Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 1 to Tuesday 7 April 2020

Summary: It has been another dry week across England. River flows decreased at the majority of the sites we report on compared to the previous week.

Rainfall
The past week has been very dry, with rainfall totals ranging from 4mm in north-west England to less than 1mm in east and south-east England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for April range from 6% of the monthly long term average (LTA) in north-west England to 0% in east England (Table 1).

River flow
River flows have decreased at nearly all of the sites we report on across England, compared to the previous week. The latest river flows are classed as normal or higher for the time of year at two-thirds of the rivers we report on. Most of the remaining one-third of sites are classed as below normal for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook
Thursday and Friday are expected to be mostly dry across England, although many areas may also see some patchy rain. Further periods of rain, heavy at times, are likely to affect most areas of England through Saturday and Sunday. A move to more settled conditions is expected by Tuesday.

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Geographic regions | Latest Week: 01 to 07 Apr 2020 | Latest month to date: Apr 2020 | Last month: Mar 2020 | Last 3 months: Jan to Mar 2020 | Last 6 months: Oct 2019 to Mar 2020 | Last 12 months: Apr 2019 to Mar 2020
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
Total (mm) | Total (mm) | % LTA | Total (mm) | % LTA | Total (mm) | % LTA | Total (mm) | % LTA | Total (mm) | % LTA | Total (mm) | % LTA
north-west | 4 | 4 | 6 | 85 | 90 | 483 | 167 | 858 | 130 | 1,588 | 133
north-east | 2 | 2 | 3 | 48 | 69 | 278 | 133 | 604 | 135 | 1,108 | 132
central | 1 | 1 | 2 | 38 | 65 | 237 | 135 | 560 | 150 | 1,030 | 143
east | <1 | <1 | 0 | 22 | 48 | 153 | 113 | 408 | 136 | 734 | 122
south-east | <1 | <1 | 1 | 47 | 79 | 236 | 131 | 573 | 143 | 895 | 122
south-west | 2 | 2 | 4 | 74 | 86 | 366 | 129 | 854 | 141 | 1,323 | 130
England | 2 | 2 | 3 | 49 | 74 | 275 | 134 | 619 | 138 | 1,068 | 129

Table 1 Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2020)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.
Rainfall

Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2020). 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, 100024198, 2020.
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, 100024198, 2020\(^3\).

\(^2\)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.

\(^3\)The flow sites in this report are indicator sites providing a National overview and a subset of a wider flow monitoring network.
### River flow categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value likely to fall within this band</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exceptionally high</td>
<td>5% of the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notably high</td>
<td>8% of the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above normal</td>
<td>15% of the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>44% of the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below normal</td>
<td>15% of the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notably low</td>
<td>8% of the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceptionally low</td>
<td>5% of the time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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