

Reservoir Group	February 2022 holding	March 2022 holding	April 2022 holding	Change in March - April period	Minimum historical* April holding (Year)
Kennet & Avon Canal	86.0%	90.0%	91.6%	1.6%	71.9% (2012)
Oxford & GU	95.8%	99.6%	95.5%	-4.1%	58.6% (2012)
GU South	85.1%	84.6%	90.2%	5.6%	61.8% (2012)
GU North	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	46.7% (2012)
Lancaster Canal	72.5%	72.5%	72.5%	0.0%	95.4% (2013)
Leeds & Liverpool Canal	82.8%	81.7%	72.6%	-9.1%	74.4% (2009)
Peak Forest & Macclesfield Canals	44.5%	44.1%	45.1%	1.0%	45.1% (2022)
Caldon Canal	84.7%	90.6%	88.3%	-2.3%	81.4% (2013)
Huddersfield Narrow Canal	66.4%	72.7%	77.1%	4.4%	61.2% (2021)
Chesterfield Canal	60.4%	62.8%	61.5%	-1.3%	53.0% (2020)
Grantham Canal	92.6%	92.7%	93.1%	0.4%	93.1% (2022)
Birmingham Canal Navigations	98.5%	100.0%	98.7%	-1.3%	39.4% (2012)
Staffs & Worcs, Shropshire Union	87.5%	87.8%	86.9%	-0.9%	76.0% (2002)

* for the purposes of this analysis, historical holdings cover 1998-2021 reservoir holding data, inclusive.

General Conditions

According to the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, weather this March began with unsettled and wintry conditions. However, after the first fortnight a sustained spell of high-pressure systems resulted in widespread dry and above average temperatures. Correspondingly, rainfall rates were low with the UK only receiving 59% of its average rainfall. River flows and ground water levels were either in the normal or below normal range. Significant rainfall is required to restore depleting water resources in the north and west.

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

https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomalygraphs/2021/2021_Rainfall_Anomaly_1981-2010.gif

https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/anomacts/2022/3/2022_3_Rainfall_Anomaly_1981-2010.gif

The Trust's Water Resources

Despite dry conditions this March the Trust's reservoirs have maintained high levels with eight out of the 13 reservoir groups above 80% holding, with six above 90%. In the south, two out of the five groups had an increase in holding, the largest being GU South which increased by 5.6%. This is partly due to refilling at Tringford reservoir following completion of engineering works. In contrast, two out of five reservoirs in the south decreased in holding; the Oxford and GU decreased the largest by -4.1% followed by Birmingham canal navigations (-1.3%). The GU North remains at 100% holding.

Three out of eight northern reservoir groups registered an increase in holding; the Huddersfield Narrow Canal had the largest increase in holding of 4.4% followed by 1% in the Peak Forest & Macclesfield Canals and 0.4% in the Grantham Canal. The Lancaster Canal group remained the same at 72.5%. Four northern reservoir groups recorded a decrease in holding. The Leeds and Liverpool canal had the largest decrease in holding (-9.1%). This is most likely due to the dry and warm conditions this March which notably effected Yorkshire stocks. Holding reductions were also observed in the Caldon Canal (-2.3%), Chesterfield canal (-1.3%), and Staffs & Worcs, Shropshire Union (-0.9%).

The Peak Forest & Macclesfield Canals have remained at its lowest historical holding as Toddbrook reservoir remains held down for engineering works. In addition, while engineering works are now complete at Bosley reservoir there has been little recharge and the reservoir remains at 21% holding.

As always, the Water Management Team will continue to monitor all reservoir holdings during the coming months 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
27 April 2022

Reservoir data presented is from the week ending Monday 18 April unless stated, along with data from the nearest comparable date in January and February.

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