Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 2 to Tuesday 8 December 2015

Summary: A very wet week in north-west England.

Rainfall

Heavy and prolonged rainfall has affected the north and west of England over the past week. The rest of England has seen less rainfall. Rainfall totals ranged from 9mm in east England to 92mm in north-west England (table 1 and figure 1).

Cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date ranged from 16% of the long term average (LTA) in south-east England to 80% in north-west England (table 1).

River flow

River flows have increased significantly in north-west England but over England as a whole they have decreased at nearly two-thirds of indicator sites compared to the previous week. The latest daily mean flows are normal or higher for the time of year at all but two indicator sites and exceptionally high at 3 sites (figure 2).

Outlook

Throughout Thursday a band of rain will move southwards, reaching south-east England by the afternoon. It will stay showery on Friday but wetter weather is expected to spread northwards over the weekend. Outbreaks of rain will spread northeastwards across all of England through Monday and into Tuesday. The heaviest and most prolonged rain will be in the south and west.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 02 to 08 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	92	95	80	257	215	382	108	650	105	1333	115
north-east	44	46	58	161	198	284	127	505	120	892	109
central	19	19	27	88	135	180	97	358	100	668	93
east	9	9	17	67	117	164	104	332	106	571	96
south-east	11	12	16	78	107	200	96	391	107	697	96
south-west	19	20	17	117	111	260	91	547	113	998	99
England	28	29	35	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.

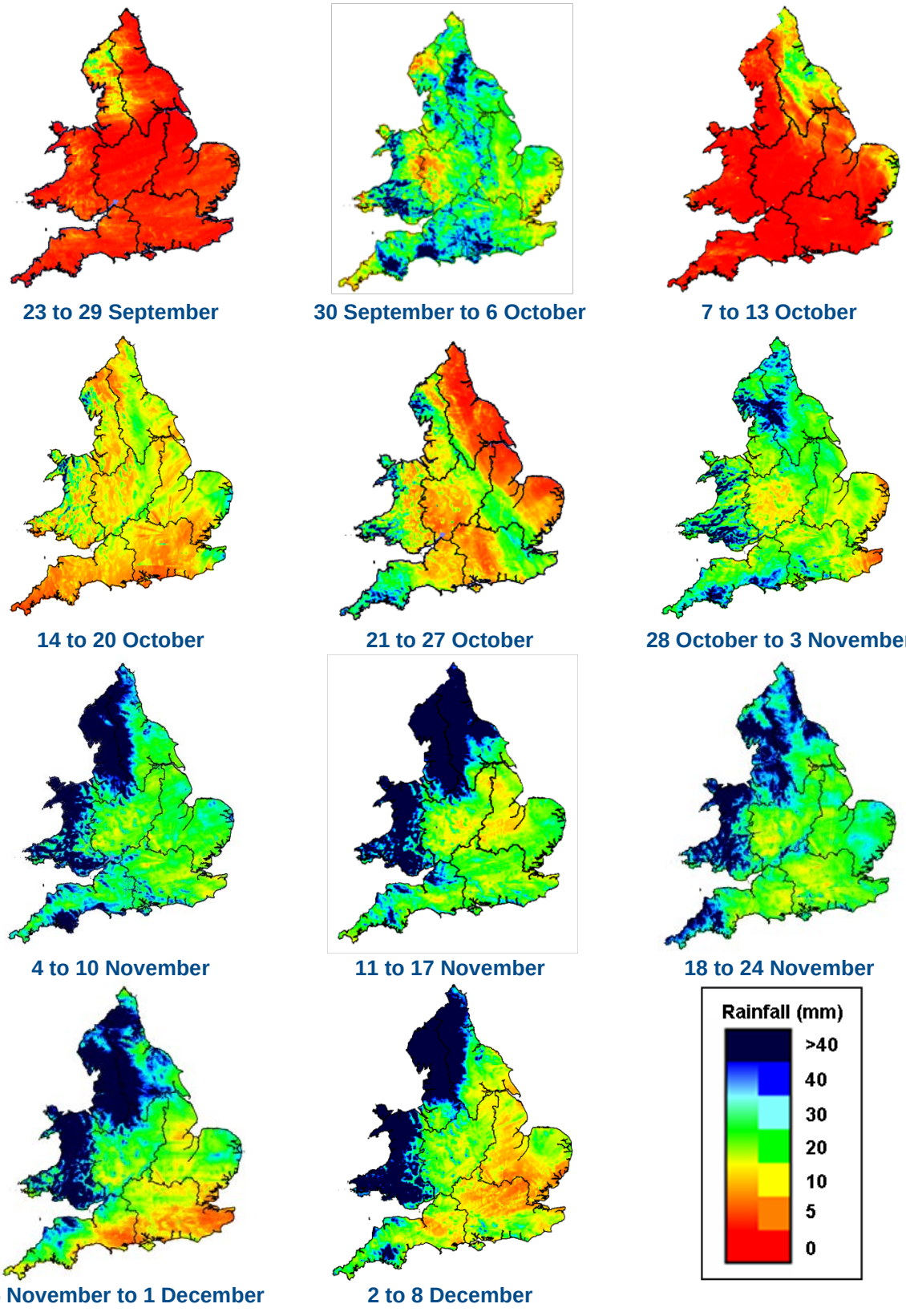
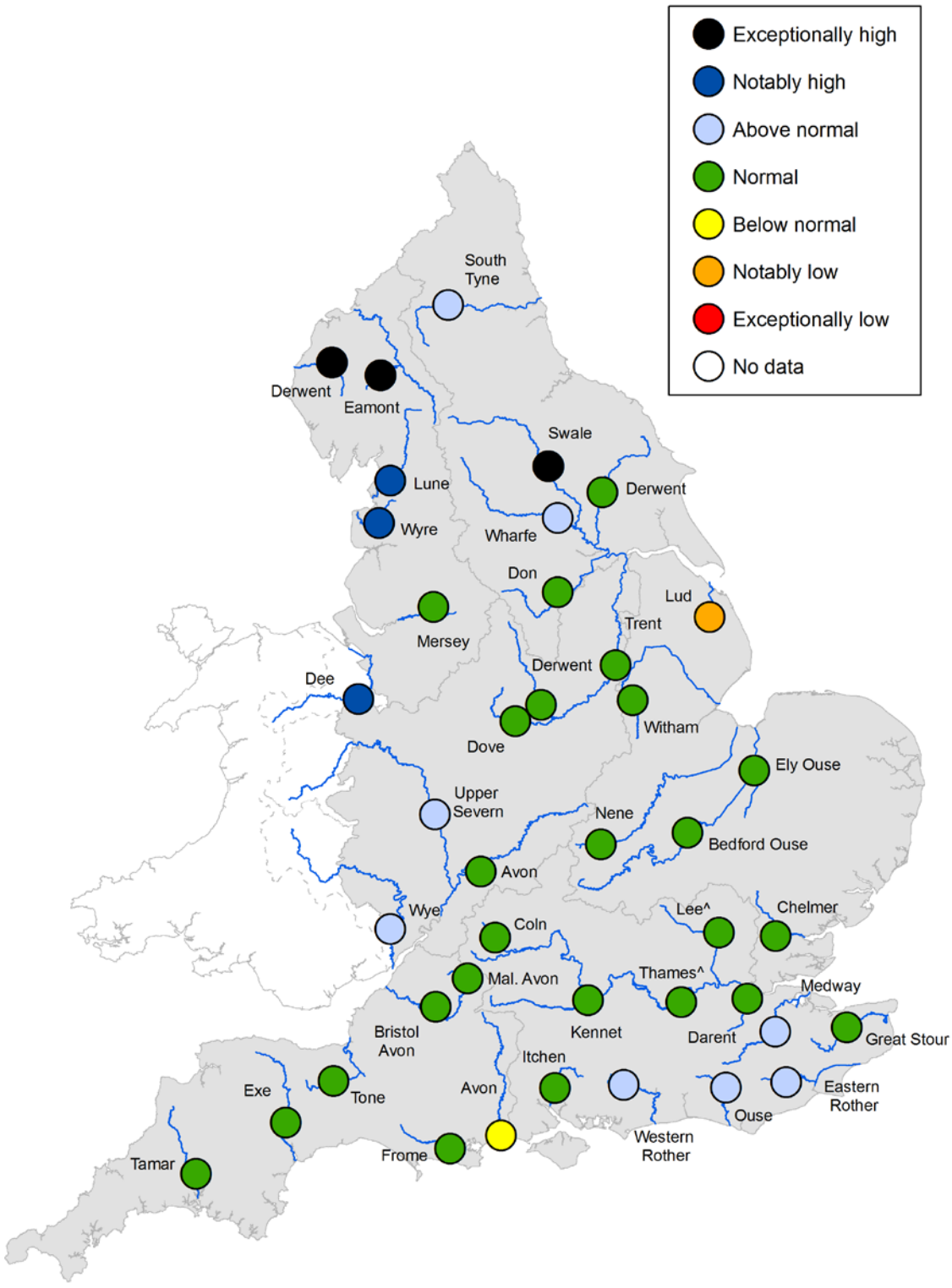


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

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 year[2]. (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. 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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