Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 30 November to Tuesday 6 December 2016

Summary: It has been another dry week across England. River flows have decreased and are currently below normal or lower for the time of year at the majority of sites.

Rainfall

The dry weather has continued across England over the past week (Figure 1). Rainfall totals ranged from 4mm in north-east and north-west England to 1mm or less elsewhere. Rainfall totals for December to date range from 5% of the long term average (LTA) in north-east England to 3% or less elsewhere (Table 1).

River flow

River flows decreased at all but 3 of our reported sites across England compared to the previous week. The latest daily mean river flows are currently below normal or lower for the time of year at all but 6 sites (Figure 2).

Outlook

Heavy rain is expected to clear from the north of England on Thursday but further bands of rain will return on Friday afternoon. These bands of rain will become slow moving over the south of England on Saturday although rainfall totals are expected to be modest. The rain will clear to the south-east on Sunday and dry conditions will prevail for the remainder of the weekend. On Monday and Tuesday there is a possibility of rain in the north and west whilst settled conditions continue across the east and south-east.

Author: E&B Hydrology Team

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 30 Nov to 06 Dec 2016	Latest month to date: Dec 2016		Last month: Nov 2016		Last 3 months: Sep 2016 to Nov 2016		Last 6 months: Jun 2016 to Nov 2016		Last 12 months: Dec 2015 to Nov 2016	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	4	3	3	135	113	282	80	653	105	1,536	132
north-east	4	4	5	110	135	219	98	450	107	1,056	129
central	1	1	1	94	144	176	95	374	104	830	116
east	0.9	0.8	2	72	124	161	102	335	107	671	112
south-east	0.6	0.6	1	99	134	176	85	329	90	782	107
south-west	0.5	0.4	0.3	131	125	262	92	454	94	1,093	108
England	2	2	2	104	129	206	92	415	101	949	117

Table 1 Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016)[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.

Rainfall

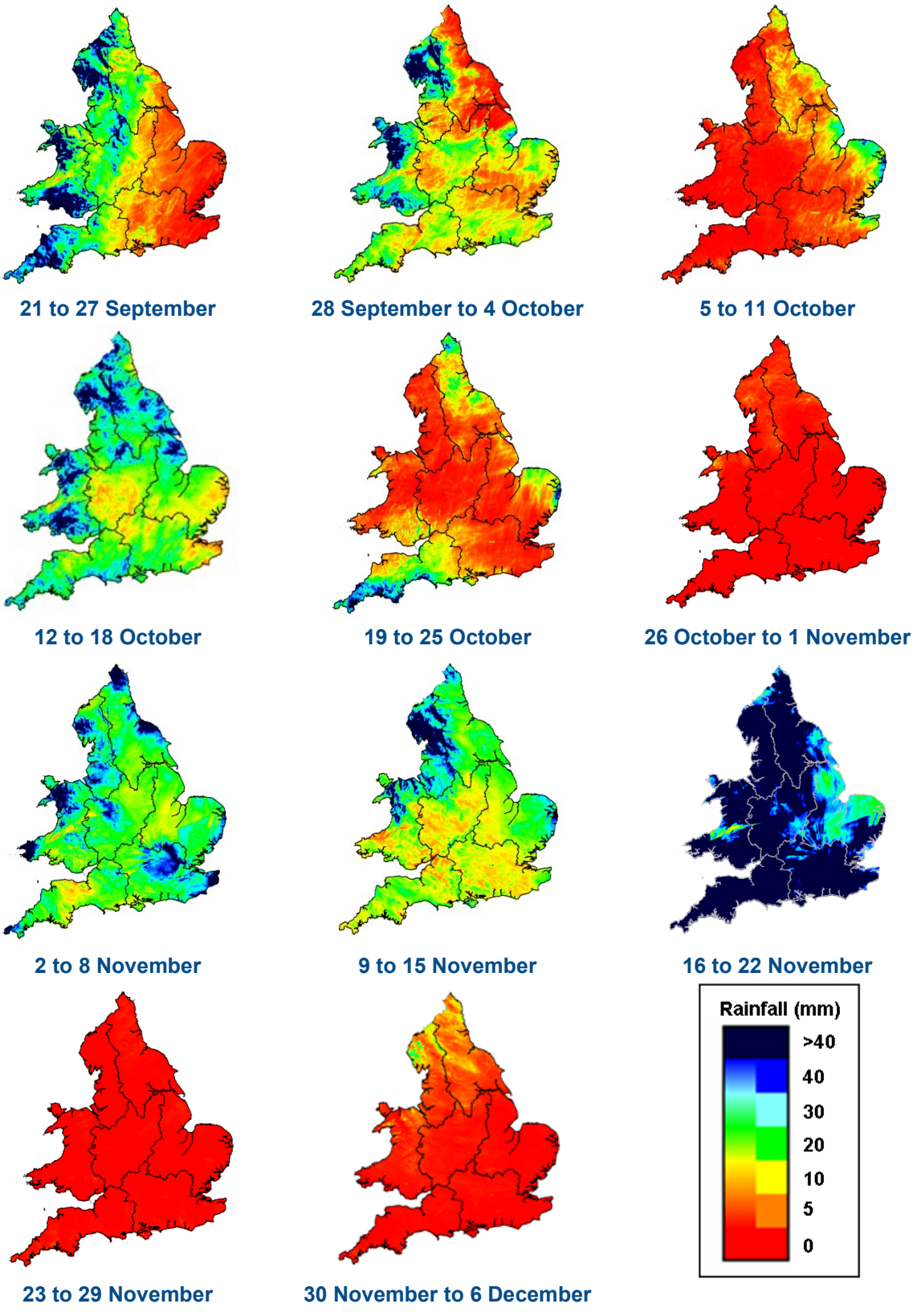
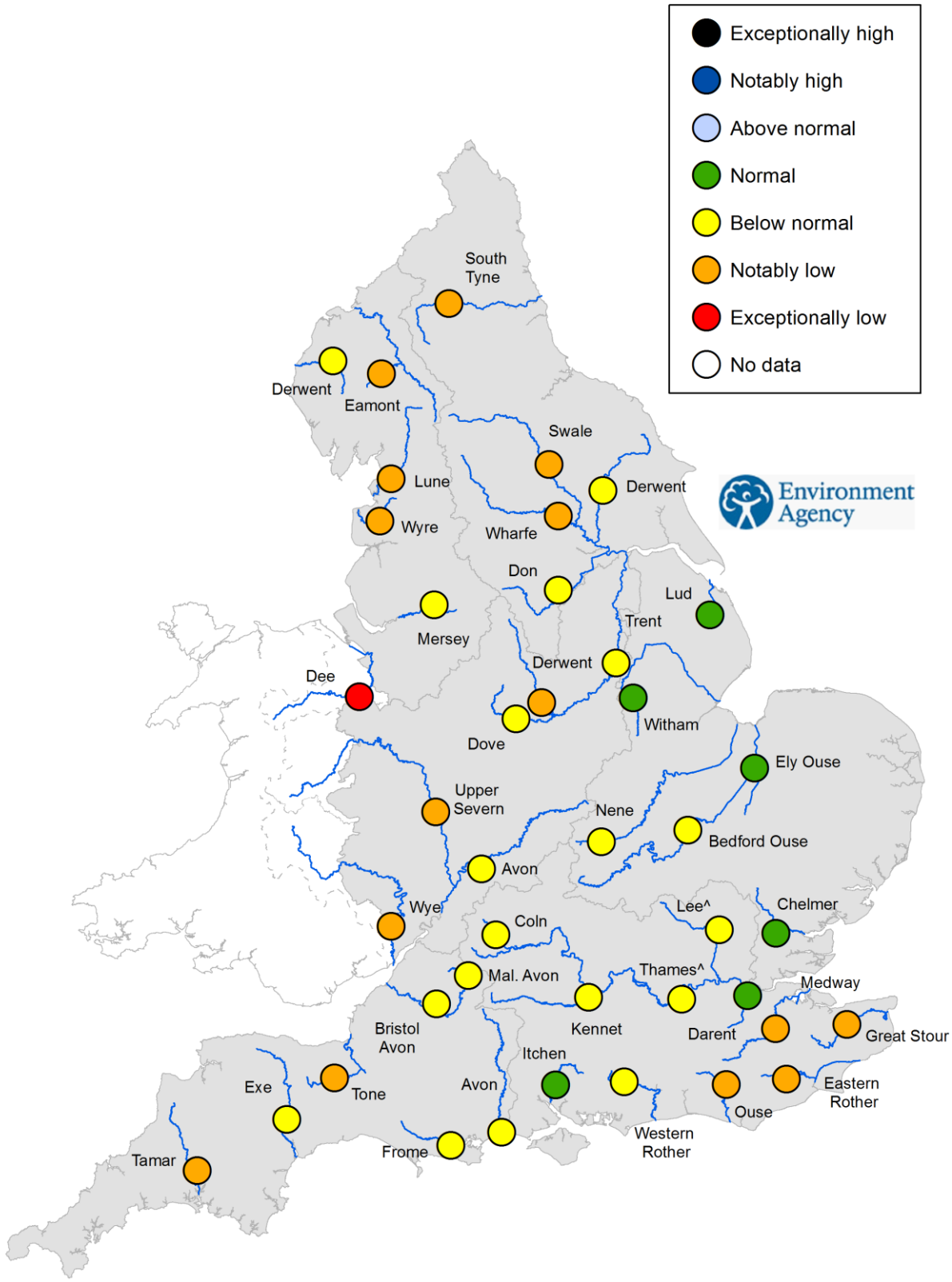


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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, 2016.

[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

Return to summary page