Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 6 to Tuesday 12 April 2016

Summary: Rainfall across most of England over the past week. Flows are normal or higher for the time of year.

Rainfall

The past week has seen some rainfall across most of England. Rainfall totals ranged from 15mm in east England to 32mm in north-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for the first 12 days of April range from 46% of the long term average (LTA) in south-west England to 98% in north-west England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have increased at more than half of the sites compared to last week. The latest daily mean flows are normal or higher for the time of year at all sites, with two thirds of the sites being above normal or higher for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday is likely to see sunshine across much of England, with scattered showers and some thunderstorms. Scattered showers continue Friday, again with the risk of some thundery outbreaks. Showers are likely to clear south-eastwards through Saturday, leaving mostly dry, settled weather from Sunday for most of England.

Author: E&B Hydrology Team

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 06 to 12 Apr 2016	Latest month to date: Apr 2016		Last month: Mar 2016		Last 3 months: Jan 2016 to Mar 2016		Last 6 months: Oct 2015 to Mar 2016		Last 12 months: Apr 2015 to Mar 2016	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	32	67	98	84	92	420	150	1093	170	1579	136
north-east	27	44	78	78	116	302	148	728	166	1103	135
central	23	35	66	81	142	240	138	478	129	793	111
east	15	24	52	72	154	174	129	344	115	635	106
south-east	19	27	53	84	142	261	145	475	119	803	110
south-west	16	28	46	102	121	392	139	714	119	1162	115
England	21	36	65	83	127	286	142	600	136	964	119

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.

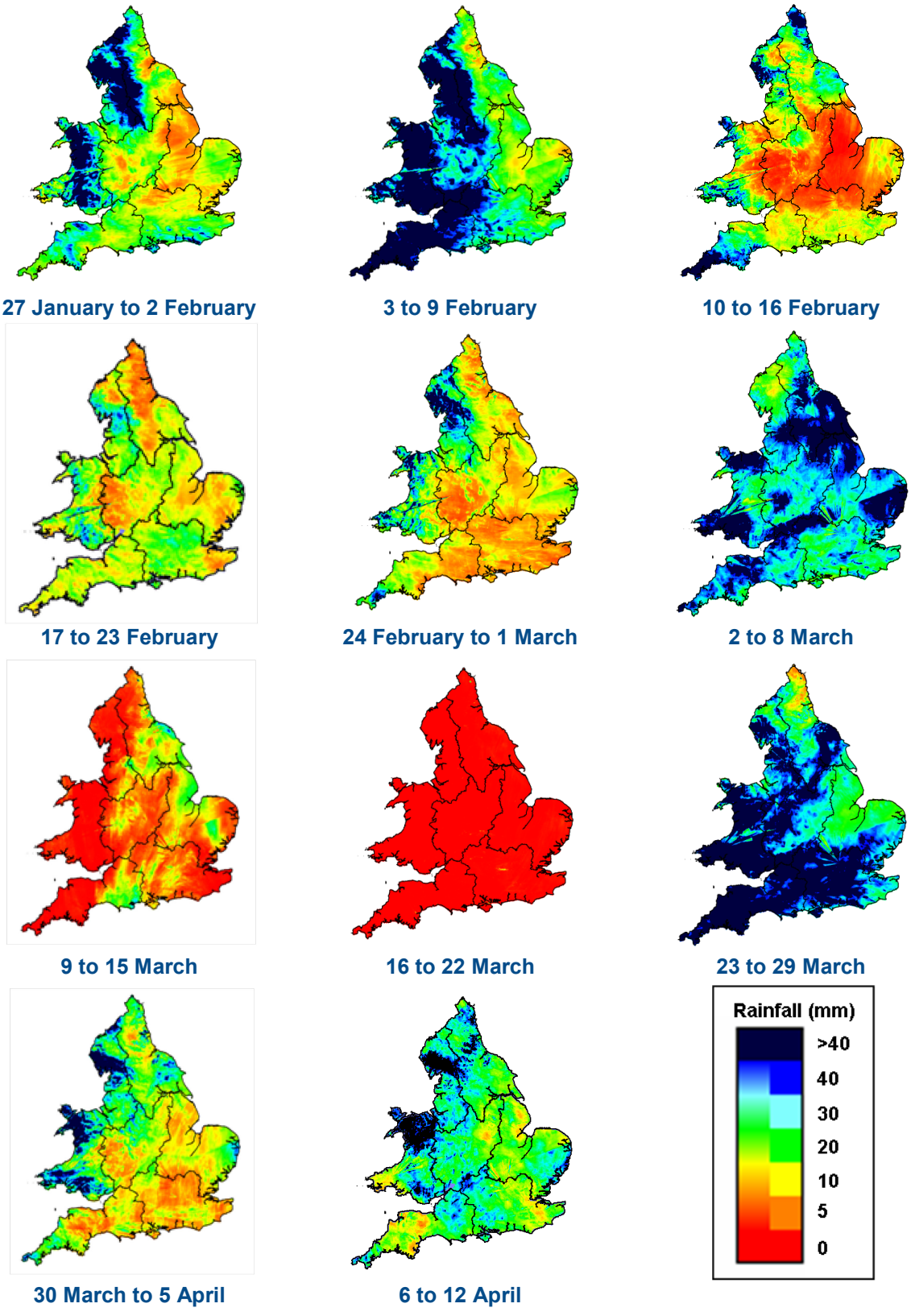
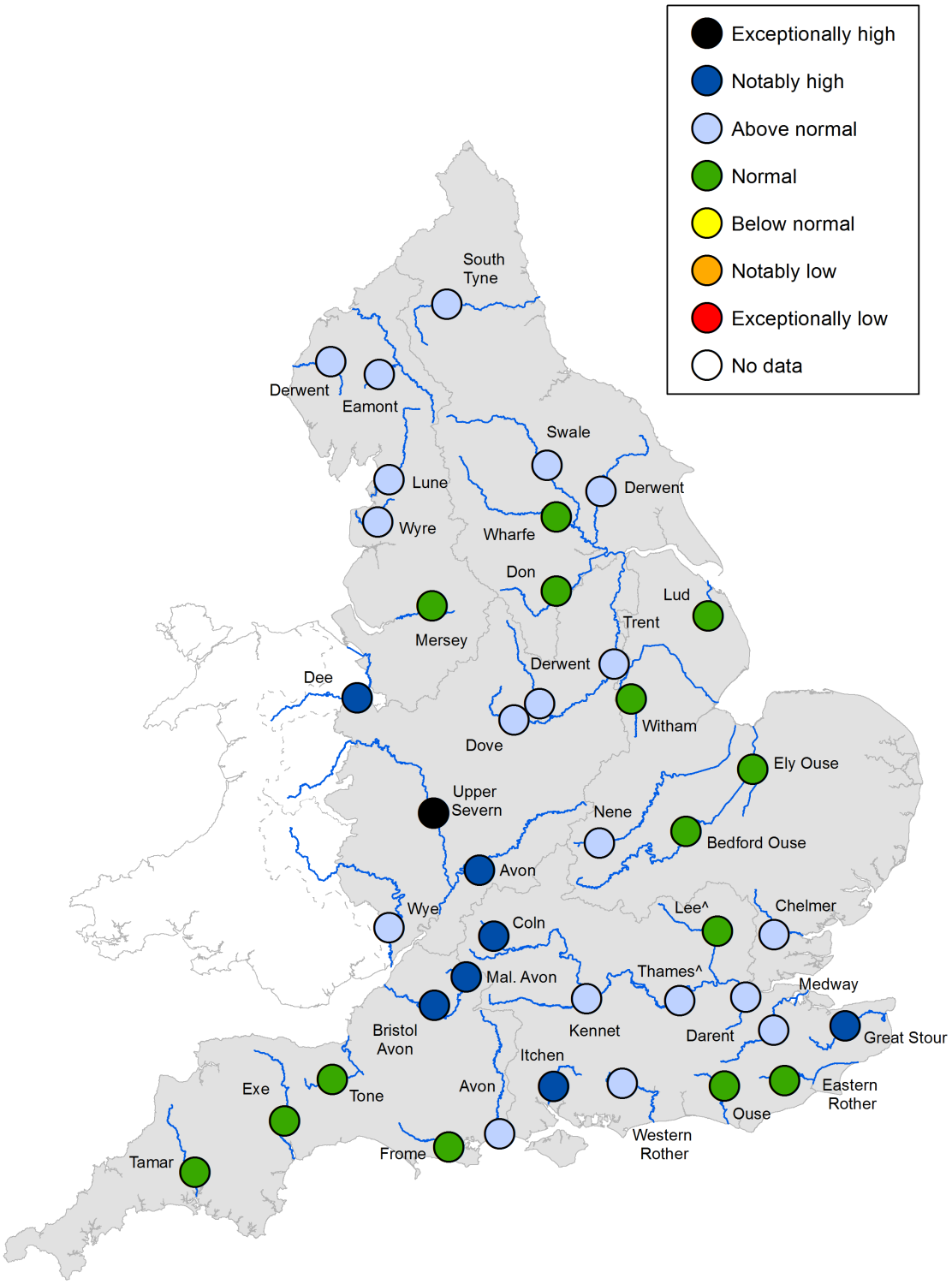


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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

Return to summary page