



Reservoir Group	September 2024 Holding	October 2024 Holding	November 2024 Holding	Change in October-November period	Minimum historical* November holding (Year)
Kennet & Avon Canal	80.20%	92.50%	99.90%	7.4%	30.5% (2009)
Oxford & GU	54.50%	87.50%	91.10%	3.6%	21.3% (2011)
GU South	63.60%	69.80%	69.60%	-0.2%	32.3% (2011)
GU North	40.80%	99.90%	99.90%	0.0%	13.2% (2003)
Lancaster Canal	100.00%	92.60%	93.10%	0.5%	61.8% (2009)
Leeds & Liverpool Canal	28.10%	34.40%	42.80%	8.4%	17.6% (2003)
Peak Forest & Macclesfield Canals	31.10%	34.40%	35.70%	1.3%	24.1% (2003)
Caldon Canal	57.70%	60.00%	54.00%	-6.0%	29.1% (2003)
Huddersfield Narrow Canal	48.90%	56.70%	49.30%	-7.4%	33.6% (2013)
Chesterfield Canal	27.40%	38.10%	38.00%	-0.1%	38% (2024)
Grantham Canal	91.20%	93.50%	92.60%	-0.9%	73.2% (2014)
Birmingham Canal Navigations	79.50%	85.90%	85.50%	-0.4%	15.1% (2011)
Staffs & Worcs, Shropshire Union	72.70%	82.20%	87.90%	5.7%	50.3% (2023)

\* for the purposes of this analysis, historical holdings cover 1998-2023 reservoir holding data, inclusive.

### General Conditions

According to the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, October was warmer and drier than average, which is a complete contrast to the significantly wet September. The average October rainfall for England was 101%, but with above average rainfall totals being concentrated in south-west and north-east England. Overall, the exceptionally high rainfall over the last two months across England is mainly attributed to the September rainfall. For the last two months and even six months, there has been a significant geographical contrast between the north and the south, with above average rainfall in central and southern Britain, while northern and western areas have experienced minor deficits. This is also reflected in the river flows, where river flows were above normal in southern, central and north-east England. Overall, October river flows were above normal across the main aquifer areas.

Soil moisture levels generally declined in October, followed by the significant rainfall in September, they were largely in the normal range or drier than average. However, average soil moisture persisted in central southern England. Groundwater levels were above normal across the main aquifer areas.

The latest Hydrological Outlook indicates a continuing contrast between normal to below normal flows in the northwest, and normal to above normal flows in the southeast. Early November is continuing to be very dry.

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/2024/10/2024\\_10\\_Rainfall\\_Anomaly\\_1991-2020.gif](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomacts/2024/10/2024_10_Rainfall_Anomaly_1991-2020.gif)

### **The Trust's Water Resources**

We have now reached the end of the main boating season, and now we have transitioned from the drawdown (usage) period of our reservoirs to the refill stage. We have seen some small increases in reservoir holdings, but overall, the change across all reservoirs has been minor, this is due to the dry conditions that were experienced during October and now established in early November. Some of our reservoir groups are still not showing larger holdings, this is due to a few reasons the primary reason is that some reservoirs within a group have 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 still 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. For the Chesterfield Reservoir group, Harthill Reservoir continues to be held down whilst a new spillway is constructed and 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. 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  
29 November 2024

Reservoir data presented is from the week ending Monday 18th November unless stated, along with data from the nearest comparable date in October and November

## Annex 1 – Canal & River Trust reservoir groups

Group name	Reservoirs within group
<b>Kennet &amp; Avon Canal</b>	Crofton [ <i>principally a spring-fed reservoir, and its yield is therefore greater than the storage volume indicates</i> ]
<b>Oxford &amp; GU</b>	Boddington, Wormleighton, Clattercote, Naseby, Sulby, Welford, Drayton & Daventry
<b>GU South</b>	Startopend, Wilstone, Marsworth & Tringford
<b>GU North</b>	Saddington
<b>Lancaster Canal</b>	Killington
<b>Leeds &amp; Liverpool Canal</b>	Rishton, Barrowford, Upper & Lower Foulridge, Slipper Hill, Whitemoor & Winterburn
<b>Peak Forest &amp; Macclesfield Canal</b>	Sutton, Bosley, Toddbrook & Combs
<b>Caldon Canal</b>	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