

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 10 to Tuesday 16 December 2014

Summary

The last week was wet across England, with the highest rainfall totals affecting north-west and south-west England. As a result river flows have increased at the majority of our indicator sites.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 20 mm in east England to 42 mm in the north-west (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Cumulative rainfall totals for December to date range from 36% of the long term average in south-west England to 62% in the north-west (Table 1).
- River flows increased at the majority of our indicator sites compared to last week. The latest daily mean river flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at nearly all of our indicator sites, with just 1 of our indicator sites **below normal** for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

On Thursday persistent, locally heavy rain will continue to affect western England, clearing southwards early on Friday morning. The rainfall is expected to be heaviest over west and south-west facing higher ground. Friday is expected to be showery in the north and west with wintery showers over higher ground. Conditions are then expected to briefly become fine and settled later on Saturday before another band of rain moves into north and west England on Sunday and Monday. Conditions are expected to remain unsettled for Tuesday, with further heavy rain over higher ground in the north and west.

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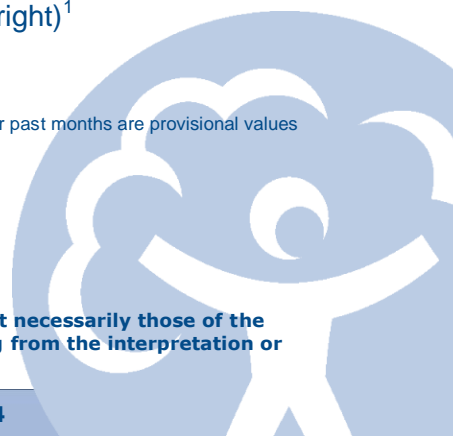
Geographic regions	Latest Week: 10 - 16 Dec '14	Latest month to date: Dec '14		Last month: Nov '14		Last 3 months: Sep '14 - Nov '14		Last 6 months: Jun '14 - Nov '14		Last 12 months: Dec '13 - Nov '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	42	74	62	99	83	291	82	552	89	1325	114
north-east	25	39	49	94	116	204	92	416	99	959	117
central	32	39	55	92	141	184	99	384	107	895	125
east	20	26	46	80	138	175	111	370	118	737	123
south-east	27	35	46	128	175	248	120	431	117	1081	149
south-west	34	43	36	150	143	294	103	516	107	1384	137
England	29	40	48	107	133	227	101	435	106	1034	128

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.

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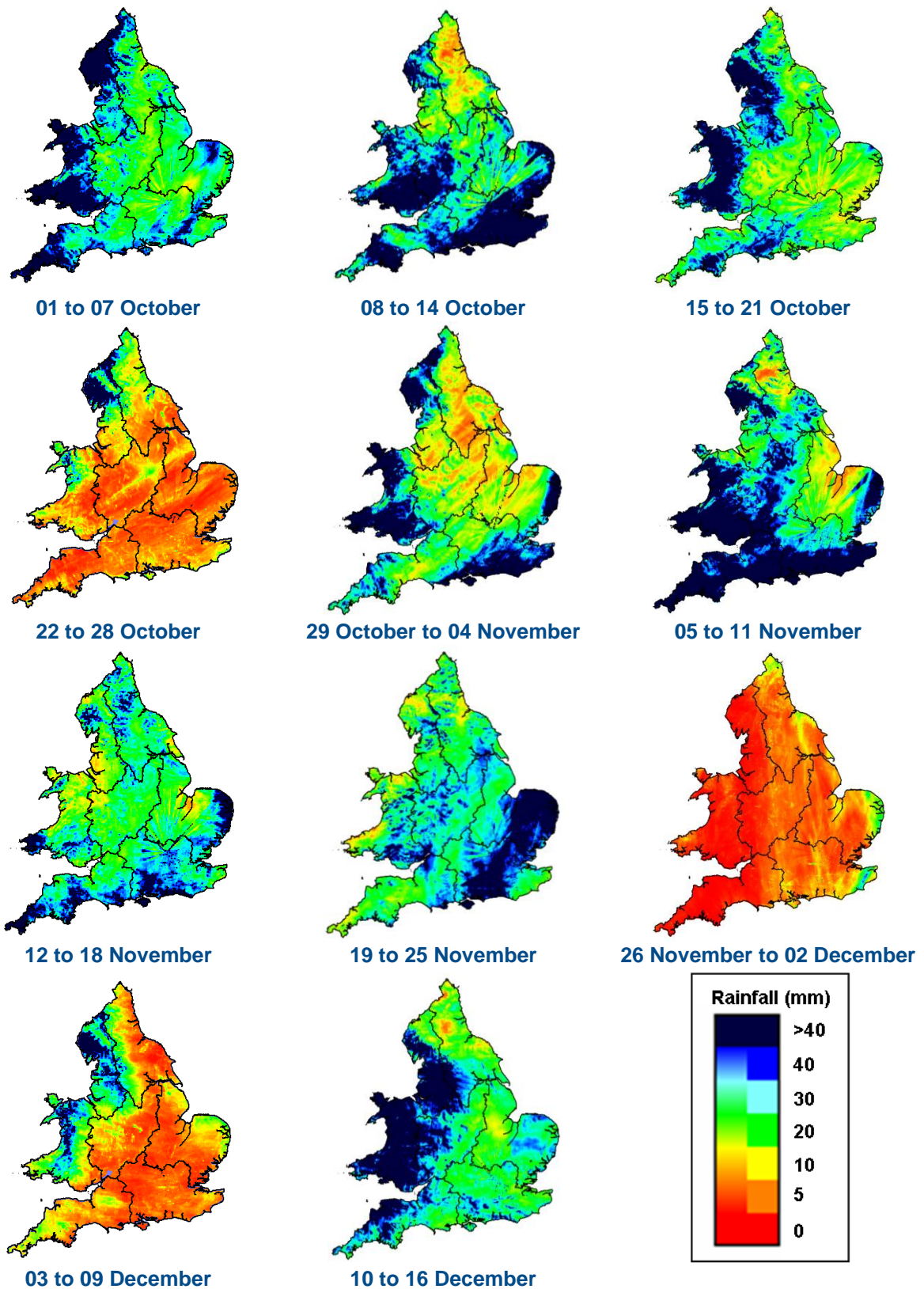
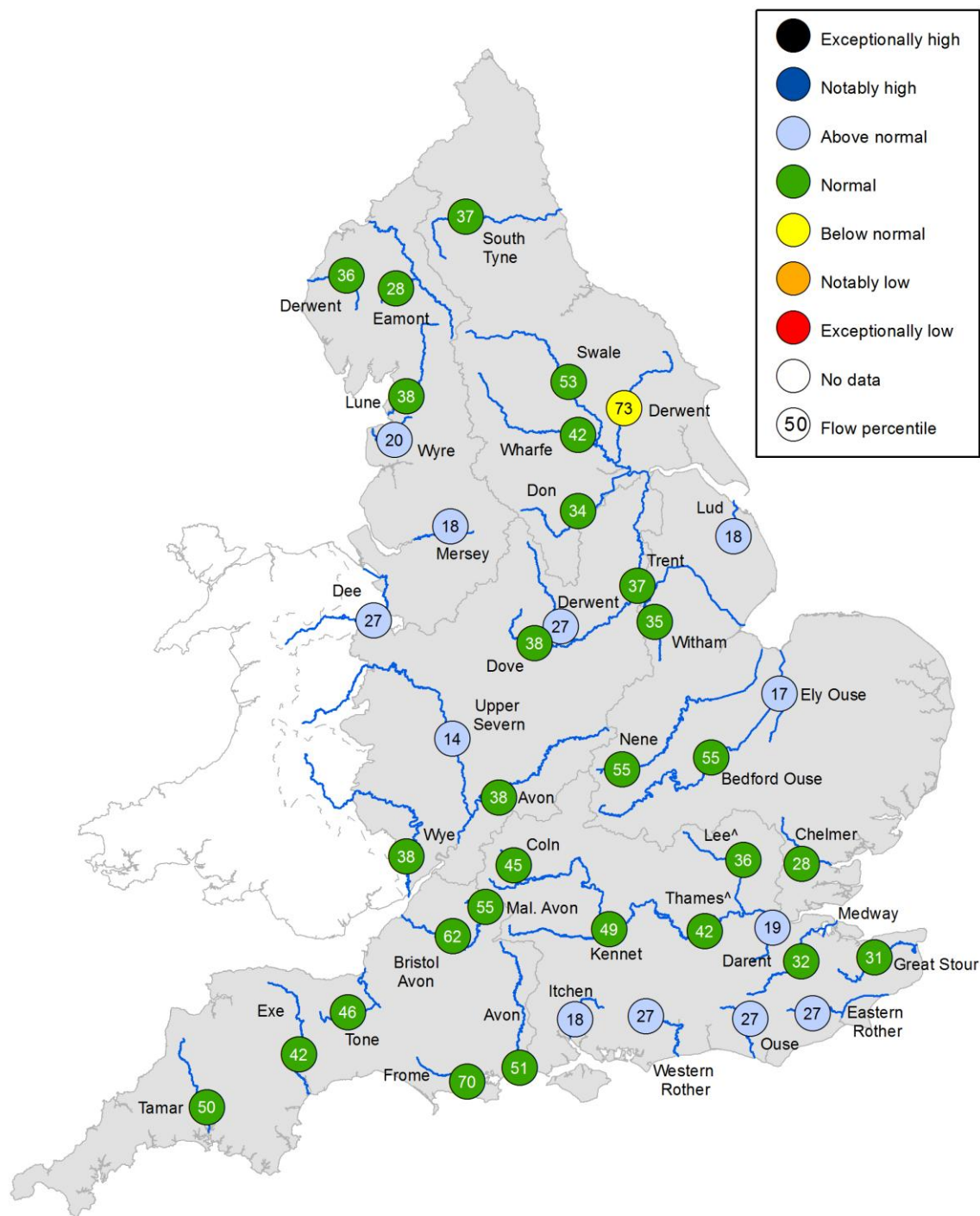


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

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 percentile² 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.