



Reservoir Group	July 2024 Holding	August 2024 Holding	September 2024 Holding	Change in August-September period	Minimum historical* September holding (Year)
Kennet & Avon Canal	85.5%	85.7%	80.20%	-5.5%	40% (2006)
Oxford & GU	85.9%	73.5%	54.50%	-19.0%	31.5% (2011)
GU South	85.1%	73.5%	63.60%	-9.9%	45.9% (2011)
GU North	91.3%	63.1%	40.80%	-22.3%	23.2% (2011)
Lancaster Canal	93.8%	90.4%	100.00%	9.6%	51.9% (2010)
Leeds & Liverpool Canal	62.8%	42.8%	28.10%	-14.7%	17.2% (2022)
Peak Forest & Macclesfield Canals	53.2%	42.2%	31.10%	-11.1%	18.9% (2022)
Caldon Canal	79.8%	70.1%	57.70%	-12.4%	29.7% (2022)
Huddersfield Narrow Canal	63.0%	48.2%	48.90%	0.7%	17.6% (2013)
Chesterfield Canal	37.5%	34.2%	27.40%	-6.8%	23.9% (2023)
Grantham Canal	92.4%	91.8%	91.20%	-0.6%	74.2% (2014)
Birmingham Canal Navigations	89.0%	83.0%	79.50%	-3.5%	17.1% (2011)
Staffs & Worcs, Shropshire Union	82.0%	77.1%	72.70%	-4.4%	50.2% (2001)

** 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, August had unsettled conditions throughout the month, with warmer than average temperatures at the beginning of the month and cooler conditions in the second half of the month. Rainfall was above average for the UK (110%), this was aided by the above normal rainfall in northern-western Britain as there was below normal rainfall elsewhere including the Severn-Trent and Yorkshire regions receiving less than half the average. For the summer (June-August), rainfall was slightly below average (95%) for the UK. River flows were in the normal range or below in southern and eastern England and north-western UK, and in the normal range or below normal in central and south-west England.

Soil moisture was within the normal range at the end of August in central and southern England, for northern England and Wales it was above normal and exceptionally high. Groundwater levels continued to fall across the UK and were in the normal range to high at the majority of sites. Groundwater levels mostly declined in August but remained normal to exceptionally high. In the Chalk regions, levels were falling, though some sites returned to normal. Jurassic limestone and Magnesian limestone levels also fell but stayed high. Groundwater in the Carboniferous limestone remained low in some areas but returned to normal in others. In Permo-Triassic Sandstones levels fell. Devonian sandstones levels fell but remained in the normal range.

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/2024/8/2024_8_Rainfall_Anomaly_1991-2020.gif

The Trust's Water Resources

We are now approaching the end of the main boating season; this means we will expect to transition from the drawdown period of our reservoirs to the refill stage in the coming weeks. As of right now however, we are still seeing decreases in percentage holdings across most of our reservoirs. This is partially due to the rainfall for the June-August being below average and the rainfall average for most areas across the UK being below average for August. Additionally, there are several other reasons why reservoir groups are not showing larger holdings. 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. 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. 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
23 September 2024

Reservoir data presented is from the week ending Monday 16 September 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	Startopend, 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