Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 23 – Tuesday 29 April 2014

Summary

The last seven days have been wet across much of England, especially in central southern England, but continued to be relatively dry in eastern England. River flows continue to be high in south and southwest England with five sites now *exceptionally high* for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 8 mm in eastern England to 36 mm in the southwest (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- With only one day remaining in April, cumulative rainfall totals are below the long term average (LTA) in northern, central and eastern England and above the LTA in southern England, ranging from just 53% in eastern England to 144% in southwest England (Table 1).
- River flows have increased since last week at most sites in the south, southwest and north of England and decreased at most sites in the east and the far southeast of England (Figure 2).
- The latest daily mean flows are *above normal* or higher for the time of year at all our indicator sites in central southern and southwest England, with five sites now *exceptionally high* for the time of year, up from three last week (Figure 2).

Outlook

Rain will affect most of England during Thursday, with the heaviest showers expected in central and southern England. During Friday an area of high pressure is expected to move in from the north bringing mainly dry and settled weather over the weekend and into Monday. Tuesday is expected to start dry in the east before rain moves in from the west.

Author: Katharine McChesney (Water Resources Technical Services)

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 23 - 29 Apr '14	Latest month to date: Apr '14		Last month: Mar '14		Last 3 months: Jan '14 - Mar '14		Last 6 months: Oct '13 - Mar '14		Last 12 months: Apr '13 - Mar '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	14	52	76	90	98	435	155	871	135	1365	118
North East	15	38	67	58	85	293	144	575	131	914	111
Central	18	45	85	44	77	284	163	551	149	849	119
East	8	24	53	24	51	186	138	388	130	611	102
South East	28	69	135	37	59	372	190	718	173	960	129
South West	36	87	144	65	76	470	166	926	154	1248	124
England	20	51	93	49	76	328	163	648	147	953	118

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.

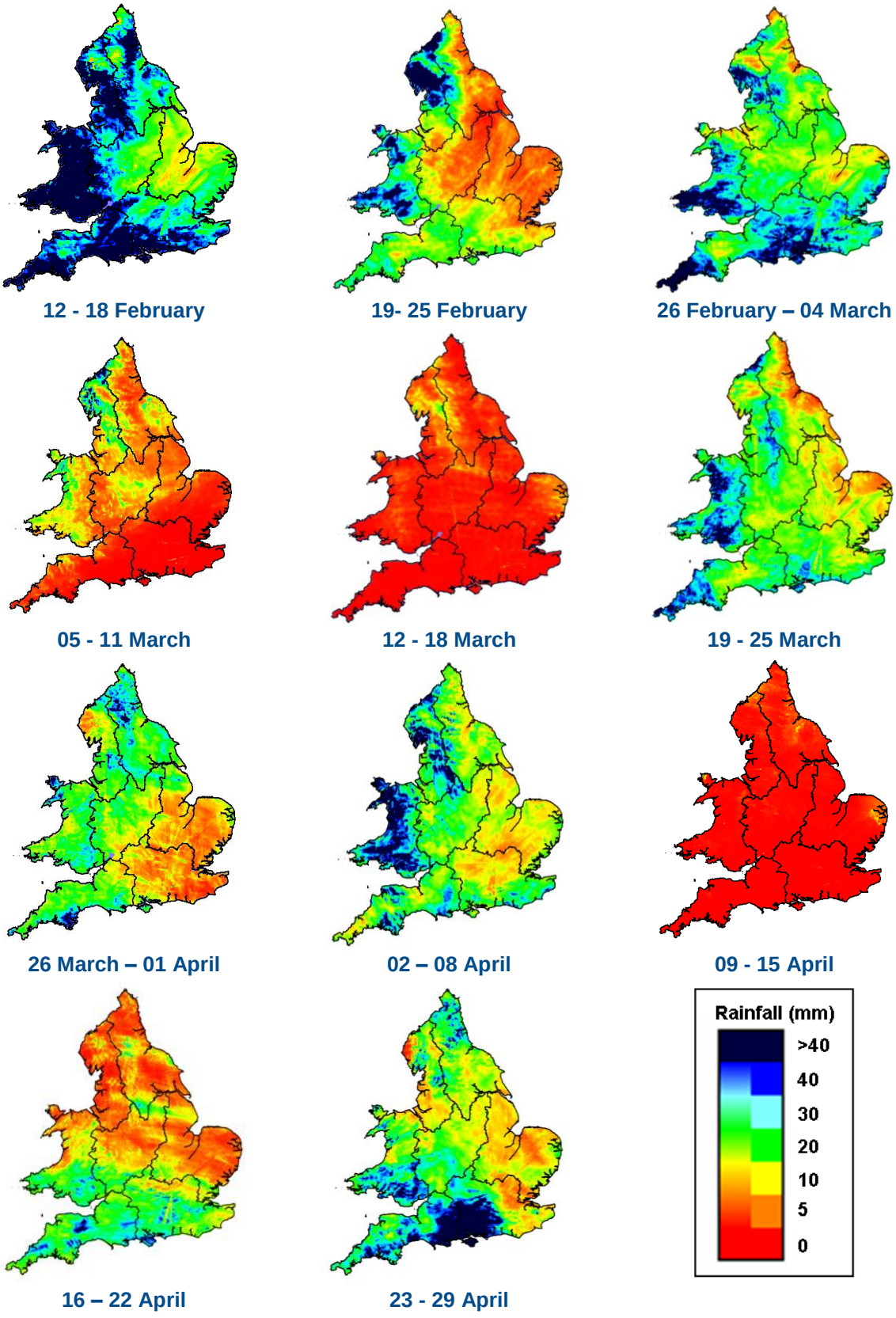
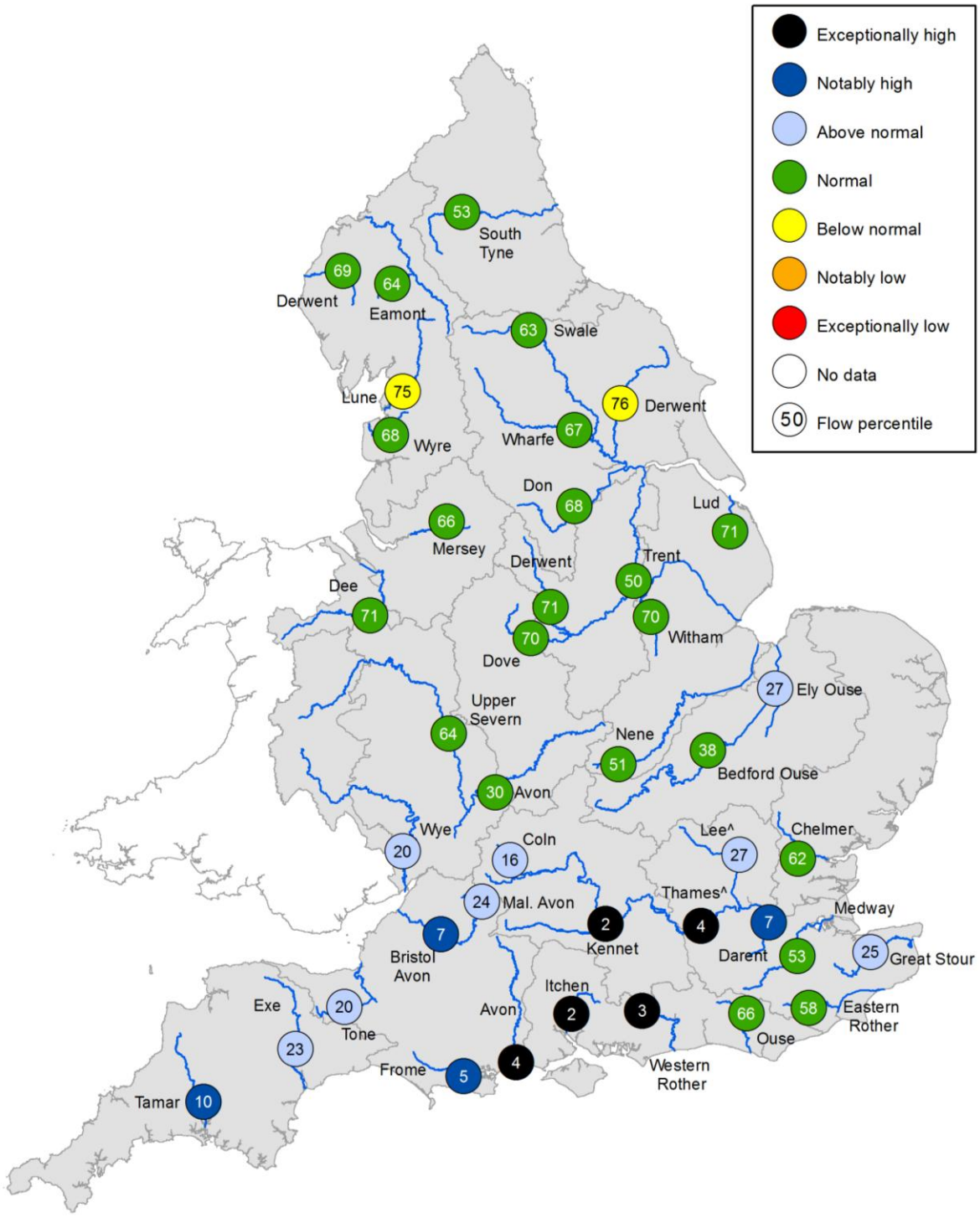


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas.

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.