Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 17 to Tuesday 23 February 2016

Summary: A wetter week in east, south-east and central England, similar to the previous week elsewhere.

Rainfall

The past week has been wetter than the previous week in east, south-east and central England. Rainfall totals ranged from 13mm in north-east England to 24mm in north-west England (table 1 and figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for February to date range from 89% of the long term average (LTA) in east England to 148% in north-west England (table 1).

River flow

River flows have increased at nearly three quarters of the sites compared to last week. The latest daily mean flows are normal for the time of year at more than two thirds of sites, with the remaining sites above normal or higher for the time of year (figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday and Friday will be dry in most areas, but with some showers in the south and west on Friday. Saturday is likely to initially see patchy rain in south-west England, with drier weather elsewhere. Sunday onwards it is likely to remain similar, with only patchy wintery showers across England. Remaining cold through the period.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 17 to 23 Feb 2016	Latest month to date: Feb 2016		Last month: Jan 2016		Last 3 months: Nov 2015 to Jan 2016		Last 6 months: Aug 2015 to Jan 2016		Last 12 months: Feb 2015 to Jan 2016	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	24	111	148	196	172	799	227	1036	150	1557	134
north-east	13	64	111	154	196	513	213	728	159	1085	132
central	15	63	124	93	141	283	140	455	117	735	103
east	14	33	89	69	135	193	118	355	111	596	100
south-east	16	56	114	124	172	283	128	505	123	760	104
south-west	18	106	127	176	154	417	124	704	119	1080	107
England	16	68	120	129	163	384	158	597	131	920	114

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.

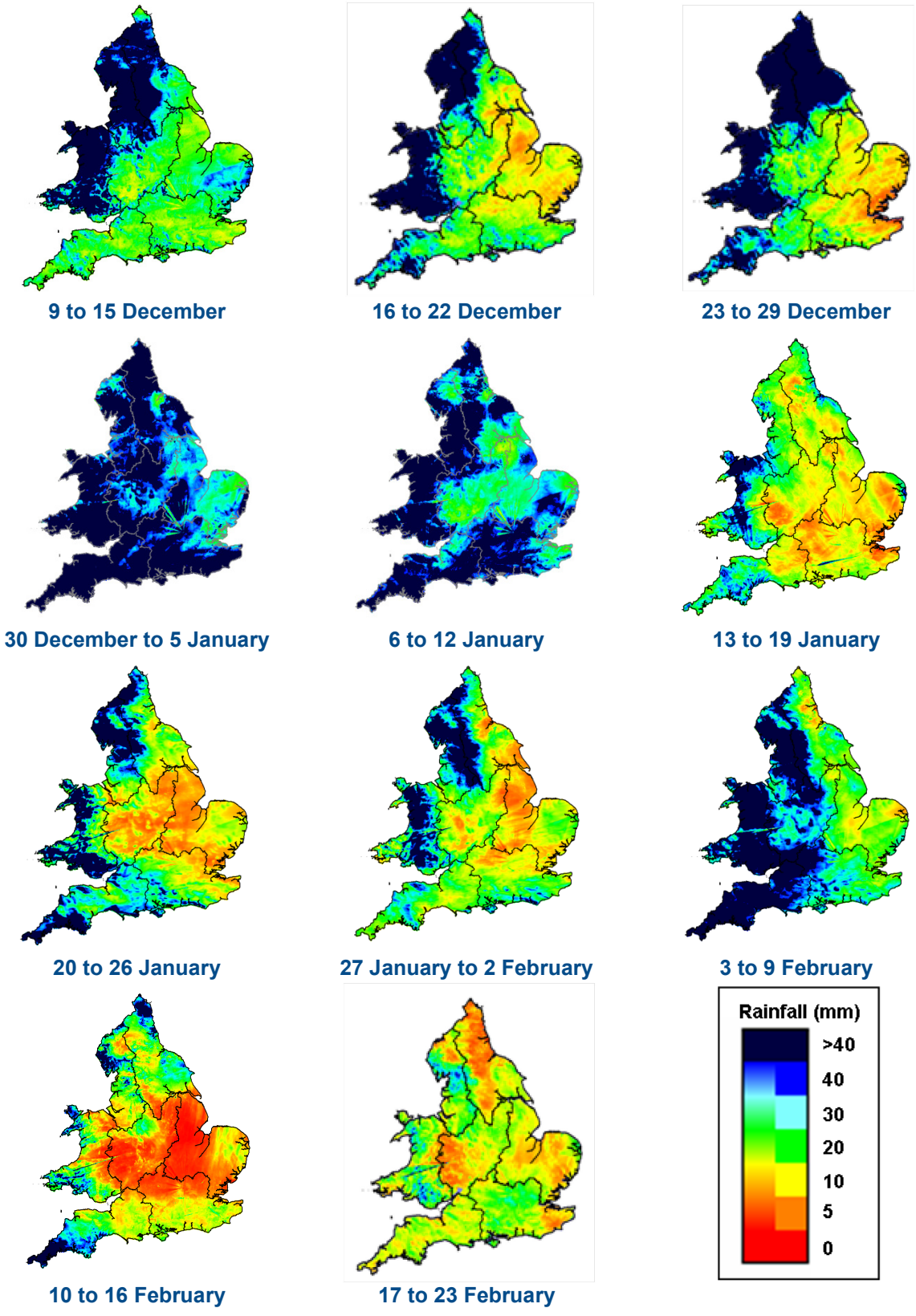
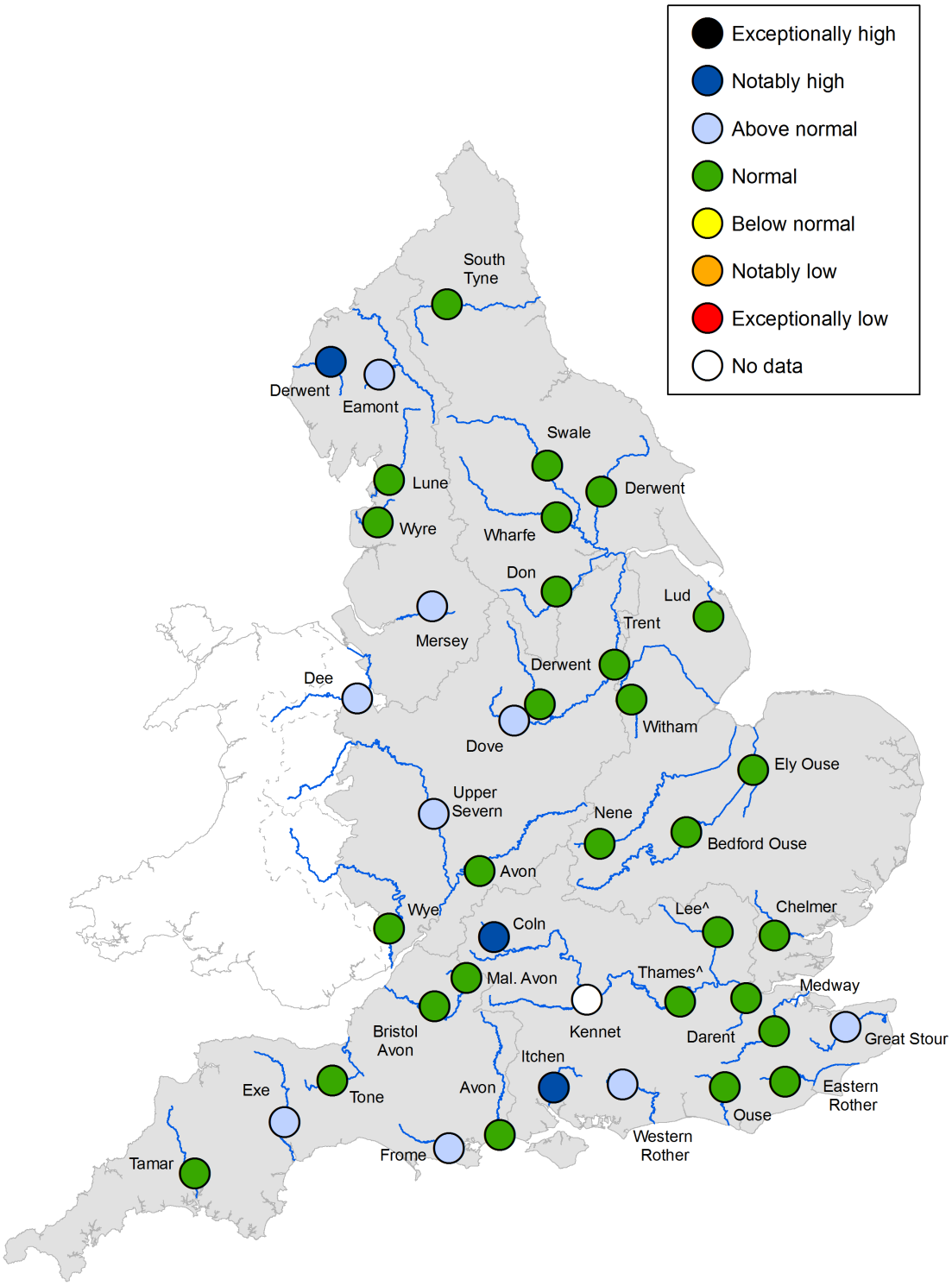


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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

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