Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 07 to Tuesday 13 January 2015

Summary

It has been a very wet week across most of England, with the highest rainfall totals affecting the north-west and south of England. As a result river flows have increased at the majority of our indicator sites and latest daily mean flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at nearly all our indicator sites, with over a third of our indicator sites **notably high** or **exceptionally high** for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 18 mm in central England to 56 mm in the north-west (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- At nearly half way through the month cumulative rainfall totals for January to date range from 44% of the January long term average (LTA) in north-east England to 74% in the south-east (Table 1).
- River flows increased at the majority of our indicator sites compared to the previous week. The latest daily mean river flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at nearly all of our indicator sites, with 3 sites now **exceptionally high** for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Any lingering rain will clear the south-east on Thursday morning with scattered showers following later in the day, the heaviest and most persistent of these will be in the west and over higher ground. These showers will be wintery in some central areas on Thursday and then confined mainly to higher ground in the north on Friday. The weekend and the start of next week are expected to remain unsettled with further showers at times, again heaviest and most likely in the north and west of England, although some chance of wintery showers in the north-east on Sunday.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 07 - 13 Jan '15	Latest month to date: Jan '15		Last month: Dec '14		Last 3 months: Oct '14 - Dec '14		Last 6 months: Jul '14 - Dec '14		Last 12 months: Jan '14 - Dec '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	56	81	72	150	125	425	117	658	100	1301	112
north-east	25	35	44	75	93	260	111	446	101	936	114
central	18	31	47	63	88	236	120	392	105	881	123
east	20	29	57	50	91	210	128	379	119	736	123
south-east	37	53	74	54	71	289	132	447	115	990	136
south-west	50	76	66	75	64	354	111	536	100	1263	125
England	33	48	61	73	87	285	119	462	106	989	122

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.

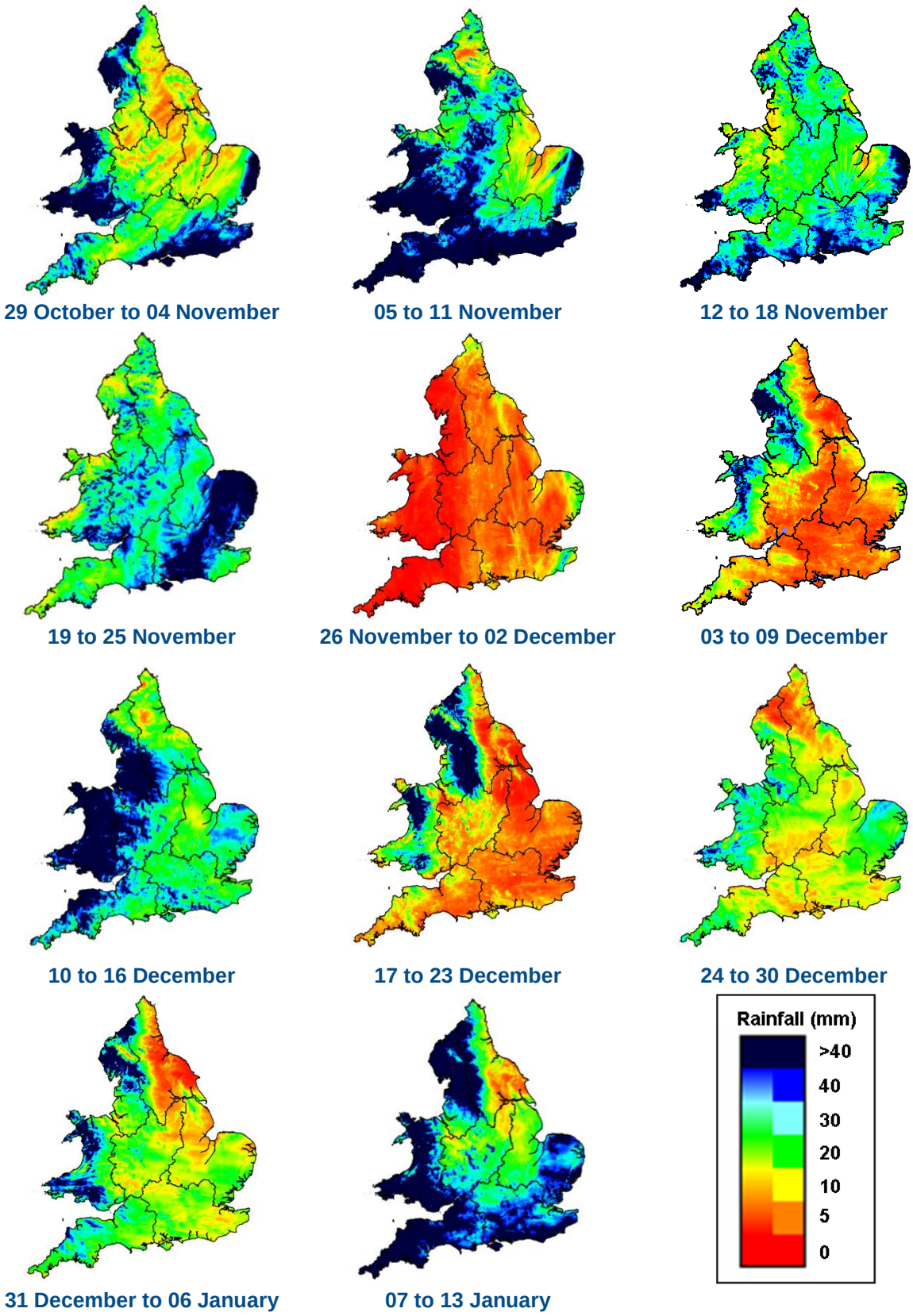
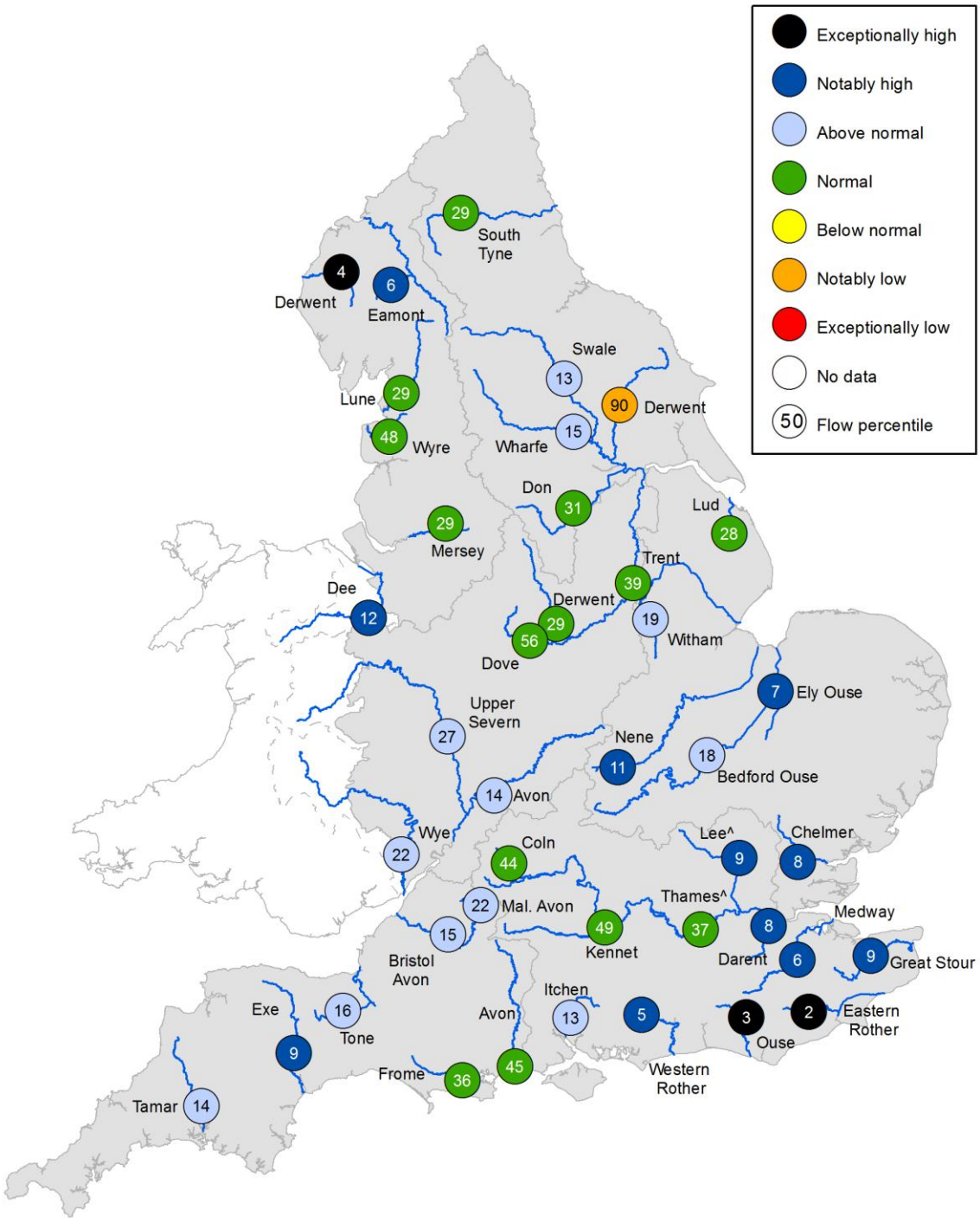


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

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, 2015.

[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.