

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 28 January to Tuesday 03 February 2015

Summary

Precipitation totals over the past week have been higher than the previous week across England, with the highest totals mainly falling as snow affecting north-east and east England. River flows have decreased at the majority of our indicator sites and the latest daily mean flows remain **normal** or higher for the time of year at all but 6 of our indicator sites.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 9 mm in south-east England to 16 mm in the north-east and east (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- The cumulative rainfall totals for January ranged from 97% of the January long term average (LTA) in east England to 137% in the north-west. (Table 1)
- River flows have decreased at nearly two thirds of our indicator sites compared to the previous week. The latest daily mean river flows are **normal** for the time of year at nearly all our indicator sites, with 1 site being **above normal** for the time of year, and 5 sites **below normal** for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

High pressure is expected to continue to affect England over the next week, so limiting precipitation totals. Some light wintery showers are expected on most days with the focus in east, central and south east England.

Author: [E&B Hydrology Team](#)

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 28 Jan - 03 Feb '15	Latest month to date: Feb '15		Last month: Jan '15		Last 3 months: Nov '14 - Jan '15		Last 6 months: Aug '14 - Jan '15		Last 12 months: Feb '14 - Jan '15	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	14	0.0	0.0	156	137	405	115	741	107	1275	110
north-east	16	2	3	82	104	252	105	468	102	883	108
central	14	0.5	1	65	99	220	108	408	105	802	112
east	16	3	7	49	97	179	109	369	116	679	114
south-east	9	0.2	0.4	91	127	273	124	494	120	890	122
south-west	14	1	2	134	117	359	107	623	105	1160	115
England	14	1	2	91	115	270	111	498	109	917	113

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

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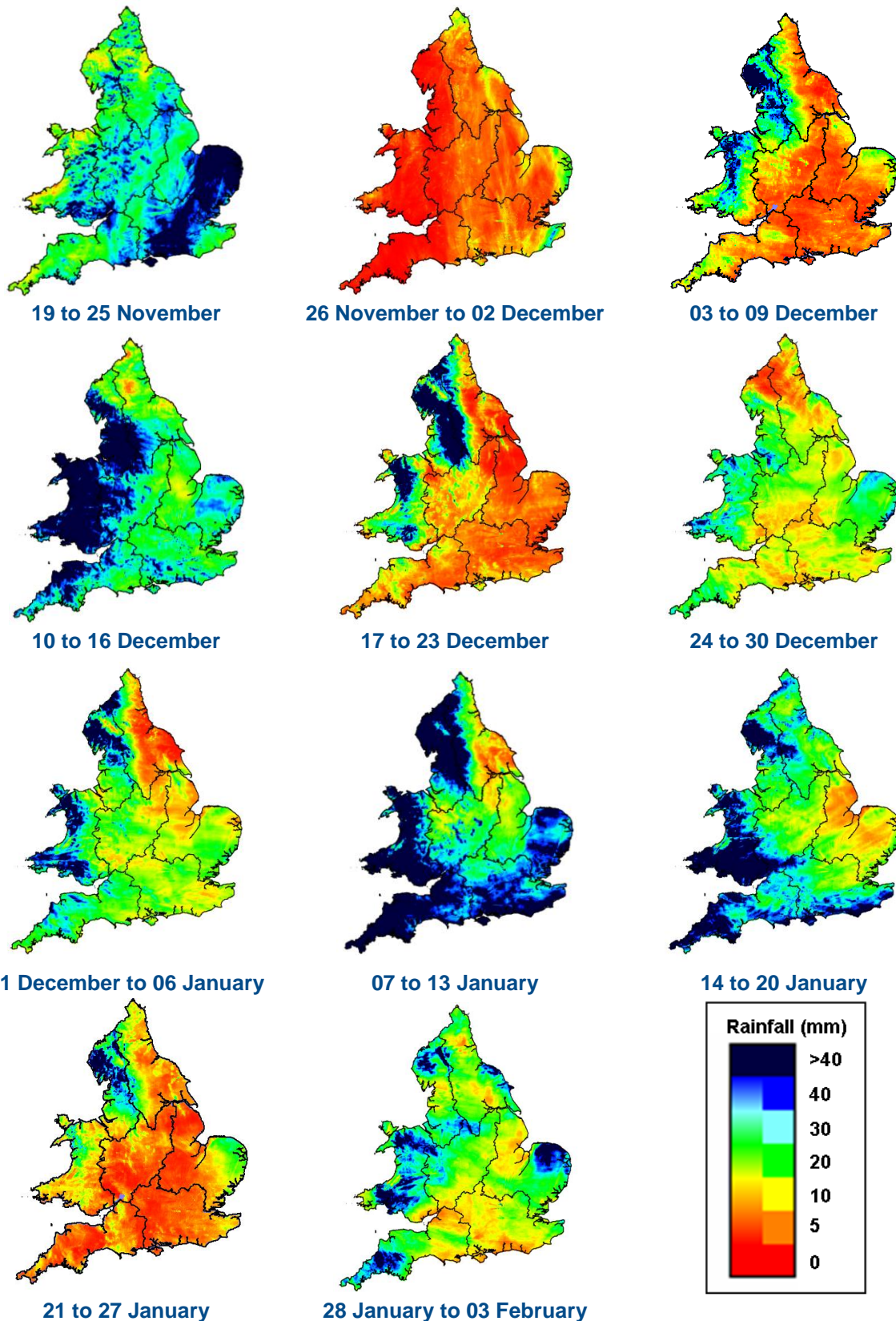
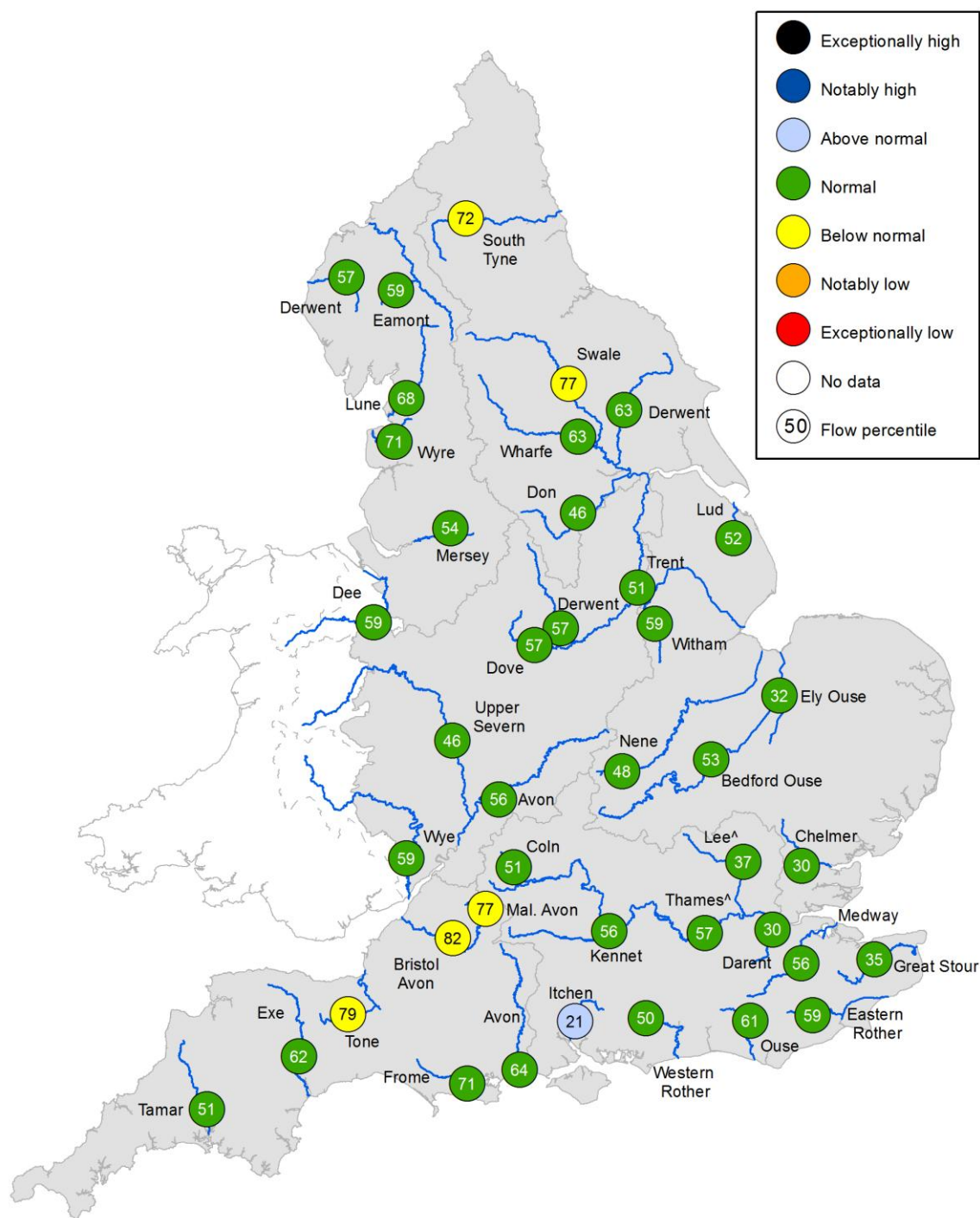


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

River Flow



^ – ‘Naturalised’ flows are provided for the Thames at Kingston and the Lee at Feildes Weir.

Figure 2: Latest daily mean river flow expressed as a percentile² and classed relative to an analysis of historic daily mean flows for the same time of year (Source: Environment Agency). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

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. For example, a flow percentile of 5 indicates that the current flow has only been equalled or exceeded approximately 5% of the time within the historic record for that time of year – i.e. a very high flow. A flow percentile of 95 indicates that the current flow has been equalled or exceeded approximately 95% of the time – i.e. a low flow. Flow percentiles presented relate to an analysis for the time of year and not a whole year.