

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 18 to Tuesday 24 March 2015

Summary

The past week has been dry across England, with no area receiving more than 3 mm of rainfall, however the forecast for the next week is for wetter weather. River flows at just over half our indicator sites are now **below normal** or lower for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 1 mm in east and central England to 3 mm in the south-east (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- At over three-quarters of the way through the month rainfall totals for the month to date range from 10% of the March long term average (LTA) in east England to 60% in the north-west (Table 1).
- River flows at just over half our indicator sites are now classed as **below normal** or **notably low** for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

After a wet start to Thursday for the north of England, the rain will clear to the east to leave a mainly dry day. On Friday, patchy rain will move in from the west affecting mainly the south-west of England. There will be further rain in the west on Saturday, possibly heavy over higher ground. Conditions will remain unsettled on Sunday with a band of frontal rain possibly becoming heavier and more persistent over higher ground in the north and west. Monday and Tuesday are expected to remain unsettled.

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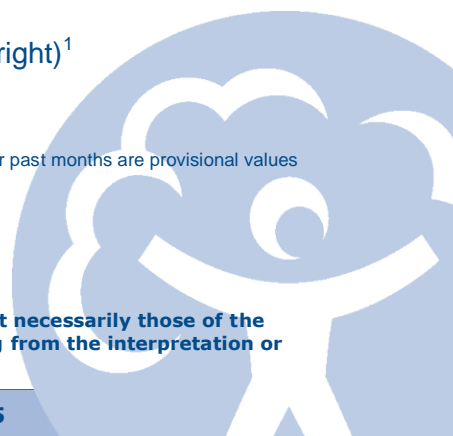
Geographic regions	Latest Week: 18 - 24 Mar '15	Latest month to date: Mar '15		Last month: Feb '15		Last 3 months: Dec '14 - Feb '15		Last 6 months: Sep '14 - Feb '15		Last 12 months: Mar '14 - Feb '15	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	2	55	60	72	96	377	122	668	101	1178	101
north-east	2	30	44	39	68	196	90	400	91	817	100
central	1	23	40	38	75	166	88	351	94	739	103
east	1	5	10	38	102	138	96	313	104	653	109
south-east	3	13	21	57	117	202	103	451	112	810	111
south-west	2	26	31	81	97	291	92	584	97	1046	104
England	2	23	35	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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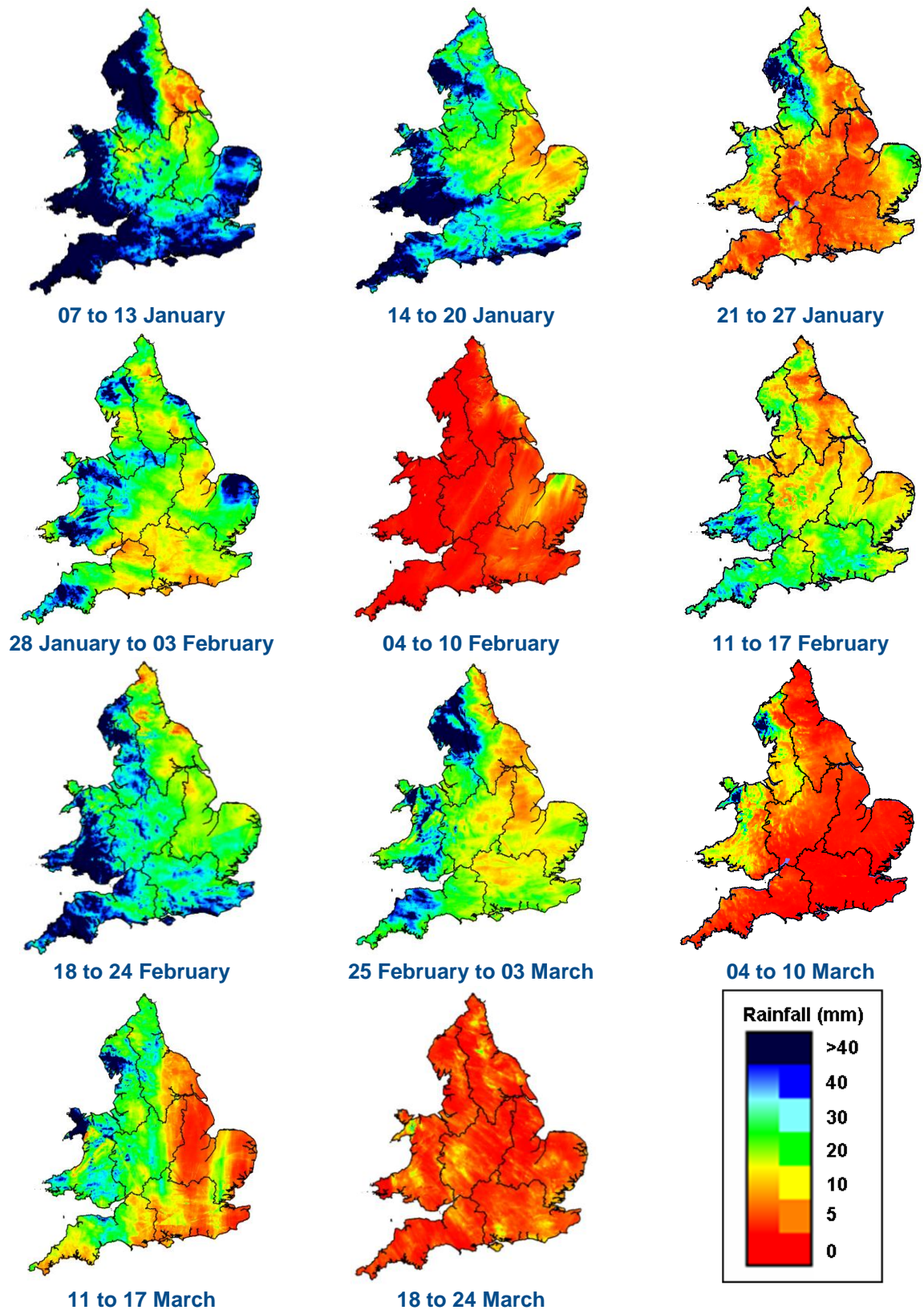
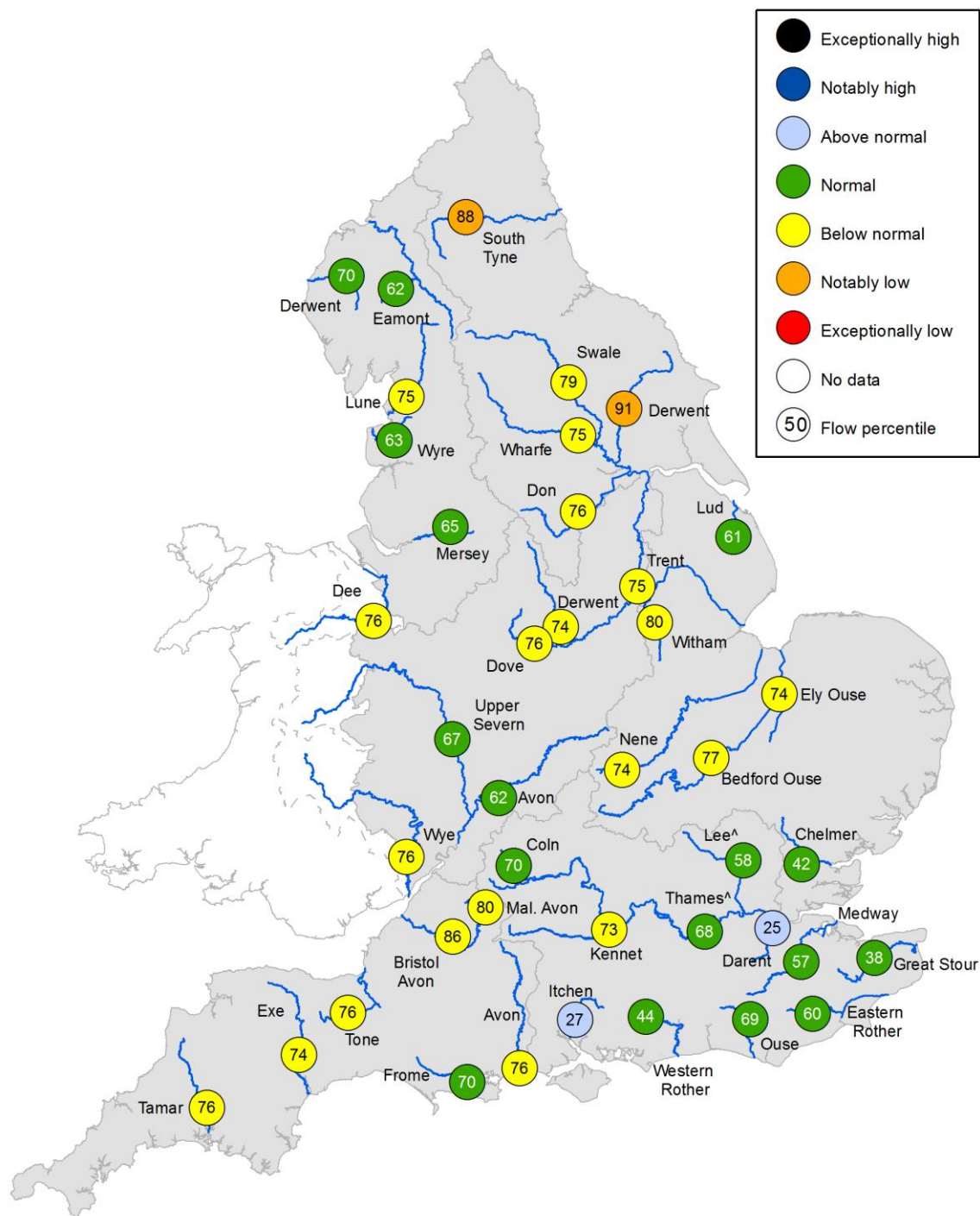


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

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.