

## Reservoir Watch September 2022

Reservoir Group	July 2022 Holding	August 2022 Holding	September 2022 Holding	Change in August - September period	Minimum historical* September holding (Year)
Kennet & Avon Canal	76.9%	64.0%	50.3%	-13.7%	41.1% (1998)
Oxford & GU	72.9%	54.5%	37.4%	-17.1%	31.3% (2011)
GU South	73.1%	59.9%	48.3%	-11.6%	45.2% (2011)
GU North	65.5%	51.1%	35.9%	-15.2%	20.4% (2011)
Lancaster Canal	91.4%	89.7%	79.1%	-10.6%	55% (2021)
Leeds & Liverpool Canal	27.2%	19.3%	15.9%	-3.4%	15.9% (2022)
Peak Forest & Macclesfield Canals	26.3%	23.4%	18.7%	-4.7%	18.7% (2022)
Caldon Canal	49.6%	39.4%	28.8%	-10.6%	28.8% (2022)
Huddersfield Narrow Canal	30.9%	27.8%	24.6%	-3.2%	18.6% (2003)
Chesterfield Canal	37.7%	32.7%	31.5%	-1.2%	31.5% (2022)
Grantham Canal	90.5%	87.8%	87.5%	-0.3%	73.1% (2014)
Birmingham Canal Navigations	86.8%	80.6%	75.3%	-5.3%	16.2% (2011)
Staffs & Worcs, Shropshire Union	83.8%	82.2%	80.7%	-1.5%	51.8% (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 exceptionally warm and hot weather continued into August. High pressure and anticyclonic conditions were dominate influences over the UK which ultimately resulted in a heatwave within the first fortnight. Heavy rainfall and thunderstorms followed mid-month which resulted in flooding of properties, roads and tube stations. However, drier weather quickly returned which continued to the end of the month. By late August, daily river flows were amongst the lowest ever recorded for some catchments across Southern and Eastern England. In total, the UK received around half of the average August rainfall. As a result, groundwater levels have continued to fall with most sites remaining below normal to exceptionally low. Sustained rainfall is required to reverse current deficits.

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

[https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomalygraphs/2021/2021\\_Rainfall\\_Anomaly\\_1981-2010.gif](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomalygraphs/2021/2021_Rainfall_Anomaly_1981-2010.gif)

[https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomacts/2022/8/2022\\_8\\_Rainfall\\_Anomaly\\_1981-2010.gif](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomacts/2022/8/2022_8_Rainfall_Anomaly_1981-2010.gif)

## The Trust's Water Resources

With the main boating season now past its peak, only two out of the 13 reservoir groups have a holding above 80%, and none have a holding above 90%.

In the south, all reservoir groups recorded a decrease in holding, the largest decrease was in the Oxford & GU (-17.1%). This is partly due to Welford reservoir being held down to allow access to a valve tunnel. These works were completed week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> September. In addition, there has been a continued lack of rainfall and increased reservoir usage. Reductions are followed by the GU North (-15.2%), Kennet & Avon (-13.7%), GU South (11.6%) and Birmingham Canal Navigations (-5.3%).

In the north, all reservoir groups recorded a decrease in holding. The Caldon and Lancaster Canal recorded the largest decrease in holding (both 10.6%). The Caldon reservoir group is currently the sole source of supply to both the Caldon and the Trent & Mersey Canal as resources are unavailable from the Peak Forrest & Macclesfield via Bosley Locks. Reductions are followed by Peak Forest & Macclesfield Canals (-4.7%), this canal is currently under drought measures. The Leeds & Liverpool has reduced slightly by -3.4% followed by Huddersfield Narrow Canal (-3.2%), Chesterfield (-1.2%) and Grantham (-0.3%).

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  
30 September 2022

Reservoir data presented is from the week ending Monday 26 September unless stated, along with data from the nearest comparable date in July and August.

### 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

<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