Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 28 May – Tuesday 03 June 2014

Summary

The past week has been moderately dry across the east, southeast and northwest of England; in contrast, the southwest of England has already received a quarter of the average June rainfall. River flows have decreased at the majority of our indicator sites this week but remain higher than *normal* at nearly three quarters of sites.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from just under 10 mm in the east and southeast of England to 21 mm in the southwest (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date range from 5% of the June long term average (LTA) in the northwest of England to 26% in the southwest (Table 1).
- The latest daily mean river flows are *above normal* for the time of year at just over half of our indicator sites, with a further nine sites being *notably high*. Flows at the remaining sites are *normal* for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

On Thursday, most places will remain dry, although showers may affect parts of northeast and southern England. The dry weather will continue during the day on Friday, with outbreaks of rain or showers moving into the west by the evening. The showers are expected to become very heavy and thundery on Saturday, with torrential downpours possible, although details remain uncertain at this stage. Isolated heavy showers will persist across England on Sunday through to Tuesday, with thundery bands of rain possible in the southeast on Monday and Tuesday.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 28 May - 03 Jun '14	Latest month to date: Jun '14		Last month: May '14		Last 3 months: Mar '14 - May '14		Last 6 months: Dec '13 - May '14		Last 12 months: Jun '13 - May '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	11	4	5	94	129	238	102	756	140	1362	117
North East	18	9	16	106	177	213	116	547	136	955	116
Central	14	7	13	97	168	188	112	508	143	899	126
East	8	5	10	96	199	142	100	359	126	658	110
South East	9	5	10	76	139	182	111	658	183	1003	138
South West	21	16	26	94	142	253	120	863	164	1349	134
England	13	8	13	94	160	198	111	596	150	1002	124

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.

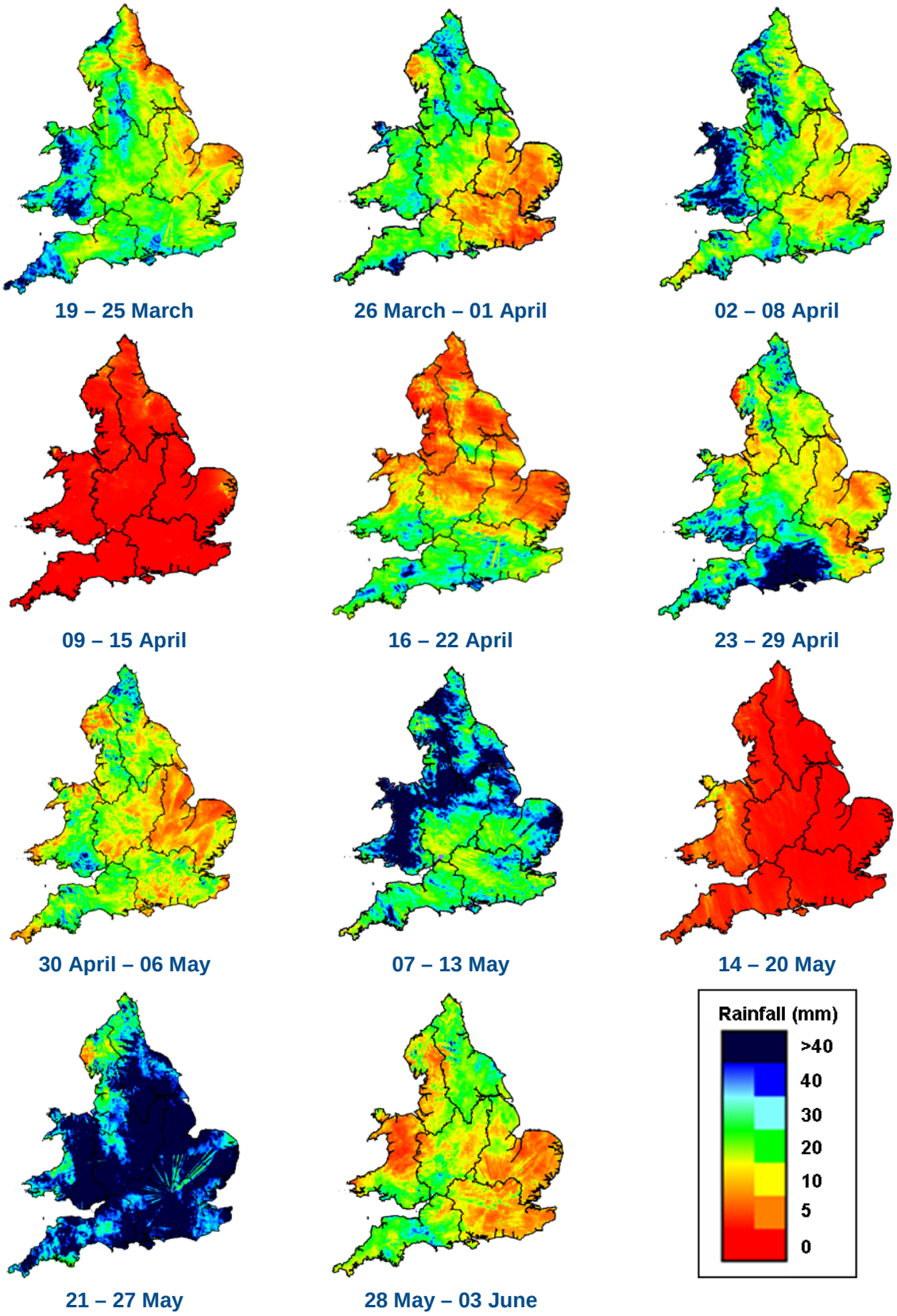
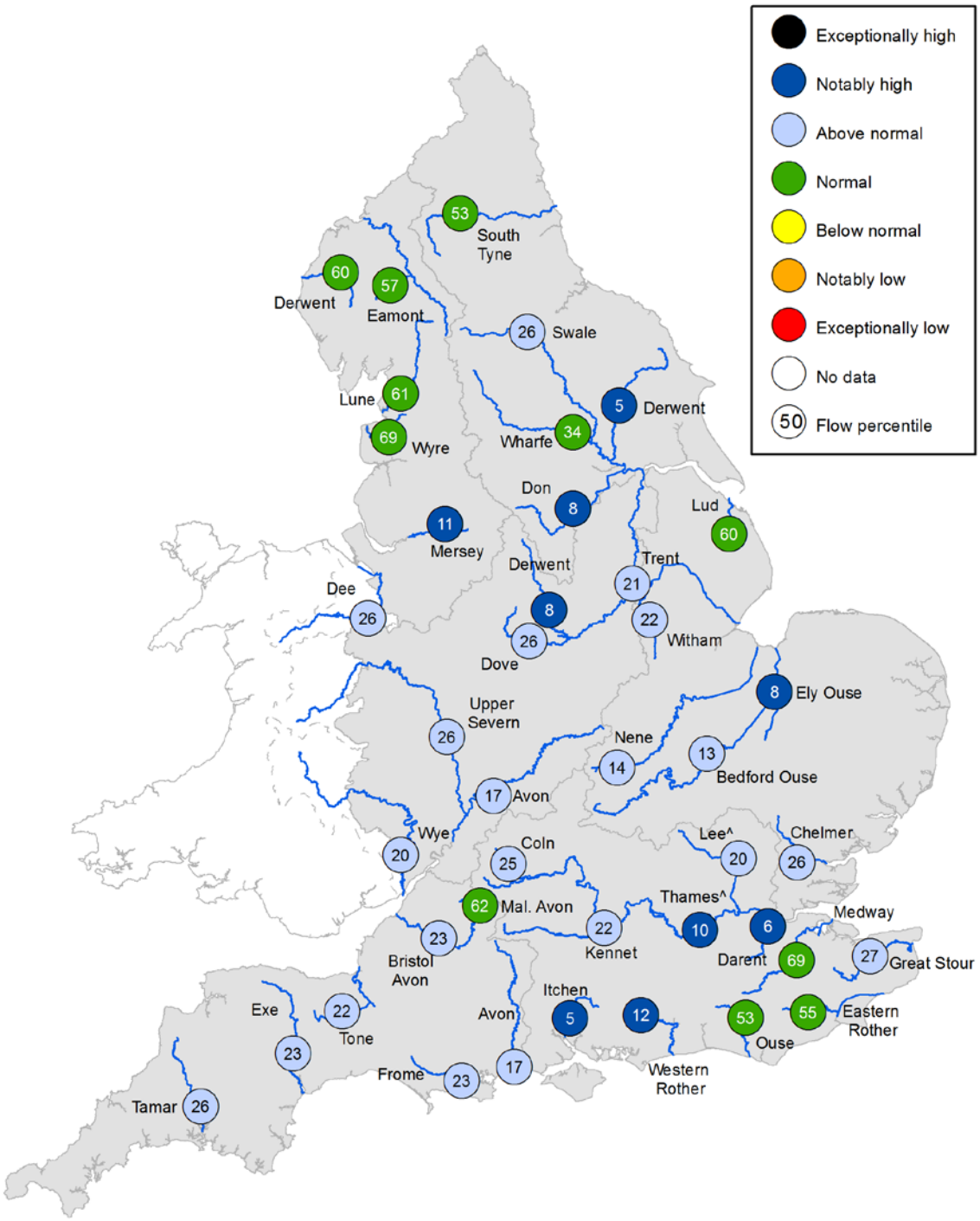


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas.

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 percentile[2] and classed relative to an analysis of historic daily mean flows for the same time of year (Source: Environment Agency).

[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.