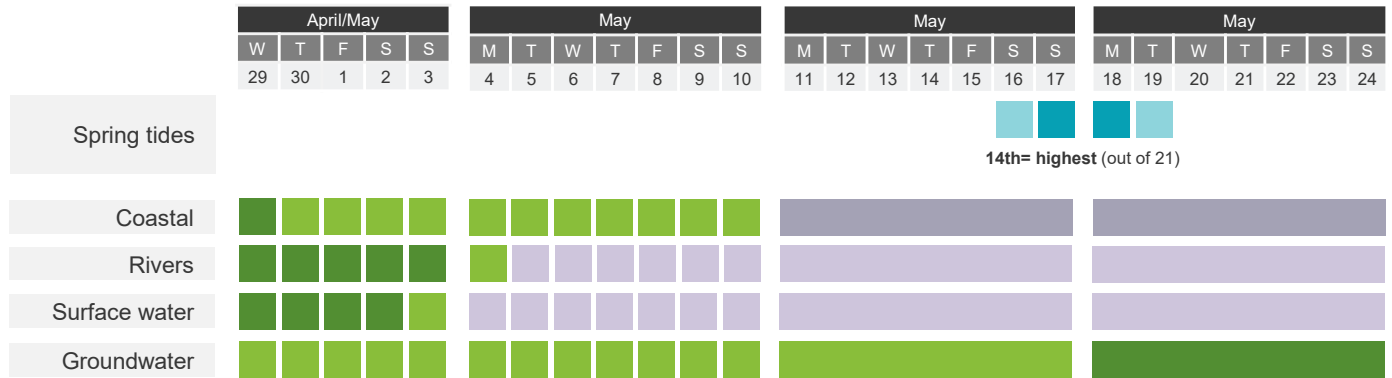


Flood Forecast for England and Wales

Significant or severe flood events are considered unlikely. Localised flooding is possible at times

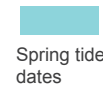


The forecast is made at a national scale to provide an overview for England and Wales.

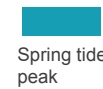
Key



The key shows likelihood of flooding compared to a neutral situation, (which is when there is no indication of increased or reduced likelihood of flooding in the forecast)



Spring tide dates



Spring tide peak

Number shows the rank of the spring tide out of the number of notable spring tides in the calendar year

Headlines

- Significant or severe flooding is considered unlikely
- Beyond the first weekend of May, localised flooding is possible at times as high pressure breaks down and unsettled weather becomes more prevalent
- Spring tides in mid May could coincide with unsettled weather

Weather and Hydrological Assessment

- Dry weather is expected to dominate initially, however changeable or unsettled weather becomes more likely by the end the May Day Bank Holiday weekend
- Catchment sensitivity is expected to be low initially, but could increase locally from the first full week of May

Coastal

- Spring tides in mid May could coincide with unsettled weather
- Localised coastal impacts are possible during this period, but unlikely to be beyond business as usual
- A smaller set of mini spring tides at the start of May is expected to coincide with high pressure

Rivers and Surface Water

- River flows are expected to reduce initially, but could increase from the first full week of May as the likelihood of unsettled weather increases
- The risk of heavy showers becomes more likely due to the time of year and an unsettled forecast period, so localised surface water flooding is possible at times

Groundwater

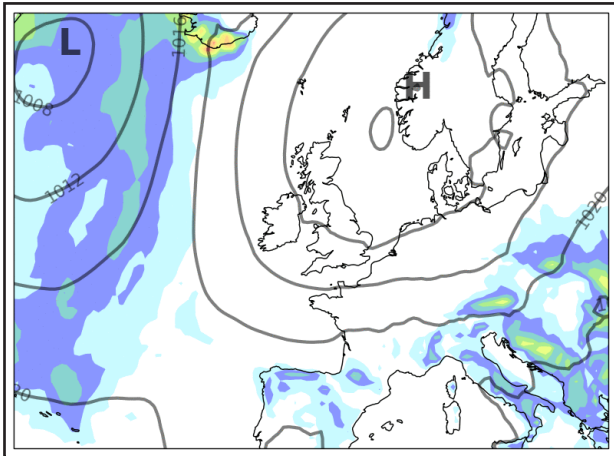
- Despite the risk of periods of rain and showers at times, groundwater levels are expected to continue to fall in most areas
- Groundwater impacts are not currently expected

Flood Forecast

Weather Assessment

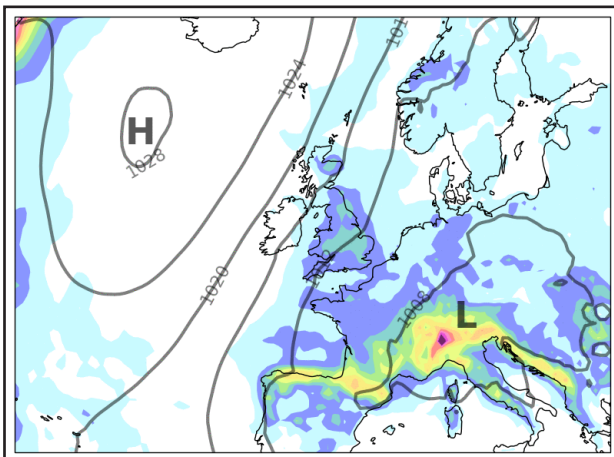
Hydrological Assessment

Q and A



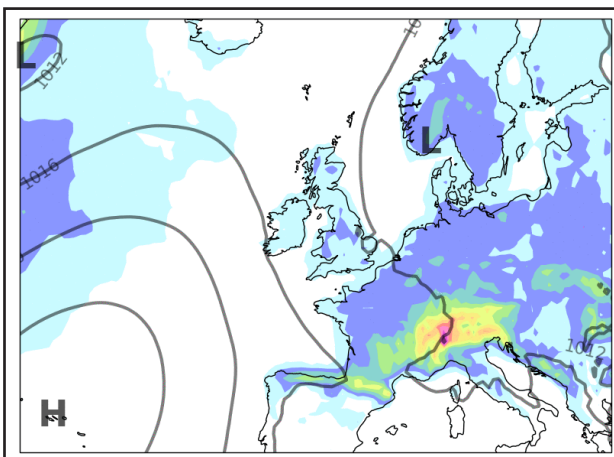
End of April to Early May

- High pressure is expected to dominate into the first few days of May, likely centred to the northeast at first
- The majority of England and Wales is expected to be dry
- Strong easterly winds are possible in the English Channel



Early to Mid May

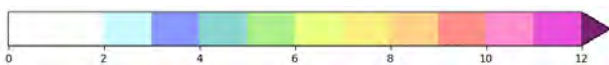
- By the end of the May Day Bank Holiday weekend, high pressure will likely decline allowing low pressure systems to exert influence over the UK at times
- Changeable weather is likely, with spells of rain and showers and some brief dry spells in-between systems



Mid to Late May

- The chance of high and low pressure is finely balanced from mid May, with a weak signal for more blocked patterns
- This could result in slower evolving weather, but the risk of settled or unsettled weather is fairly equal

Key



- Dominant pressure pattern shown by isolines
- Filled, coloured contours show typical daily precipitation distribution (mm/day)

Met Office 3-month outlook May to July

- A wet 3-month period is more likely than a dry one
- 10% chance the season will be dry. This is x0.5 the normal chance
- 65% chance the season will be near average. This is x1.1 the normal chance
- 25% chance the season will be wet. This is x1.3 the normal chance

[View and download the full Met Office 3-month Outlook](#)

Flood Forecast

Weather Assessment

Hydrological Assessment

Q and A

Who is the Flood Outlook for?

The Flood Outlook is for planners who need to make decisions at a timescale of 6 to 30 days. These users are aware of the complexities of this type of outlook and will include those factors in the decision-making process.

What does the Flood Outlook show?

The Flood Outlook provides decision-makers with an overview of when an increased or reduced likelihood of flooding is forecast. The assessment is made at a national scale to provide an overview for England and Wales.

What is the difference between the Flood Outlook and the Flood Guidance Statement?

The assessments in the Flood Outlook and Flood Guidance Statement (FGS) are different. This is because at different lead times different information is available at different scales.

The Flood Outlook is a national overview product showing likelihood of flooding. It:

- gives a broad indication of coastal and inland flooding in the next 4 weeks over England and Wales, excluding the first 5 days
- uses a simpler likely/unlikely scale rather than the detailed FGS levels of likelihood
- gives an indication of possible flood impacts in the headline and summary text

The Flood Guidance Statement (FGS) is a five-day county risk-based product. It:

- shows the forecast level of flood risk for the coming 5 days for surface water, river, groundwater, and coastal flooding
- uses a detailed risk matrix approach, based on a combination of both likelihoods and impacts
- forecasts at a county and local authority scale

When is the Flood Outlook issued?

The Flood Outlook is issued twice a month, on a Friday.

What information is the Flood Outlook based on?

The Flood Outlook is based on a combination of weather and tidal forecasts, hydrological conditions and professional judgement. The confidence of the forecast is reflected in the flood likelihood given. For current river flow information please refer to the [Environment Agency](#) and [Natural Resources Wales](#)

We classify notable spring tides as when the astronomical tide level is predicted to reach 2.4m OD(N) or higher at North Shields.

Does the Flood Outlook cover the whole of the UK?

The Flood Outlook covers England and Wales. It assesses the overall conditions over England and Wales as a whole.

Can I access training on the Flood Outlook?

There are short [Flood Outlook training videos](#) available online. We can also provide webinar training to organisations on request.

Can I ask for more information on the Flood Outlook?

Yes. Contact the Flood Forecasting Centre via ffcenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk or **0330 135 4400**

How can I receive the Flood Outlook?

You can now sign up to access the latest outlook via the Resilience Direct website at resilience.gov.uk, or alternatively via the Met Office Hazard Manager product. If you have any further queries please don't hesitate to contact us using the methods above.

Acknowledgements

The images on the second and third pages have been provided courtesy of Met Office, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales and the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.