Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 27 April to Tuesday 3 May 2016

Summary: Some rain across England. River flows are mostly normal for the time of year.

Rainfall

The past week has been moderately wet in the north of England and drier elsewhere. Rainfall totals ranged from 6mm in south-east England to 29mm in north-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1). For the first 3 days of May, rainfall has been less than 10% of the long term average (LTA) for May in all but north-west England. Cumulative rainfall totals for April range from 85% of the April LTA in south-west England to 143% in north-east and north-west England. (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at the majority of sites compared to last week. The latest daily mean flows are normal or higher for the time of year at all but two of the sites, with almost three-quarters of the sites being normal for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday and Friday will be mostly dry. Thunderstorms may affect parts of south-west England on Friday evening and continue during Saturday and Sunday. Many areas will remain dry. The chance of thunderstorms will continue on Monday and Tuesday, with the driest and most settled conditions in the north.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 27 Apr to 3 May 2016	Latest month to date: May 2016		Last month: Apr 2016		Last 3 months: Feb 2016 to Apr 2016		Last 6 months: Nov 2015 to Apr 2016		Last 12 months: May 2015 to Apr 2016	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	29	10	14	98	143	322	137	1104	188	1607	138
north-east	21	5	9	82	143	229	126	730	173	1148	140
central	15	4	6	66	125	213	133	489	135	837	117
east	12	3	6	60	129	164	126	355	121	673	113
south-east	6	2	3	56	110	193	122	472	124	837	115
south-west	8	5	7	52	85	268	117	702	124	1200	119
England	14	5	8	67	122	223	126	604	144	1002	124

Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016)[1]

[1] Notes:
- LTA = long term average rainfall for 1961 – 1990.
- 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.

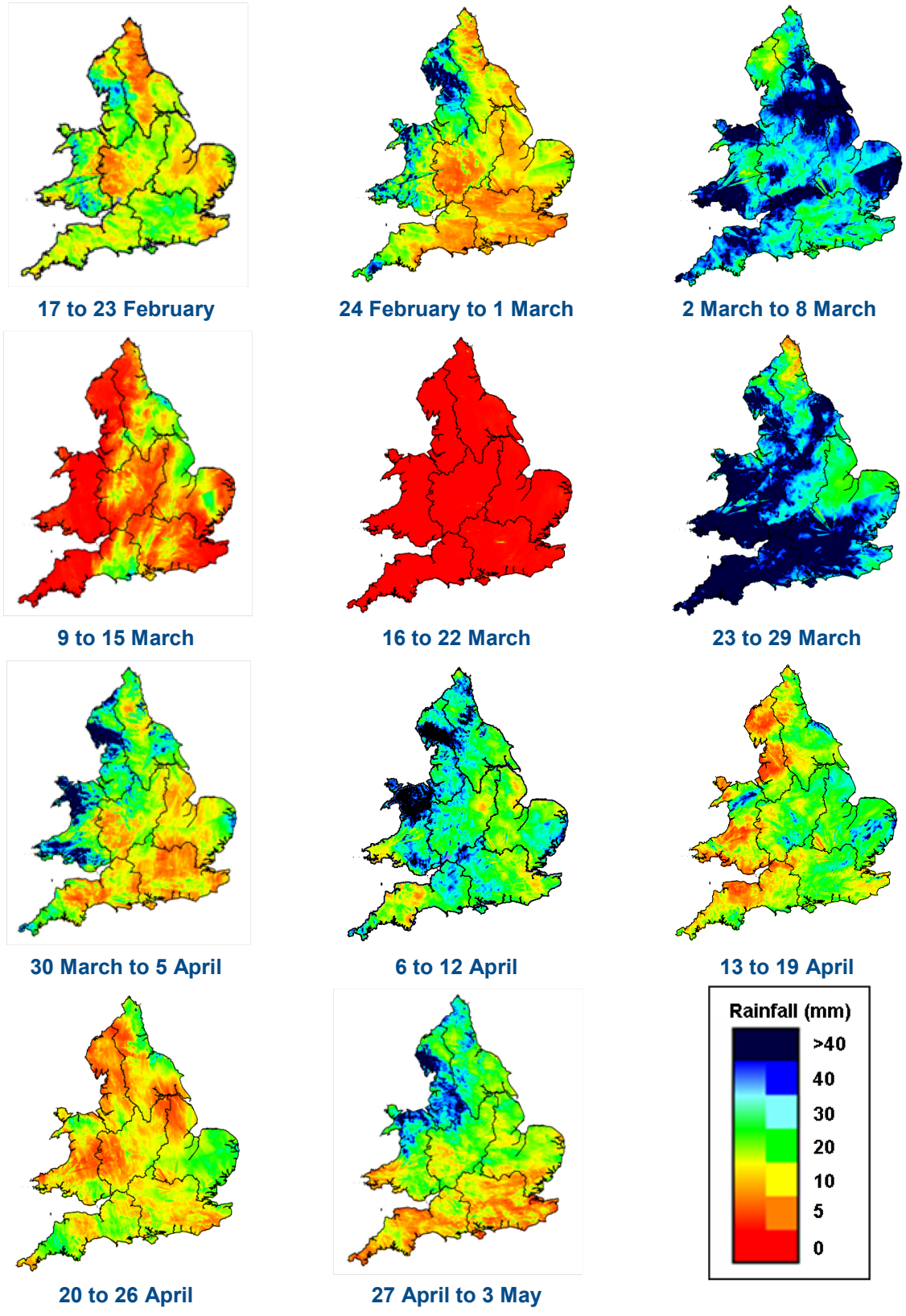
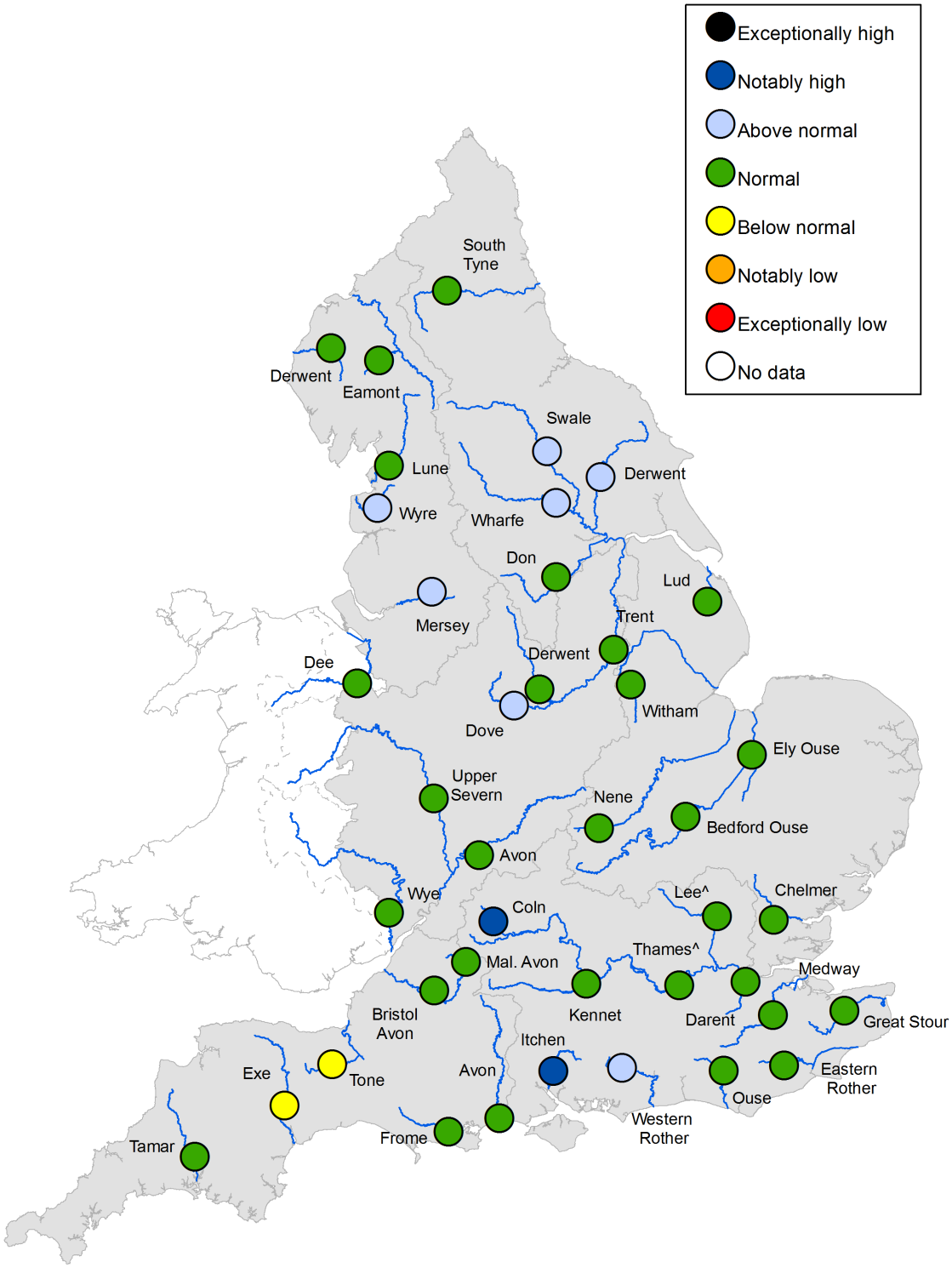


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

River flow



^ – 'Naturalised' flows are provided for the Thames at Kingston and the 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, 2016.

[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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