

# Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 06 to Tuesday 12 May 2015

## Summary

The past week has been very wet in north-east and north-west England, but considerably drier elsewhere. River flows have decreased at the majority of our indicator sites compared to the previous week. Two-thirds of sites are **normal** or higher for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 4 mm in south-east England to 44 mm in the north-west (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date range from being close to half of the May long term average (LTA) in south-east England to above the May LTA in northern England (Table 1).
- River flows have decreased at the majority of our indicator sites. The latest daily mean flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at two-thirds of our indicator sites, with a quarter of sites being **above normal** or higher for the time of year (Figure 2).

## Outlook

A band of heavy rain will move in from the south-west, bringing rain to central and southern England on Thursday. Friday will be dry for much of the day, although further rain will move south-east across England later on Friday and continuing on Saturday. Persistent rain is expected in the north-west of England on Sunday, particularly over higher ground. Monday and Tuesday will be mostly dry, although rain may affect parts of the north.

Author: [E&B Hydrology Team](#)

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 06 - 12 May '15	Latest month to date: May '15		Last month: Apr '15		Last 3 months: Feb '15 - Apr '15		Last 6 months: Nov '14 - Apr '15		Last 12 months: May '14 - Apr '15	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	44	86	119	53	77	236	100	647	110	1188	102
north-east	30	65	108	31	54	133	73	380	90	799	97
central	11	41	70	19	36	107	67	330	91	724	101
east	7	30	63	20	44	84	64	266	90	654	109
south-east	4	27	49	21	42	104	66	372	98	750	103
south-west	7	42	63	24	39	151	66	511	90	960	95
England	15	46	78	26	48	128	72	398	95	817	101

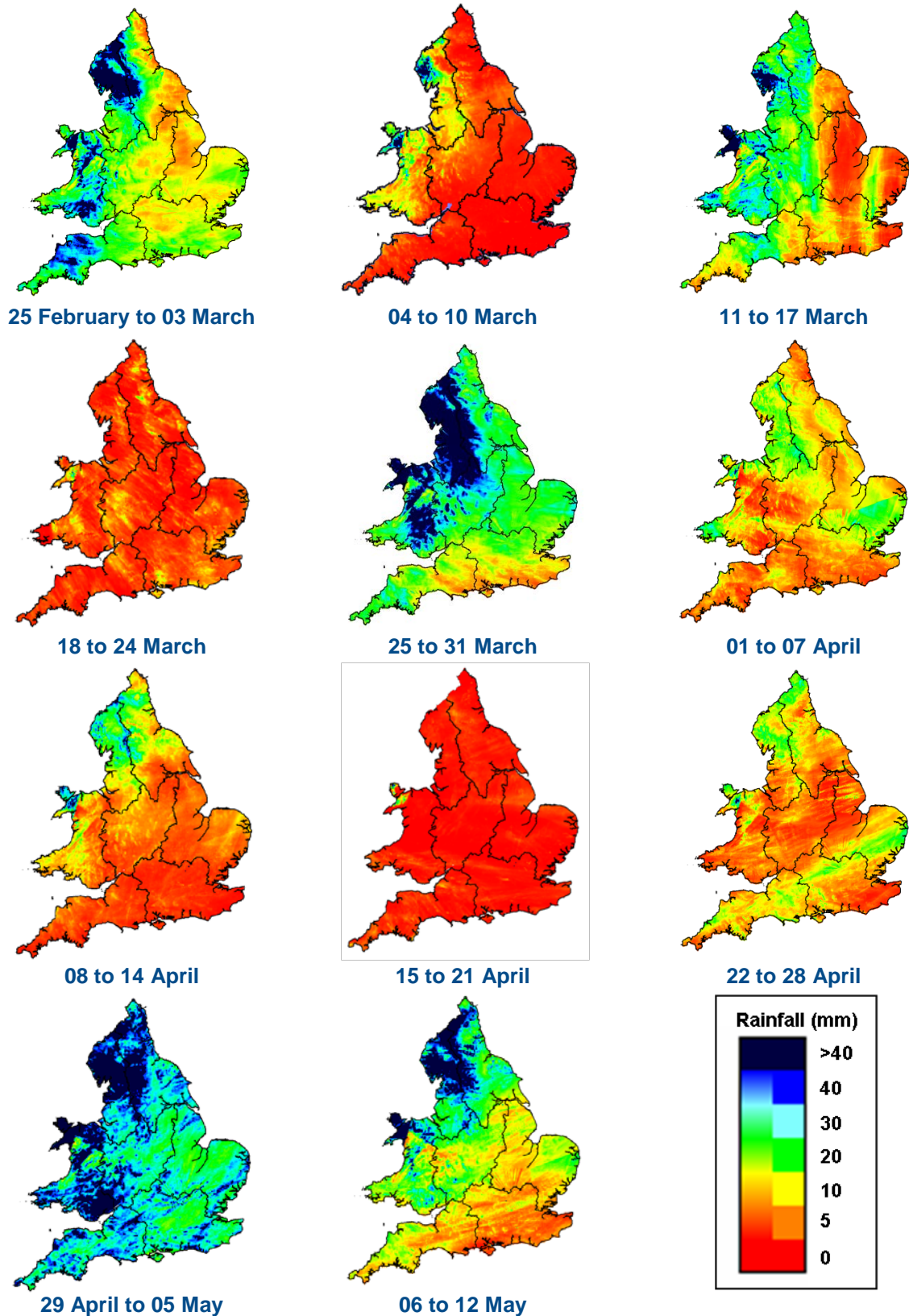
**Table 1:** Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

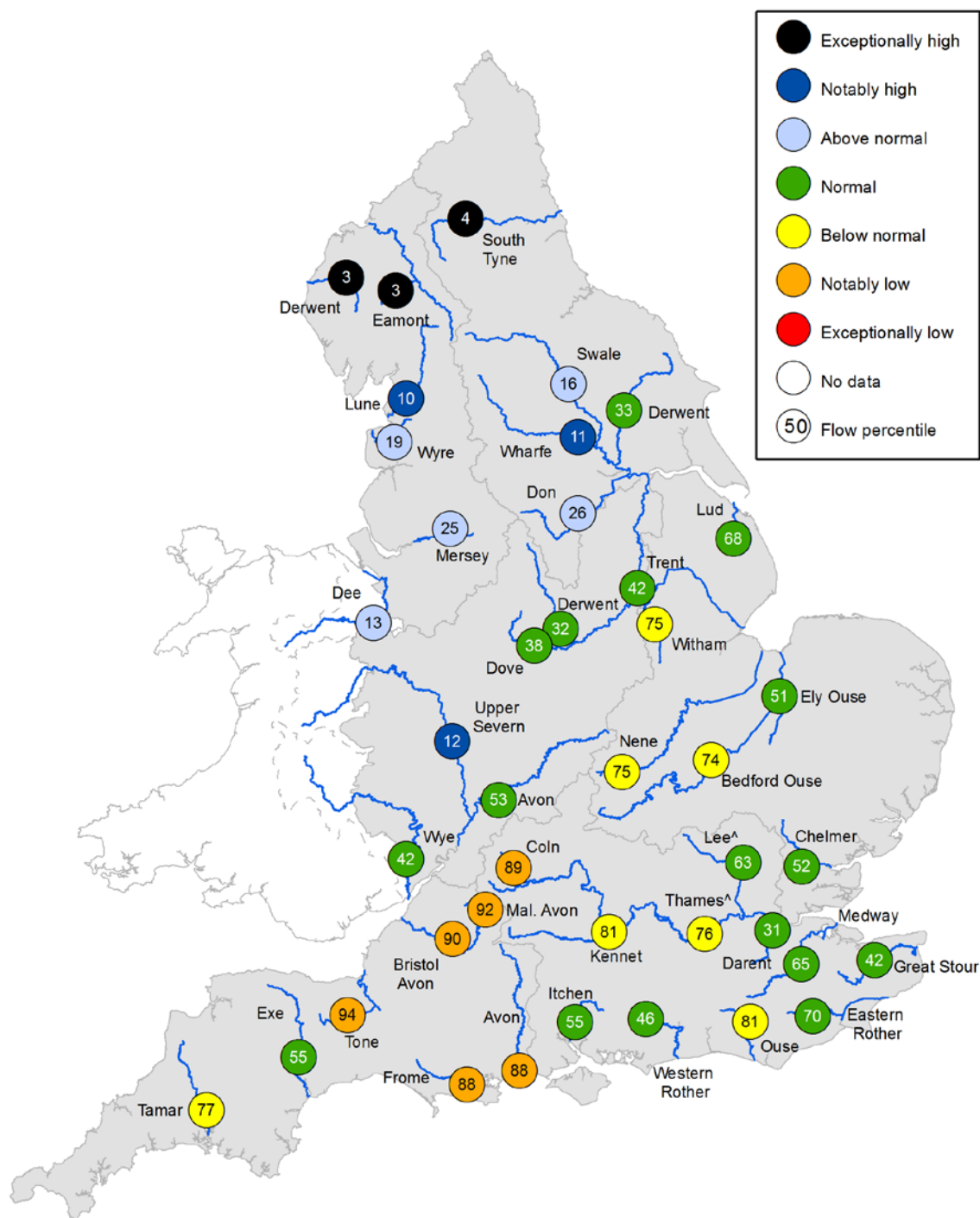
All data are provisional and may be subject to revision. The views expressed in this document are not necessarily those of the Environment Agency. Its officers, servants or agents accept no liability for any loss or damage arising from the interpretation or use of the information, or reliance upon views contained herein.





**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<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.