Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 12 to Tuesday 18 November 2014

Summary

It has been a moderately wet week across most of England, with the highest rainfall totals affecting coastal areas in the south and east. River flows have increased at just over half of the indicator sites, but decreased at most sites across north-west, south-east and south-west England.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 21 mm in north-west England to 35 mm in the south-west (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Cumulative rainfall totals for November to date range from 66% of the November LTA in north-west England to 132% in the south-east (Table 1).
- The latest daily mean river flows remain **normal** or higher for the time of year at all indicator sites, with two thirds being **above normal** or higher for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Following a dry day on Thursday, rain and strong winds will spread eastwards across England on Friday, becoming slow-moving over the south-east during the weekend. On Monday, high pressure will bring drier weather, although rain is expected to move towards the north-west during the day. The high pressure will gradually weaken on Tuesday, allowing unsettled weather to return to the west. Drier conditions are expected to continue in the east.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 12 - 18 Nov '14	Latest month to date: Nov '14		Last month: Oct '14		Last 3 months: Aug '14 - Oct '14		Last 6 months: May '14 - Oct '14		Last 12 months: Nov '13 - Oct '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	21	79	66	176	143	334	99	554	97	1314	113
north-east	28	64	79	91	125	222	102	427	107	924	113
central	23	67	102	81	134	188	102	392	111	859	120
east	27	52	91	80	157	189	122	392	129	707	118
south-east	31	97	132	107	152	222	116	378	109	1021	140
south-west	35	123	117	129	132	267	105	459	103	1325	131
England	28	79	98	105	140	229	107	425	109	994	123

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.

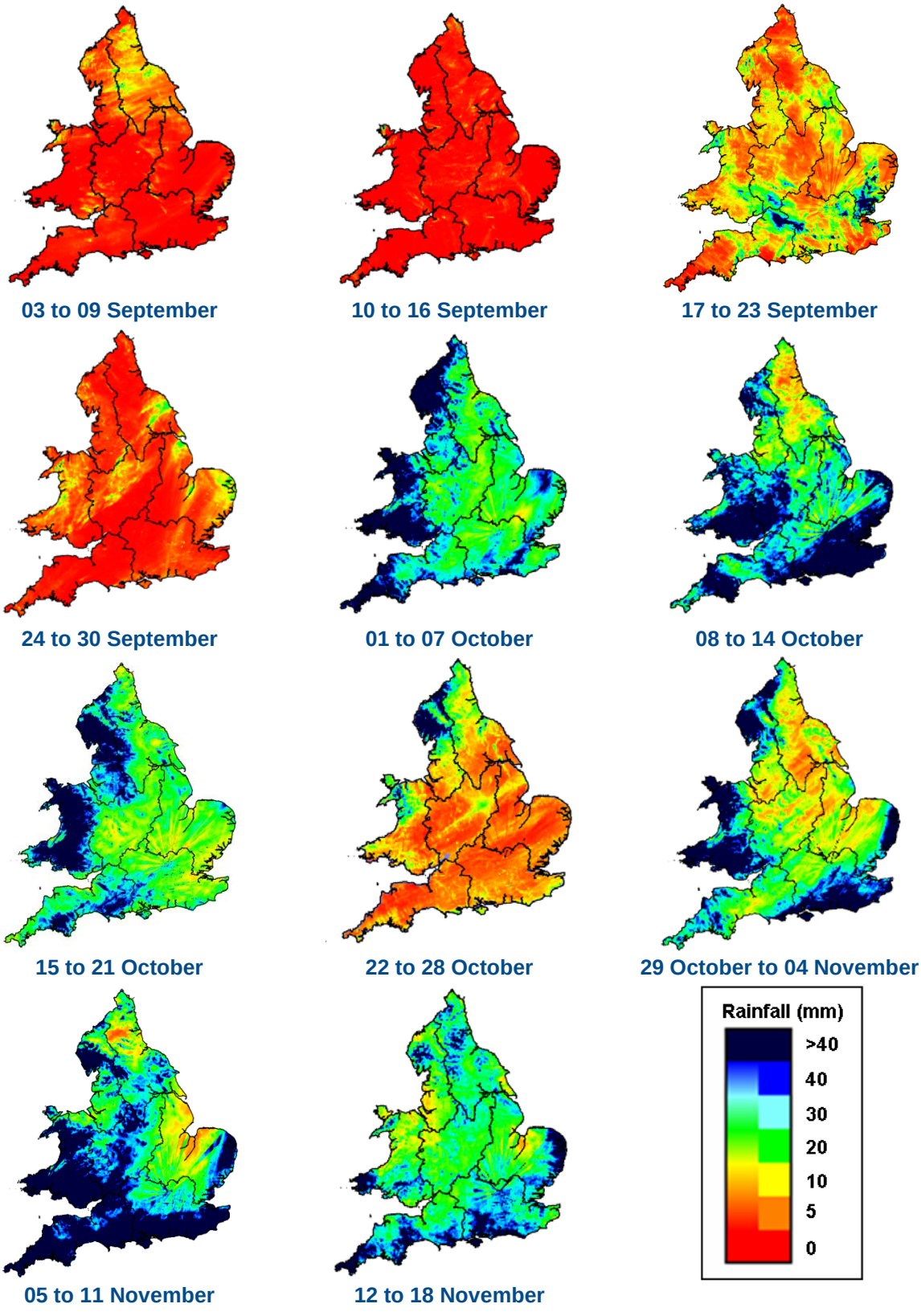
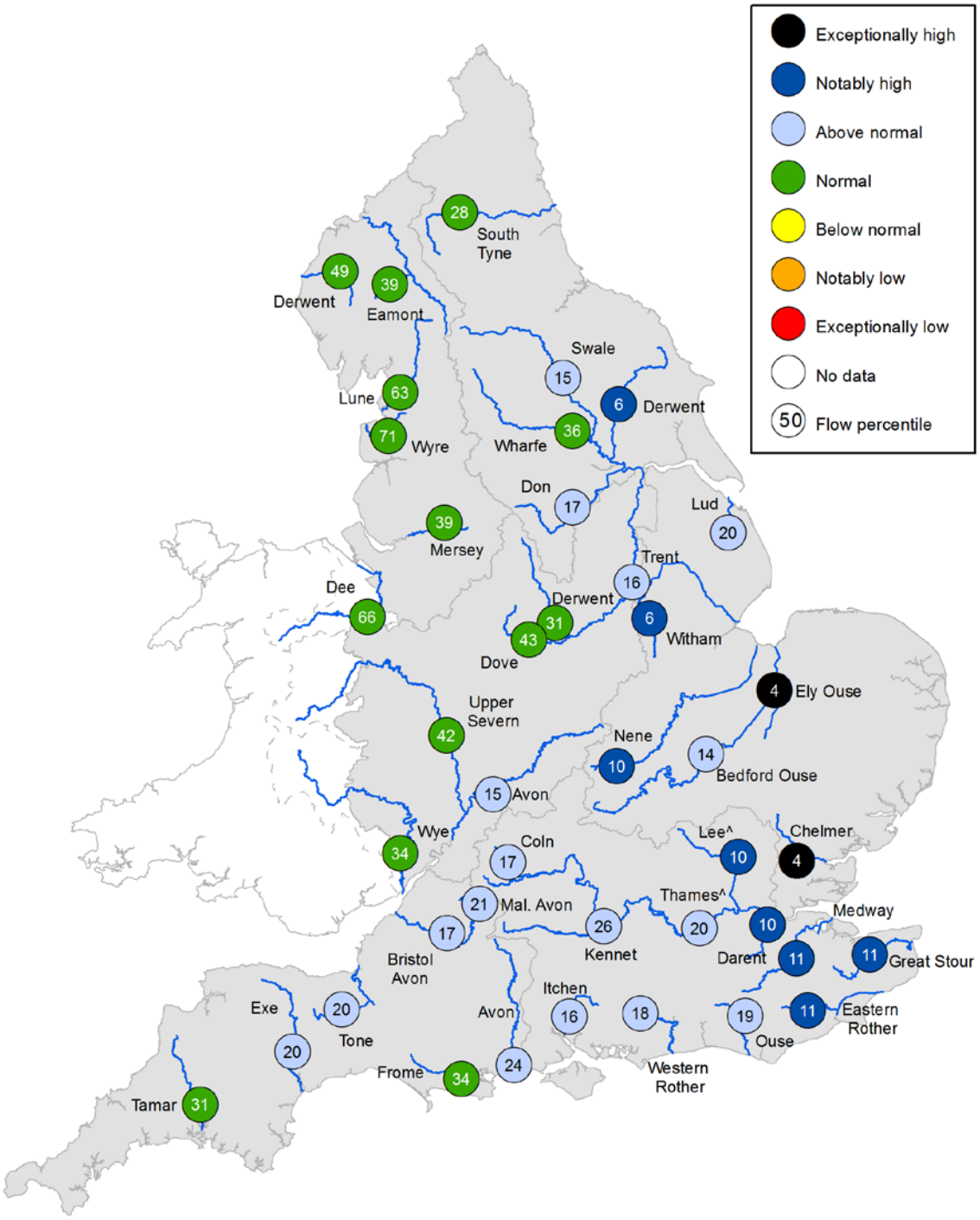


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

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, 2014.

[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.