

# Hydrological Outlook UK

The previous month was a wet month (very wet in parts of the UK) that has brought about a significant change in the hydrological situation. Soils were very dry until recently, but have become much wetter as a result of recent rainfall, leading to increases in river flows and groundwater levels. As a result of this, and given that the rainfall forecasts slightly favour wetter conditions, the **Month X** Outlook is suggestive of river flows being in the normal range or above, with above-normal flows more likely in western catchments, Groundwater levels are likely to be normal in most aquifers, with above-normal levels to persist in parts of northern England. The outlook for the next three months is for broadly similar patterns, with river flows and groundwater levels in the normal range or above. The water resources situation therefore appears favourable.

**Rainfall:** Indications are that precipitation in **Month X** is more likely to be above average than below average. For the 3 month period the signal for precipitation is similar to climatology, with only a slightly higher probability of above-average than below-average rainfall.

**River flows:** River flows in the previous month were in the normal range across much of the UK, with above-average flows in a band from stretching from southwest England and south Wales through central England to Lincolnshire, areas which recently received substantial rainfall. In contrast, below-normal flows persisted in the far north of Scotland. The one-month outlook is for **Month X** river flows to be in the normal range or above normal, with a greater likelihood of above-normal flows in central England and upland areas in the west and north. In these areas catchments are already wet and likely to respond rapidly to further rainfall. The three-month outlook is suggestive of normal river flows across much of the UK, but with a higher likelihood of above-normal than below-normal flows in the western uplands and in central England.

**Groundwater:** Recent groundwater levels were in the normal range across most of the Chalk aquifer (but below normal in parts of the South Downs and Yorkshire Wolds) and the Jurassic limestone of central England. Elsewhere and in other aquifers, levels were generally above normal, notably so in northern England. The one-month outlook is suggestive of a continuation of the present situation, with normal levels across the Chalk contrasting with higher levels in the northwest. The same broad pattern is apparent in the three-month outlook, although above-normal levels are more likely over this timeframe in some Chalk boreholes.

