

# Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 14 May – Tuesday 20 May 2014

## Summary

The past week has been very dry across all of England, with the lowest rainfall totals over eastern and central England. The warm, dry weather has caused river flows to decrease at all our indicator sites this week, with the majority of our indicator sites now *normal* for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from just 0.3 mm in the east of England to 7 mm in the northwest and southwest (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- The cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date range from 55% of the long term average (LTA) for May in the southeast of England to 85% in the northeast (Table 1).
- River flows have responded to the dry weather this week and decreased at all our indicator sites compared to last week (Figure 2).
- The latest daily mean flows are *normal* for the time of year at two thirds of our indicator sites. There are still a quarter of our indicator sites that are *above normal* or higher for the time of year, almost all of these are located in southern England, although there are now no sites that are *exceptionally high* for the time of year for the first time this year (Figure 2).

## Outlook

Thursday is expected to be wet across much of England, with a band of rain easing across northern England during the morning, followed by heavy, thundery showers during the afternoon. Conditions are expected to remain unsettled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with the risk of further heavy showers, especially in the south on Saturday. Showers may be lighter and less frequent on Monday and many places may be dry on Tuesday.

Author: [Katharine McChesney](#) (Water Resources Technical Services)

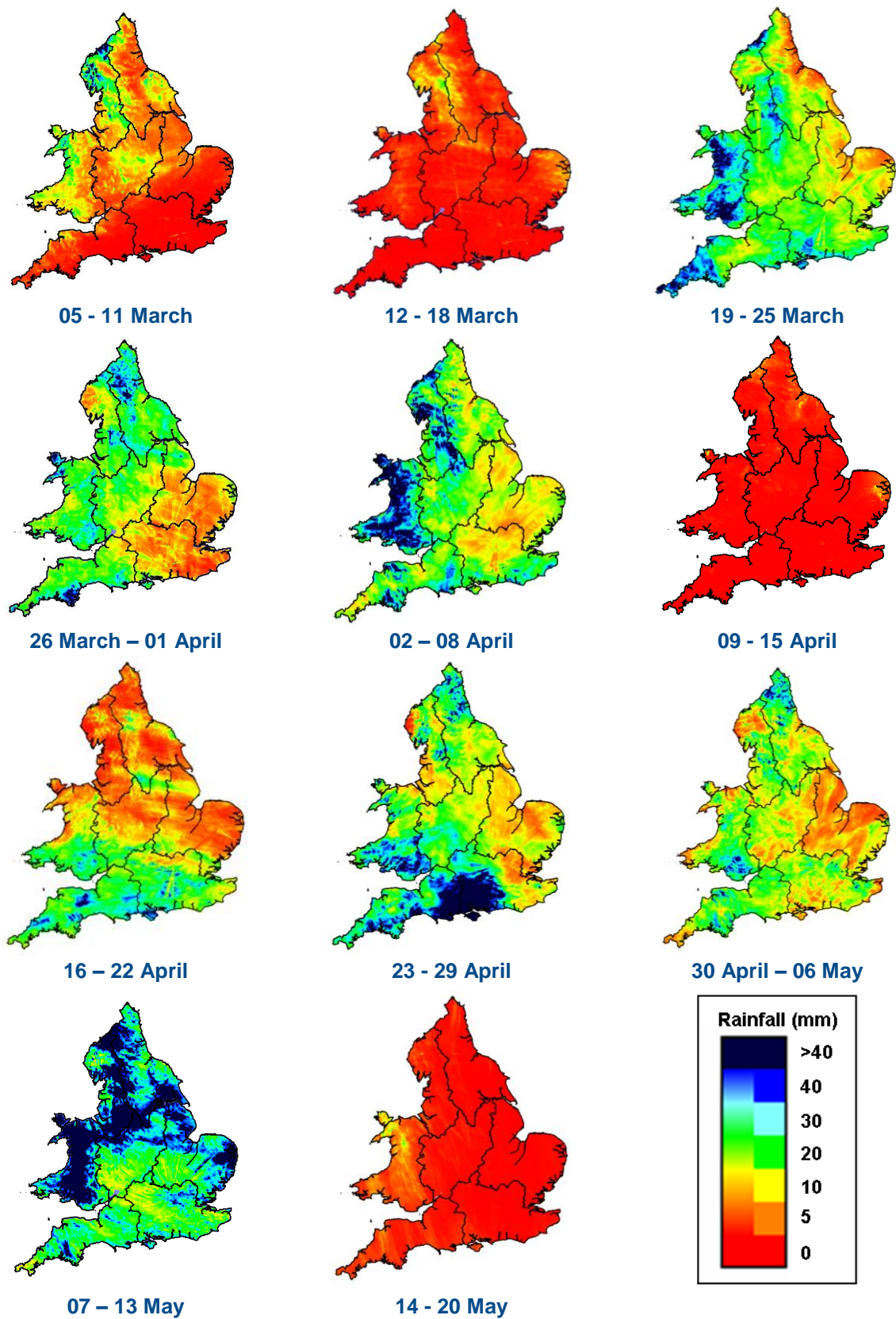
Geographic regions	Latest Week: 14 - 20 May '14	Latest month to date: date: May '14		Last month: Apr '14		Last 3 months: Feb '14 - Apr '14		Last 6 months: Nov '13 - Apr '14		Last 12 months: May '13 - Apr '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	7	61	84	54	79	307	130	752	128	1359	117
North East	1	51	85	50	88	212	117	501	119	933	114
Central	2	37	63	47	89	189	118	464	128	881	123
East	0.3	35	73	22	47	108	83	308	105	611	102
South East	1	30	55	69	137	245	154	654	173	988	136
South West	7	44	66	95	156	344	150	851	151	1319	131
England	5	44	74	55	100	225	127	567	135	978	121

**Table 1:** Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Notes:

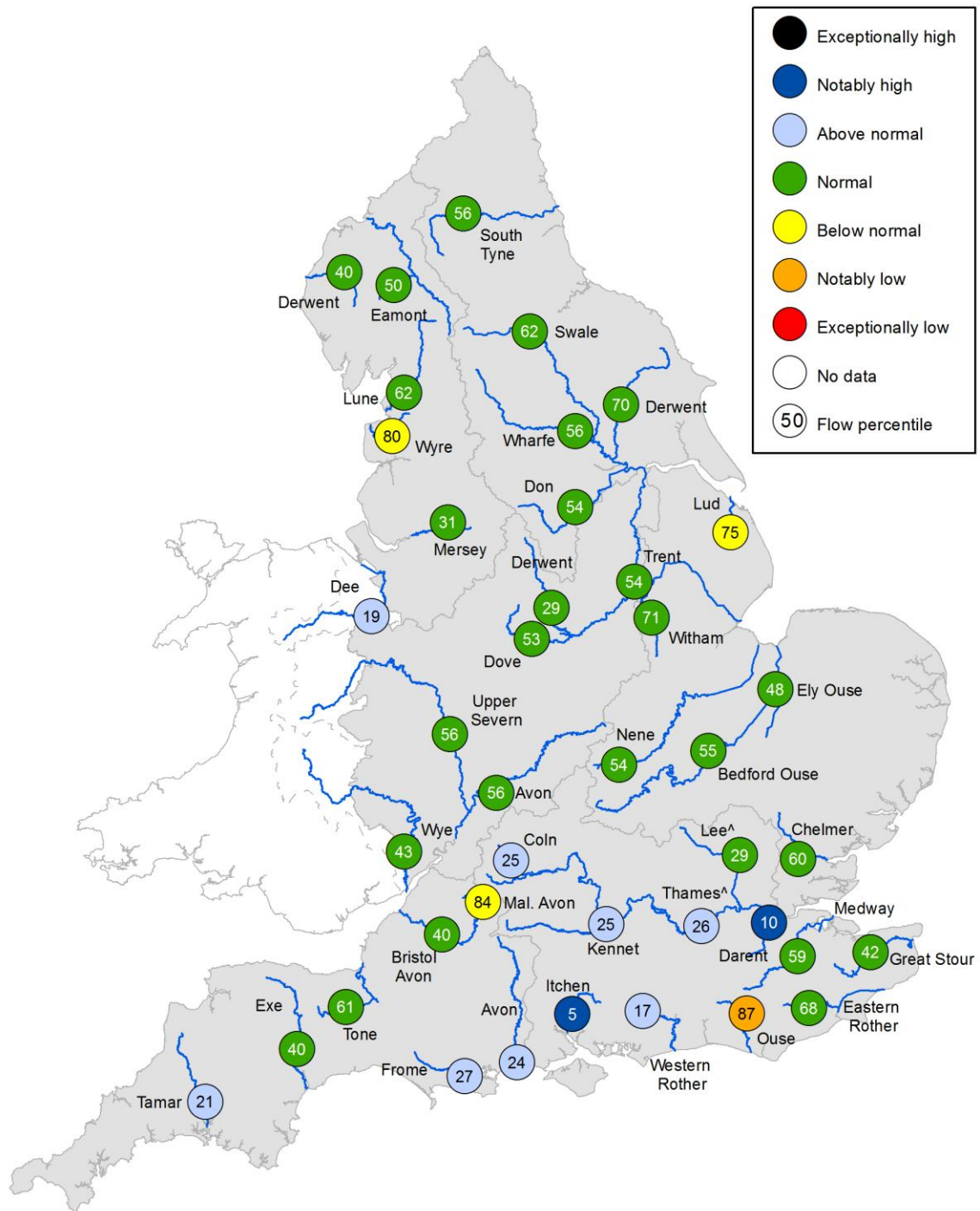
- LTA = long term average rainfall for 1961 – 1990
- Data for the current month are calculated using MORECS (Met Office Rainfall and Evaporation Calculation System); data for past months are provisional values from the National Climate Information Centre (NCIC).
- The data is rounded to the nearest millimetre or percent (except when values are less than 1).
- Recorded amounts of rainfall are likely to be underestimated during snow events.

**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.**



**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



<sup>^</sup> – '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<sup>2</sup> and classed relative to an analysis of historic daily mean flows for the same time of year (Source: Environment Agency).

<sup>2</sup> 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.