Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 3 to Tuesday 9 February 2016

Summary: A wet week for central, north-west and south-west England.

Rainfall

There has been a notable divide in rainfall totals across England over the past week; in north-west, south-west and central England it has been a very wet week, whereas in eastern, north-east and south-east England less rainfall has fallen. Rainfall totals ranged from 16mm in east England to 64mm in south-west England (table 1 and figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for February to date range from 43% of the long term average (LTA) in east England to 86% in central England (table 1).

River flow

River flows have increased at all but one site compared to last week. The latest daily mean flows are normal or higher for the time of year at all sites, with 18 sites being exceptionally high for the time of year mainly in western and northern England (figure 2).

Outlook

During Thursday, further showers are likely to affect parts of western England, with the heaviest rain in south west England. A frontal system moving eastwards is likely to bring persistent and at times heavy rain on Friday to southern England. The weekend will remain unsettled, with the possibility of heavy showers across all parts of England. Monday and Tuesday will continue to be unsettled with showers affecting many areas, perhaps falling as snow in the north.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 3 to 9 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	58	63	84	196	172	799	227	1036	150	1557	134
north-east	31	34	60	154	196	513	213	728	159	1085	132
central	42	44	86	93	141	283	140	455	117	735	103
east	16	16	43	69	135	193	118	355	111	596	100
south-east	31	32	65	124	172	283	128	505	123	760	104
south-west	64	68	82	176	154	417	124	704	119	1080	107
England	38	41	71	129	163	384	158	597	131	920	114

Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015)[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.

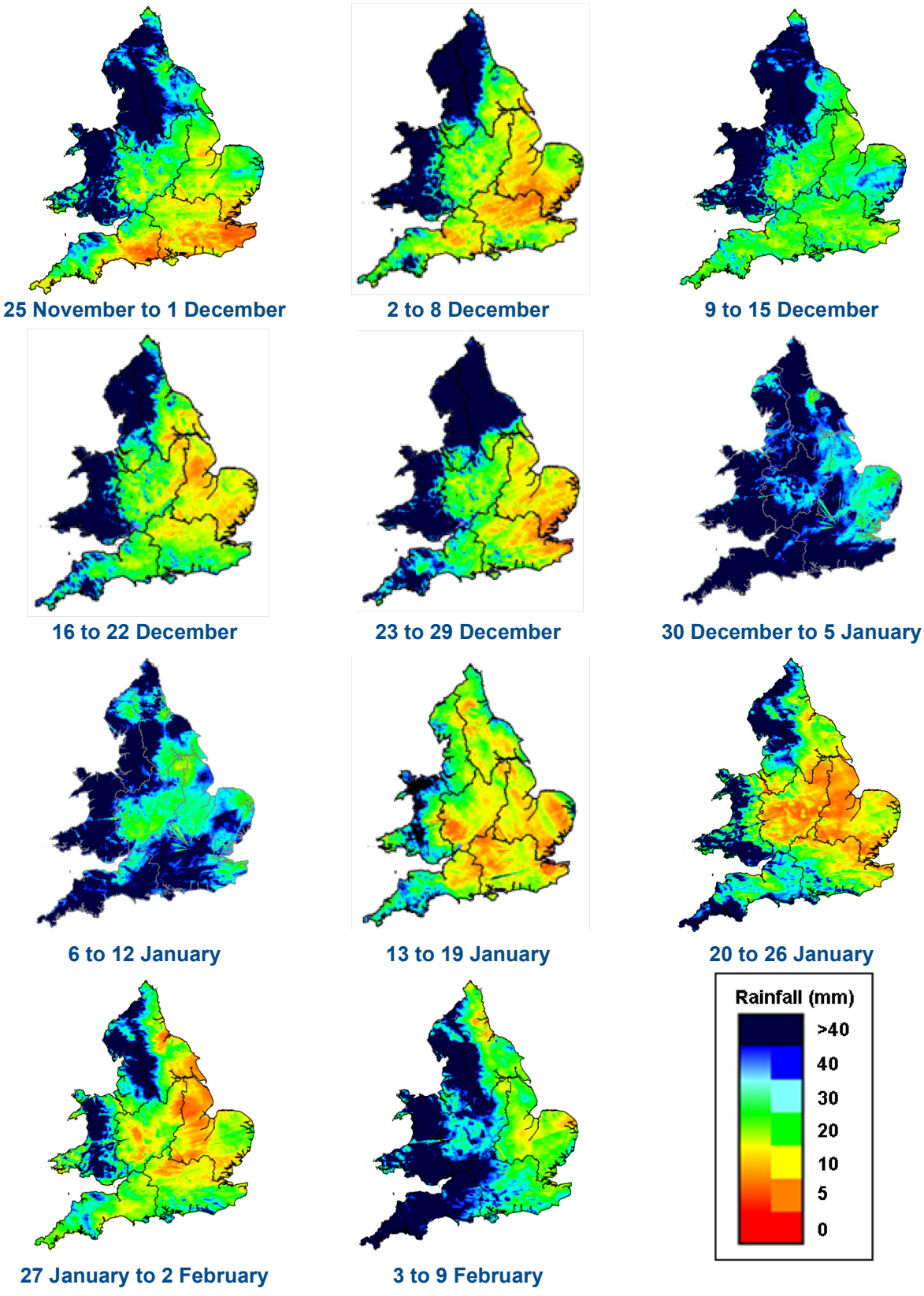
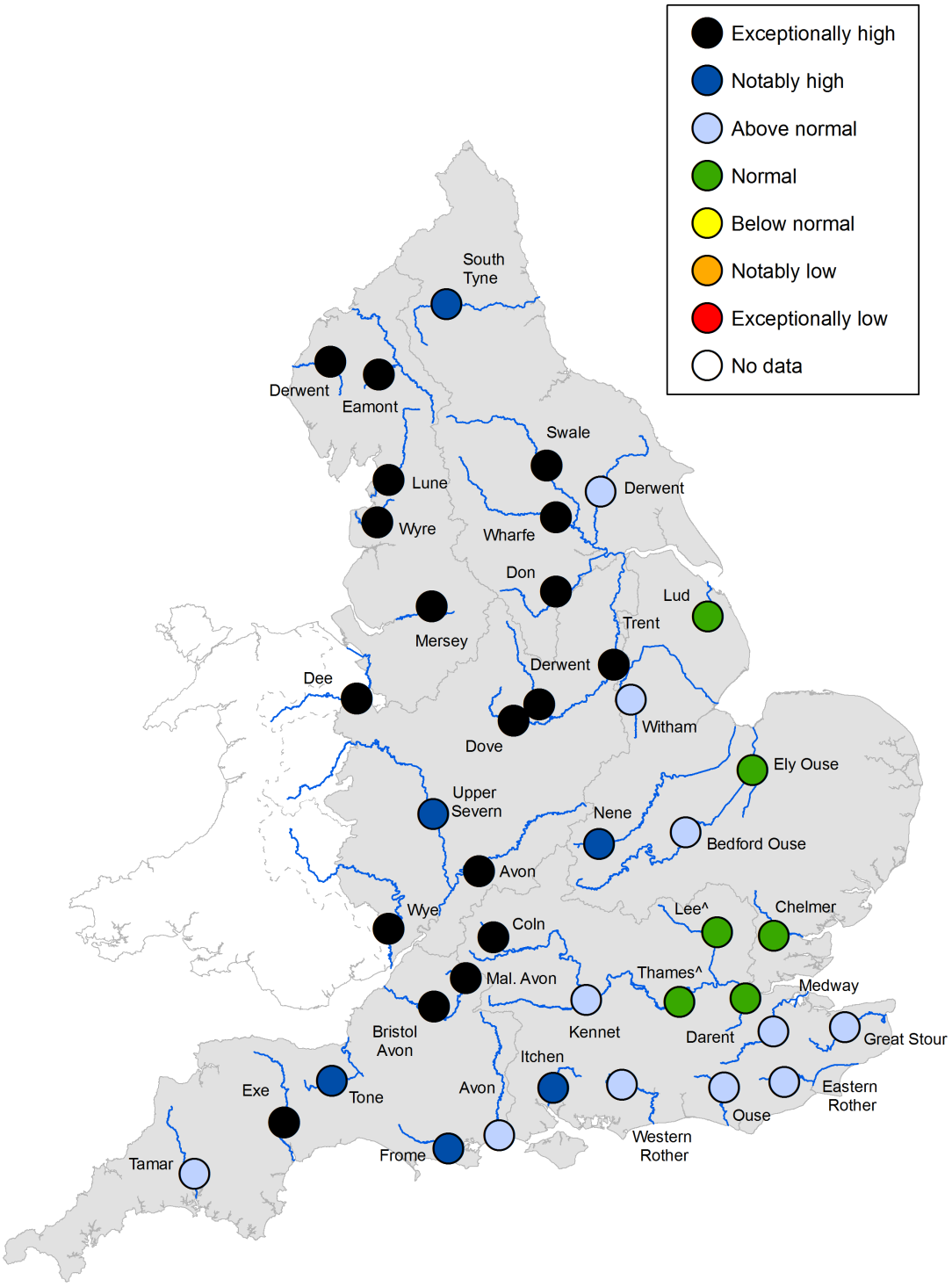


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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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