

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 16 to Tuesday 22 December 2015

Summary: another wet week in north-west England

Rainfall

It has been another wet week in north-west England. Rainfall totals for the week ranged from 8mm in east England to 72mm in north-west England (table 1 and figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date range from 61% of the long term average (LTA) in south-west England to 191% in north-west England (table 1).

River flow

River flows have increased at nearly two-thirds of indicator sites this week compared to the previous week. The latest daily mean flows are [normal](#) or higher for the time of year at all indicator sites, with 5 sites in north England [exceptionally high](#) for the time of year (figure 2).

Outlook

During Thursday rain in the north-west will spread south-eastwards across England, accompanied by strong winds. A dry start to the day is expected in many areas on Friday, but with strong winds and rain spreading from the south-west through the day. From Saturday to Tuesday, locally heavy rain is expected over much of England, with northern and western areas most affected.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 16 to 22 Dec 2015	Latest month to date: Dec 2015		Last month: Nov 2015		Last 3 months: Sep 2015 to Nov 2015		Last 6 months: Jun 2015 to Nov 2015		Last 12 months: Dec 2014 to Nov 2015	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	72	229	191	257	215	382	108	650	105	1333	115
north-east	34	119	148	161	198	284	127	505	120	892	109
central	16	63	88	88	135	180	97	358	100	668	93
east	8	36	65	67	117	164	104	332	106	571	96
south-east	15	46	62	78	107	200	96	391	107	697	96
south-west	27	71	61	117	111	260	91	547	113	998	99
England	25	84	101	118	147	234	104	447	109	820	101

Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015)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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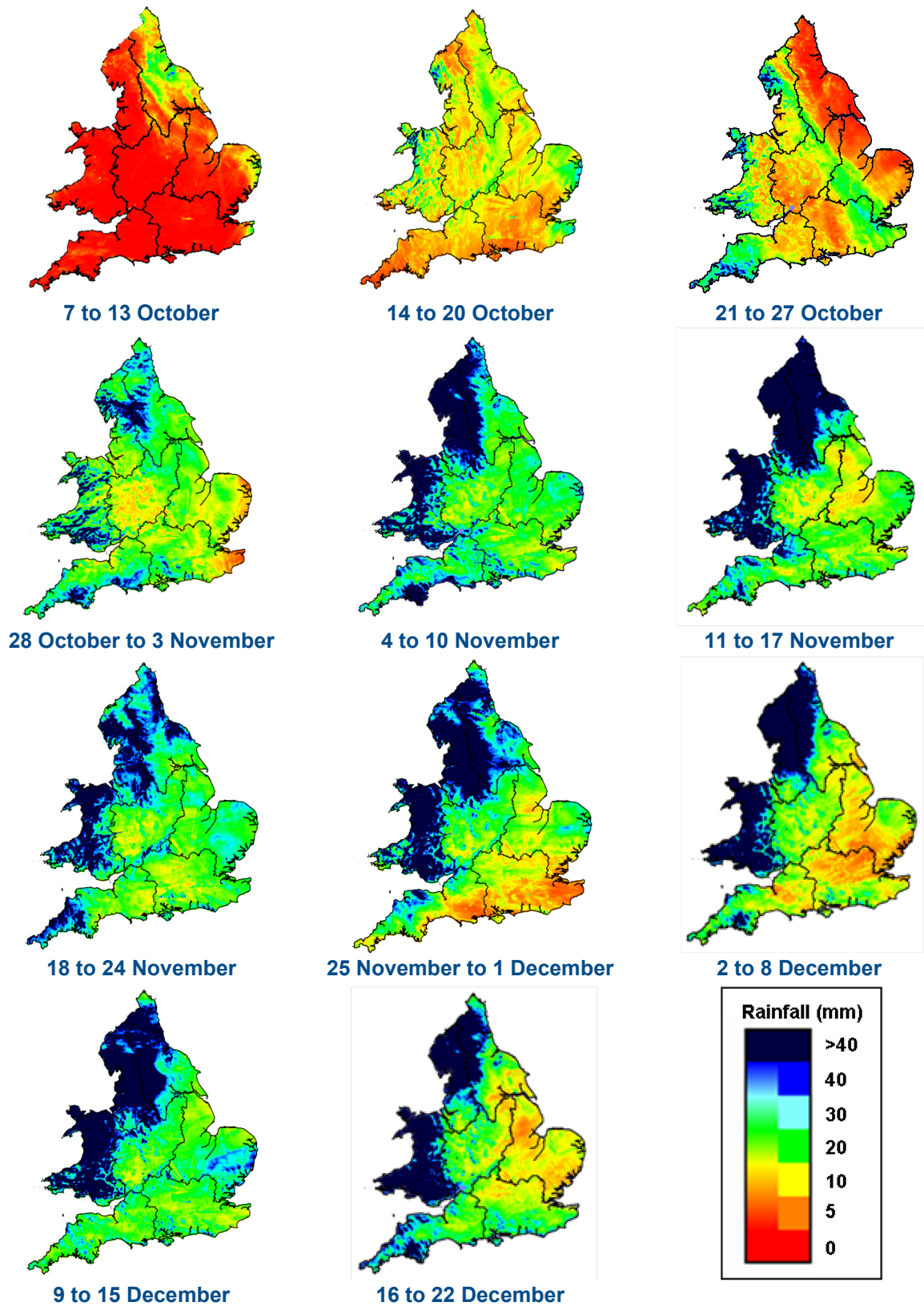
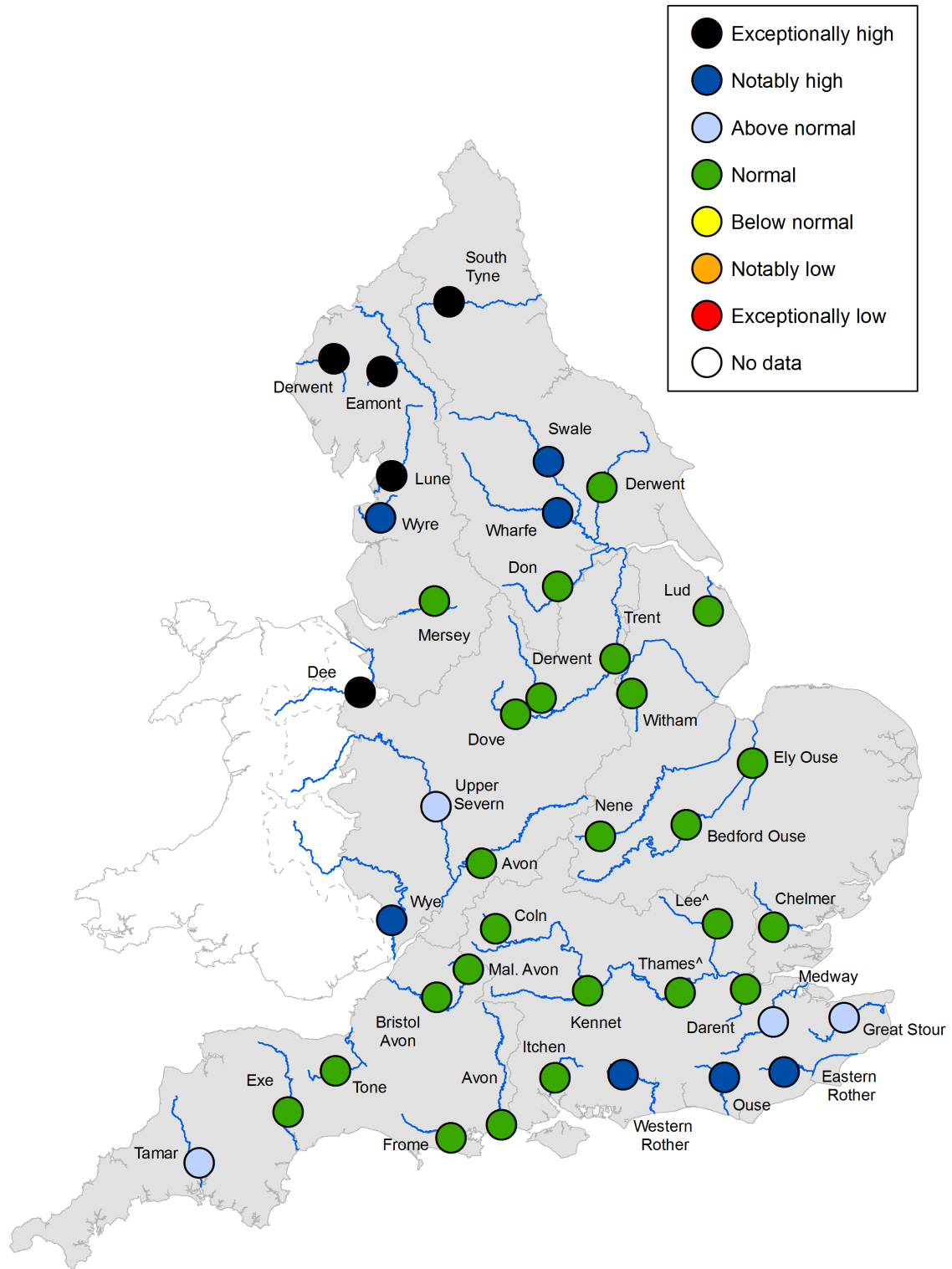


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

River flow



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

Figure 2: Latest daily mean river flow, relative to an analysis of historic daily mean flows, classed by flow percentile for the same time of year². (Source: Environment Agency). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

²Flow 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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