

## Reservoir Watch July 2020

Reservoir Group	May 2020 holding	June 2020 holding	July 2020 holding	Change in June - July period	Minimum historical* July holding (Year)
Kennet & Avon Canal	97.7%	95.3%	87.8%	-7.5%	55.3% (2011)
Oxford & GU	93.5%	85.9%	83.8%	-2.1%	54.5% (2011)
GU South	89.9%	87.8%	85.2%	-2.6%	76.3% (2015)
GU North	84.0%	76.8%	80.4%	3.6%	39.2% (2011)
Lancaster Canal	80.7%	66.0%	98.8%	32.8%	50.6% (2018)
Leeds & Liverpool Canal	64.4%	54.6%	79.1%	24.5%	28.1% (2010)
Peak Forest & Macclesfield Canals	61.2%	53.5%	58.2%	4.7%	50.8% (2018)
Caldon Canal	75.2%	66.0%	68.7%	2.7%	60.7% (2011)
Huddersfield Narrow Canal	76.7%	70.7%	100%	29.3%	13.5% (2013)
Chesterfield Canal	56.7%	55.7%	47.1%	-8.6%	69.0% (2005)
Grantham Canal	97.3%	97.3%	98.8%	0.7%	88.5% (2006)
Birmingham Canal Navigations	95.8%	89.6%	89.8%	0.2%	27.0% (2011)
Staffs & Worcs, Shropshire Union	89.3%	82.7%	74.3%	-8.4%	67.6% (2010)

\* for the purposes of this analysis, historical holdings cover 1998-2020 reservoir holding data, inclusive.

### General Conditions

According to the Centre of Ecology and Hydrology, June was a month defined by unsettled weather conditions, with the UK receiving 149% of the average rainfall. However, this rainfall was mostly contained to the north, as the southern and eastern parts of England recorded below average rainfall. At the beginning of June river flow recessions continued from late May, however the significant rainfall throughout month resulted in almost all catchments responding to the rainfall by the end of June. Despite June's rainfall, soils remained drier than normal for this time of year overall, with soils in England's southern and eastern regions recording their second driest (only behind 1976) in a series from 1961 (reflecting the exceptionally dry spring). Groundwater levels across England were around normal overall, although some boreholes in central and northern England recorded notably high levels. The continued wet weather into early July has resulted in an improvement of water resources and soil moisture situations. However, the risk of water resources pressure remains for the next few months if there is a return to hotter and drier conditions.

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

[https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomalygraphs/2020/2020\\_Rainfall\\_Anomaly\\_1981-2010.gif](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomalygraphs/2020/2020_Rainfall_Anomaly_1981-2010.gif)

[https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomacts/2020/6/2020\\_6\\_Rainfall\\_Anomaly\\_1981-2010.gif](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomacts/2020/6/2020_6_Rainfall_Anomaly_1981-2010.gif)

## The Trust's Water Resources

In the last month, eight out of 13 groups have recorded a holding above 80%, with three of these being either full (Huddersfield Narrow Canal group) or nearly full (Grantham and Lancaster Canal groups both at 98.8% holdings).

The rainfall distribution across England within the last month, is reflected in the changes in reservoir holdings.

The significant rainfall in the north resulted in six out of the eight reservoir groups recording an increase in holding. The largest increase was recorded by the Lancaster Canal group (32.8%), followed by the Leeds & Liverpool group increasing by 24.5%. The two northern reservoir groups which registered decreases in holdings were the Chesterfield group and the Staffs & Worcs, Shropshire Union Canal group (decreasing by -8.6% and -8.4% respectively), both due to engineering works.

The south's below average rainfall is reflected in three out of the five southern reservoir groups recording a decrease in storage. These are the Kennet & Avon group, made up of a single small reservoir Crofton decreasing by -7.5%, the Oxford & GU (-2.1%) and the GU South (-2.6%).

As always, the Water Management Team will continue to monitor all reservoir holdings and work closely with bankside staff to ensure water resources are deployed efficiently throughout the summer months.

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 July 2020

Reservoir data presented is from the week ending **Monday 13 July** unless stated, along with data from the nearest comparable date in May and June.

### 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

