Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 6 March to Tuesday 12 March 2019

Summary: It has been a wet week across England. As a result river flows have increased on nearly all of the rivers we monitor and the majority are currently normal or higher for the time of year.

Rainfall
Rainfall totals over the past week ranged from 25 mm in east England to 73 mm in north-west England respectively (Table 1 and Figure 1). The cumulative rainfall totals for March, to date, range from 85% of the monthly long term average (LTA) in south-east England to 132% in north-west England (Table 1).

River flow
Daily mean river flows across England have increased at nearly all indicator sites compared to the previous week and are now classed as normal or higher for the time of year in response to recent heavy rainfall across England. Furthermore, the daily mean flows are now classed as exceptionally high at a quarter of indicator sites.

Outlook
Successive frontal rain systems are forecast into the weekend but Sunday will see sunshine and showers as rainfall gradually clears eastwards. The forecast remains unsettled for the rest of the reporting period.

Author: National Water Resources Hydrology Team

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

¹Notes:
- 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

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

13 to 19 February

20 to 26 February

27 February to 5 March

6 to 12 March

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 Felides 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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