

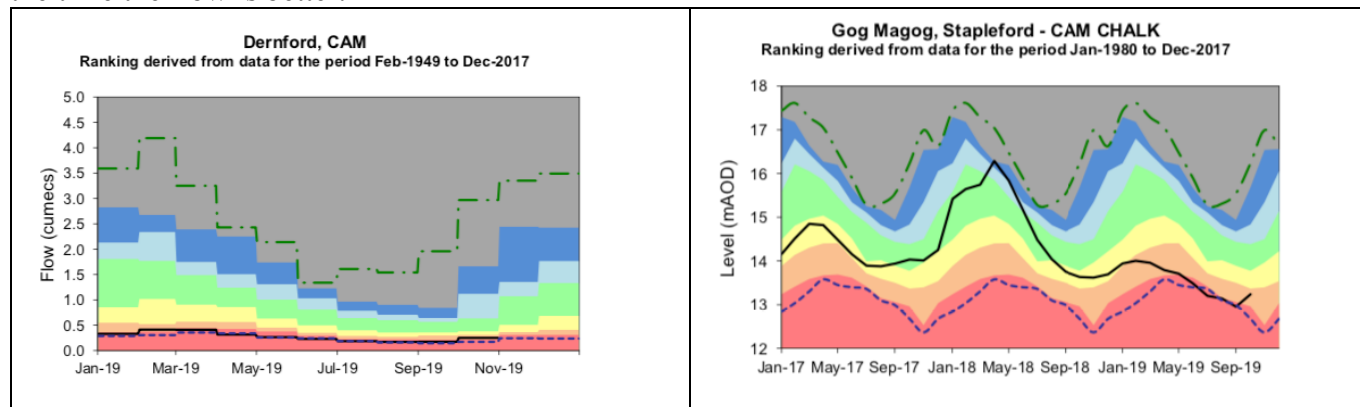
# Water fact sheet

Transition Cambridge [www.transitioncambridge.org](http://www.transitioncambridge.org)

Nicola Terry 20/Nov/2019

## Water situation this year.

All our water comes from underground. 97% comes from chalk aquifers. These same aquifers feed chalk streams that feed into the River Cam. When the aquifer is low, those streams dry up. These chart from the Environment Agency shows flow rates in the Cam at Dernford (just south of Gt. Shelford) and the ground water levels at Stapleford during this year. The red section is 'Exceptionally low' which means 95% of the time the flow is better.



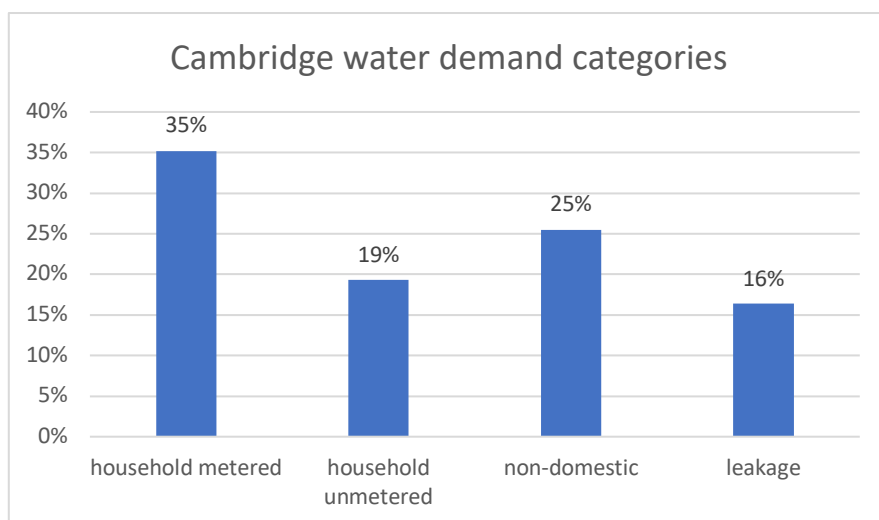
From <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-situation-local-area-reports>

## How much do we use? How much for leakage?

This chart shows the main components of water demand for Cambridge.

Data from <https://www.cambridge-water.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/our-water-resources-plan>

The data below is from Discover Water (link below)



Company	Domestic water litres/person/day	Leakage litres/property/day	Average water bill (not including sewerage) £/year
Cambridge	143	91	139 (This is below average partly because Cambridge has very little treatment to do: the aquifer is very clean to start with).
Anglian Water	135	86	193
Other companies	130 – 163	77 - 178	106-255
National average	143	121	193

During a drought, our water consumption increases. During the summer of 2018 demand reached 25% over the normal for the time of year. This was an all-time record for the area.

## How much water do appliances use?

If you have a water efficient toilet this is very unlikely to be your largest use of water – it is more likely to be the shower.

<i>Appliance</i>	<i>Typical</i>	<i>Efficient</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Bath	80-100	NA	Bath volumes are quoted as up to the overflow. However you do not fill them up that much.
Shower	8 l/min x 5 min = 40	6 l/min x 5 min = 30	Power showers can be much worse! Shorter showers really help.
Toilet	9 litres/flush x 5/day = 45	3.5 litres/flush x 5/day = 17	3.5 litres/flush is an average of the 2 levels in a dual flush. Traditional toilets can use more than 10 litres.
Taps	6 litres/min basin 12 litres/min kitchen	4 litres/min basin 8 litres/in kitchen	Use a bowl for washing up and rinsing, to avoid running the tap.
Dishwasher	15-20/run	10/run	An efficient dishwasher is likely to be more efficient than hand washing, unless you save your hand washing up for a big load.
Washing machine	45-50/wash	35-40/wash	
Garden hose	20-30 litres/min	NA	Get a nozzle so you can turn it off when not needed
Watering can	8-10 litres	NA	
Leaking taps/toilet	Can be a lot!	NA	You can get strips to stick in your toilet to check for leaks as they can be hard to spot if they dribble gently. However in Cambridge you would probably see marks from the hard water residue.

## Links for more information

<b>Discover Water</b> – to compare performance of water companies	<a href="https://www.discoverwater.co.uk/">https://www.discoverwater.co.uk/</a>
<b>Cambridge Water</b> - supplies our water	<a href="https://www.cambridge-water.co.uk/">https://www.cambridge-water.co.uk/</a> <a href="https://www.cambridge-water.co.uk/news/water-resources-and-our-chalk-streams/">https://www.cambridge-water.co.uk/news/water-resources-and-our-chalk-streams/</a>
<b>Cam Valley Forum</b> – charity run by volunteers concerned for the River Cam and its tributaries.	<a href="https://camvalleyforum.uk/">https://camvalleyforum.uk/</a> <a href="https://camvalleyforum.uk/river-cam-manifesto/">https://camvalleyforum.uk/river-cam-manifesto/</a>
<b>Environment Agency</b> water situation reports	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-situation-reports-for-england">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-situation-reports-for-england</a>
<b>Recent news</b>	<a href="https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/water-company-forum-divided-about-cambridges-development-9089349/">https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/water-company-forum-divided-about-cambridges-development-9089349/</a>  <a href="https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/new-plans-to-save-famous-cambridge-chalk-stream-from-drying-up-9086450/">https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/new-plans-to-save-famous-cambridge-chalk-stream-from-drying-up-9086450/</a>  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-drought-group-ea-chief-executive-statement">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-drought-group-ea-chief-executive-statement</a>