Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 21 to Tuesday 27 January 2015

Summary

Rainfall totals over the past week have been lower than the previous week across England, with the highest rainfall totals affecting north-west 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 four of our indicator sites.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 4 mm in east England to 23 mm in the north-west (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- The cumulative rainfall totals for January to date range from 78% of the January long term average (LTA) in east England to 119% in the north-west (Table 1).
- River flows have decreased at nearly three quarters of our indicator sites compared to the previous week. The latest daily mean river flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at almost all of our indicator sites, with 1 site being **above normal** for the time of year, and 3 sites **below normal** for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday will be a cold day, with strong winds pushing sleet and snow showers interspersed with some sunny spells across England. Sunshine and wintery showers will continue through the weekend, with northerly winds continuing to bring cold weather for Monday and Tuesday.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 21 - 27 Jan '15	Latest month to date: Jan '15		Last month: Dec '14		Last 3 months: Oct '14 - Dec '14		Last 6 months: Jul '14 - Dec '14		Last 12 months: Jan '14 - Dec '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	23	136	119	150	125	425	117	657	100	1300	112
north-east	11	67	85	75	93	260	111	442	100	932	114
central	6	53	81	63	88	236	120	392	105	881	123
east	4	40	78	50	91	210	128	375	118	732	122
south-east	5	82	115	54	71	289	132	448	115	991	136
south-west	6	116	101	75	64	354	111	529	98	1255	124
England	8	77	98	73	87	285	119	459	106	986	122

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.

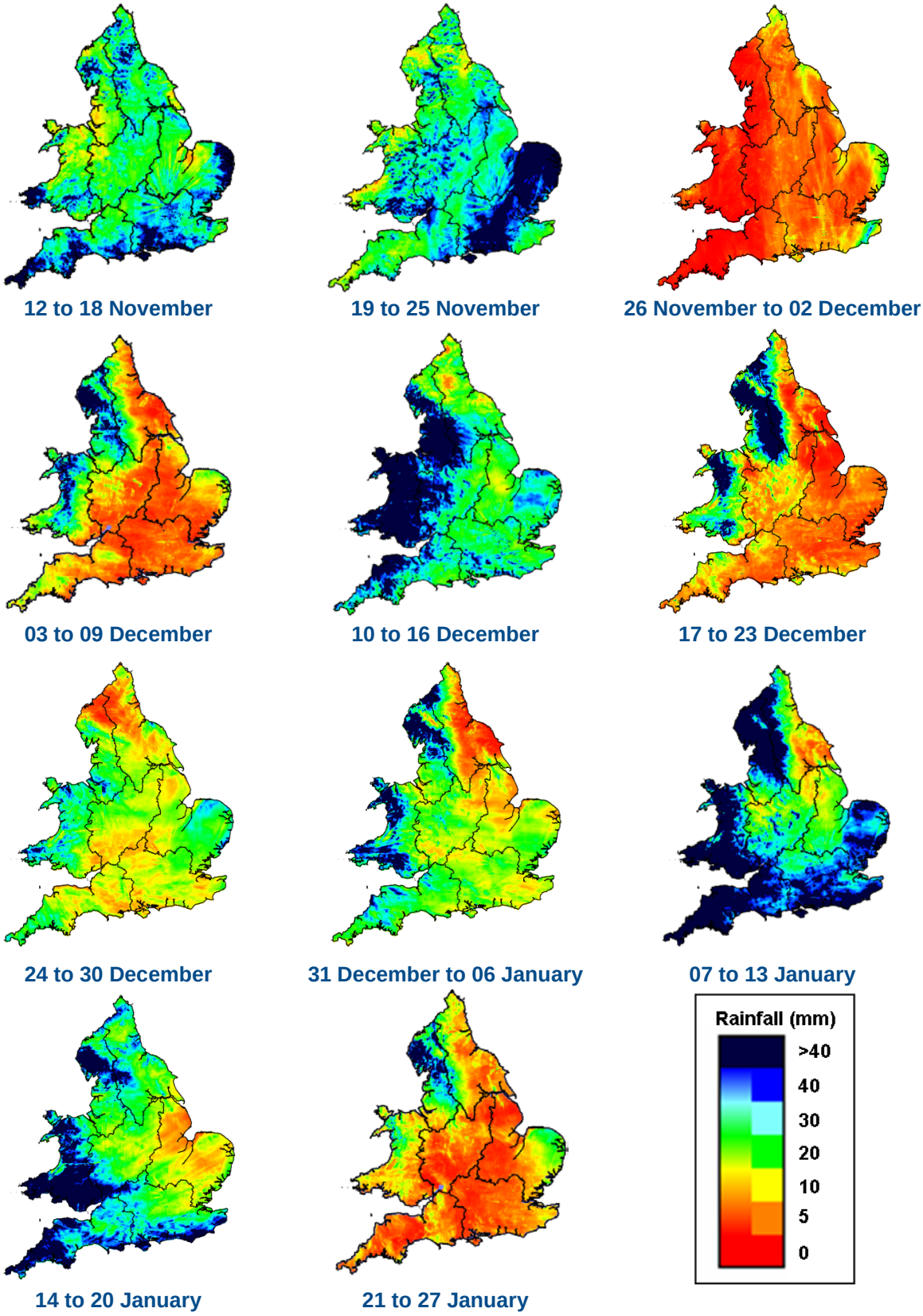
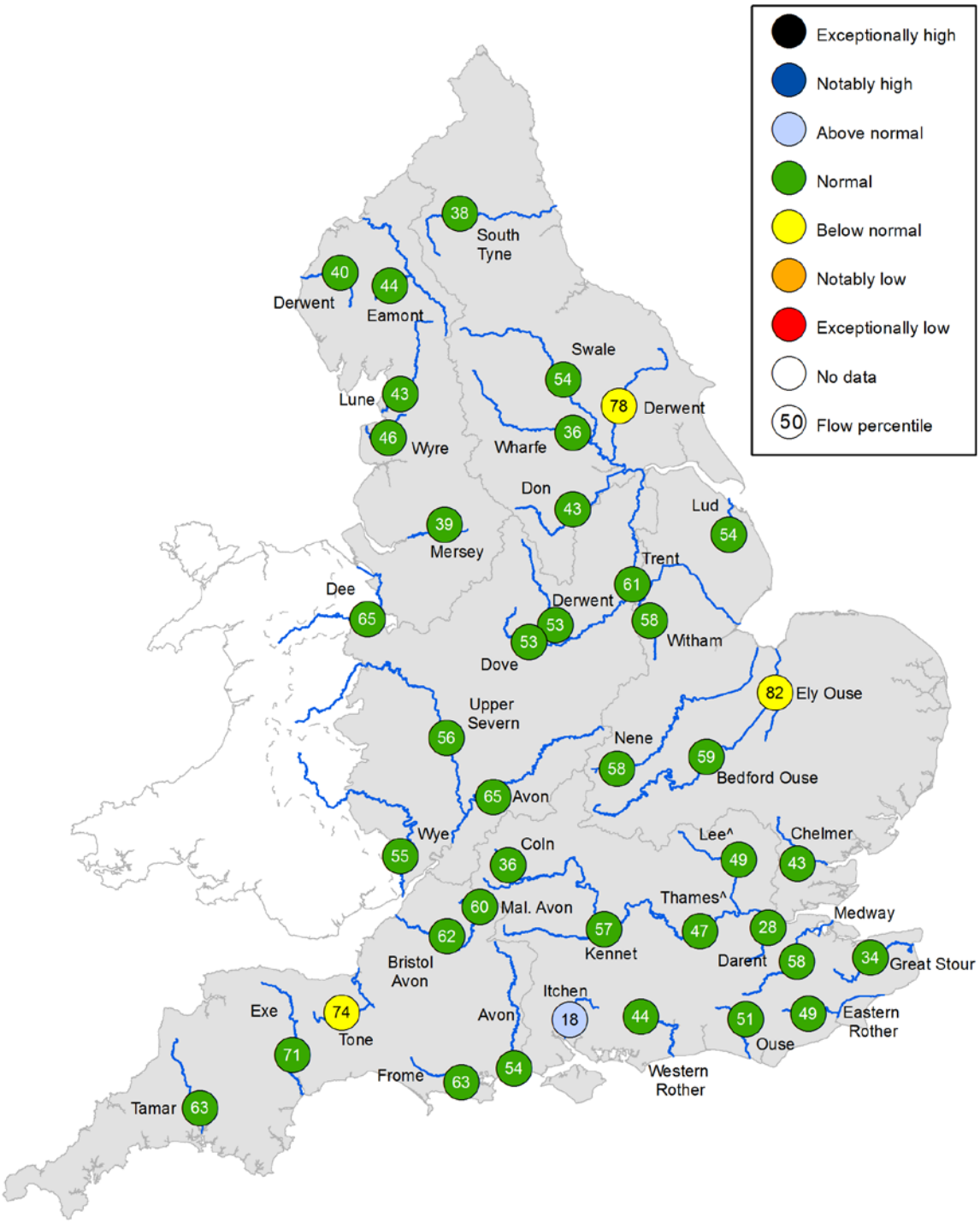


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

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 percentile[2] 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.