Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 11 to Tuesday 17 May 2016

Summary: Dry across much of England. Flows are mostly normal for the time of year.

Rainfall

The past week was dry across much of England. Rainfall totals ranged from 2mm in north-east England to 14mm in south-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date range from 17% of the May long term average (LTA) in north-east England to 60% in south-east England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at all but two sites compared to last week. The latest daily mean flows are normal or higher for the time of year at four-fifths of the sites, with two-thirds of the sites being normal for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

A band of rain will affect the west on Thursday. The front will move eastwards during the day and should clear on Friday. Rain and showers will continue to affect most areas on Saturday and Sunday. Monday and Tuesday will continue to be unsettled, with the driest weather in the south and south-east.

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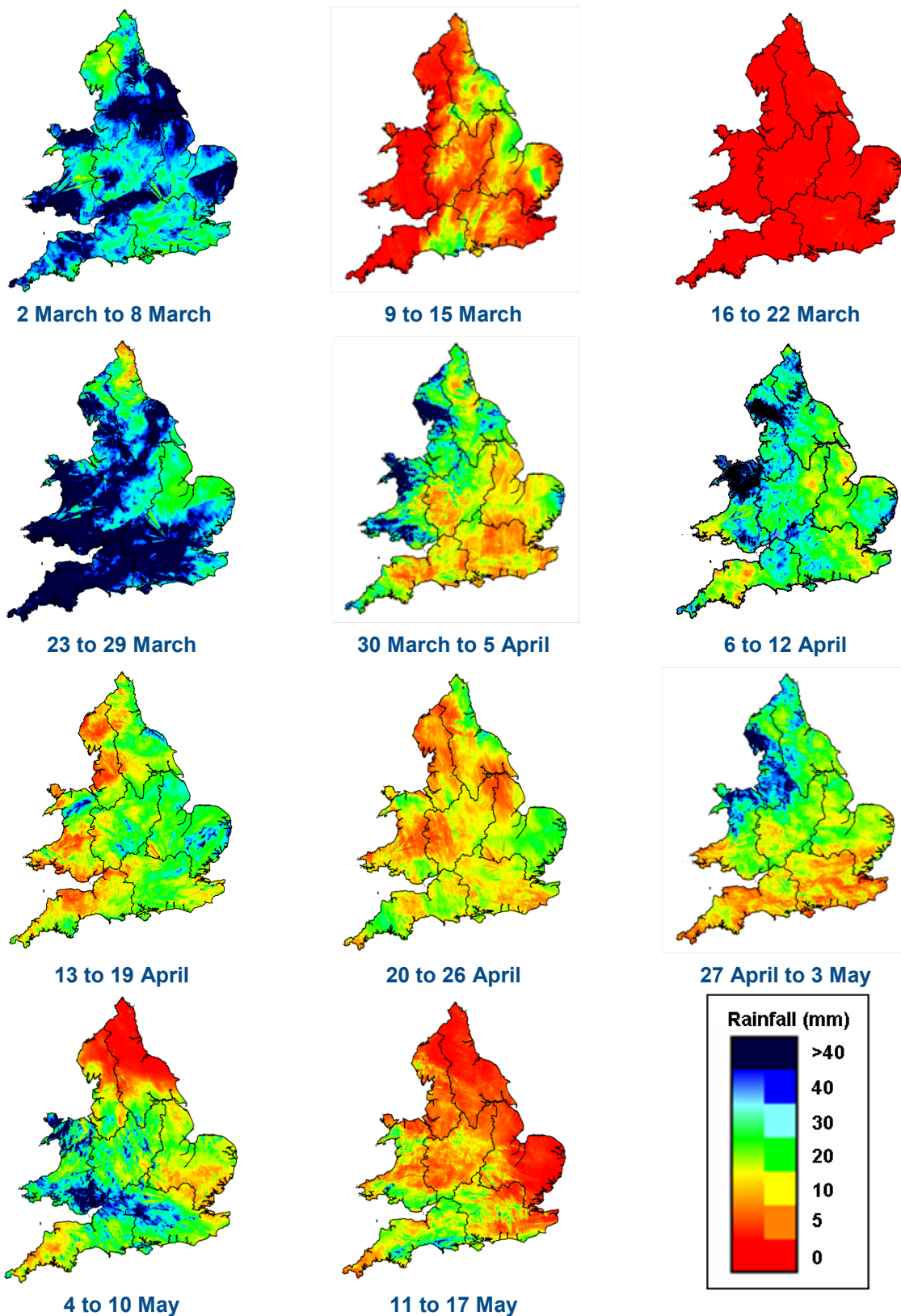| Geographic regions	Latest Week: 11 to 17 May 2016	Latest month to date: May 2016		Last month: Apr 2016		Last 3 months: Feb 2016 to Apr 2016		Last 6 months: Nov 2015 to Apr 2016		Last 12 months: May 2015 to Apr 2016	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	4	22	30	98	143	322	137	1,104	188	1,607	138
north-east	2	10	17	82	143	229	126	730	173	1,148	140
central	5	33	57	66	125	213	133	489	135	837	117
east	3	19	39	60	129	164	126	355	121	673	113
south-east	7	33	60	56	110	193	122	472	124	837	115
south-west	14	36	54	52	85	268	117	702	124	1,200	119
England	6	26	44	67	122	223	126	604	144	1,002	124

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

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[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.
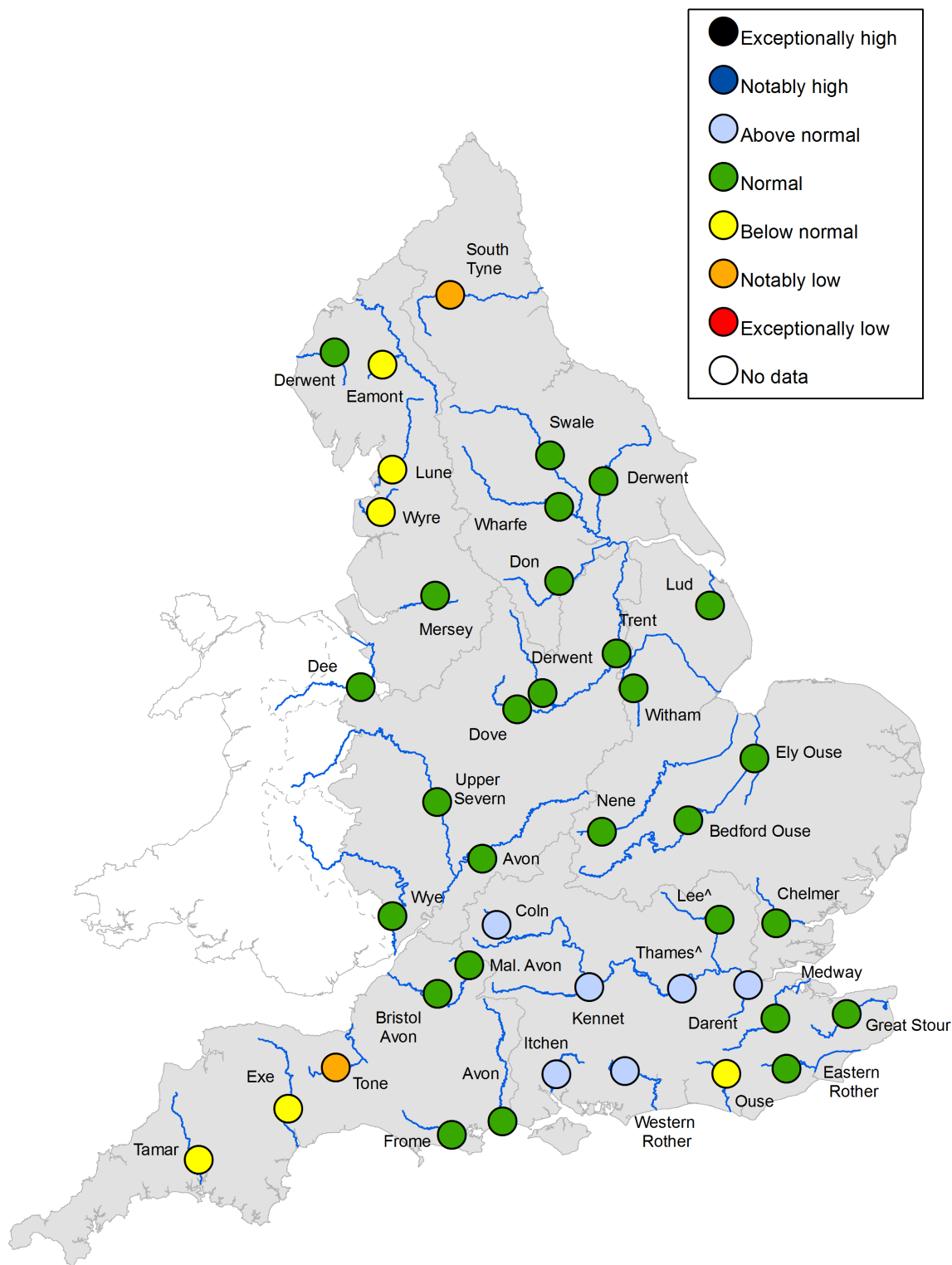
2 March to 8 March   **9 to 15 March**   **16 to 22 March**

23 to 29 March   **30 March to 5 April**   **6 to 12 April**

13 to 19 April   **20 to 26 April**   **27 April to 3 May**

4 to 10 May   **11 to 17 May**

Rainfall (mm)
>40
40
30
20
10
5
0

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

Legend:
- Exceptionally high (black)
- Notably high (dark blue)
- Above normal (light blue)
- Normal (green)
- Below normal (yellow)
- Notably low (orange)
- Exceptionally low (red)
- No data (white)

Labels on map: South Tyne, Derwent, Eamont, Swale, Derwent, Lune, Wyre, Wharfe, Don, Lud, Mersey, Trent, Dee, Derwent, Dove, Witham, Ely Ouse, Upper Severn, Nene, Bedford Ouse, Avon, Wye, Coln, Lee^, Chelmer, Mal. Avon, Thames^, Medway, Bristol Avon, Kennet, Darent, Great Stour, Itchen, Avon, Eastern Rother, Exe, Tone, Western Rother, Ouse, Tamar, Frome

^ – '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