Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 27 January to Tuesday 2 February 2016

Summary: Another wet week for northern and south-west England.

Rainfall

Central and east England have continued to be drier than other parts of England over the past week, with rainfall totals ranging from 9mm in east England to 41mm in north-west England (table 1 and figure 1). Cumulative rainfall for January was above the long term average (LTA) across England, ranging from 135% of in east England to 196% in north-east England (table 1).

River flow

River flows have increased and decreased in almost equal measure this week compared to last week, with the largest decreases in north-west and north-east England. The latest daily mean flows are normal or higher for the time of year at all sites, with 3 sites being notably high for the time of year (figure 2).

Outlook

A band of rain from the west overnight on Wednesday should clear quickly on Thursday. Some areas of light rain may persist in the west until Friday. Further rain on Friday night and during Saturday will move south-east, with highest totals over high ground in the north-west of England. The rain will continue to affect the south of England on Saturday and the west on Sunday. Monday and Tuesday will be unsettled.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 27 Jan to 02 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	41	6	8	196	172	799	227	1036	150	1557	134
north-east	23	3	5	154	196	513	213	728	159	1085	132
central	15	2	3	93	141	283	140	455	117	735	103
east	9	0.2	0.6	69	135	193	118	355	111	596	100
south-east	16	1	2	124	172	283	128	505	123	760	104
south-west	20	5	5	176	154	417	124	704	119	1080	107
England	19	3	5	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.

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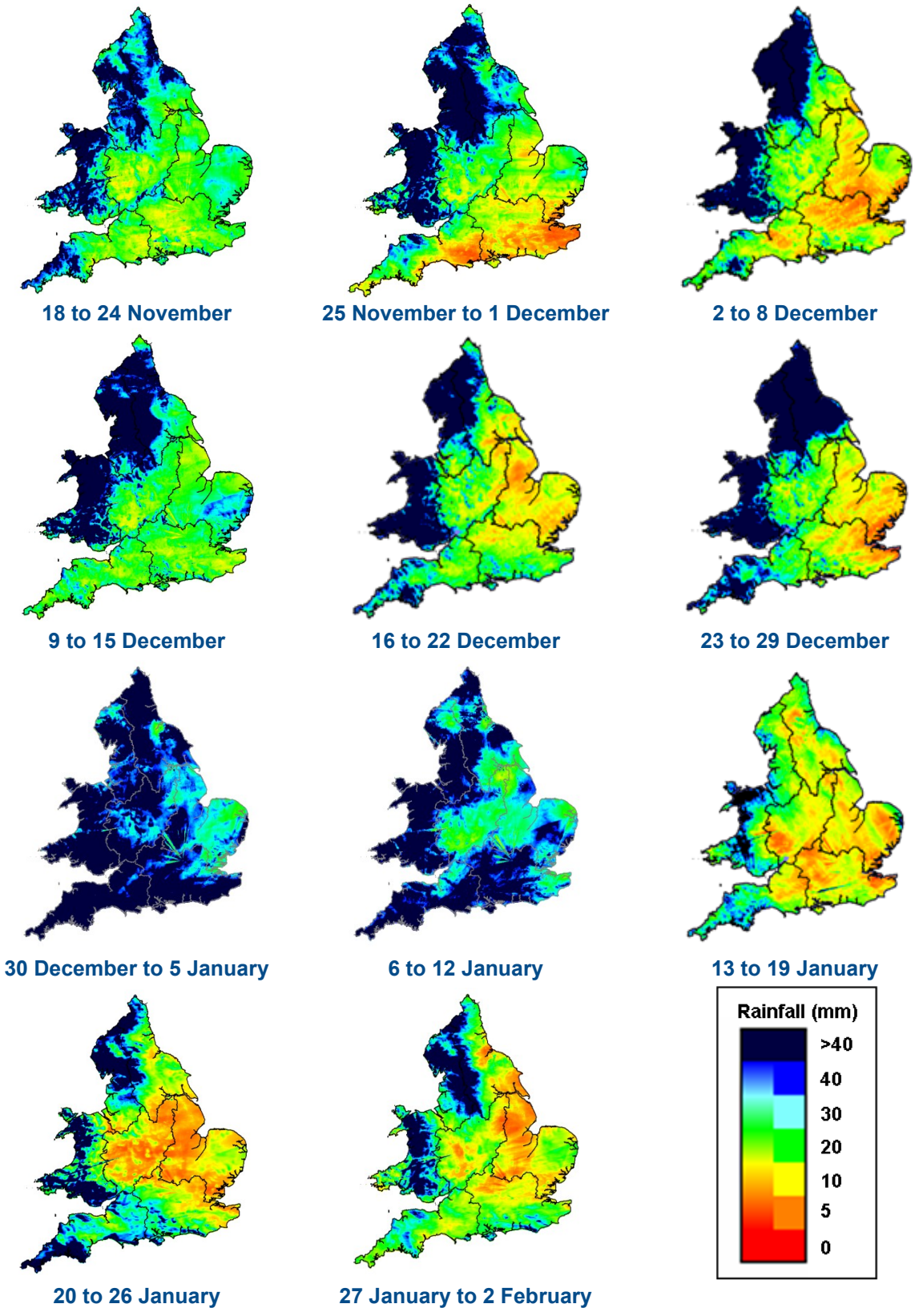

Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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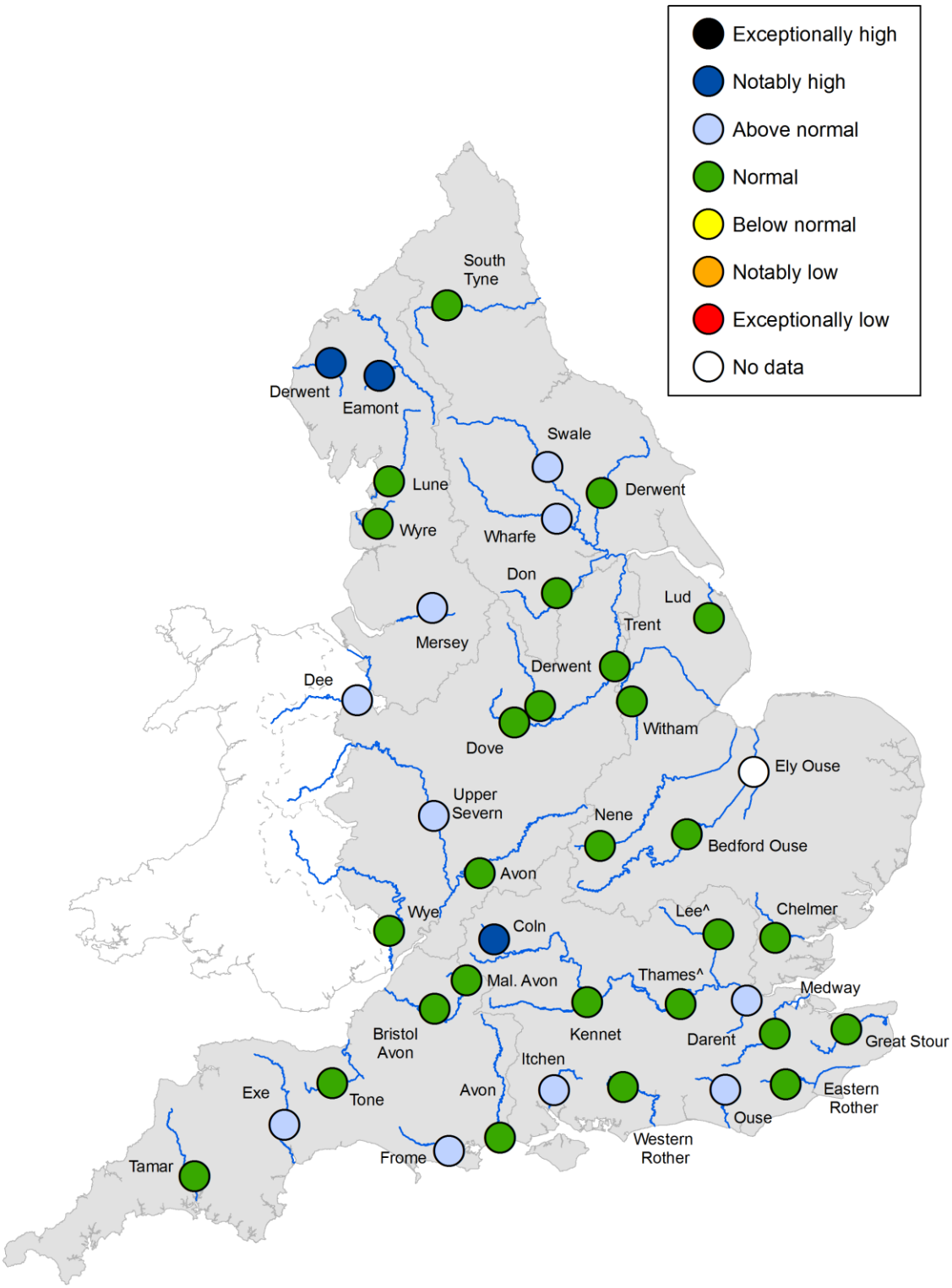
River flow



^ – '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.

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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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