

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 04 to Tuesday 10 March 2015

Summary

The past week has been largely dry across England. River flows have fallen at all our indicator sites but the majority remain within their **normal** range for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from less than 1 mm in east and south-east England to 11 mm in the north-west (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Rainfall totals for the month to date range from 2% of the March long term average (LTA) in east England to 24% in the north-west (Table 1).
- River flows have decreased at all our indicator sites compared to the previous week, but the majority of sites are classed as **normal** for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday will start off dry for most places before a band of rain moves into western areas. The rain will be heavy over high ground and will become slow-moving over central England later on Thursday and into Friday, before clearing. Thereafter, high pressure will bring dry weather to most parts of England from Saturday, with light drizzle possible in eastern parts on Monday and Tuesday.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 04 - 10 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	11	22	24	72	96	377	122	668	101	1178	101
north-east	4	11	17	39	68	196	90	400	91	817	100
central	2	9	15	38	75	166	88	351	94	739	103
east	0.9	1	2	38	102	138	96	313	104	653	109
south-east	0.5	4	6	57	117	202	103	451	112	810	111
south-west	3	13	15	81	97	291	92	584	97	1046	104
England	3	9	13	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.

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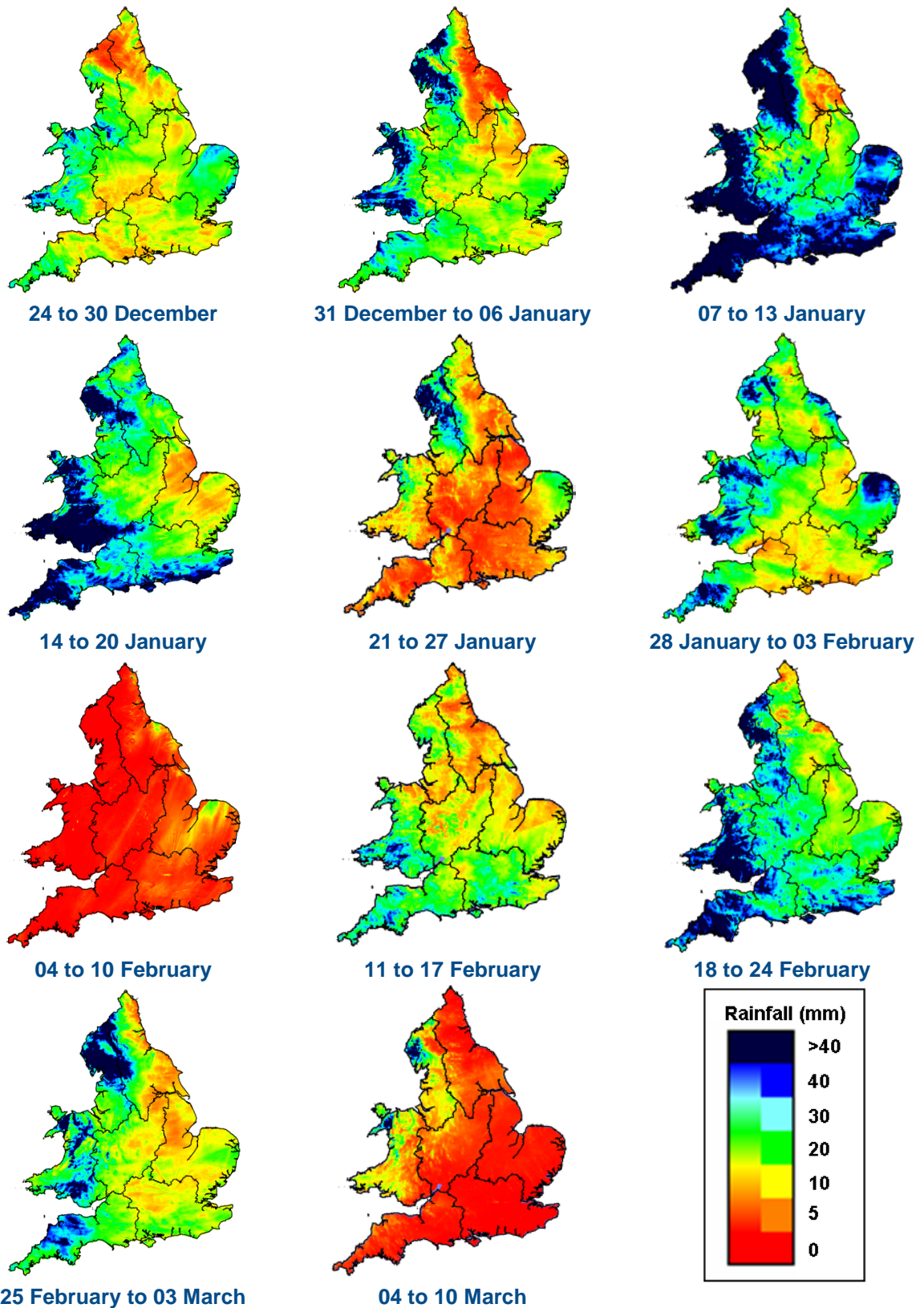
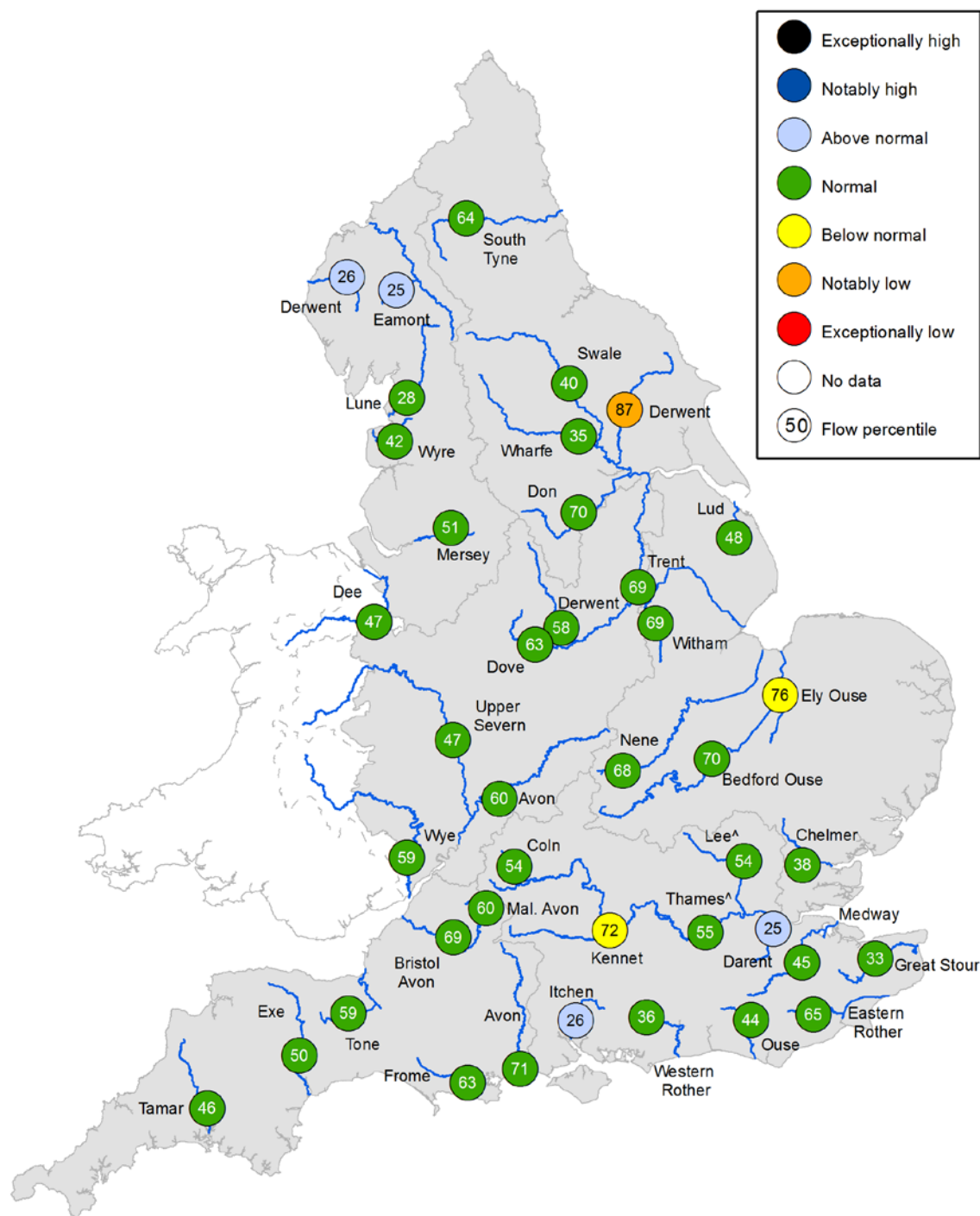


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

River Flow



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

Figure 2: Latest daily mean river flow expressed as a percentile² 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.