

## Reservoir Watch September 2020

Reservoir Group	July 2020 holding	August 2020 holding	September 2020 holding	Change in August-September period	Minimum historical* September holding (Year)
Kennet & Avon Canal	87.8%	81.7%	83.0%	1.3%	48.5% (2006)
Oxford & GU	83.8%	67.0%	64.5%	-2.5%	30.4% (2011)
GU South	85.2%	75.3%	75.3%	-4.0%	45.9% (2011)
GU North	80.4%	64.4%	67.1%	2.7%	24.5% (2011)
Lancaster Canal	98.8%	99.1%	99.3%	0.2%	51.9% (2010)
Leeds & Liverpool Canal	79.1%	72.0%	87.6%	15.6%	24.3% (2005)
Peak Forest & Macclesfield Canals	58.2%	44.3%	53.4%	9.1%	30.3% (2003)
Caldon Canal	68.7%	56.0%	69.2%	13.2%	35.0% (2005)
Huddersfield Narrow Canal	100%	77.7%	97.8%	20.1%	17.0% (2013)
Chesterfield Canal	47.1%	37.4%	39.9%	2.5%	39.9% (2020)
Grantham Canal	98.8%	96.8%	98.0%**	1.2%	74.2% (2004)
Birmingham Canal Navigations	89.8%	80.6%	81.0%	0.4%	17.3% (2011)
Staffs & Worcs, Shropshire Union	74.3%	64.6%	57.2%	-7.4%	50.2% (2001)

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

\*\*Data from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September

### General Conditions

According to the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, August was a mild month with heatwave conditions bookended by unseasonal wet and windy weather. The rainfall was considerably above average across the most UK, generally exceeding 150% of the average, except from Kent and the East Anglian coast which experienced near-average rainfall. This rainfall distribution was reflected in the soil moisture deficits (SMDs) notably reducing. In addition, August's rainfall resulted in above average river flows across Wales and northern and central England, whilst flows in the south-east remained near-average. Groundwater levels have generally continued to decrease with many now in the normal to below normal range. This year's wet summer weather has bolstered the UK's water resources overall, with reservoir stocks now being generally healthy.

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/2020/8/2020\\_8\\_Rainfall\\_Anomaly\\_1981-2010.gif](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomacts/2020/8/2020_8_Rainfall_Anomaly_1981-2010.gif)

## The Trust's Water Resources

Six out of 13 groups now have a holding above 80%, with three of those above 90%, due the recent rainfall allowing several reservoirs to refill.

In the North, seven out of the eight reservoir groups recorded an increase in holding. The largest increase was recorded by the Huddersfield Narrow Canal group (20.1%), followed by the Leeds & Liverpool group increasing by 15.6%. The Staffordshire & Worcester and the Shropshire Union Canal group was the only northern group to record a decrease (-7.4%) due to engineering works. Although the Chesterfield Canal has seen a slight increase (1.2%) it is at its lowest historical holding for the month of August with a current holding of 39.9%, which is also due to ongoing engineering works.

In the South, three out of the five reservoir groups experienced slight increases in holding (ranging from 0.4% to 2.7%), whilst the remaining two groups, the Oxford & Grand Union and the Grand Union South recorded modest decreases (-2.5% and -4.0% respectively).

As always, the Water Management Team will continue to monitor all reservoir holdings 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  
21 September 2020

Reservoir data presented is from the week ending Monday 14 September unless stated, along with data from the nearest comparable date in July and August.

### 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	Startopsend, 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