

# Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 11 to Tuesday 17 March 2015

## Summary

The past week has been largely dry across the eastern half of England but wetter in the north-west. River flows have fallen at most of 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 3 mm in east to 31 mm in the north-west (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Rainfall totals for the month to date range from 8% of the March long term average (LTA) in east England to 58% in the north-west (Table 1).
- River flows have decreased at two thirds of 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

Fine and dry conditions on Thursday will be followed by patchy light rain on Friday and Saturday, mainly affecting the north and north-east coasts. Sunday will again be dry, but with a risk of heavy rain over high ground on Monday morning as a frontal system moves in from the north-west. During the day and evening, the front will weaken as it moves gradually southeast. Unsettled conditions will continue on Tuesday, where rain could be heavy and thundery in places.

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

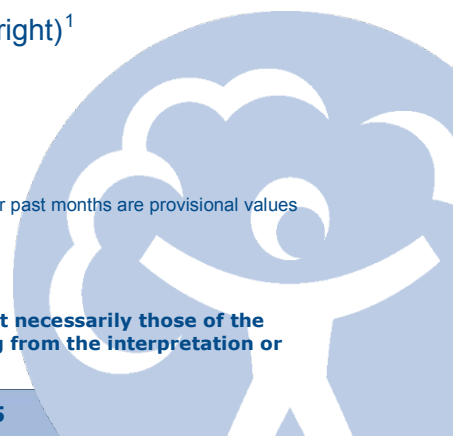
Geographic regions	Latest Week: 11 - 17 Mar '15	Latest month to date: date: Mar '15		Last month: Feb '15		Last 3 months: Dec '14 - Feb '15		Last 6 months: Sep '14 - Feb '15		Last 12 months: Mar '14 - Feb '15	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	31	53	58	72	96	377	122	668	101	1178	101
north-east	17	28	41	39	68	196	90	400	91	817	100
central	13	22	38	38	75	166	88	351	94	739	103
east	3	4	8	38	102	138	96	313	104	653	109
south-east	6	10	17	57	117	202	103	451	112	810	111
south-west	11	24	28	81	97	291	92	584	97	1046	104
England	12	21	32	52	92	216	99	443	100	846	105

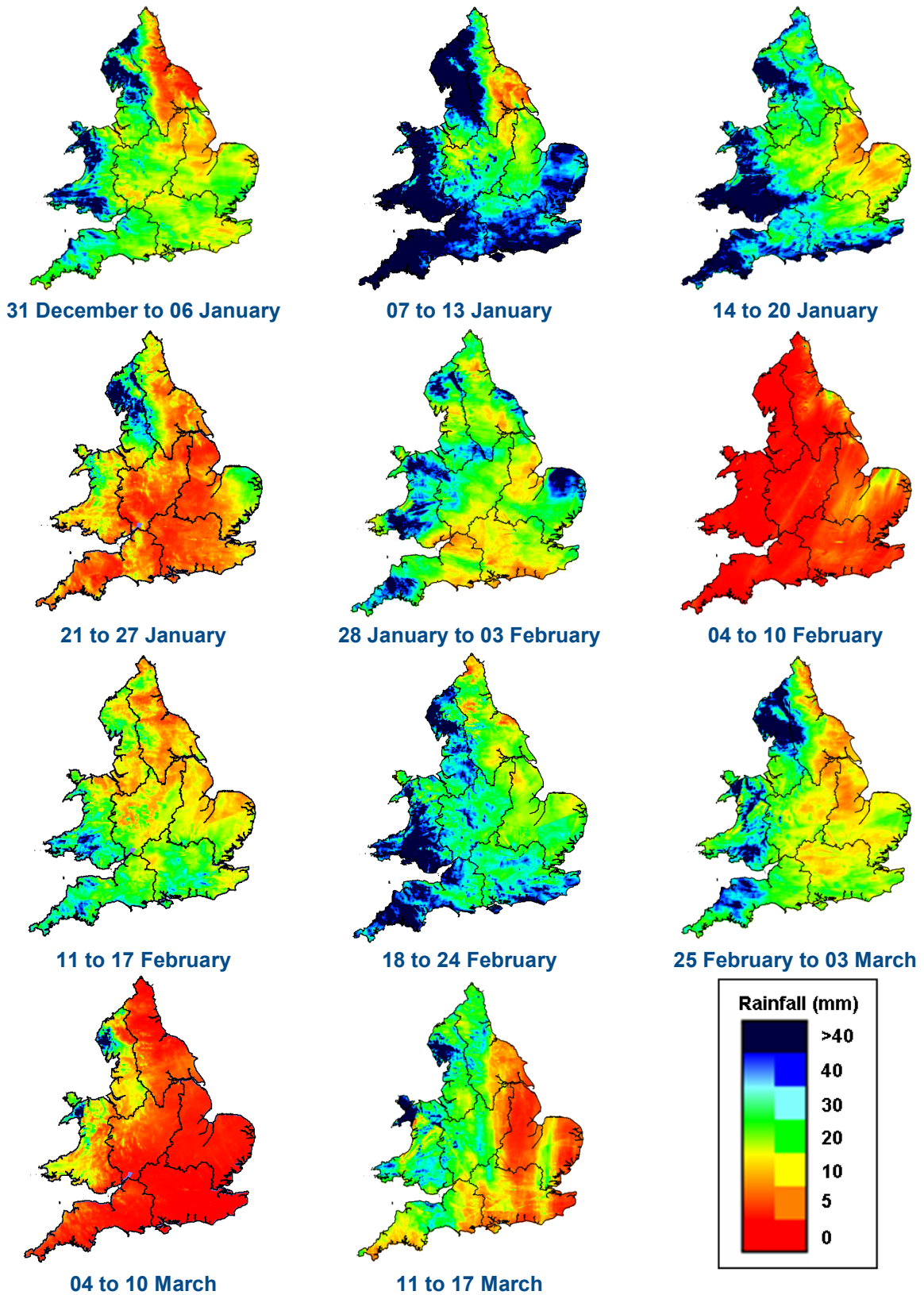
**Table 1:** Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright)<sup>1</sup>

<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.

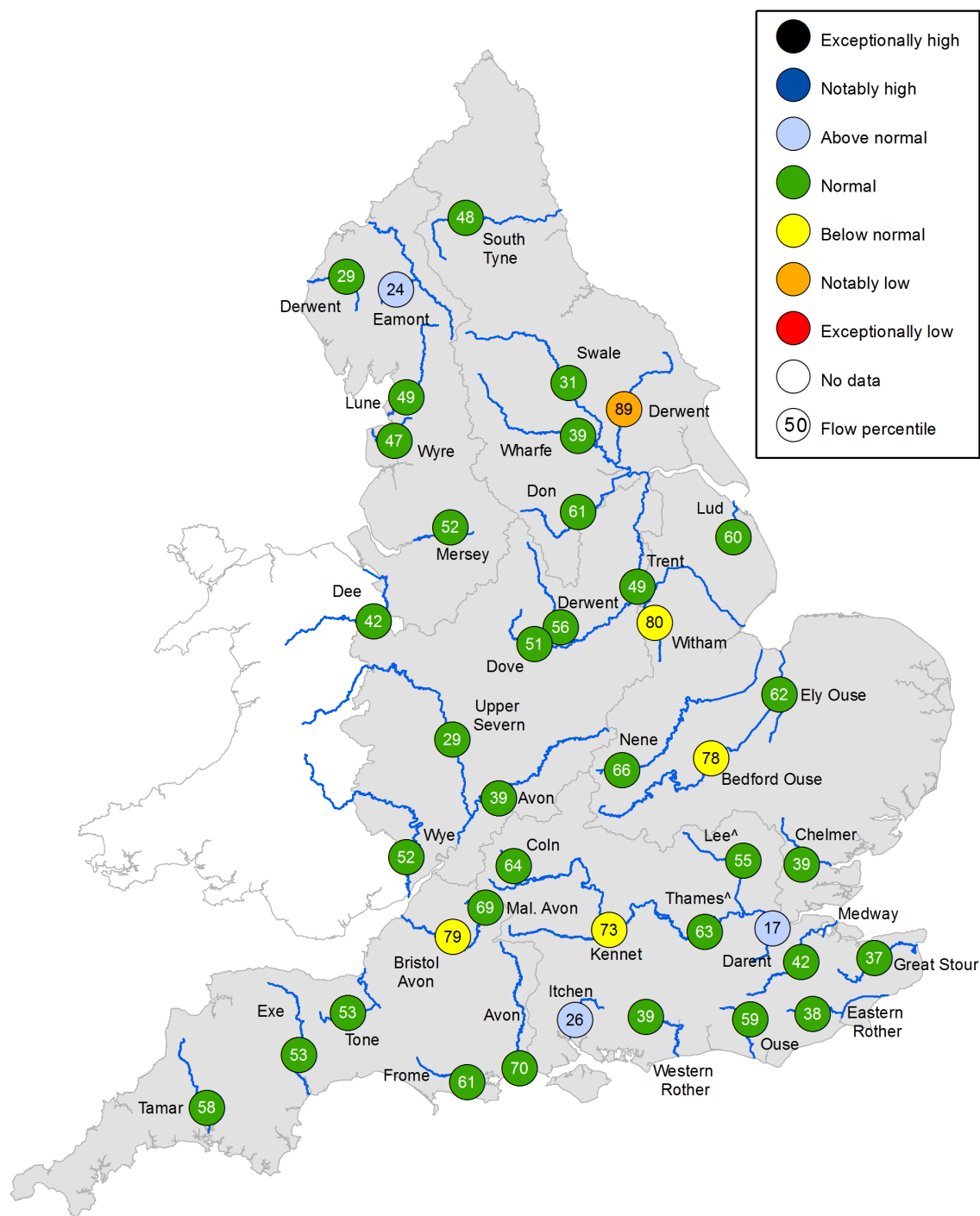
All data are provisional and may be subject to revision. The views expressed in this document are not necessarily those of the Environment Agency. Its officers, servants or agents accept no liability for any loss or damage arising from the interpretation or use of the information, or reliance upon views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