Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 6 February to Tuesday 12 February 2019

Summary: It has been a wet week across England, particularly in western areas. Flows increased at nearly half of the rivers we monitor and most are normal for the time of year.

Rainfall
Rainfall totals over the past week ranged from 18mm in east England to 40mm in north-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1). The cumulative rainfall totals for February, to date, range from 61% of the monthly long term average (LTA) in central England to 90% in south-east England (Table 1).

River flow
River flows across England increased at almost half of indicator sites this week. The daily mean flows are classed as normal for the time of year at nearly two-thirds of indicator sites.

Outlook
Patchy light rain and drizzle will affect parts of western areas of England from Thursday afternoon through to the weekend but most other places will remain dry. A weakening front may result in some showers on Monday. On Tuesday another front may affect northern England but most places will remain dry.

Author: National Water Resources Hydrology Team

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

¹ 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.

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Rainfall

28 November to 4 December
5 to 11 December
12 to 18 December
19 to 25 December
26 December to 1 January
2 to 8 January
9 to 15 January
16 to 22 January
23 to 29 January
30 January to 5 February
6 to 12 February

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.
'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 year\(^2\) (Source: Environment Agency). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2019.

\(^2\)Flow 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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