Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 18 to Tuesday 24 May 2016

Summary: Slightly wetter than last week across much of England. Flows remain mostly normal for the time of year.

Rainfall

Some rainfall affected many areas over the past week with totals widely higher than the previous week. Rainfall totals ranged from 12mm in east England to 23mm in north-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date range from 52% of the May long term average (LTA) in north-east England to 86% in south-east England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have increased at nearly two thirds of sites compared to last week. The latest daily mean flows are normal or higher for the time of year at most of the sites, with over two-thirds of the sites being normal for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday is likely to be dry in most areas, with some scattered showers in southern England late in the day. Scattered showers are again likely in the south and west on Friday. Through Saturday and Sunday, mostly warm weather is expected with some heavy, thundery showers at times. Monday may see rain spread into eastern England.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 18 to 24 May 2016	Latest month to date: May 2016		Last month: Apr 2016		Last 3 months: Feb 2016 to Apr 2016		Last 6 months: Nov 2015 to Apr 2016		Last 12 months: May 2015 to Apr 2016	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	23	45	62	98	143	322	137	1,104	188	1,607	138
north-east	21	31	52	82	143	229	126	730	173	1,148	140
central	16	48	84	66	125	213	133	489	135	837	117
east	12	31	65	60	129	164	126	355	121	673	113
south-east	14	47	86	56	110	193	122	472	124	837	115
south-west	19	55	83	52	85	268	117	702	124	1,200	119
England	17	43	73	67	122	223	126	604	144	1,002	124

Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016)[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.

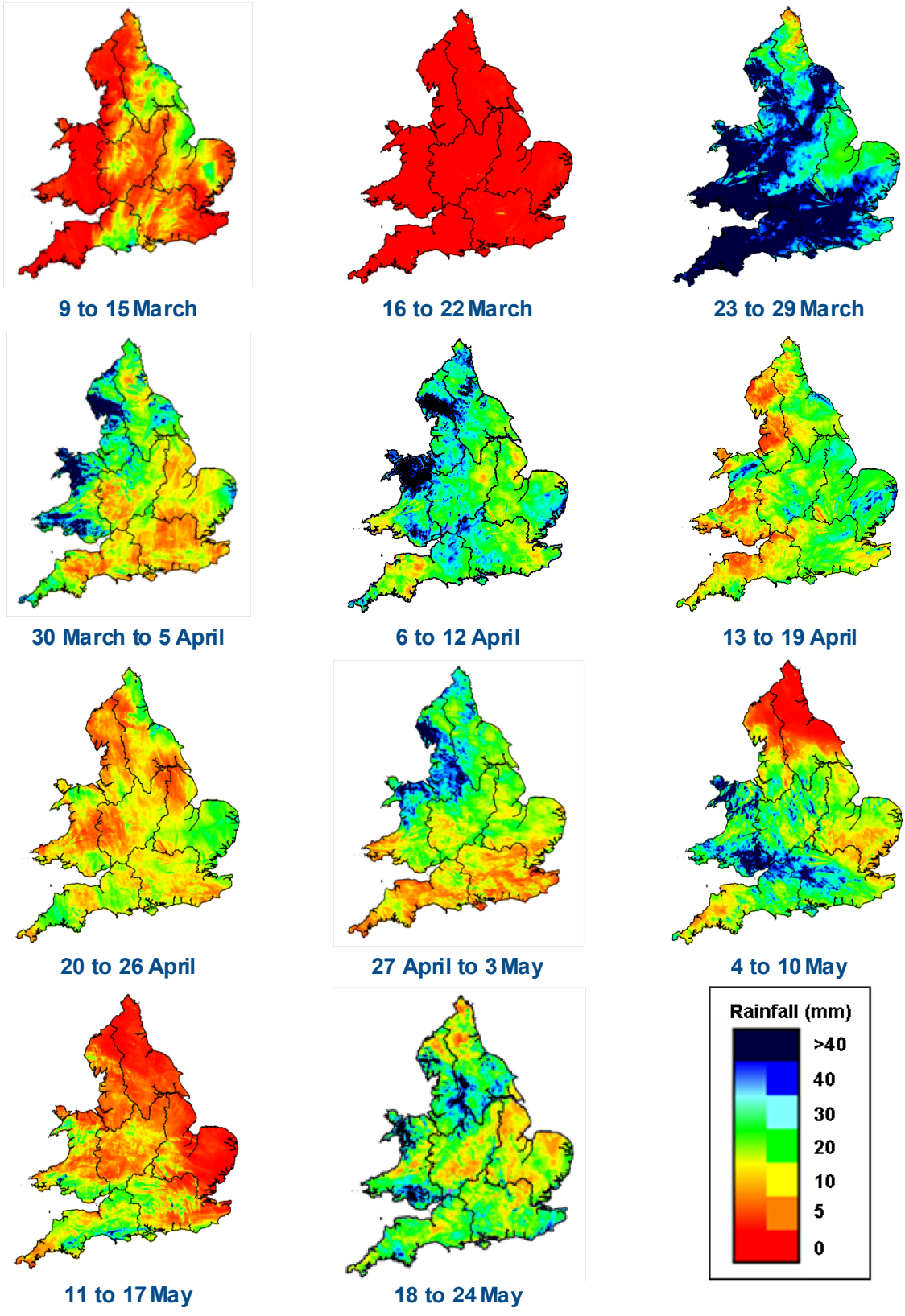
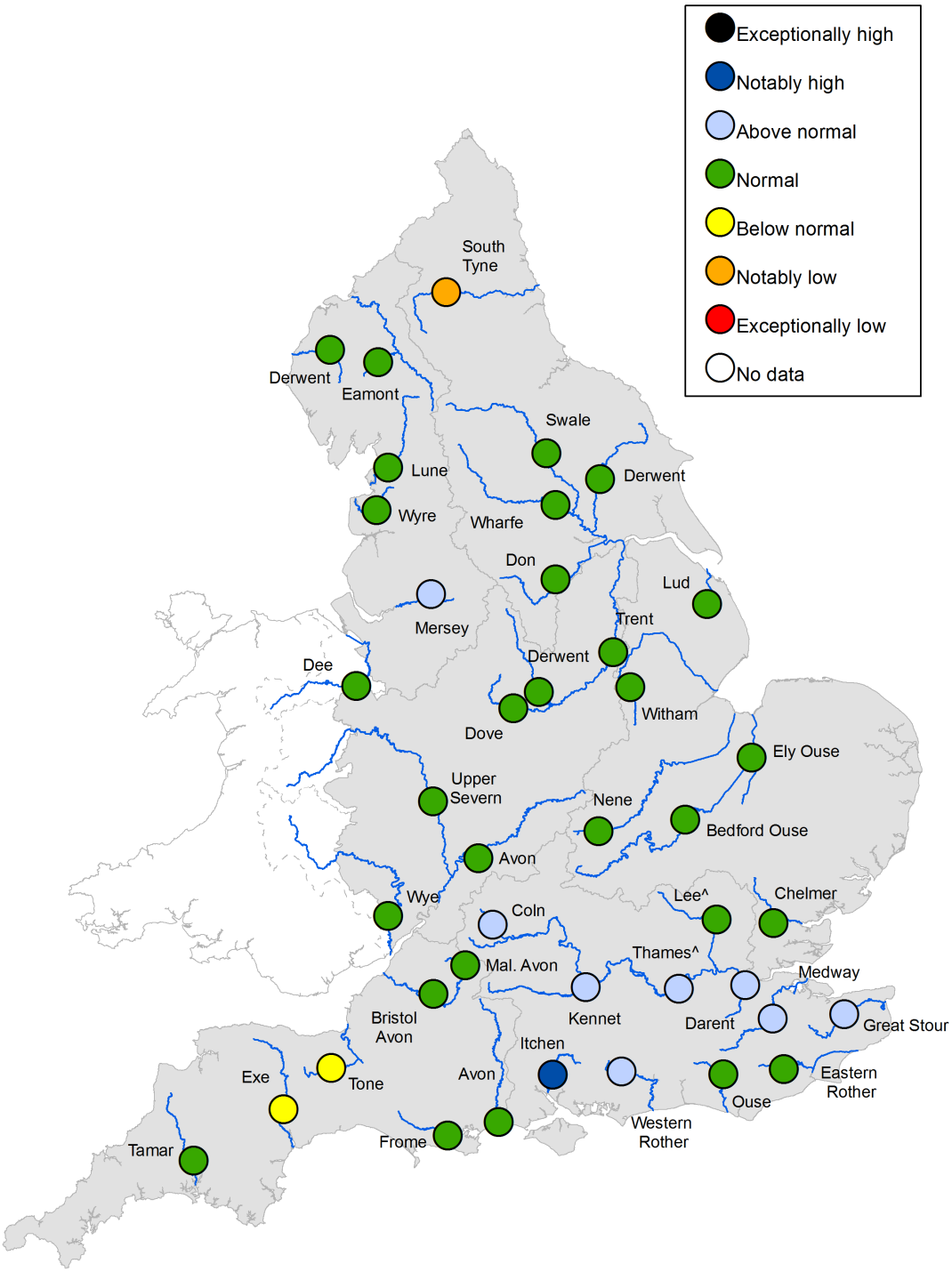


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

River flow



^ – 'Naturalised' flows are provided for the Thames at Kingston and the Lee at Feildes Weir.

Figure 2: Latest daily mean river flow, relative to an analysis of historic daily mean flows, classed by flow percentile for the same time of year[2] (Source: Environment Agency). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

[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. Flow percentiles presented relate to an analysis for the time of year and not a whole year.

River flow categories

Exceptionally high	Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time
Notably high	Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time
Above normal	Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time
Normal	Value likely to fall within this band 44% of the time
Below normal	Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time
Notably low	Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time
Exceptionally low	Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time

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