

# Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 21 – Tuesday 27 May 2014

## Summary

The past week has been very wet across all of England. Cumulative rainfall totals in all areas are above the long term average for May, with rainfall totals over eastern England being twice the long term average. River flows have increased at almost all our indicator sites this week, with all sites being *normal* or higher for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from just 32 mm in the northwest of England to 64 mm in the east (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- The cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date range from 127% of the long term average (LTA) for May in the northeast of England to 205% in the east (Table 1).
- River flows have responded to the rainfall and increased at almost all our indicator sites compared to last week (Figure 2).
- The latest daily mean flows are *above normal* or higher for the time of year at four fifths of our indicator sites, with six sites being *exceptionally high* for the time of year. One fifth of sites are *normal* for the time of year (Figure 2).

## Outlook

The rainfall on Thursday will move slowly southwards. Much of the country will see drier weather on Friday, although there may be the chance of some heavy showers that will continue on Saturday and Sunday. Monday will start dry, although some showery rainfall may affect the northwest. The rain in the northwest may become heavier on Tuesday and the rest of the country may see unsettled conditions.

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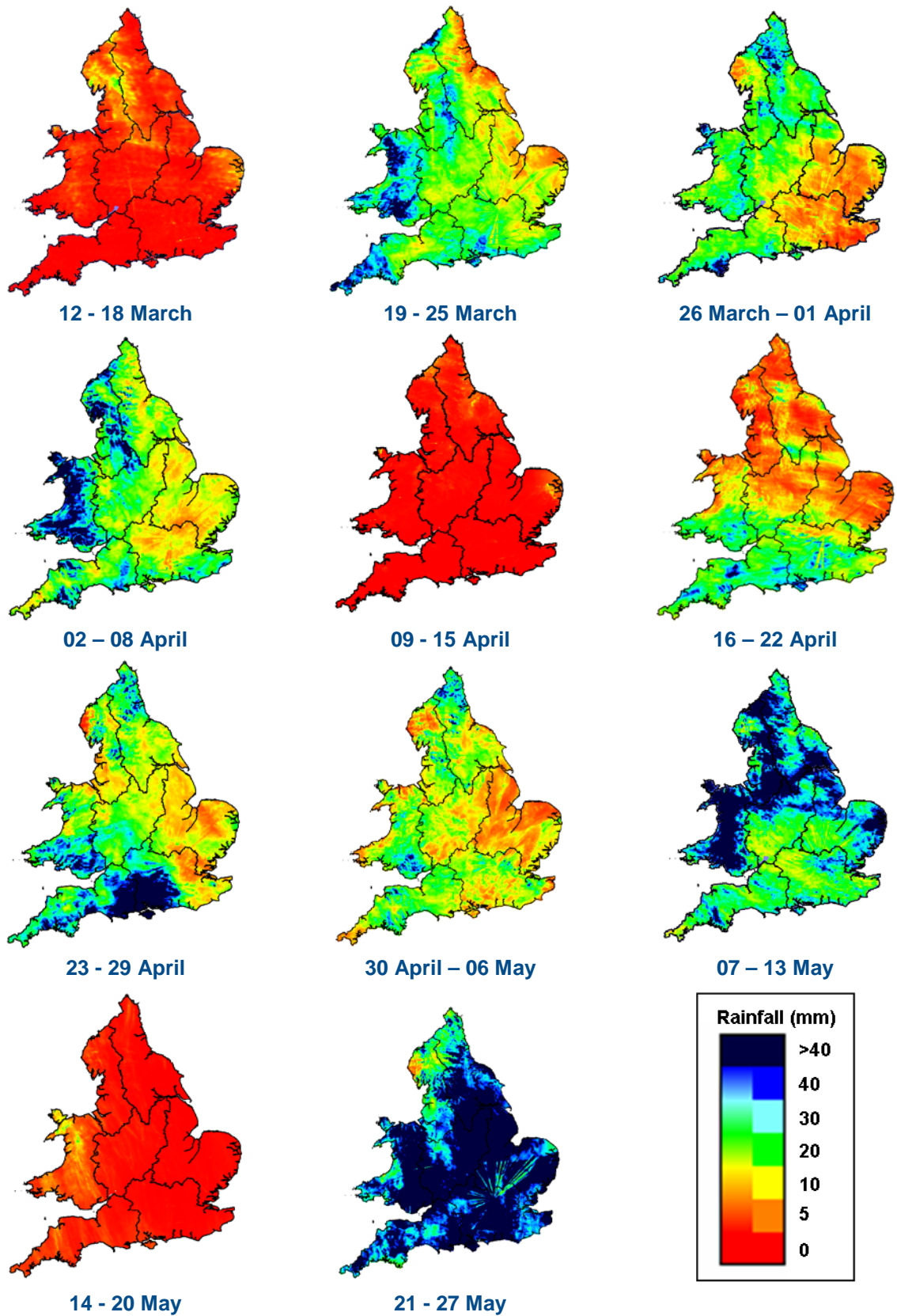
Geographic regions	Latest Week: 21 - 27 May '14	Latest month to date: May '14		Last month: Apr '14		Last 3 months: Feb '14 - Apr '14		Last 6 months: Nov '13 - Apr '14		Last 12 months: May '13 - Apr '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	32	93	127	54	79	307	130	752	128	1359	117
North East	41	91	153	50	88	212	117	501	119	933	114
Central	51	88	152	47	89	189	118	464	128	881	123
East	64	99	205	22	47	108	83	308	105	611	102
South East	51	81	149	69	137	245	154	654	173	988	136
South West	43	87	131	95	156	344	150	851	151	1319	131
England	49	90	153	55	100	225	127	567	135	978	121

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

<sup>1</sup> Notes:

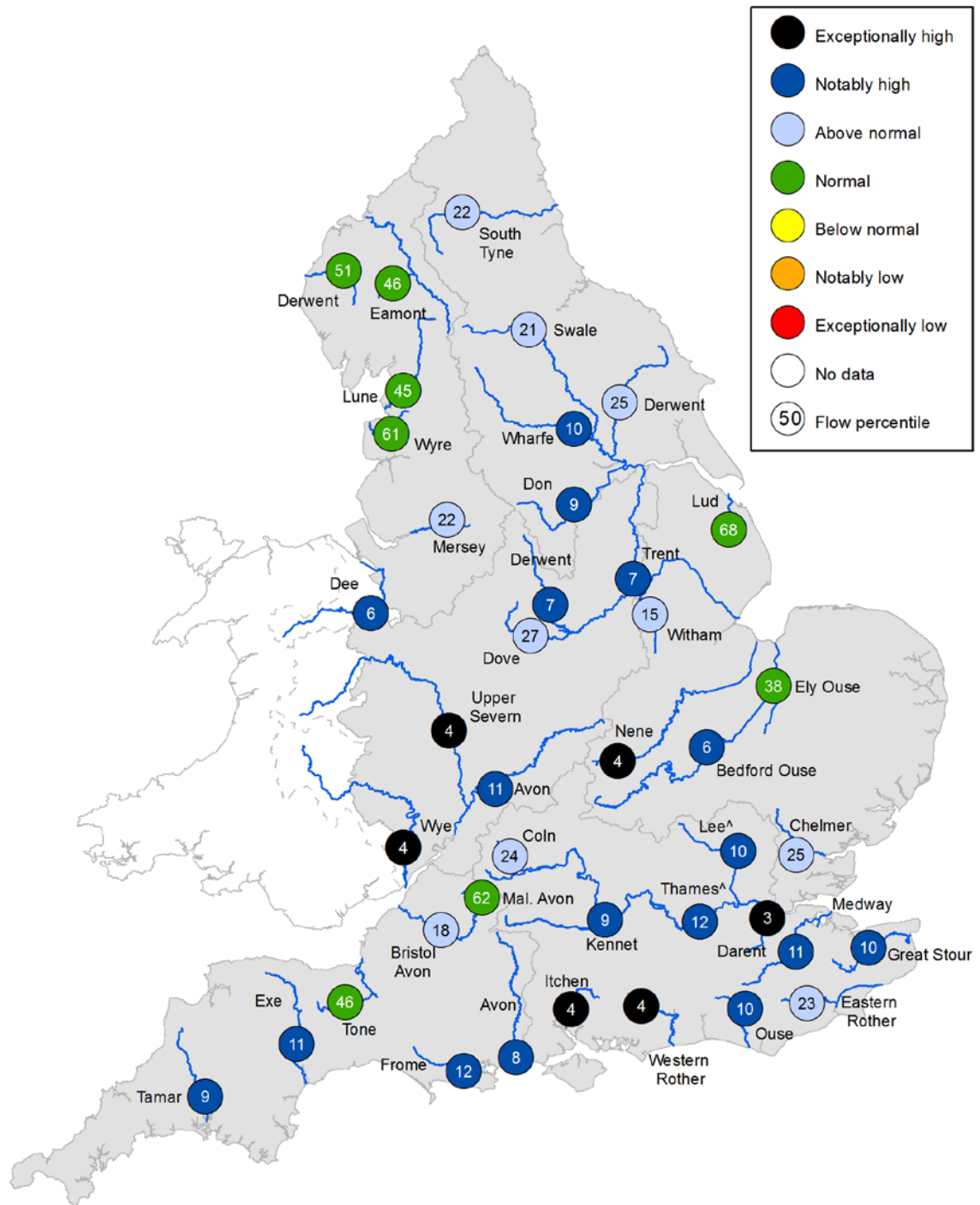
- LTA = long term average rainfall for 1961 – 1990
- Data for the current month are calculated using MORECS (Met Office Rainfall and Evaporation Calculation System); data for past months are provisional values from the National Climate Information Centre (NCIC).
- The data is rounded to the nearest millimetre or percent (except when values are less than 1).
- Recorded amounts of rainfall are likely to be underestimated during snow events.

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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.

# 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.