Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 19 March – Tuesday 25 March 2014

Summary

The last seven days have been moderately wet across northwest and southwest England, but drier in other parts of the country. The cumulative rainfall for March to date is below the long term average across England. River flows have fallen at two thirds of our indicator sites compared to the previous week. Flows at four of our indicator sites are *below normal* for the time of year; the remaining sites are *normal* or higher for the time of year and remain *exceptionally high* at three sites in southern England.

- Rainfall totals for the last seven days range from 8 mm in our Anglian Region to 27 mm in our North West Region (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date range from 41% of the March long term average (LTA) in our Anglian Region to 74% in our North West Region (Table 1).
- River flows have decreased at nearly two thirds of our indicator sites compared to last week. The latest daily mean flows are *normal* for the time of year at two thirds of sites.
- Flows remain *above normal* or *exceptionally high* for the time of year at sites in groundwater dominated catchments in southern England, but are below normal in parts of northeast and southwest England.

Outlook

The outlook for Thursday and Friday is for sunshine and showers, some of which may be prolonged, especially in the southwest of England. Saturday and Sunday will be predominantly dry, although some rain is forecast for the south and southwest. The dry weather will continue into Monday and Tuesday across most parts of the country.

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Region	Latest Week: 19 - 25 Mar '14	Latest month to date: Mar '14		Last month: Feb '14		Last 3 months: Dec '13 - Feb '14		Last 6 months: Sep '13 - Feb '14		Last 12 months: Mar '13 - Feb '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	27	68	74	163	217	524	170	865	131	1297	112
North East	13	34	50	105	182	338	156	577	131	959	117
Midlands	15	31	55	98	193	315	167	545	146	867	121
Anglian	8	19	41	63	168	213	148	403	134	642	107
South East	17	33	57	139	261	483	232	741	178	1002	135
South West	25	50	59	185	221	584	185	931	155	1273	126
England	17	37	56	121	212	395	180	655	147	974	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.

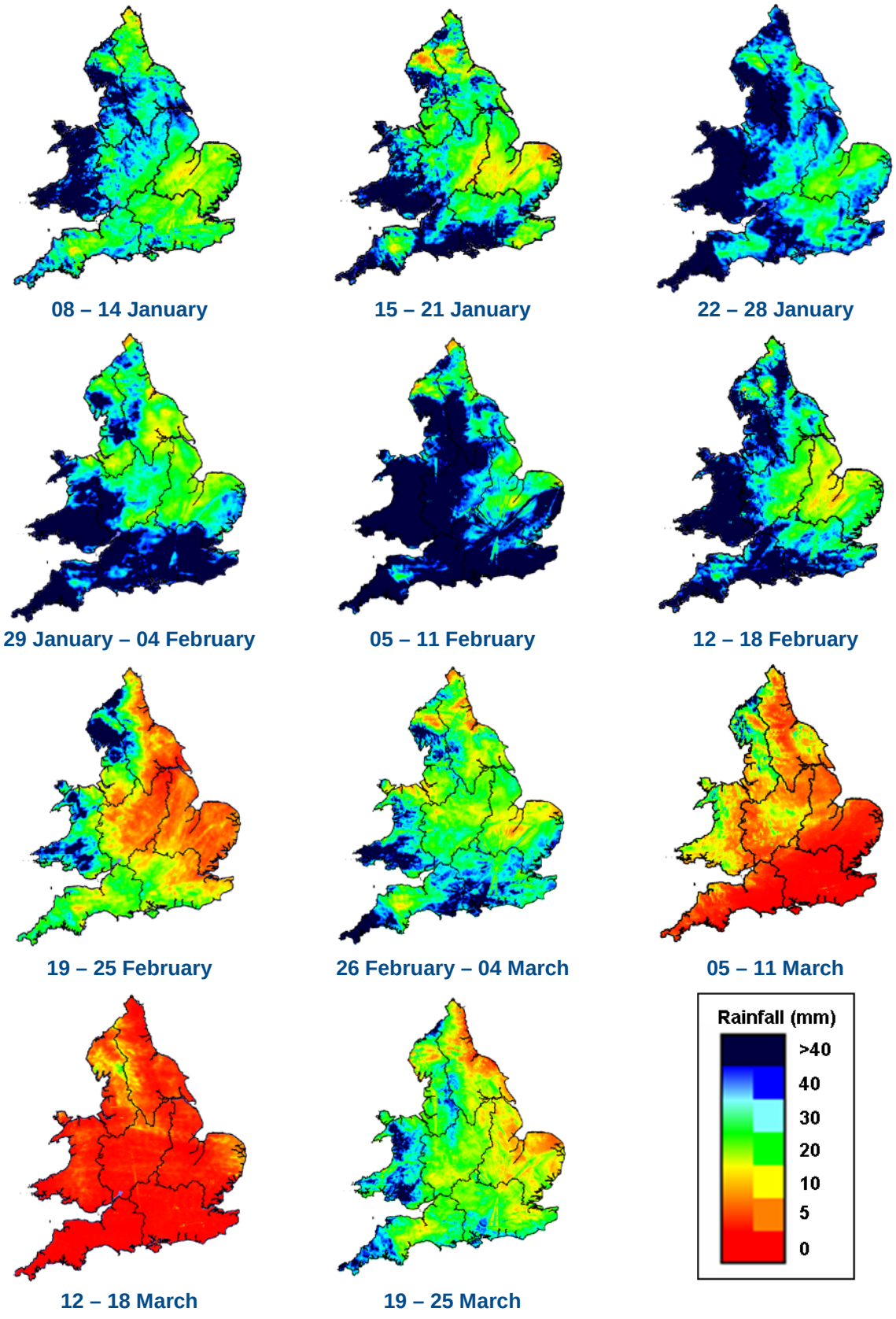
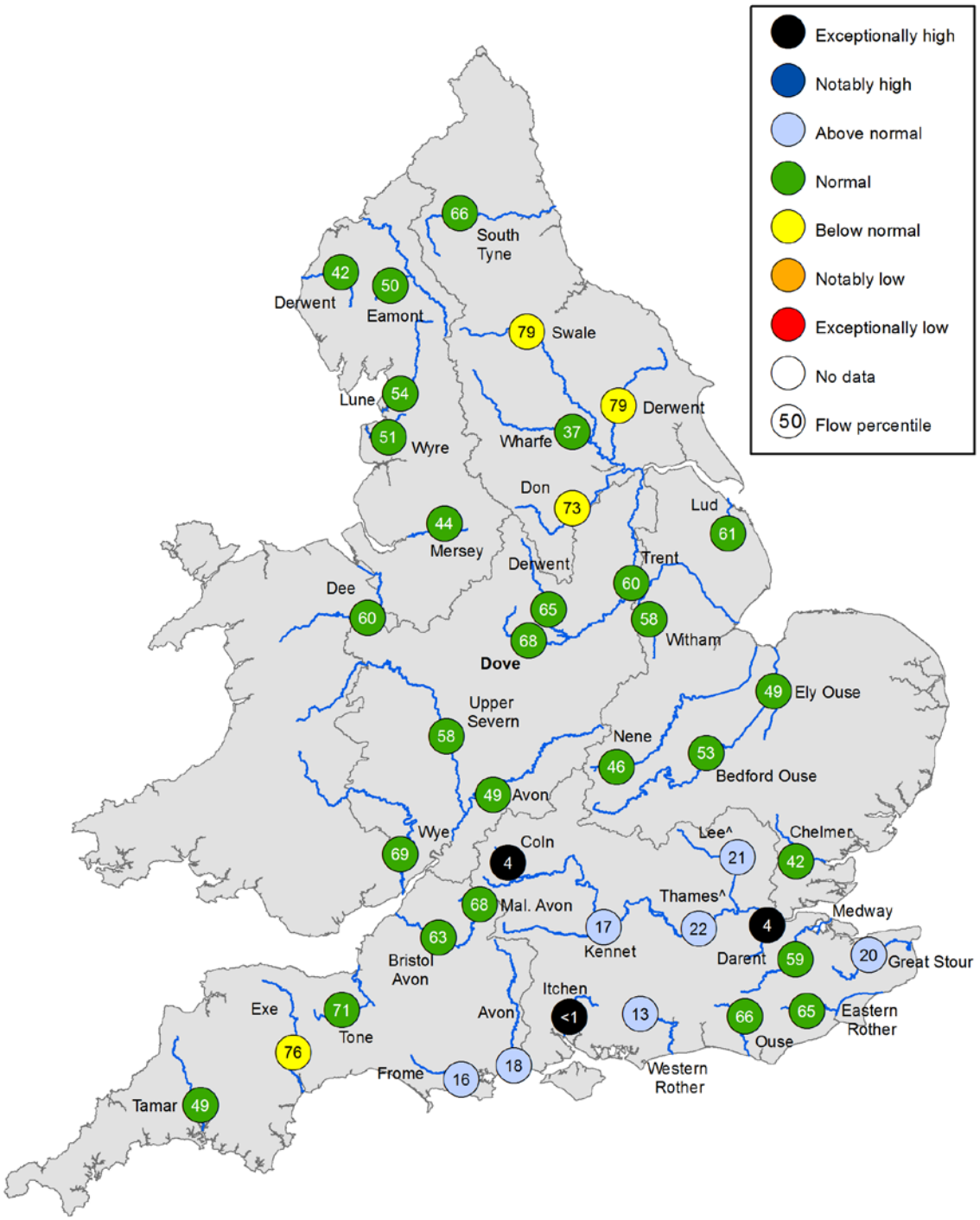


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages in some regions may give anomalous totals in some areas.

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.