

# Dry weather situation in Hertfordshire and North London

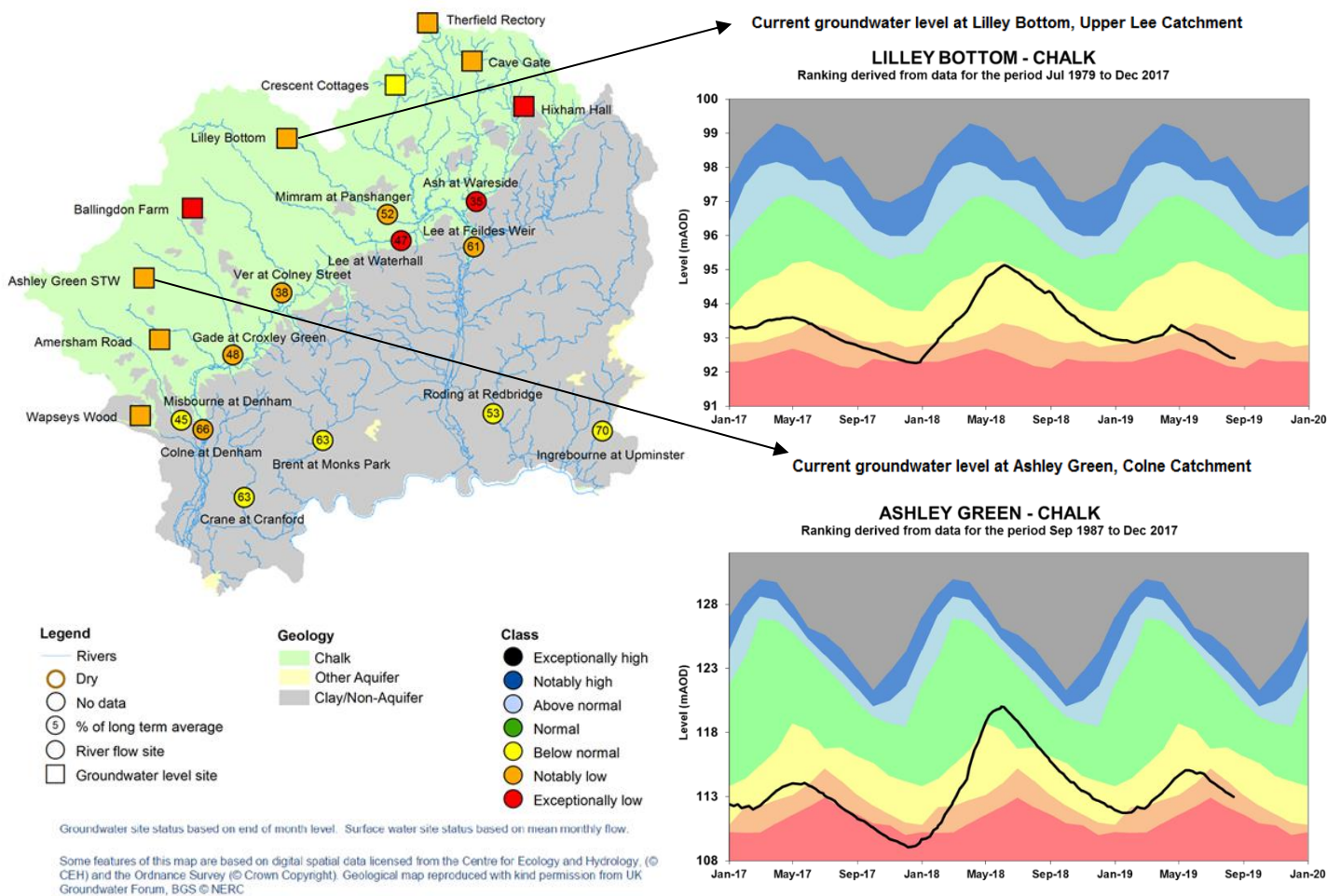
August 2019

## Current Situation

July was another dry month for the Hertfordshire and North London Area (the Area), receiving only 69% of the long term average (LTA) effective rainfall. We have still only received 23% LTA effective rainfall since the start of the summer period (1 April).

As much of the rainfall fell in short intense periods, soil remained dry throughout the month. River flows decreased at all of our indicator sites, with exceptionally low flows on the River Lee at Waterhall and the River Ash at Wareside. Groundwater levels fell at all nine indicator sites, with exceptionally low groundwater levels at Hixham Hall and Ballingdon Farm.

There was a marked increase in the number of environmental incidents reported throughout July, including low flows, dry river beds, low oxygen levels in the water, and fish in distress.



Customer service line: 03706 506 506

Floodline: 03459 88 11 88

24/7 Freephone Incident hotline: 0800 80 70 60

## Rainfall and Effective Rainfall – Summer total for period 1 April 2019 to 31 July 2019

	Rainfall (mm)			Effective Rainfall (mm)		
	Total (mm)	LTA (mm)	% of LTA	Total (mm)	LTA (mm)	% of LTA
Chilterns- East - Colne	172	221	78	12	34	36
Lee - Chalk	158	205	77	10	27	37
North London	166	202	82	0	12	0
Lower Lee	162	203	80	0	11	0
Roding Catchment	157	192	82	0	10	0
Hertfordshire and North London Area Average	163	204	80	4	19	23

## Outlook

Continued dry weather will add to existing pressure on water resources and further impact wildlife, with chalk streams being most affected. As anticipated, rainfall has not replenished water resource levels and we still do not expect this to occur until this winter at the earliest.

Our local water companies have put in place measures to manage local water sources to meet demand but are still encouraging their customers to use water wisely.

## Further information

If you have any further questions about the content of this document, the current situation or water resources in the area please contact us using any of the following methods:

**Email:** [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**Phone:** 03706 506 506

**Post:** National Customer Contact Centre, PO Box 544, Rotherham, S60 1BY

For more detail on the actions we are taking please see our 'What We Are doing August 2019' update.

## Key words/phrases

**Effective rainfall** - The amount of rainfall available to help recover water resources after dampening soils, evaporation and plant uptake.

**Soil Moisture Deficit (SMD)** is a measure of how dry the soils are. The larger the deficit, the more rainfall is required to dampen the soil before water can runoff into rivers or raise groundwater levels.

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