

| Reservoir Group                   | April 2024 Holding | May 2024 Holding | June 2024 Holding | Change in May-June period | Minimum historical* June holding (Year) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Kennet & Avon Canal               | 95.70%             | 86.50%           | 83.80%            | -2.7%                     | 46.1% (2013)                            |
| Oxford & GU                       | 99.60%             | 98.50%           | 95.80%            | -2.7%                     | 62.7% (2011)                            |
| GU South                          | 87.30%             | 95.20%           | 85.00%            | -10.2%                    | 76.1% (2023)                            |
| GU North                          | 99.90%             | 99.90%           | 98.10%            | -1.8%                     | 51.8% (2011)                            |
| Lancaster Canal                   | 100.00%            | 96.00%           | 96.20%            | 0.2%                      | 66% (2020)                              |
| Leeds & Liverpool Canal           | 86.80%             | 67.40%           | 80.80%            | 13.4%                     | 48.7% (2010)                            |
| Peak Forest & Macclesfield Canals | 73.40%             | 68.10%           | 65.20%            | -2.9%                     | 30.6% (2022)                            |
| Caldon Canal                      | 97.80%             | 92.50%           | 87.30%            | -5.2%                     | 64.1% (2022)                            |
| Huddersfield Narrow Canal         | 69.10%             | 62.40%           | 70.30%            | 7.9%                      | 20% (2013)                              |
| Chesterfield Canal                | 31.20%             | 30.50%           | 36.20%            | 5.7%                      | 25.2% (2023)                            |
| Grantham Canal                    | 92.40%             | 93.10%           | 92.10%            | -1.0%                     | 91.5% (2023)                            |
| Birmingham Canal Navigations      | 98.10%             | 94.20%           | 92.50%            | -1.7%                     | 31.8% (2011)                            |
| Staffs & Worcs, Shropshire Union  | 79.40%             | 81.40%           | 84.20%            | 2.8%                      | 73.7% (2011)                            |

\* for the purposes of this analysis, historical holdings cover 1998-2022 reservoir holding data, inclusive.

### General Conditions

According to the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, May was characterised by being interchangeable with sunshine, rainy and thunderstorms occurring throughout the month. The first half had more settled conditions, and the second half experienced more rainfall. For the UK, it was the warmest May on record, in a series going back to 1844, this is due to high overnight temperatures and cloud cover, rather than daytime temperatures. Total rainfall was 116% of the May average for the UK, and most of England registered above normal rainfall, with over 170% of average in parts of Northern England, East Anglia, and Wessex. The amount of rainfall is reflected in the high river flows across the UK, with many rivers in England recording notably and exceptionally high flows.

Groundwater levels remained very high across the UK, with levels above normal at most sites. Soil moisture remained near field capacity over much of central and western UK, while sites elsewhere were slightly below field capacity by the end of the month.

The UK Hydrological Outlook for June to August suggests a continuation of rainfall resulting in high flows and groundwater levels, which further strengthens the water resources position as we move into summer.

The Met Office rainfall anomaly graphs and maps can be viewed at:

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/uk-temperature-rainfall-and-sunshine-anomaly-graphs>

[https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomacts/2024/5/2024\\_5\\_Rainfall\\_Anomaly\\_1991-2020.gif](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomacts/2024/5/2024_5_Rainfall_Anomaly_1991-2020.gif)

## The Trust's Water Resources

Now we are into the boating season, we have started the drawdown of our reservoirs. Therefore, the decreases across most of the reservoir groups can be attributed to the increased usage of reservoir stocks. Despite the wet conditions observed over the winter period, there are several reasons why all the Trusts reservoir groups are not completely refilled. The primary factor will be for reservoirs within a group having engineering works taking place that require the reservoir level to be maintained at less than full capacity (i.e. held down). Examples of this include Toddbrook Reservoir (Peak Forest & Macclesfield Canal group) which is kept at -12m below Top Water Level following the spillway incident in summer 2019, and it will remain at this level until the £multi-million project to construct a new spillway is completed. Harthill Reservoir (Chesterfield Canal group) is being held down whilst a new spillway is constructed. Pebley is now able to be refilled. Several of the reservoirs in the Leeds & Liverpool and Huddersfield Narrow Canal group are being held down for investigation or engineering works. For the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, despite several of the reservoirs being held down (Lower Foulridge Reservoir, Upper Foulridge and Slipper Hill reservoirs), the recent rainfall has boosted reservoir stocks. Additionally, the works at Barrowford reservoir are complete, and is still in its phased refill stage, these factors can be attributed to the 13.4% increase from May. The Trusts Reservoir, Project Management and Water Management teams liaise closely to manage the implications of all of these works on water supplies for the canal network, given the potential impacts on boating customers.

As always, the Water Management Team will continue to monitor all reservoir holdings during the coming months and work closely with operational staff to ensure water resources are deployed efficiently.

Boaters are advised to subscribe to email notifications of any waterway restrictions or closures at: <http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/notices>.

### Issued by:

Water Management Team, Canal & River Trust  
25 June 2024

Reservoir data presented is from the week ending Monday 17 June unless stated, along with data from the nearest comparable date in April and May.

## Annex 1 – Canal & River Trust reservoir groups

| Group name                       | Reservoirs within group   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Kennet & Avon Canal              | Crofton [ <i>principally a spring-fed reservoir, and its yield is therefore greater than the storage volume indicates</i> ] |
| Oxford & GU                      | Boddington, Wormleighton, Clattercote, Naseby, Sulby, Welford, Drayton & Daventry   |
| GU South                         | Startopsend, Wilstone, Marsworth & Tringford  |
| GU North                         | Saddington  |
| Lancaster Canal                  | Killington  |
| Leeds & Liverpool Canal          | Rishton, Barrowford, Upper & Lower Foulridge, Slipper Hill, Whitemoor & Winterburn  |
| Peak Forest & Macclesfield Canal | Sutton, Bosley, Toddbrook & Combs   |
| Caldon Canal                     | Rudyard, Stanley & Knypersley   |
| Huddersfield Narrow Canal        | Sparth, Slaithwaite & Diggle  |
| Chesterfield Canal               | Harthill & Pebley   |
| Grantham Canal                   | Knipton & Denton  |
| Birmingham Canal Navigations     | Windmill Pool, Terry's Pool, Engine Pool, Cofton, Upper Bittell, Rotton Park & Chasewater                                   |
| Staffs & Worcs, Shropshire Union | Belvide, Gailey Upper, Gailey Lower & Calf Heath  |