Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 25 to Tuesday 31 March 2015

Summary

The past week has been wet across most of England, with the north-west receiving almost twice as much rainfall as any other area. It was also the wettest week in east England since the second week of January. River flows at three quarters of our indicator sites are now **normal** or above for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 13 mm in south-east to 51 mm in the north-west (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- The rainfall totals for the month range from 44% of the March long term average (LTA) in south-east England to 116% in the north-west (Table 1).
- River flows at just under half our indicator sites are now classed as **above normal** for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

A band of rain will move east and then drift south-eastward during Thursday afternoon and evening. Friday will be windy but dry after some early showers. From Saturday onwards the weather will start breezy but be mostly dry and overcast as high pressure becomes established.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 25 Mar - 31 Mar '15	Latest month to date: Mar '15		Last month: Feb '15		Last 3 months: Dec '14 - Feb '15		Last 6 months: Sep '14 - Feb '15		Last 12 months: Mar '14 - Feb '15	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	51	106	116	72	96	377	122	668	101	1178	101
north-east	27	57	84	39	68	196	90	400	91	817	100
central	24	47	81	38	75	166	88	351	94	739	103
east	20	24	52	38	102	138	96	313	104	653	109
south-east	13	26	44	57	117	202	103	451	112	810	111
south-west	21	47	55	81	97	291	92	584	97	1046	104
England	24	47	71	52	92	216	99	443	100	846	105

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.

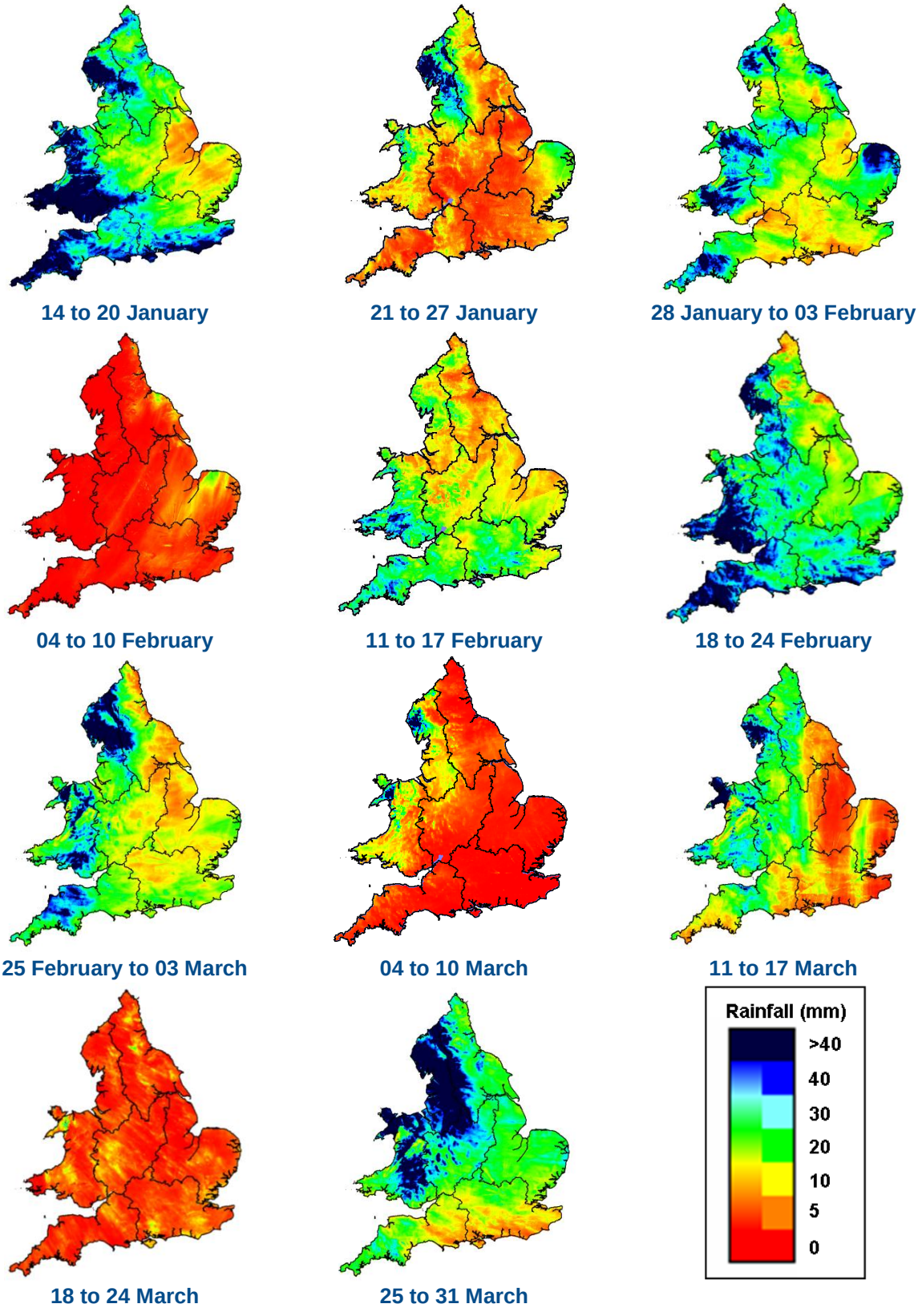
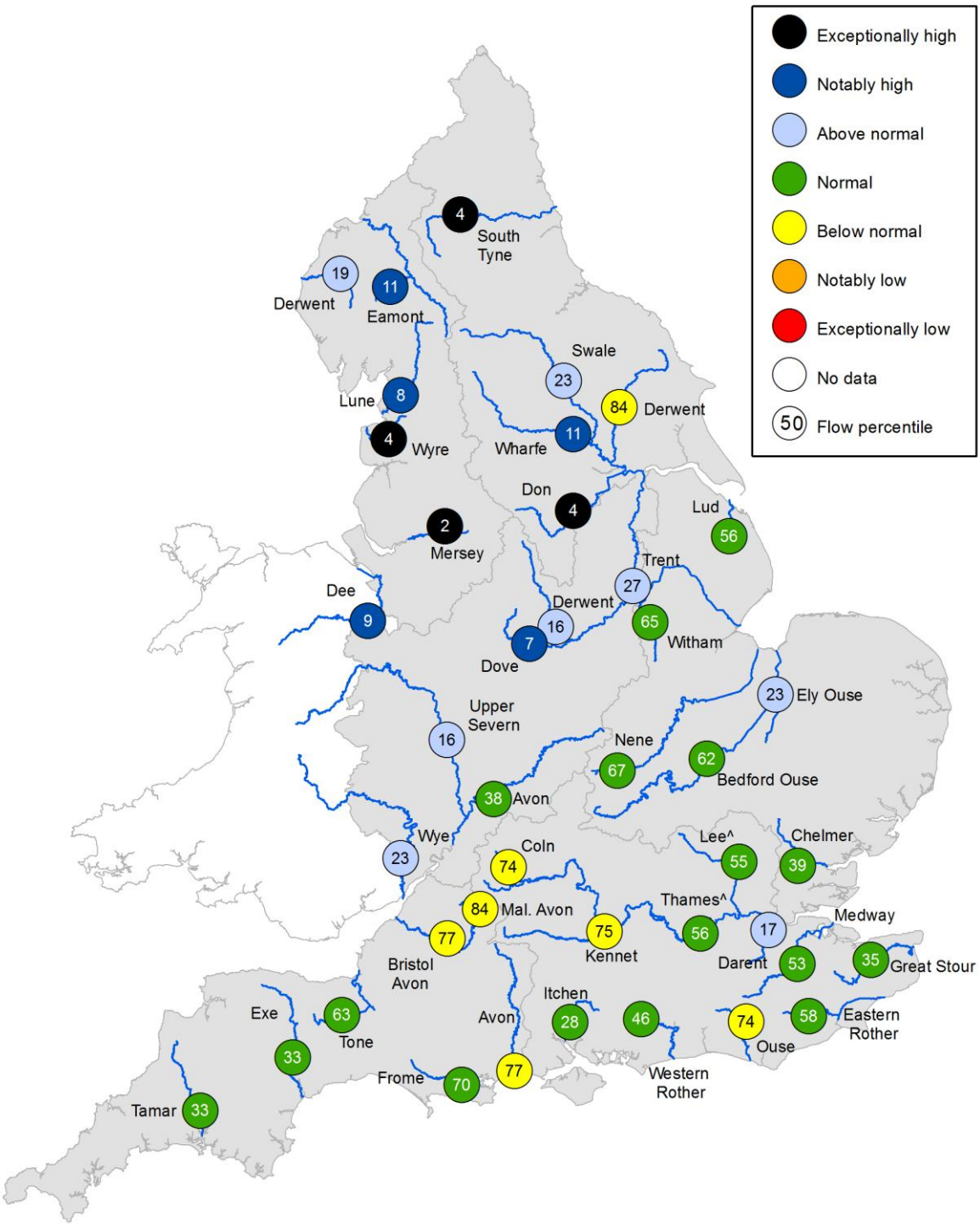


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

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.