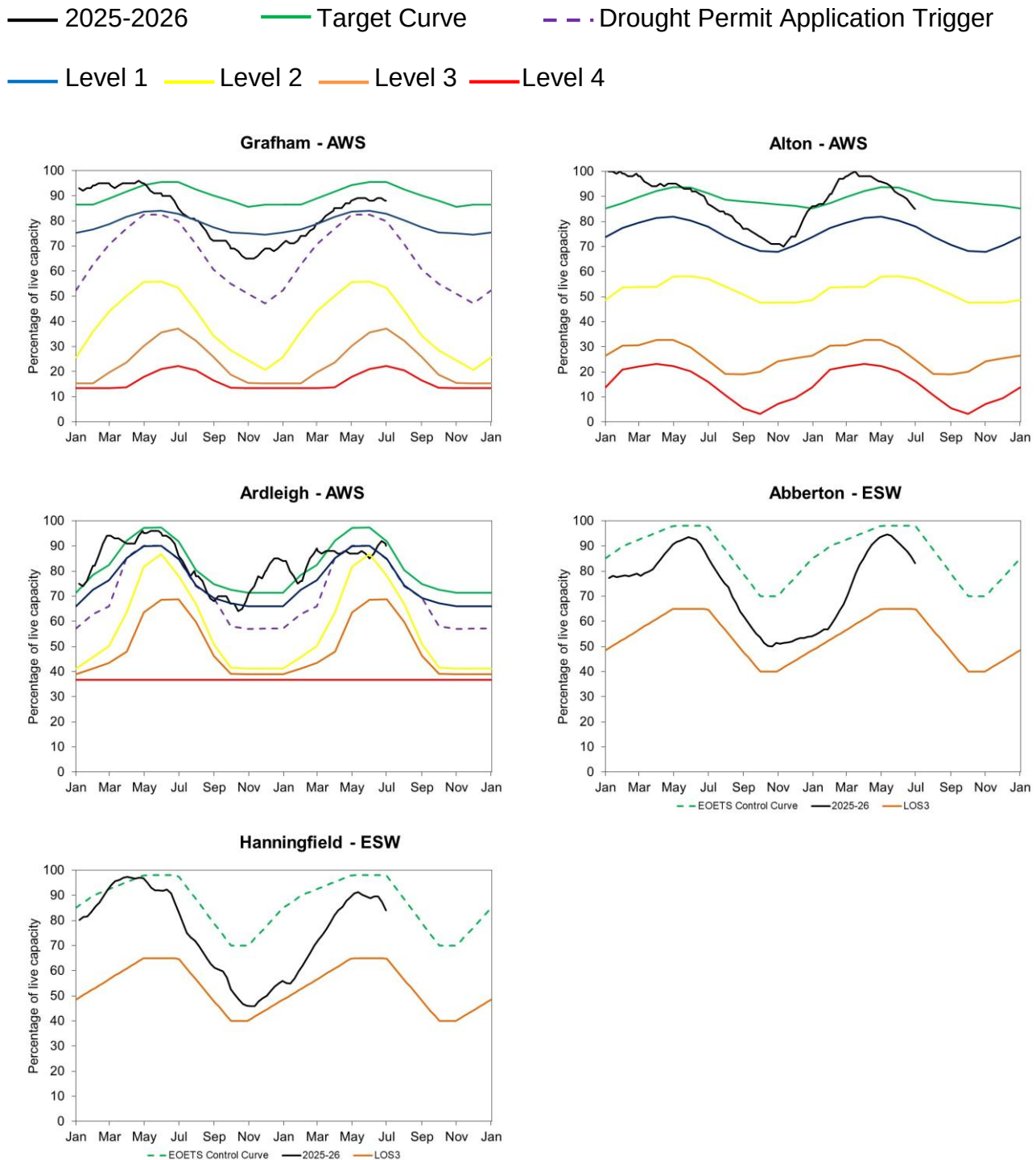




Source: Environment Agency, 2026.

6 Reservoir stocks

Figure 6.1: End of month regional reservoir stocks compared to the target curve and drought permit application trigger. Note: Historic records of individual reservoirs and reservoir groups making up the regional values vary in length.



(Source: water companies. For more information on Anglian Water's reservoir levels, please view their [Drought Plan](#)).

7 Glossary

7.1 Terminology

Aquifer

A geological formation able to store and transmit water.

Areal average rainfall

The estimated average depth of rainfall over a defined area. Expressed in depth of water (mm).

Artesian

The condition where the groundwater level is above ground surface but is prevented from rising to this level by an overlying continuous low permeability layer, such as clay.

Artesian borehole

Borehole where the level of groundwater is above the top of the borehole and groundwater flows out of the borehole when unsealed.

Cumecs

Cubic metres per second (m^3s^{-1}).

Effective rainfall

The rainfall available to percolate into the soil or produce river flow. Expressed in depth of water (mm).

Groundwater

The water found in an aquifer.

Long term average (LTA)

The arithmetic mean calculated from the historic record, usually based on the period 1991 to 2020. However, the period used may vary by parameter being reported on (see figure captions for details).

mAOD

Metres above ordnance datum (mean sea level at Newlyn Cornwall).

MORECS

Met Office Rainfall and Evaporation Calculation System. Met Office service providing real time calculation of evapotranspiration, soil moisture deficit and effective rainfall on a 40 by 40 km grid.

Naturalised flow

River flow with the impacts of artificial influences removed. Artificial influences may include abstractions, discharges, transfers, augmentation and impoundments.

NCIC

National Climate Information Centre. NCIC area monthly rainfall totals are derived using the Met Office 5 km gridded dataset, which uses rain gauge observations.

Recharge

The process of increasing the water stored in the saturated zone of an aquifer. Expressed in depth of water (mm).

Reservoir gross capacity

The total capacity of a reservoir.

Reservoir live capacity

The capacity of the reservoir that is normally usable for storage to meet established reservoir operating requirements. This excludes any capacity not available for use (for example, storage held back for emergency services, operating agreements or physical restrictions). May also be referred to as 'net' or 'deployable' capacity.

Soil moisture deficit (SMD)

The difference between the amount of water actually in the soil and the amount of water the soil can hold. Expressed in depth of water (mm).

7.2 Categories

Exceptionally high

Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time.

Notably high

Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time.

Above normal

Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time.

Normal

Value likely to fall within this band 44% of the time.

Below normal

Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time.

Notably low

Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time.

Exceptionally low

Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time.

8 Appendices

8.1 Rainfall table

Hydrological area	Jun 2026 rainfall % of long term average 1991 to 2020	Jun 2026 band	Apr 2026 to June cumulative band	Jan 2026 to June cumulative band	Jul 2025 to June cumulative band
Broadland Rivers	97	Normal	Notably low	Normal	Normal
Cam	116	Normal	Notably low	Normal	Normal
Central Area Fenland	101	Normal	Notably low	Normal	Normal
East Suffolk	125	Above Normal	Notably low	Normal	Normal
Little Ouse And Lark	109	Normal	Notably low	Normal	Normal
Lower Bedford Ouse	131	Above Normal	Below normal	Normal	Normal
North Essex	106	Normal	Notably low	Normal	Normal
North Norfolk	68	Normal	Exceptionally low	Below normal	Below normal
Nw Norfolk And Wissey	84	Normal	Exceptionally low	Below normal	Normal
South Essex	130	Above Normal	Notably low	Normal	Normal

Upper Bedford Ouse	130	Above Normal	Below normal	Normal	Normal
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8.2 River flows table

Site name	River	Catchment	Jun 2026 band	May 2026 band
Abbey Heath	Little Ouse	Little Ouse	Notably low	Notably low
Blunham	Ivel	Ivel	Normal	Below normal
Bramford	Gipping	Gipping	Below normal	Below normal
Burnham Overy	Burn	Burn	Below normal	Normal
Burnt Mill	Rhee	Rhee	Below normal	Below normal
Cappenharn	Tove	Tove	Below normal	Notably low
Colney	Yare	Yare	Below normal	Exceptionally low
Denver	Ely Ouse	Cutoff and Renew Channel	Exceptionally low	Exceptionally low
Dernford	Cam	Cam	Below normal	Below normal
Heacham	Heacham	Heacham	Below normal	Normal
Ingworth	Bure	Bure	Notably low	Exceptionally low
Lexden	Colne	Colne Essex	Notably low	Notably low
Marham	Nar	Nar	Below normal	Below normal
Needham Weir Total	Waveney (lower)	Waveney	Notably low	Exceptionally low

Northwold Total	Wissey	Wissey	Exceptionally low	Exceptionally low
Offord (gross Flows)	Great Ouse	Ouse Beds	Normal	Below normal
Roxton	Great Ouse	Ivel	Normal	Notably low
Springfield	Chelmer	Chelmer Upper	Normal	Below normal
Swanton Morley Total	Wensum	Wensum	Notably low	Notably low
Temple	Lark	Lark	Below normal	Below normal
Willen	Ouzel	Ouzel	Normal	Notably low

8.3 Groundwater table

Site name	Aquifer	End of Jun 2026 band	End of May 2026 band
Biggleswade	Ivel Woburn Sands	Normal	Normal
Bircham Newton	North West Norfolk Chalk	Below normal	Below normal
Breckland	Wissey Chalk	Below normal	Below normal
Bury St Edmunds	Upper Lark Chalk	Normal	Normal
Castle Farm, Offton	East Suffolk Chalk	Normal	Normal
Gog Magog, Stapleford	Cam Chalk	Below normal	Below normal
Hazlewood Common	East Suffolk Crag	No Data	No Data
Hindolveston	Norfolk Chalk	Notably low	Notably low
Kenninghall	Little Ouse Chalk	Below normal	Normal
Linton	Cam Chalk	Normal	No Data
Newmarket	Snail Chalk	Below normal	Below normal
Old Primary School, South Creake	North Norfolk Chalk	Normal	Normal

Redlands Hall, Ickleton	Cam Chalk	Normal	Normal
Rook Hall, Braiseworth	East Suffolk Chalk	Normal	Normal
Smeetham Hall Cottages, Bulmer	North Essex Chalk	Normal	Normal
The Spinney, Costessey	Wensum Chalk	Notably low	Below normal
Washpit Farm, Rougham	North West Norfolk Chalk	Below normal	Normal
Therfield Rectory	Upper Lee Chalk	Normal	Normal
Fringford P.s.	Upper Bedford Ouse Oolitic Limestone (great)	Normal	Normal