

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 29 April to Tuesday 05 May 2015

Summary

The past week has been very wet across all of England, with all areas receiving 25 mm or more of rainfall. River flows have increased at nearly all our indicator sites with nearly half our indicator sites now **above normal** or higher for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 25 mm in east and south-east England to 49 mm in the north-west (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- After just 5 days in May the rainfall totals for the month to date are already close to or over half the May long term average (LTA) and range from 42% in south-east England to 59% in the north-west. For all of England apart from the north-west, there has been more rainfall in the first 5 days of May than there was in all of April (Table 1).
- River flows have increased at nearly all our indicator sites. The latest daily mean flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at all but 2 of our indicator sites with nearly half our indicator sites **above normal** or higher for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday will be mainly dry for most of England, with some showers possible in the south. Friday will start dry but more persistent rain is expected to affect the west and north later in the day and into Saturday morning. Later on Saturday and into Sunday dry conditions will return for all of England, before further rain moves into the north and west overnight and into Monday. Monday and Tuesday are expected to be unsettled in the north and west but drier in the south and east.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 29 Apr - 05 May '15	Latest month to date: May '15		Last month: Apr '15		Last 3 months: Feb '15 - Apr '15		Last 6 months: Nov '14 - Apr '15		Last 12 months: May '14 - Apr '15	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	49	43	59	53	77	236	100	647	110	1188	102
north-east	39	35	59	31	54	133	73	380	90	799	97
central	30	29	51	19	36	107	67	330	91	724	101
east	25	24	49	20	44	84	64	266	90	654	109
south-east	25	23	42	21	42	104	66	372	98	750	103
south-west	35	34	52	24	39	151	66	511	90	960	95
England	33	30	52	26	48	128	72	398	95	817	101

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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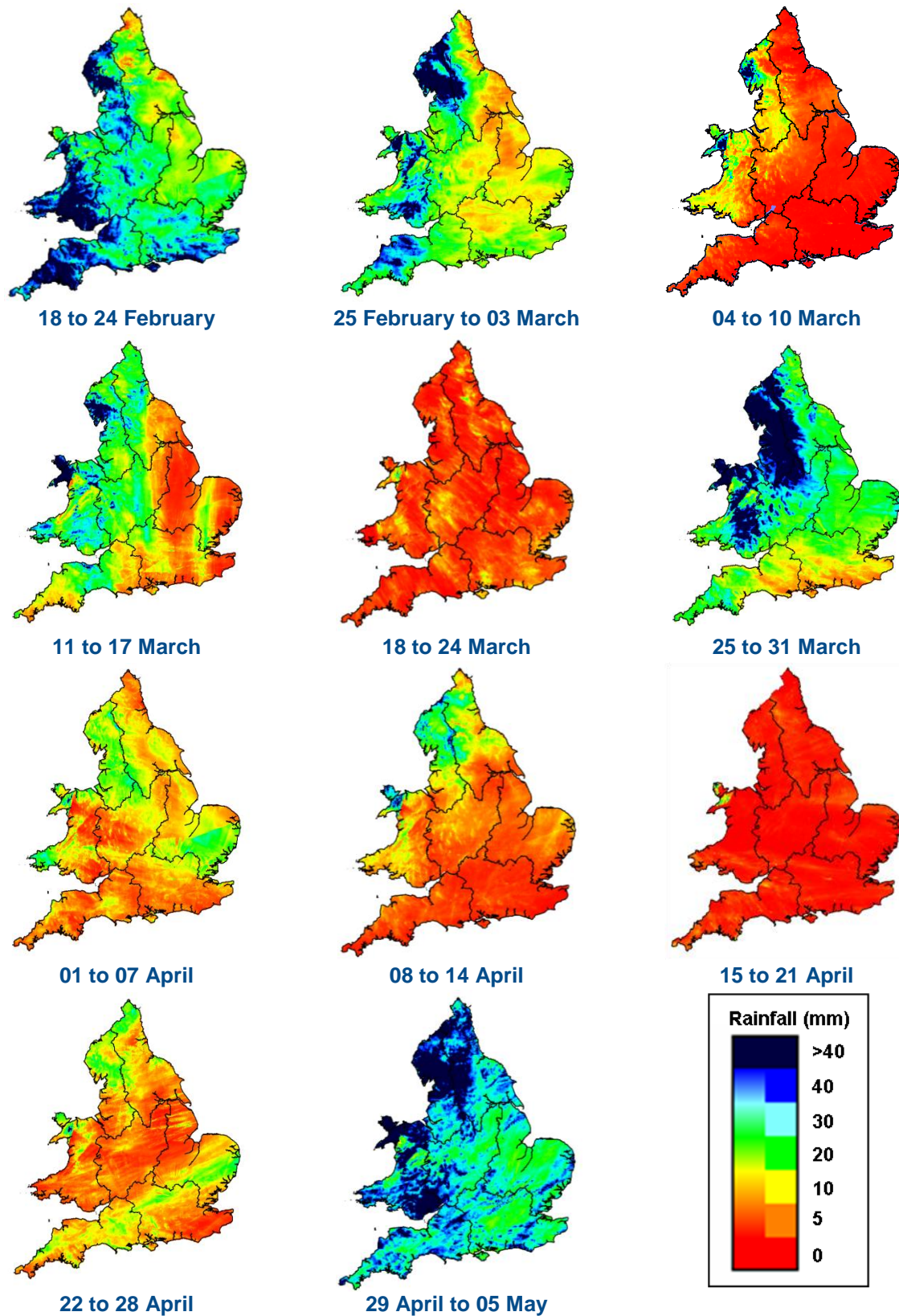
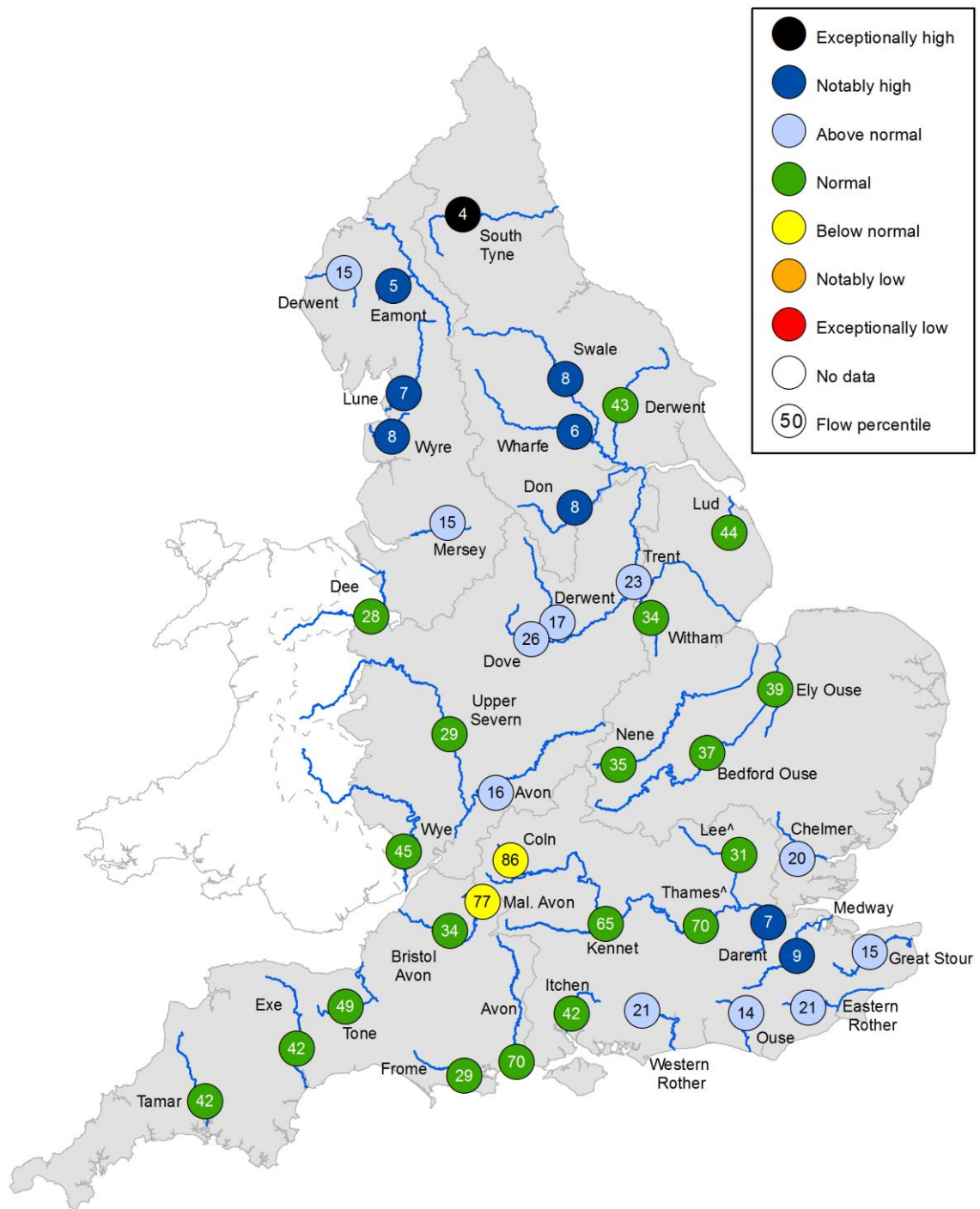


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

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.