

Flooding from groundwater

Situation Report for Kent & South London

11th November 2019

This document provides information about groundwater levels and flows in Kent & South London, and advice about what action you can take to prepare.

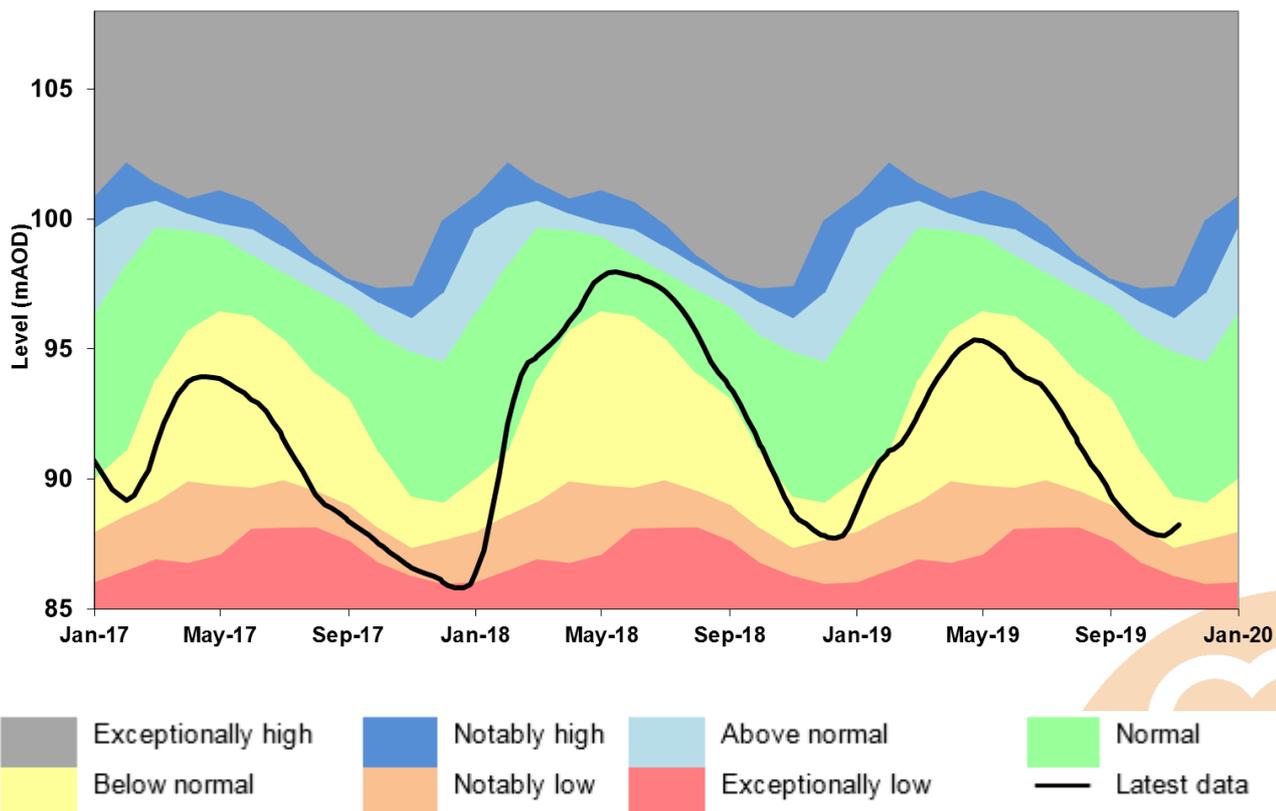
Current situation

Groundwater levels across the reporting area began to rise towards the end of October. Whilst not unprecedented, recharge sufficient to support sustained recovery began several weeks earlier than would be normally anticipated (when compared with the long term seasonal average).

Groundwater levels across our aquifers are best classified as ranging from Below Normal to Normal, which is a reflection of the slightly below par recharge event experienced the previous winter. The early onset of this recharge season will potentially extend the period in which the aquifers can recharge, and correspondingly groundwater levels can recover and rise to.

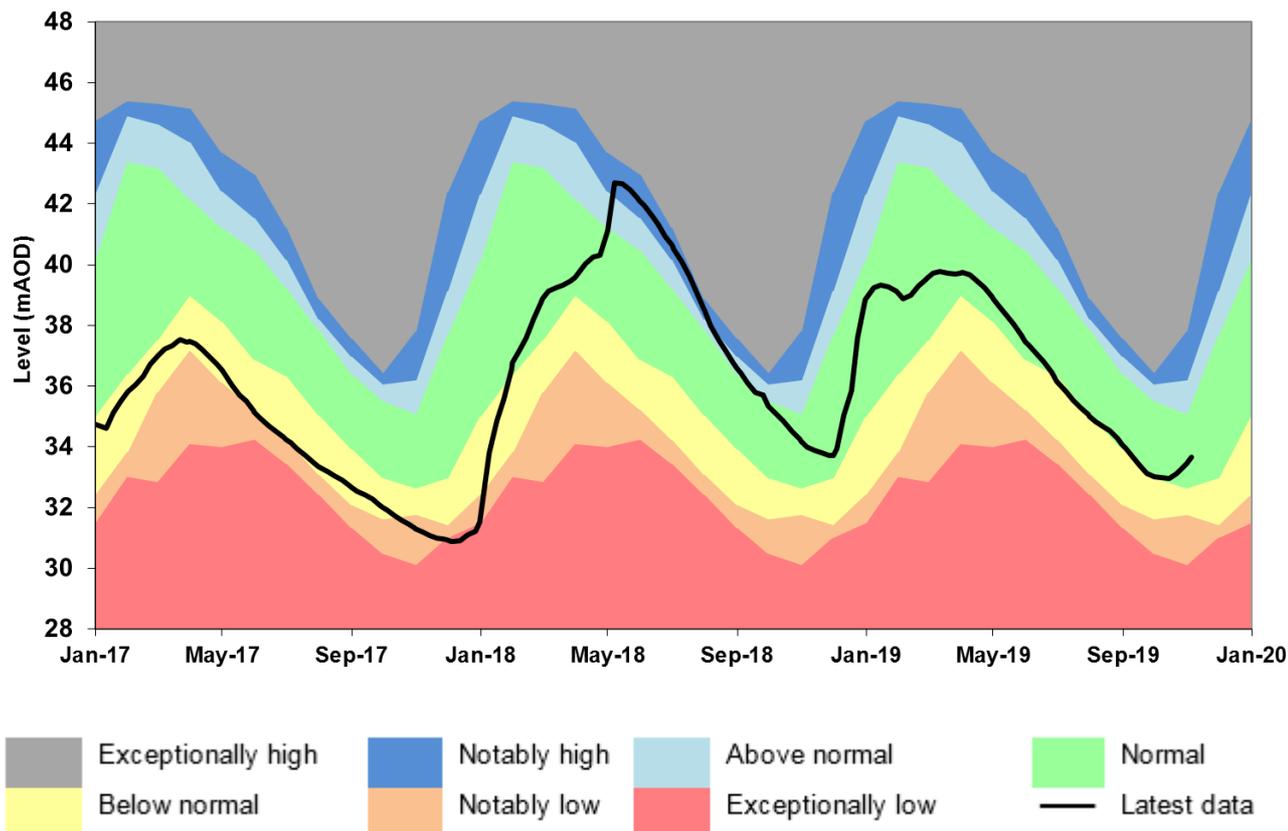
There is currently no evidence to suggest that we will experience any groundwater flooding events this forthcoming winter. The vagaries of long term weather forecasting do not allow any predictions to be made with any meaningful level of confidence so far in advance; ultimately the risk will be determined by this winter's rainfall.

NORTH DOWNS SOUTH LONDON - CHIPSTEAD CHALK
 Ranking derived from data for the period Oct 1942 to Dec 2017



DOVER CHALK - WOLVERTON - CHALK

Ranking derived from data for the period Oct 1970 to Dec 2017



What we're doing

- We will continue to monitor groundwater levels across Kent & South London and provide Situation Report updates throughout this winter, with the frequency of the advisories being adjusted according to the prevailing conditions.
- We will take evidence based decisions, and should the forecast strengthen we will undertake precautionary measures with a particular focus towards our bourne catchments (which are most susceptible to groundwater flooding).
- Should conditions deteriorate this winter we will notify our partners (including Lead Local Flood Authorities and Water Companies) to ensure they are fully aware. Likewise, if the situation dictated we will also actively engage with our partners to help them prepare for incident response.

Actions and advice

- Call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 or go online at www.gov.uk/environment-agency to find out if you can register to receive free Flood Alerts for flooding from groundwater.
- Call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 and speak to the operator for advice if you have been affected by flooding or select Option 1 and follow the instructions for up to date flooding information.
- Develop a personal flood plan that you could put into action, in the event that we need to issue a groundwater Flood Alert.
- If we issue a Flood Alert, move valuables from basements and cellars. You may need to improve surface water drainage and /or install and assess sump pumping arrangements.
- Visit the Environment Agency website www.gov.uk/environment-agency for local water levels and flooding information.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188
0845 988 1188

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Next update

We will continue to monitor groundwater levels closely and we will provide a further update as the situation changes.

Further information

- We regulate the water companies through environmental permits and investigate permit breaches and reports of pollution. We also issue Groundwater Flood Alerts and inform our partner organisations of Groundwater flooding.
- Water Companies are responsible for maintaining the sewer network and responding to sewer flooding.
- Local Authorities lead on managing the risk of flooding from groundwater sources.
- The links below provide more information on groundwater flooding and the latest situation

Up to date information on groundwater issues in Kent & South London

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/groundwater-current-status-and-flood-risk>

Groundwater levels and the water situation report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-situation-reports-for-england>

Flood Alerts

<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/>

Practical advice on what to do before, during and after groundwater flooding:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/297421/filho0911bugi-e-e.pdf

Contacts

If you would like to know more about groundwater in the South London area, please contact the Environment Agency Customer Contact Centre.

Useful contact numbers:

- Environment Agency National Customer Contact Centre 03708 506 506
- Floodline 0345 988 1188
- Environment Agency Incident Communications Service 0800 80 70 60 - to report groundwater flooding or pollution

customer service line
03708 506 506

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www.gov.uk/environment-agency