



Reservoir group	April 2017 holding	May 2017 holding	June 2017 holding	Change in May - June Period	Minimum historical* June holding (Year)
Kennet & Avon Canal	83.2%	81.4%	81.6%	+0.2%	72.8% (2013)
Oxford & GU	91.2%	82.3%	80.8%	-1.5%	63.2% (2011)
GU South	90.8%	90.1%	89.6%	-0.5%	81.2% (2006)
GU North	98.6%	86.2%	80.1%	-6.1%	59.4% (2011)
Lancaster Canal	97.9%	73.6%	74.8%	+1.2%	74.8% (2017)
Leeds & Liverpool Canal	93.6%	75.7%	71.2%	-4.5%	52.1% (2010)
Peak Forest & Macclesfield Canal	96.7%	84.8%	84.3%	-0.5%	62.3% (2007)
Caldon Canal	89.9%	79.7%	76.2%	-3.5%	74.0% (2007)
Huddersfield Narrow Canal	86.7%	78.3%	88.5%	+10.2%	39.9% (2013)
Chesterfield Canal	100%	98.1%	90.9%	-7.2%	69.8% (2009)
Grantham Canal	99.3%	99.5%	99.9%	+0.4%	95.8% (2011)
Birmingham Canal Navigations	76.3%	73.3%	71.8%	-4.8%	33.2% (2011)
Staffs & Worcs, Shropshire Union	96.1%	91.7%	93.2%	+1.5%	74.4% (2011)

* for the purposes of this analysis, historical holdings cover 1998-2017 reservoir holding data, inclusive.

According to the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, May was a dry and settled month with the exception of a few wet interludes, and thunderstorm activity in the final fortnight. For the UK as a whole, May was warm (the second warmest for the UK in a record from 1910). The UK received 86% of average rainfall and there was a reversal of the typical UK rainfall gradient: large parts of the north and west registered less than half of the average, whilst many parts of southern and eastern England received more than 130% of average rainfall. River flows in the majority of catchments were below average throughout May and groundwater levels continued their seasonal recession, with the exception of south-west Scotland and north-east England.

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

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomalygraphs/2017/2017_Rainfall_Anomaly_1981-2010.gif

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomacts/2017/5/2017_5_Rainfall_Anomaly_1981-2010.gif

May saw generally small but varied changes in holdings with the exception of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and the Chesterfield Canal groups seeing +10% and -7% changes respectively. Localised rainfall is responsible for the welcome increase in holding of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal group. Although not immediately apparent from the monthly comparisons above, there has been a dramatic improvement in the holding of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal group in the past week or so, due to a considerable refill of Winterburn Reservoir.

A number of the Trusts reservoir groups are at or around 70-80% holding. Whilst this is not particularly unusual for this time of year and is not at the levels experienced in the last significant drought of 2011-12, the Trusts Water Management team are carefully monitoring the usage of each reservoir, given the previously dry period. We are advising local operational staff on the optimum feed quantities to ensure efficient use of the water available and maximising use of back pumps (where they are installed) to recirculate water used by locks, in case the generally dry weather continues through the summer.

The Trust has carefully prepared contingency plans in place to manage if the situation worsens, and to ensure effective and timely communication to boaters and waterway businesses. As always, boaters are encouraged to do their bit by using water resources wisely when navigating the Trusts waterways, taking care to share locks where possible, ensure lock paddles are properly closed after use and report any water problems to the nearest local Waterway office.

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
15 June 2017

Reservoir data presented is from week ending Monday 12 June unless stated, along with data from the nearest comparable date in April and May.

Annex 1 – Canal & River Trust reservoir groups

Group name	Reservoirs within group
Kennet & Avon Canal	Crofton [<i>this is a principally 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, 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