Canal & River Trust

Reservoir Watch 2016

Reservoir group	August 2016 holding	September 2016 holding	October 2016 holding	Change in September – October Period	Minimum historical* October holding (Year)
Kennet & Avon Canal	80.2%	81.6%	82.0%	0.40%	43.3% (1998)
Oxford & GU	65.0%	52.1%	38.7%	-13.40%	20.3% (2011)
GU South	78.8%	67.7%	60.5%	-7.20%	36.3% (2011)
GU North	40.4%	35.5%	34.1%	-1.40%	14.6% (2011)
Lancaster Canal	88.3%	100.0%	93.4%	-6.60%	61.5% (2009)
Leeds & Liverpool Canal	71.5%	73.5%	64.0%	-9.50%	24.6% (2003)
Peak Forest & Macclesfield Canal	76.3%	74.4%	64.6%	-9.80%	18.6% (2003)
Caldon Canal	79.7%	77.7%	74.5%	-3.20%	31.9% (2003)
Huddersfield Narrow Canal	86.1%	87.4%	70.6%	-16.80%	23.9% (2013)
Chesterfield Canal	72.9%	69.4%	61.7%	-7.70%	41.7% (2005)
Grantham Canal	100%	99.7%	99.5%	-0.20%	73.0% (2014)
Birmingham Canal Navigations	85.5%	77.7%	70.8%	-6.90%	16.2% (2011)
Staffs & Worcs, Shropshire Union	91.6%	88.1%	85.1%	-3.00%	52.3% (2001)

** for the purposes of this analysis, historical holdings cover 1998-2015 reservoir holding data, inclusive.*

Many areas saw summer-like weather conditions for much of early September, with some very warm spells, particularly in the south east. According to the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, the highest daily maximum temperature of 2016, was recorded at Gravesend on 13th September at 34.4°C. For the month as a whole, it was the equal second warmest September since 1910. There was a marked west/east contrast in rainfall, with eastern England receiving below average rainfall. A significant proportion of the monthly total rainfall was associated with the thunderstorms brought on by the unseasonably warm weather that dominated until mid-month in southern Britain. Lightning damage and surface water flooding caused severe disruption and localised property flooding affecting business, motorways and rail lines. Upland western areas saw above average rainfall, with more than 130% of long-term average in some areas. Elsewhere was drier than average, particularly along the east coast, parts of south-east England received less than half the September average rainfall.

The Met Office rainfall anomaly graphs and maps can be viewed at:
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomalygraphs/2016/2016_Rainfall_Anomaly_1981-2010.gif
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomacts/2016/9/2016_9_Rainfall_Anomaly_1981-2010.gif

The reservoir groups are looking quite healthy as the boating season comes to a close. Most groups, particularly the HNC and Ox&GU, saw relatively large drawdowns this month reflecting the unseasonably warm weather during September. The Ox&GU reservoir group currently has the lowest holding at 38.7% but it is not deemed to be at significant risk in terms of water resources. We will closely monitor these reservoir holdings and their recovery during the coming months.

Boaters are advised to sign up for email notifications of any waterway restrictions or closures at: http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/notices

Issued by:
Water Management team, Canal & River Trust
21 October 2016

Reservoir data presented is from week ending Monday 17th October 2016 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 [*this is a principally spring-fed reservoir, and its yield is therefore greater than the storage volume indicates*]
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, Slipperhill, Whitemoor & Winterburn
Peak Forest & Macclesfield Canal	Sutton, Bosley, Toddbrook & Combs
Caldon Canal	Rudyard, Stanley, Knypersley
Huddersfield Narrow Canal	Sparth, Slaithwaite, Diggle
Chesterfield Canal	Harthill and 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