

## Reservoir Watch November 2022

Reservoir Group	September 2022 Holding	October 2022 Holding	November 2022 Holding	Change in October – November period	Minimum historical* November holding (Year)
Kennet & Avon Canal	50.3%	68.8%	65.3%	-3.5%	38.5% (2011)
Oxford & GU	37.4%	34.5%	57.5%	23.0%	21.4% (2011)
GU South	48.3%	43.1%	45.5%	2.4%	32.3% (2011)
GU North	35.9%	37.7%	47.8%	10.1%	13.9% (2003)
Lancaster Canal	79.1%	91.4%	100.0%	8.6%	61.8% (2012)
Leeds & Liverpool Canal	15.9%	34.7%	58.4%	23.7%	17.1% (2003)
Peak Forest & Macclesfield Canals	18.7%	25.9%	61.0%	35.1%	24.7% (2003)
Caldon Canal	28.8%	29.4%	69.3%	39.9%	29.2% (2003)
Huddersfield Narrow Canal	24.6%	49.3%	70.6%	21.3%	33.2% (2013)
Chesterfield Canal	31.5%	28.2%	41.1%	12.9%	41.1% (2022)
Grantham Canal	87.5%	88.0%	93.2%	5.2%	73.2% (2003)
Birmingham Canal Navigations	75.3%	74.1%	82.1%	8.0%	12.2% (2011)
Staffs & Worcs, Shropshire Union	80.7%	82.3%	88.0%	5.7%	53.5% (2001)

\* for the purposes of this analysis, historical holdings cover 1998-2021 reservoir holding data, inclusive.

### General Conditions

According to the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology most of the UK experienced above average rainfall for October and early November. The volume of rainfall received promoted the recovery of river flows in the North and West, However, October rainfall was not sufficient to recover flows in the English lowlands. As a result, river flows were generally in the normal to notably low range. Recessions continued in some regions such as the Coln (Gloucestershire) which recorded lowest flows in any month in a series since 1963. Soils have begun to return to near normal conditions, with 80% of sites reporting normal soil moisture, though exceptions were recorded in the south-east and some central regions.

The outlook for the next three months slightly indicates dry winter conditions which suggests that rainfall rates will unlikely be able to replenish winter resources and given the delayed start to the recharge season, its likely current drought situation will continue into 2023.

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

[https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomalygraphs/2022/2022\\_Rainfall\\_Anomaly\\_1981-2010.gif](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomalygraphs/2022/2022_Rainfall_Anomaly_1981-2010.gif)

[https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomacts/2022/10/2022\\_10\\_Rainfall\\_Actual.gif](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomacts/2022/10/2022_10_Rainfall_Actual.gif)

## The Trust's Water Resources

Following the end of the boating season and transitioning to the refill phase, four out of the 13 reservoir groups have a holding above 80%, and two have a holding above 90%.

In the south, only the Kennet and Avon saw a decrease in holding with a 3.5% reduction, all other reservoir groups saw increases in holding from October to November with the Oxford & GU recording the highest percentage change from the previous month with 23% followed by the GU North (10.1%), Birmingham Canal Navigations (8%) and GU South (2.4%).

Following the increase in rainfall rates each of the northern reservoir groups recorded an increase in holding, the largest being in the Caldon Canal (39.9%). The Leeds & Liverpool has also seen a substantial improvement in water resource availability. The reservoir group holding has increased by 23.7% and as a result, the canal has reopened under normal operating conditions in line with the time of year. In the north rises in reservoir group holdings are followed by the Peak forest and Macclesfield canal (35.1%), Huddersfield Narrow Canal (21.3%), Chesterfield (12.9%) Lancaster Canal (8.6%), Staffs & Worcs, Shropshire Union (5.7%), and the Grantham canal (5.2%).

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> and a map showing drought related closures and restrictions is available at: <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/specialist-teams/managing-our-water/drought/water-savings-restrictions>.

### Issued by:

Water Management Team, Canal & River Trust  
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Reservoir data presented is from the week ending Monday 21 November unless stated, along with data from the nearest comparable date in August and September.

### 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

<b>Huddersfield Narrow Canal</b>	Sparth, Slaithwaite & Diggle
<b>Chesterfield Canal</b>	Harthill & Pebley
<b>Grantham Canal</b>	Knipton & Denton
<b>Birmingham Canal Navigations</b>	Windmill Pool, Terry's Pool, Engine Pool, Cofton, Upper Bittell, Rotton Park & Chasewater
<b>Staffs &amp; Worcs, Shropshire Union</b>	Belvide, Gailey Upper, Gailey Lower & Calf Heath