Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 23 to Tuesday 29 March 2016

Summary: A wet week across England. Flows are mostly notably high or exceptionally high for the time of year.

Rainfall

The past week has been wet across all of England, with the highest rainfall totals in southern England. Rainfall totals ranged from 26mm in east England to 54mm in south-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for March to date range from 90% of the long term average (LTA) in north-west England to 162% in east England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have increased at all of the sites except one compared to last week. The latest daily mean flows are notably high or exceptionally high for the time of year at just over two-thirds of the sites, with all sites being normal or higher for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

During Thursday scattered, occasionally heavy showers are possible but most areas will remain dry, as a ridge of high pressure builds across England from the south-west. The high pressure is likely to continue to dominate south-east England on Friday and Saturday. A band of frontal rain may move into north and west parts of England later on Friday and into Saturday. Early on Sunday the frontal rain is expected to move away northwards, with brighter conditions following although interspersed with more showery rain. Monday and Tuesday are expected to remain showery but still with some sunny spells.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 23 to 29 Mar 2016	Latest month to date: Mar 2016		Last month: Feb 2016		Last 3 months: Dec 2015 to Feb 2016		Last 6 months: Sep 2015 to Feb 2016		Last 12 months: Mar 2015 to Feb 2016	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	37	83	90	140	187	682	221	1064	161	1630	140
north-east	27	75	110	70	121	422	195	706	160	1110	135
central	34	78	136	67	131	262	139	442	118	765	107
east	26	75	162	33	88	159	110	322	107	591	99
south-east	45	86	145	53	109	258	131	457	113	753	103
south-west	54	103	122	114	136	414	132	674	112	1115	111
England	37	83	127	74	130	339	155	573	129	941	116

Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016)[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.

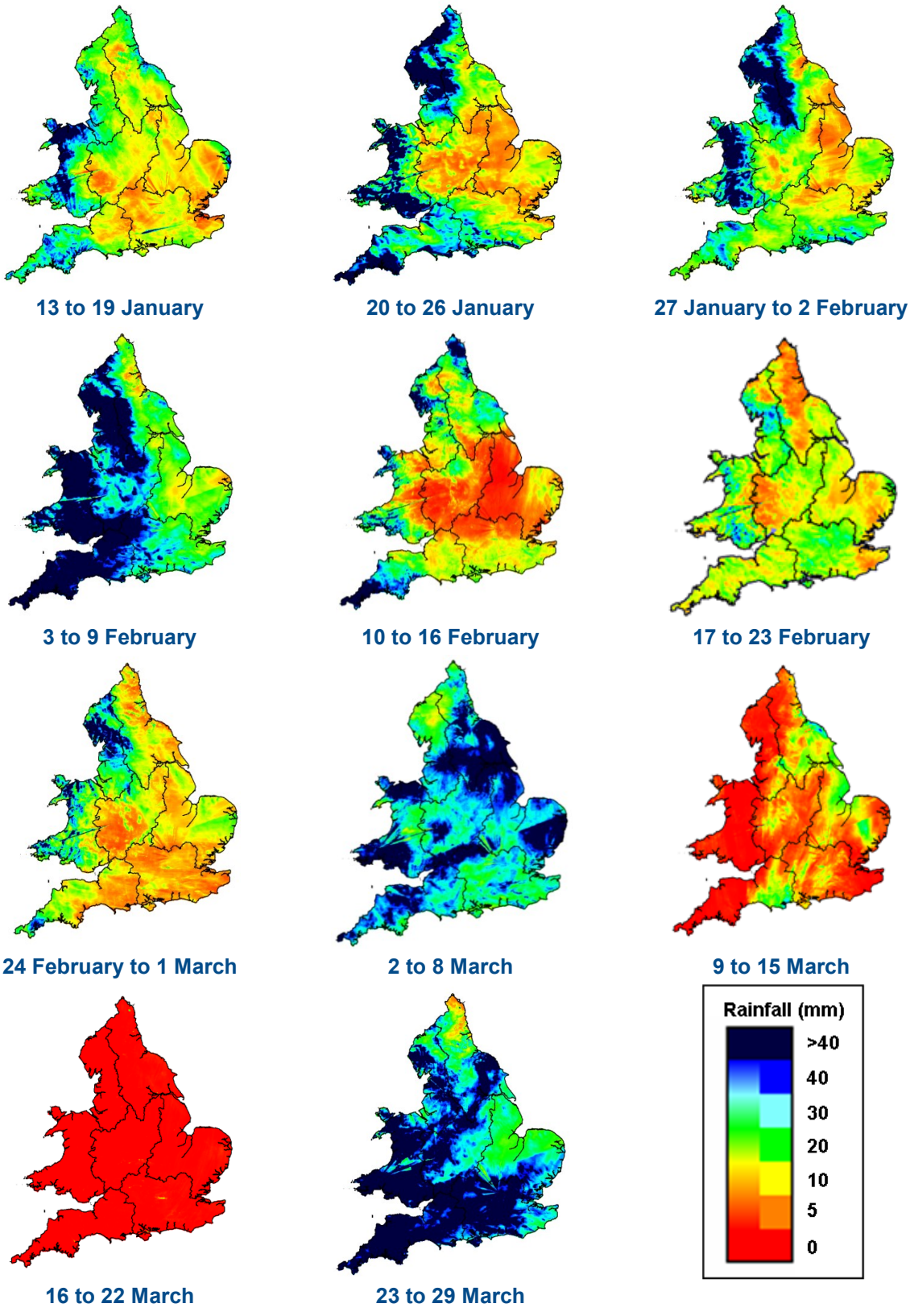
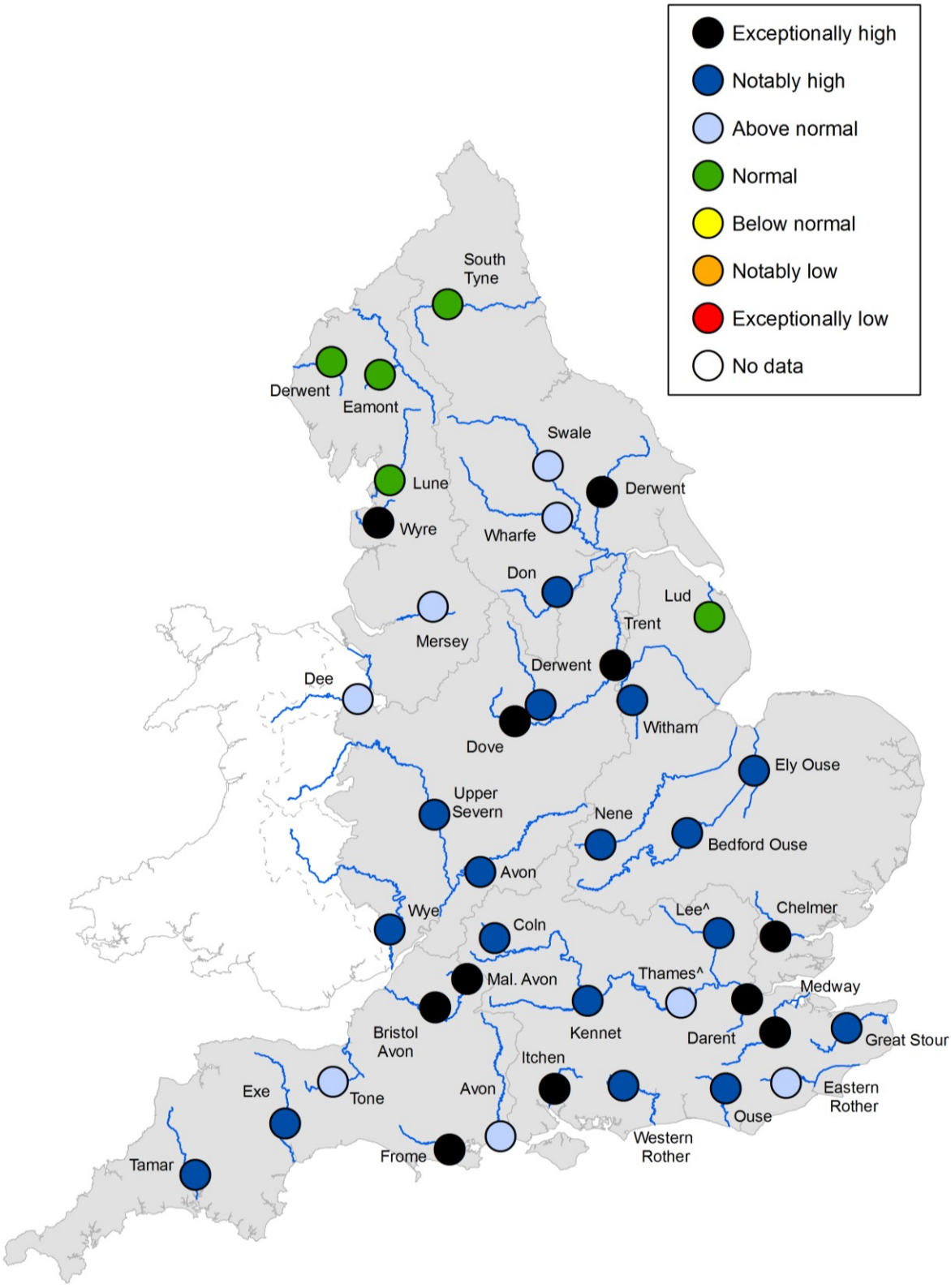


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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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