Flood Outlook

18 November 2026 to 13 December 2026

Issued 13/11/2026

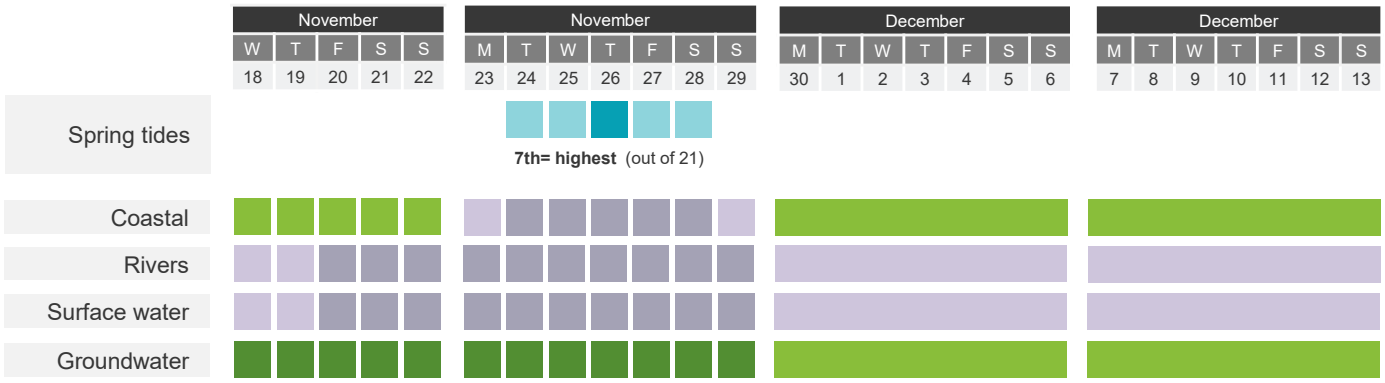
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FLOOD FORECASTING CENTRE

A working partnership between Environment Agency and Met Office

Flood Forecast for England and Wales

There are no strong signals for significant or extreme flooding events in this period. Localised inland or coastal flooding remains possible at times.



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

Key

Reduced likelihood of flooding ← Neutral → Increased likelihood of flooding

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

- No strong signal for significant or extreme flooding in this period
- Localised coastal flooding is possible around spring tides, and localised inland flooding remains possible throughout

Weather and Hydrological Assessment

- Becoming increasingly unsettled into late November, with wet and windy conditions likely dominating
- With the exception of south Wales, catchments are widely normal or below normal and, therefore, may take some time to become sensitive to rainfall

Coastal

- Spring tides in late November may coincide with unsettled conditions, increasing the likelihood of coastal flooding
- With unsettled conditions expected in late November, coastal flooding remains a possibility, especially with the astronomical values being relatively high

Rivers and Surface Water

- Rain is expected most frequently over western areas, where catchments are currently close to normal or slightly above
- With longer term drier than average conditions, any wet weather will take some time to cause sensitivity in catchments elsewhere

Groundwater

- Groundwater levels are expected to remain normal or below normal
- There is a reduced likelihood of groundwater flooding

Flood Outlook

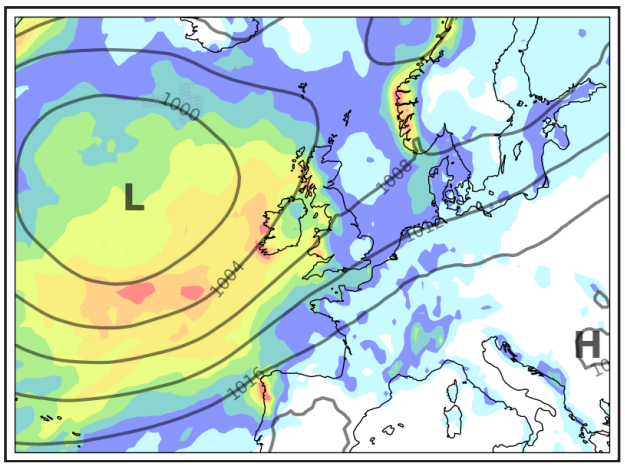
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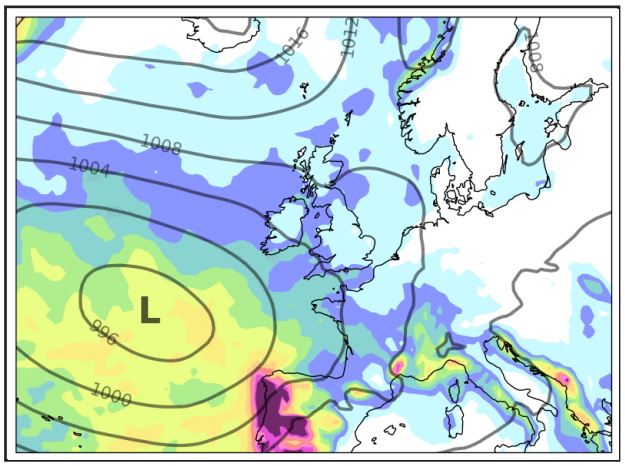
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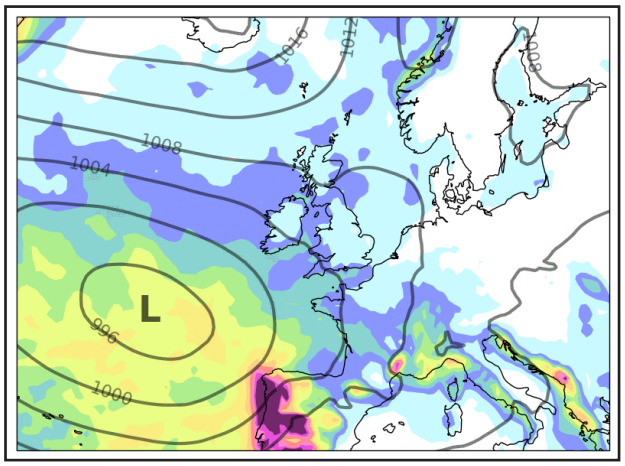
Mid to Late November

• Low pressure systems frequently situated to the west of the UK, occasionally tracking across or to the north of the UK
• Rain heaviest and most frequent in the west, with moderate west to southwesterly winds at times throughout



Early December

• Persistence of low pressure over the UK during this period, although higher pressure to the east of the UK may migrate over Scandinavia
• Similar conditions continuing through this period, with rain likely over most areas



Mid December

• Higher pressure may start to migrate from Scandinavia towards Greenland, forcing low pressure systems southwards over the UK
• A shift in focus with rain most likely over southern parts of the UK, with the potential for east or southeasterly flow over many areas

Key



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

Met Office 3-month outlook

November to January

- There is double the likelihood of a wet 3-month period compared to normal
- 10% chance the season will be dry. This is x0.5 the normal chance
- 50% chance the season will be near average. This is x0.8 the normal chance
- 40% chance the season will be wet. This is x2.0 the normal chance

View and download the full Met Office 3-month Outlook

Flood Outlook

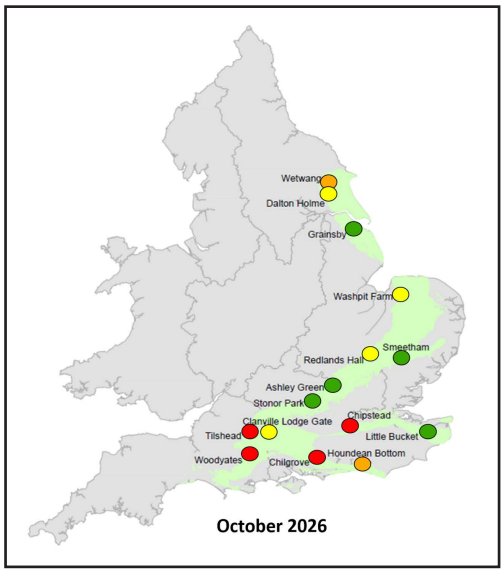
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Observed groundwater levels

The map shows groundwater levels at indicator locations relative to historic levels for the month, where groundwater presents a flooding risk. For areas not shown, groundwater flood risk is very low.

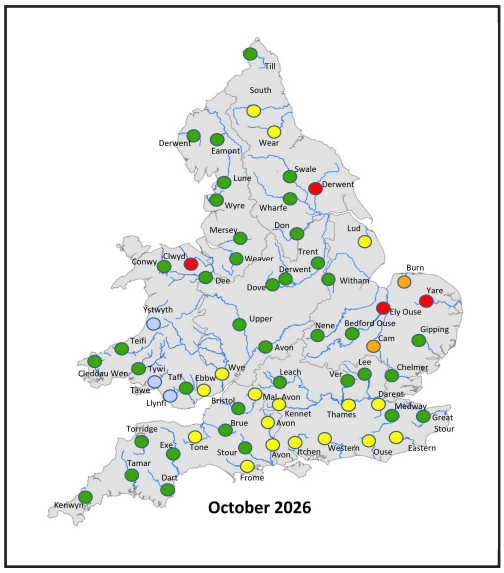
- Groundwater levels are mostly Normal to Below Normal, although some sites in the South are Exceptionally Low
- Levels are expected to remain steady throughout this period

Key

Exceptionally high | Notably high | Above normal | Normal | Below normal | Notably low | Exceptionally low | No data

Geology of Aquifers

Chalk



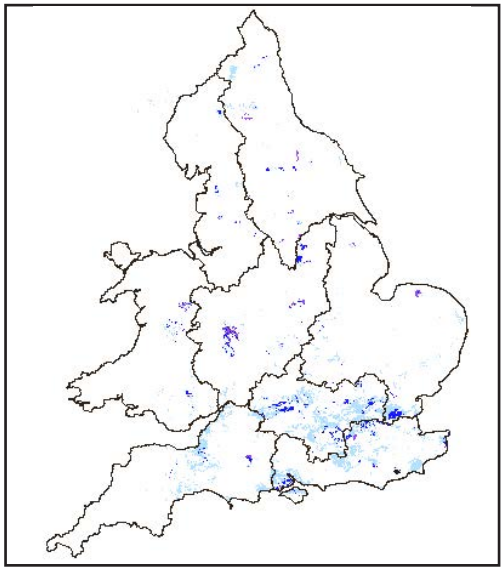
River flows

For mid-month issues the map shows monthly mean river flows for England and Wales, relative to historic means for the month. For end of month issues the map shows daily mean river flows for England only, relative to historic daily mean flows for that time of year.

- River flows across England and Wales were mostly Normal to Below Normal in October, with some isolated Exceptionally Low flows
- Short term increases in river flows may be observed locally at times, particularly across western areas

Key

Exceptionally high | Notably high | Above normal | Normal | Below normal | Notably low | Exceptionally low | No data



Sensitivity to rainfall

The map shows sensitivity to rainfall based on the subsurface water storage relative to the historic maximum of the 2007 to 2015 monthly mean values.

- Rainfall sensitivity was low across the majority of England and Wales on 13 November 2026, with isolated spots of medium sensitivity across parts of southern England
- Sensitivity may locally increase periodically with consecutive low pressure systems throughout this period

Key

High ← Medium → Low

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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 sign up to access the latest outlook by subscribing through your Flood Forecasting Centre user profile, or by visiting the Met Office's Hazard Manager tool.

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.