Weekly rainfall and river flow summary



Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 22 to Tuesday 28 April 2015

Summary

The past week has been wetter than last week across all of England, with most areas receiving more than 6 mm of rainfall. Over a third of our indicator sites are **normal** for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 6 mm in central to 16 mm in the north-west (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- The rainfall totals for the month to date range from 38% of the April long term average (LTA) in south-west and south-east England to 65% in the north-west (Table 1).
- The latest daily mean flows are **normal** for the time of year at over a third of our indicator sites and **below normal** or lower at the remaining two thirds (Figure 2).

Outlook

Friday is mainly dry and settled, rain will move into the south and west moving north and east on Saturday. Heavy rain is possible on Saturday and Sunday, Monday and Tuesday will remain unsettled with longer spells of rain possible.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 22 - 28 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	16	45	65	111	121	339	121	747	116	1181	102
north-east	10	26	46	63	93	184	90	433	99	814	99
central	6	20	38	50	87	153	88	394	106	750	105
east	7	19	41	25	54	113	83	324	108	655	110
south-east	9	19	38	26	43	174	97	458	115	795	109
south-west	13	24	40	46	55	262	93	609	101	1022	101
England	10	24	44	49	75	192	95	472	107	842	104

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Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright)¹

¹ Notes:

- 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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[•] LTA = long term average rainfall for 1961 – 1990



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.

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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 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.

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 $^{^2}$ 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.