Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 30 January to Tuesday 5 February 2019

Summary: It has been a wet week across southern England with moderate rain elsewhere. River flows increased at four-fifths of the sites we monitor and are normal at most sites for the time of year.

Rainfall
Precipitation totals over the past week ranged from 9mm in central England to 32mm in south-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Precipitation initially fell as snow before milder conditions pushed in over the weekend. The cumulative rainfall totals for February to date range from 17% of the monthly long term average (LTA) in central England to 42% in south-east England (Table 1).

River flow
As a result of rainfall and snow melt, river flows across England increased at more than four-fifths of indicator sites this week. Flows are classed as normal for the time of year at the majority of indicator sites.

Outlook
On Friday a large area of low pressure is forecast to bring heavy rain and very strong winds to many parts of England with the heaviest and most persistent rainfall across northern England. Blustery showers are expected on Saturday and further rain is possible on Sunday for southern England. It is expected to be drier on Monday and Tuesday particularly in central, southern and south-eastern England.

Author: National Water Resources Hydrology Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic regions</th>
<th>Latest Week: 30 Jan to 5 Feb 2019</th>
<th>Latest month to date: Feb 2019</th>
<th>Last month: Jan 2019</th>
<th>Last 3 months: Nov 2018 to Jan 2019</th>
<th>Last 6 months: Aug 2018 to Jan 2019</th>
<th>Last 12 months: Feb 2018 to Jan 2019</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total (mm)</td>
<td>Total (mm)</td>
<td>% LTA</td>
<td>Total (mm)</td>
<td>% LTA</td>
<td>Total (mm)</td>
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<td>227</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2019)

Notes:
- Data for the current month are calculated using MORECS (Met Office Rainfall and Evaporation Calculation System); data for past months are provisional values from the National Climate Information Centre (NCIC).
- The data is rounded to the nearest millimetre or percent (except when values are less than 1).
- Recorded amounts of rainfall are likely to be underestimated during snow events.

All data are provisional and may be subject to revision. The views expressed in this document are not necessarily those of the Environment Agency. Its officers, servants or agents accept no liability for any loss or damage arising from the interpretation or use of the information, or reliance upon views contained herein.

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Rainfall

Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2019). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation affecting its performance. This does not reflect actual conditions on the ground. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2019.
River flow

‘Naturalised’ flows are provided for the River Thames at Kingston and the River Lee at Feildes Weir.

Figure 2 Latest daily mean river flow, relative to an analysis of historic daily mean flows, classed by flow percentile for the same time of year² (Source: Environment Agency). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2019.

²Flow percentiles describe the percentage of time that a particular flow has been equalled or exceeded compared to the historic flow record for that site for the time of year. Flow percentiles presented relate to an analysis for the time of year and not a whole year.
River flow categories

Exceptionally high  Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time
Notably high  Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time
Above normal  Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time
Normal  Value likely to fall within this band 44% of the time
Below normal  Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time
Notably low  Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time
Exceptionally low  Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time

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