

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 15 to Tuesday 21 April 2015

Summary

It has been a dry week across England and river flows have fallen at the majority of indicator sites. Flows are now lower than **normal** for the time of year at nearly two thirds of sites, although this situation may improve over the coming week in response to the forecast unsettled weather.

- Rainfall totals for the past week were less than 1 mm across all regions (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Rainfall totals for the month to date range from 18% of the April long term average (LTA) in south-west England to 42% in the north-west (Table 1).
- The latest daily mean river flows are **below normal** or lower for the time of year at nearly two thirds of indicator sites, but remain **normal** elsewhere (Figure 2).

Outlook

The current spell of dry weather will continue until Thursday, after which more unsettled conditions will become established. Showery rain will move in from the south-west on Friday, with further outbreaks of rain and showers, some heavy and thundery, continuing during the weekend across all areas. The unsettled weather is expected to continue on Monday and Tuesday, with further bands of rain moving in from the Atlantic.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 15 - 21 Apr '15	Latest month to date: Apr '15		Last month: Mar '15		Last 3 months: Jan '15 - Mar '15		Last 6 months: Oct '14 - Mar '15		Last 12 months: Apr '14 - Mar '15	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	0.7	29	42	111	121	339	121	747	116	1181	102
north-east	0.7	16	29	63	93	184	90	433	99	814	99
central	0.2	14	26	50	87	153	88	394	106	750	105
east	0.5	11	25	25	54	113	83	324	108	655	110
south-east	0.2	10	19	26	43	174	97	458	115	795	109
south-west	0.2	11	18	46	55	262	93	609	101	1022	101
England	0.4	14	26	49	75	192	95	472	107	842	104

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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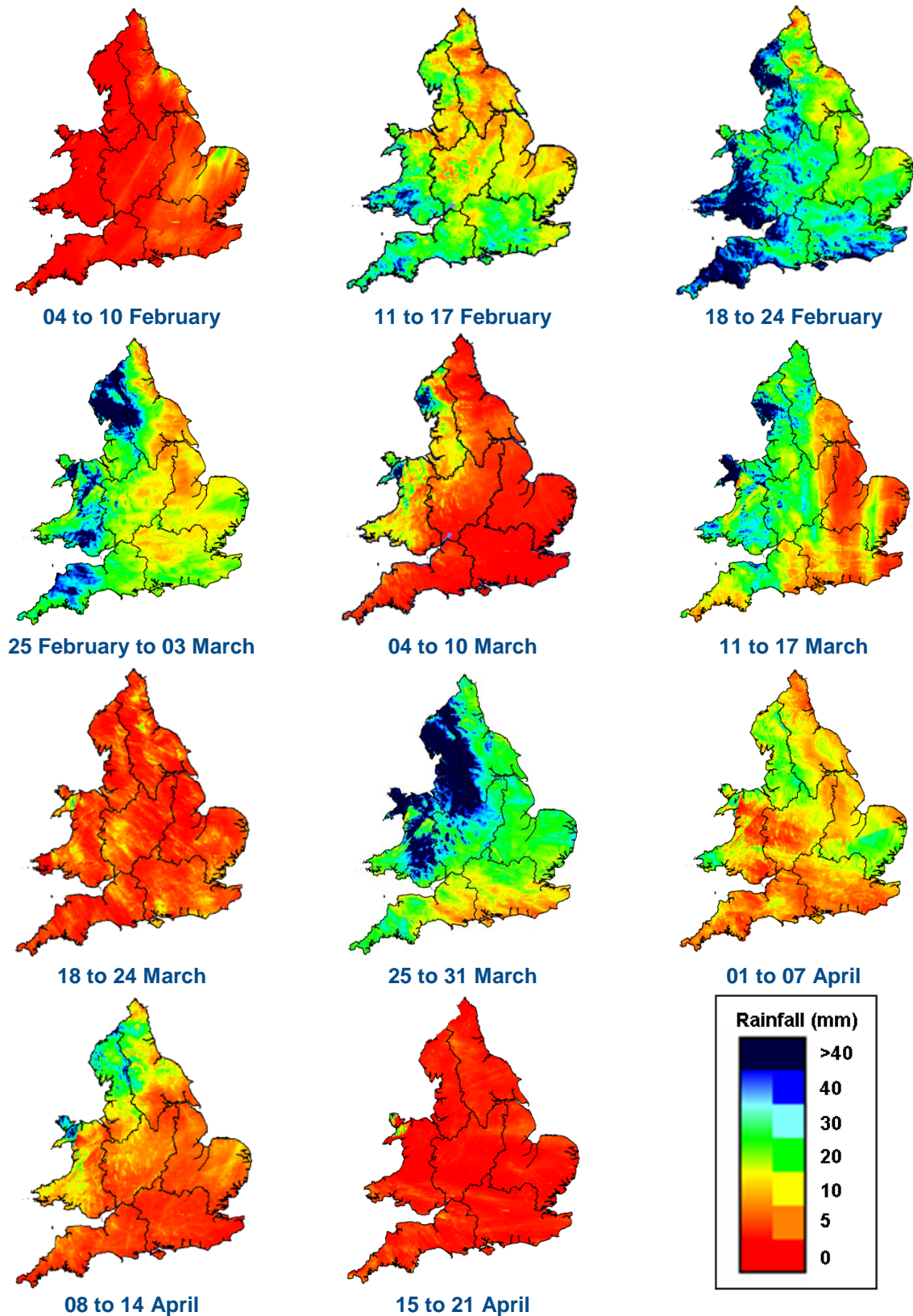
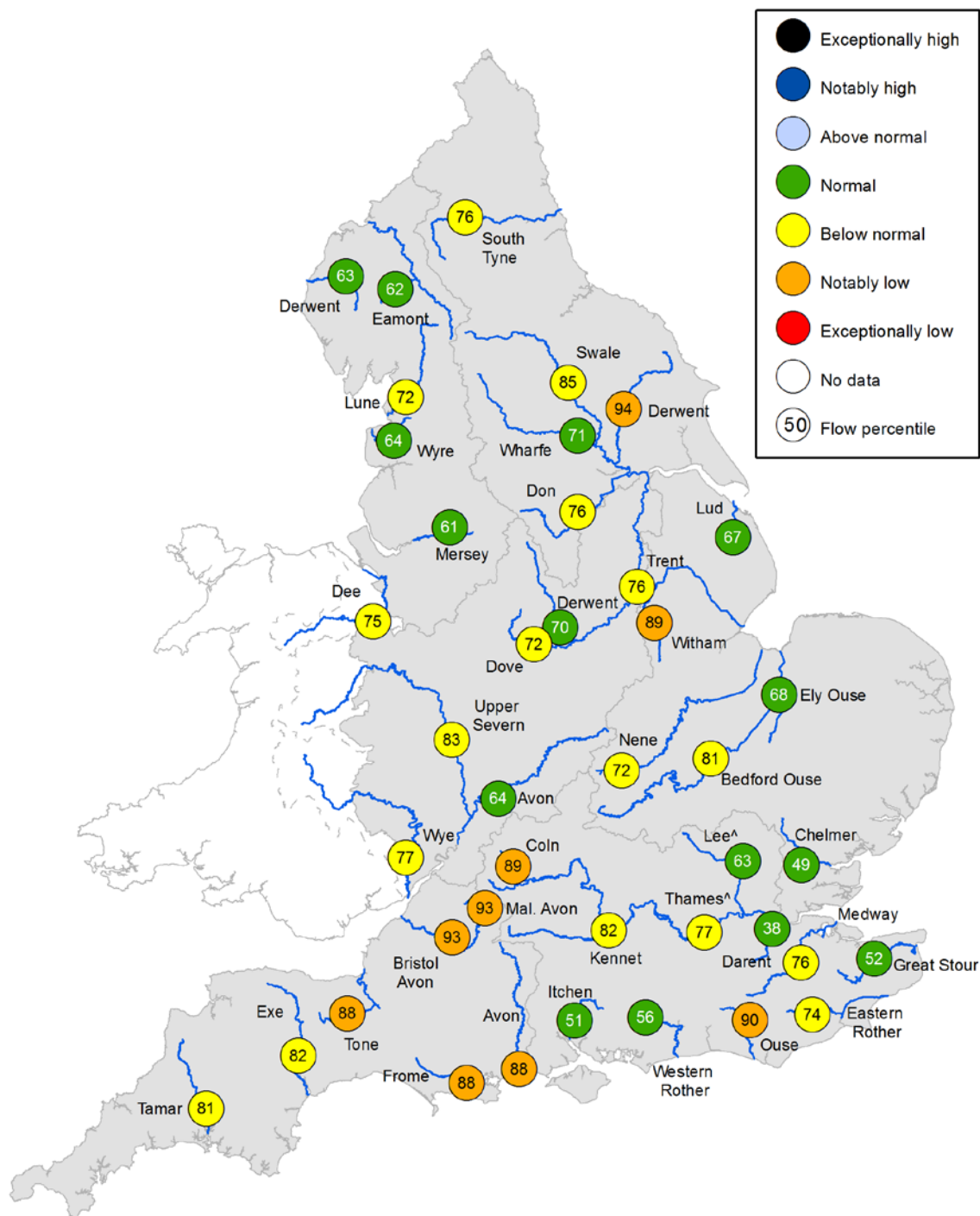


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

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.