

Reservoir Watch January 2020

Reservoir group	November 2019 holding	December 2019 holding	January 2020 holding	Change in Dec-Jan period	Minimum historical* Jan holding (Year)
Kennet & Avon Canal	93.3%	94.6%	85.5%	-9.1%	63.2% (2012)
Oxford & GU	97.7%	91.4%	98.4%	7.0%	30.8% (2012)
GU South	61.6%	63.5%	83.0%	19.5%	41.6% (2012)
GU North	100%	100%	100%	0.0%	27.5% (2012)
Lancaster Canal	99.1%	100%	98.9%	-1.1%	97.4% (2019)
Leeds & Liverpool Canal	79.7%	86.9%	88.6%	1.7%	72.5% (2004)
Peak Forest & Macclesfield Canal	64.4%	67.6%	73.0%	5.4%	67.6% (1999)
Caldon Canal	91%	85.4%	78.0%	-7.4%	72.0% (2019)
Huddersfield Narrow Canal	100%	100%	100%	0.0%	20.6% (2014)
Chesterfield Canal	97.7%	70.1%	63.3%	-6.8%	59.9% (1999)
Grantham Canal	99.7%	99.3%	99.5%	0.2%	81.3% (2012)
Birmingham Canal Navigations	98.4%	96.3%	97.5%	1.2%	23.4% (2012)
Staffs & Worcs, Shropshire Union	95.4%	99.2%	99.0%	-0.2%	53.9% (2002)

* for the purposes of this analysis, historical holdings cover 1998-2019 reservoir holding data, inclusive.

According to the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, December was a mixed month which began and ended with settled spells, whilst wet weather was experienced mid-month. December was generally mild with only a few cold spells. Nationally, rainfall was above average, especially in the south of England. River flows across England and Wales were generally above normal, with some being particularly so. Soil moisture deficits were negligible across most of the UK. Respectively, groundwater levels remained exceptionally high, especially in north-east and central-southern England, which saw several new records established. With the UK experiencing seven consecutive months of above average rainfall, the outlook for water resources in 2020 is healthy. This early start to the recharge season, along with saturated soils and high groundwater levels and river flows increase the risk of further fluvial and groundwater flooding over the next few months.

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

https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomalygraphs/2019/2019_Rainfall_Anomaly_1981-2010.gif

https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomacts/2019/12/2019_12_Rainfall_Anomaly_1981-2010.gif

The year of 2020 started with various refills, ranging from +0.2% to +19.5%, and now only three out of our 13 reservoir groups had a holding below 80%.

Reductions in the northern groups were mainly due to engineering reasons. The ongoing engineering works/inspections in the Chesterfield Canal Group decreased holdings by 6.8%, whilst the Caldon Canal Group decrease was due to continued operational reasons.

We will continue to track all reservoir holdings and their subsequent recovery over the coming months. As always, 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
24 January 2020

Reservoir data presented is from the week ending **Monday 13 January** unless stated, along with data from the nearest comparable date in November and December.

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