

# Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 16 – Tuesday 22 April 2014

## Summary

The last seven days have been wet across southeast and southwest England, but much drier across the rest of the country. River flows have reflected the rainfall distribution, with decreases in flows at half of our indicator sites, particularly in the north and west, and increases in the southeast and southwest where flows are *above normal* or *exceptionally high* for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 5 mm in the northeast to 25 mm in the southeast of England (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date are below the long term average (LTA) across all regions, ranging from 36% in the east to 83% in the southwest of England (Table 1).
- River flows have decreased at just over half of our indicator sites compared to last week.
- The latest daily mean flows are *normal* for the time of year at approximately half of our indicator sites and flows at a further five sites are *below normal* (Figure 2).
- The groundwater-fed rivers of the Itchen, Rother and Darent in southern England are *exceptionally high* for the time of year and other sites in the south and southwest are *above normal* for the time of year (Figure 2).

## Outlook

A frontal system will bring rain and showers across England from the east during Thursday. Rain and locally heavy showers will affect much of England on Friday and continue through the weekend. Monday and Tuesday will remain unsettled, although drier periods are expected in some areas.

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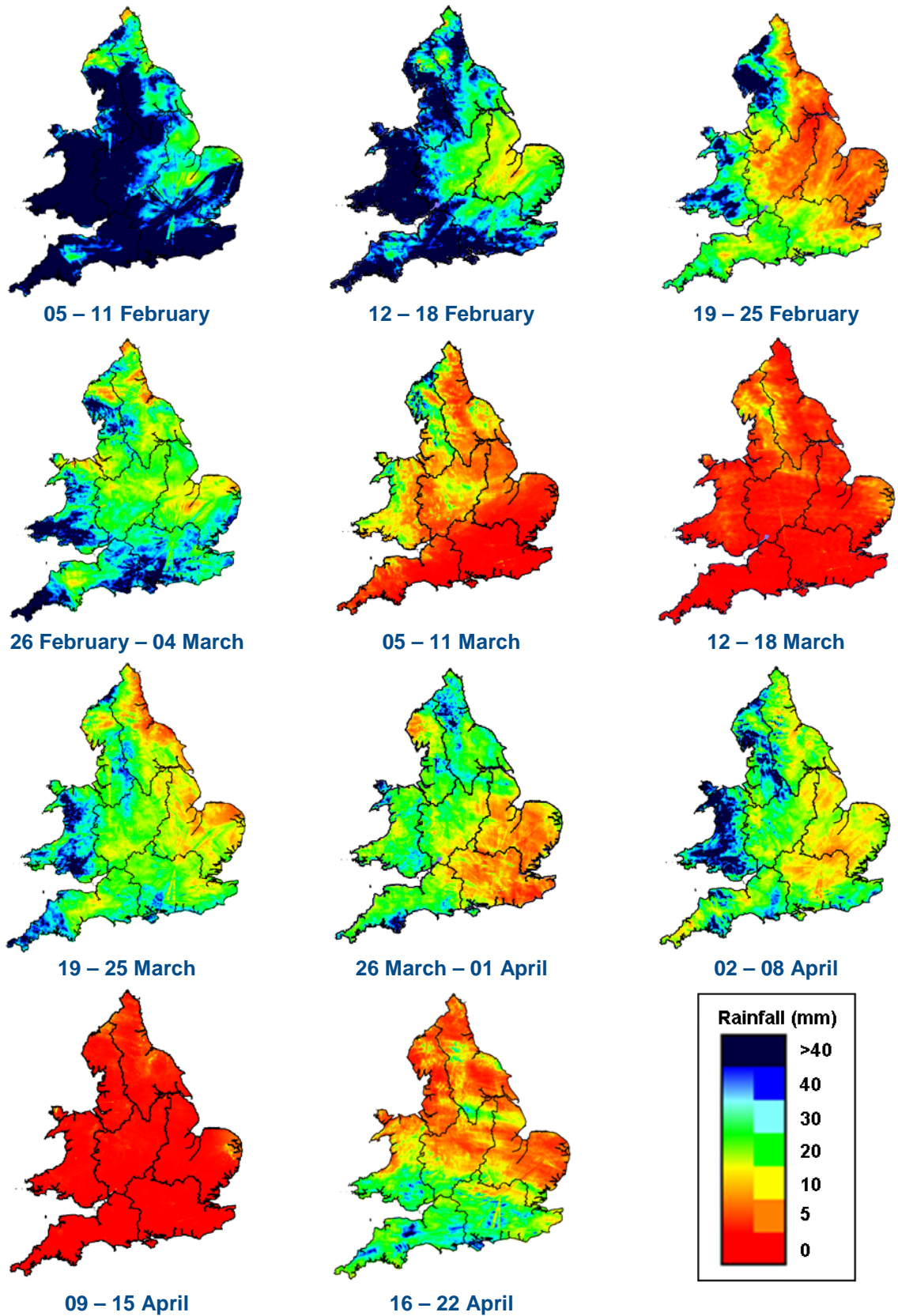
Geographic regions	Latest Week: 16 - 22 Apr '14	Latest month to date: Apr '14		Last month: Mar '14		Last 3 months: Jan '14 - Mar '14		Last 6 months: Oct '13 - Mar '14		Last 12 months: Apr '13 - Mar '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	7	38	55	90	98	435	155	871	135	1365	118
North East	5	23	40	58	85	293	144	575	131	914	111
Central	9	27	51	44	77	284	163	551	149	849	119
East	7	17	36	24	51	186	138	388	130	611	102
South East	25	41	80	37	59	372	190	718	173	960	129
South West	24	51	83	65	76	470	166	926	154	1248	124
England	13	31	57	49	76	328	163	648	147	953	118

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

<sup>1</sup> Notes:

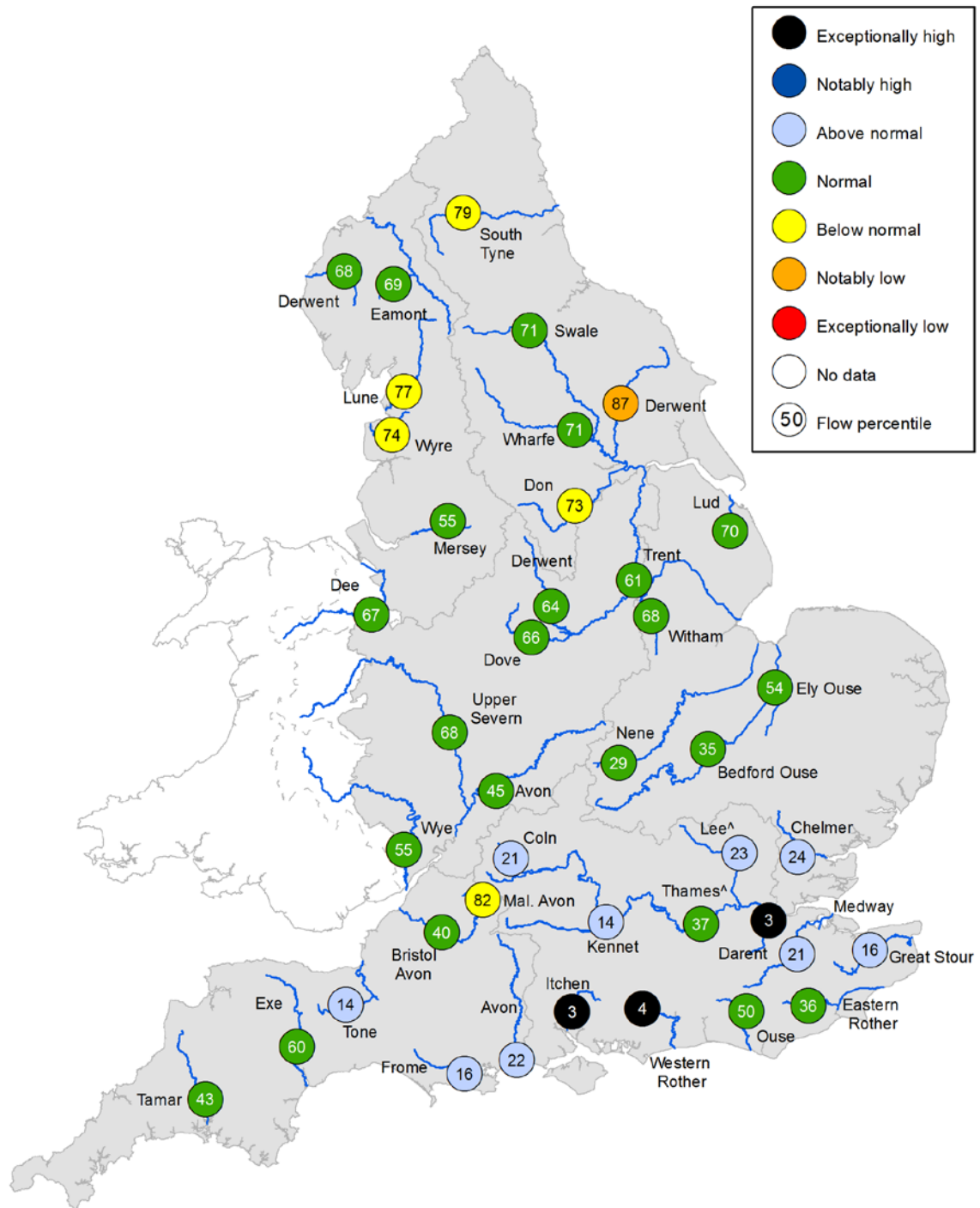
- LTA = long term average rainfall for 1961 – 1990
- Data for the current month are calculated using MORECS (Met Office Rainfall and Evaporation Calculation System); data for past months are provisional values from the National Climate Information Centre (NCIC).
- The data is rounded to the nearest millimetre 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



^ – ‘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.