Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 22 to Tuesday 28 April 2020

Summary: It has been a slightly wetter week across England compared to previous weeks. River flows have increased at most of the key sites we report on.

Rainfall
The past week has been wetter than previous weeks, with rainfall totals ranging from 2mm in north-east England to 17mm in south-east England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for April range from 7% of the monthly long term average (LTA) in north-east England to 68% in south-east England (Table 1).

River flow
River flows have increased at nearly two-thirds of the key sites that we report on, compared to the previous week. The latest river flows are classed as normal or higher for the time of year at most sites across east, south-east and parts of south-west England. Elsewhere, flows are mainly lower than normal, with 5 sites across northern England remaining exceptionally low for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook
On Thursday and Friday, frequent heavy showers are expected across England. These will become confined to east and central England on Saturday with dry weather elsewhere. Further frontal rain is expected to move into the west on Sunday or Monday and this will be persistent in some areas, with the highest totals expected in the west. Unsettled weather will continue on Tuesday with a mix of showers and long spells of rain across all areas.

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<td>Total (mm)</td>
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<td>% LTA</td>
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Table 1 Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2020)

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.
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.
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 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

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