Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 07 May – Tuesday 13 May 2014

Summary

The past week was wetter than the previous week across much of England, with the highest rainfall totals over northern England. Compared to last week, river flows have increased at the majority of our indicator sites in northern, central and eastern England. Flows in a number of catchments in these areas are now classed as *exceptionally high* for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 22 mm in the southeast to 44 mm in the northwest (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- The cumulative rainfall totals for the first 13 days of May range from 53% of the long term average (LTA) for May in the southeast to 83% in the northeast (Table 1).
- River flows have increased since last week at two thirds of our indicator sites (Figure 2).
- The latest daily mean flows are *above normal* or higher for the time of year at two thirds of our indicator sites. More than a quarter of the sites are *normal* for the time of year, and only two sites are now *below normal* for the time of year. River flows also continue to be high for the time of year in groundwater dominated catchments of southeast England (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday will be largely dry and sunny in the south, but with cloudier weather in central and northern England, and the possibility of some rain. From Friday through the weekend, most of England will be warm and dry, but with the chance of some showers in the northwest. From Monday onwards, more unsettled conditions are expected, with rain spreading from the west.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 07 - 13 May '14	Latest month to date: May '14		Last month: Apr '14		Last 3 months: Feb '14 - Apr '14		Last 6 months: Nov '13 - Apr '14		Last 12 months: May '13 - Apr '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	44	54	74	54	79	307	130	752	128	1359	117
North East	41	49	83	50	88	212	117	501	119	933	114
Central	26	34	60	47	89	189	118	464	128	881	123
East	30	35	72	22	47	108	83	308	105	611	102
South East	22	29	53	69	137	245	154	654	173	988	136
South West	23	37	55	95	156	344	150	851	151	1319	131
England	30	39	66	55	100	225	127	567	135	978	121

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.

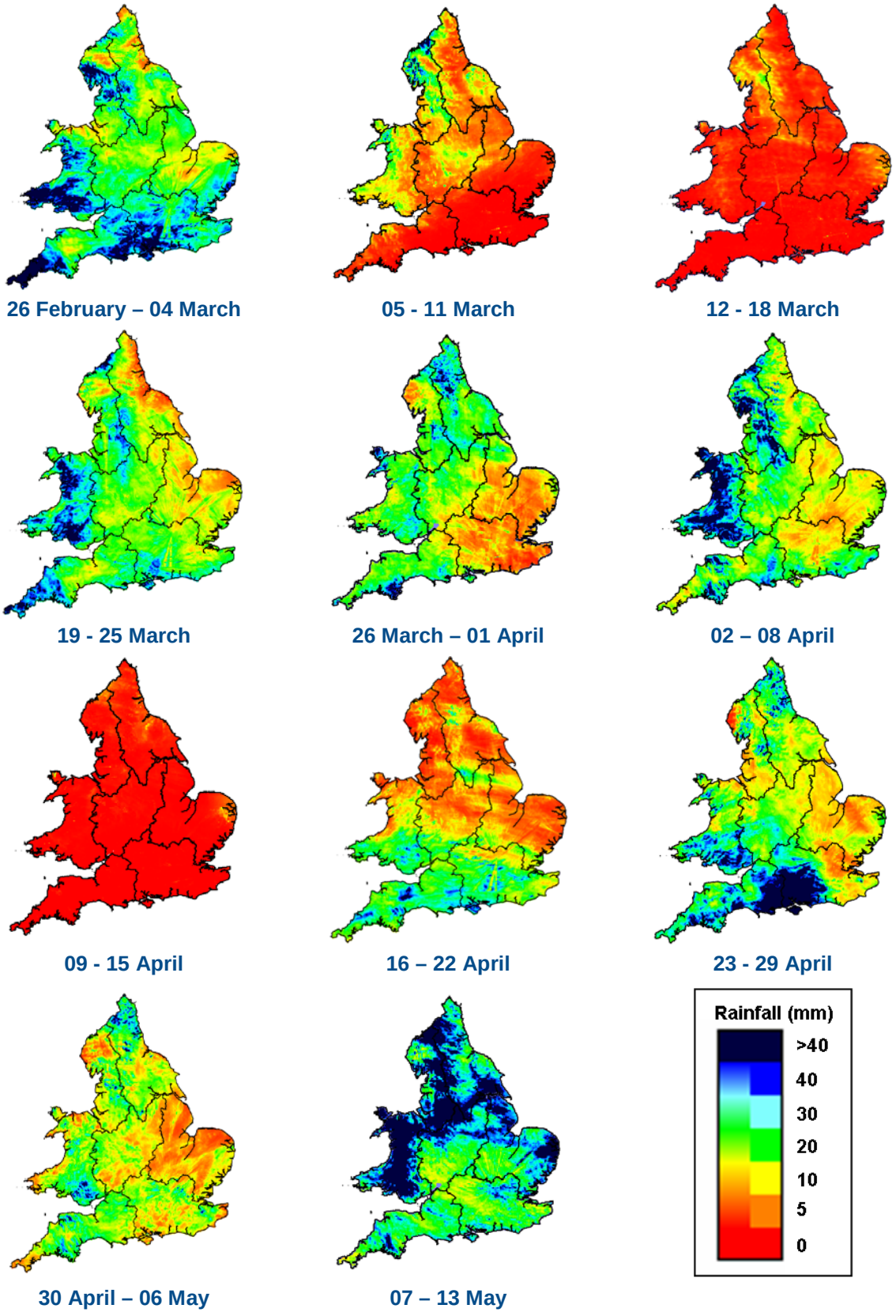
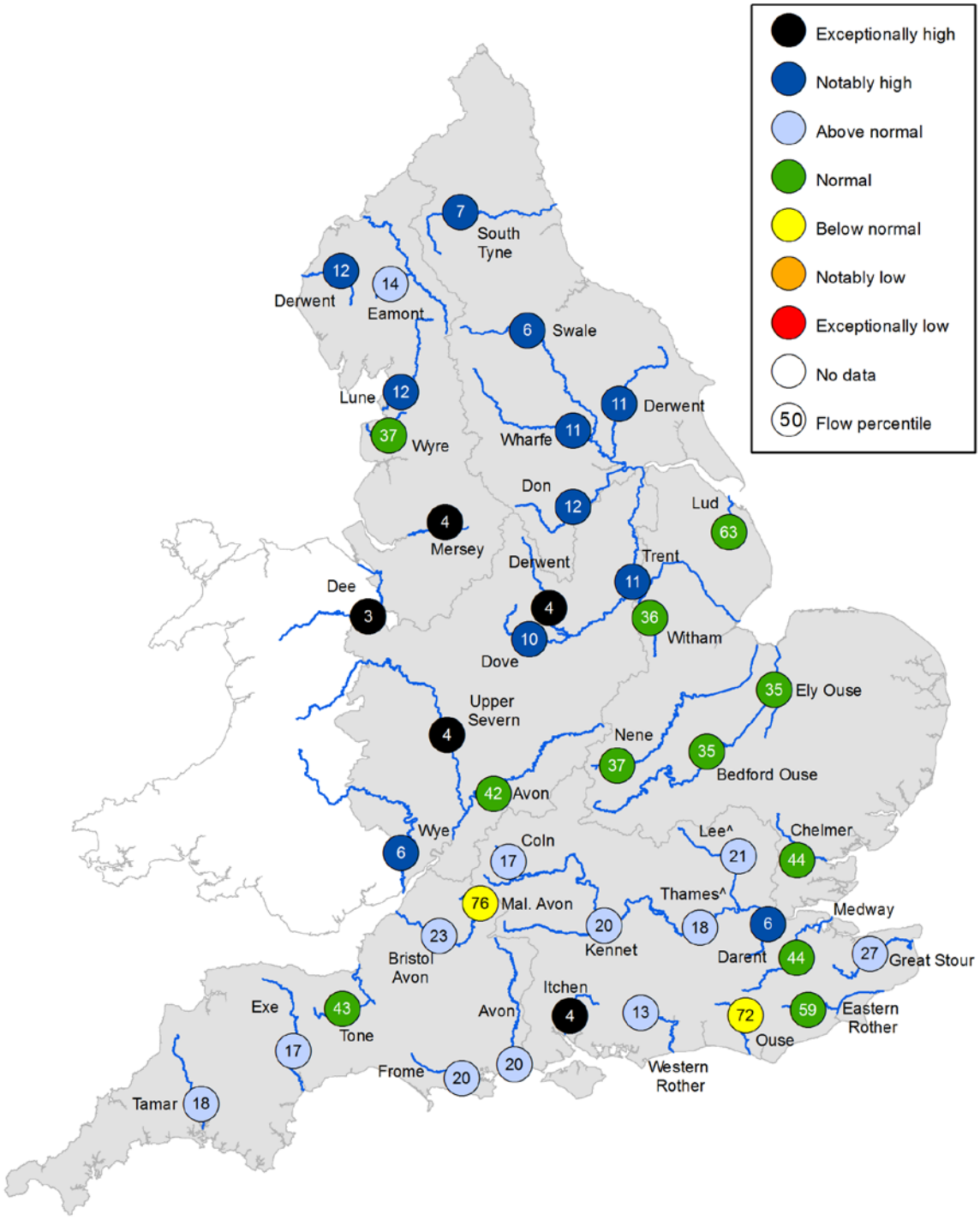


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas.

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.