Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 4 to Tuesday 10 May 2016

Summary: Dry in the north and wetter in the south of England. River flows are mostly normal for the time of year.

Rainfall

The past week was dry across much of England but wetter in the south of England. Rainfall totals ranged from 3mm in north-east England to 24mm in south-west and south-east England, with most of this rainfall coming on Monday and Tuesday (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for May range from 14% of the May long term average (LTA) in north-east England to 47% in south-east and central England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at nearly a third of sites compared to last week. The latest daily mean flows are normal or higher for the time of year at all but 4 of the sites, with almost three-quarters of the sites being normal for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday will see further showers in south-west England with the rest of England being mostly dry. Friday will continue to be dry for much of England with some isolated showers in the south-west. The weekend is expected to remain dry with some showers possible along the east coast. Monday and Tuesday are expected to remain dry for much of England with some spells of rain in the north-west.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 4 to 10 May 2016	Latest month to date: May 2016		Last month: Apr 2016		Last 3 months: Feb 2016 to Apr 2016		Last 6 months: Nov 2015 to Apr 2016		Last 12 months: May 2015 to Apr 2016	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	8	18	25	98	143	322	137	1104	188	1607	138
north-east	3	8	14	82	143	229	126	730	173	1148	140
central	24	27	47	66	125	213	133	489	135	837	117
east	14	16	34	60	129	164	126	355	121	673	113
south-east	24	26	47	56	110	193	122	472	124	837	115
south-west	17	21	32	52	85	268	117	702	124	1200	119
England	15	20	34	67	122	223	126	604	144	1002	124

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.

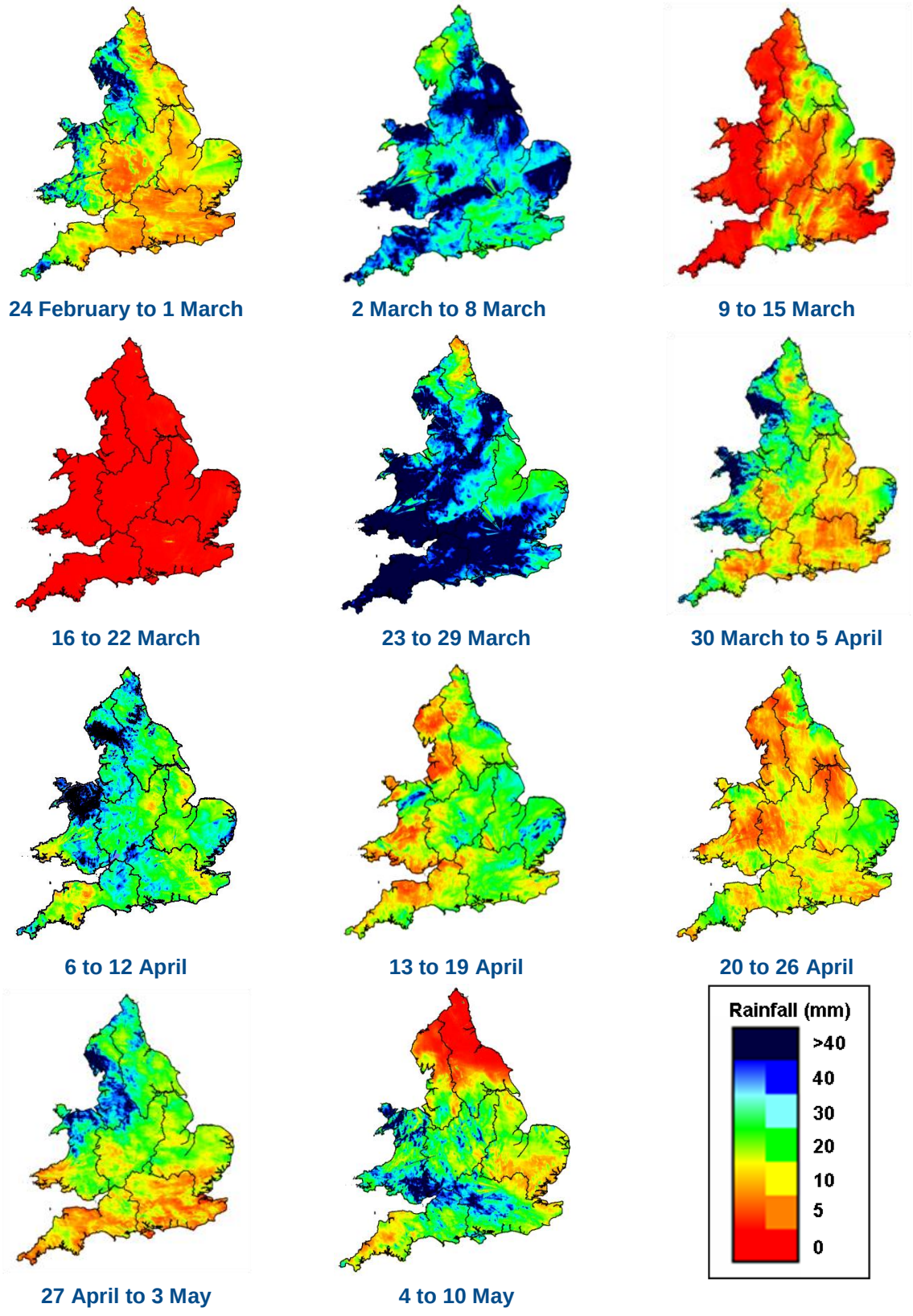
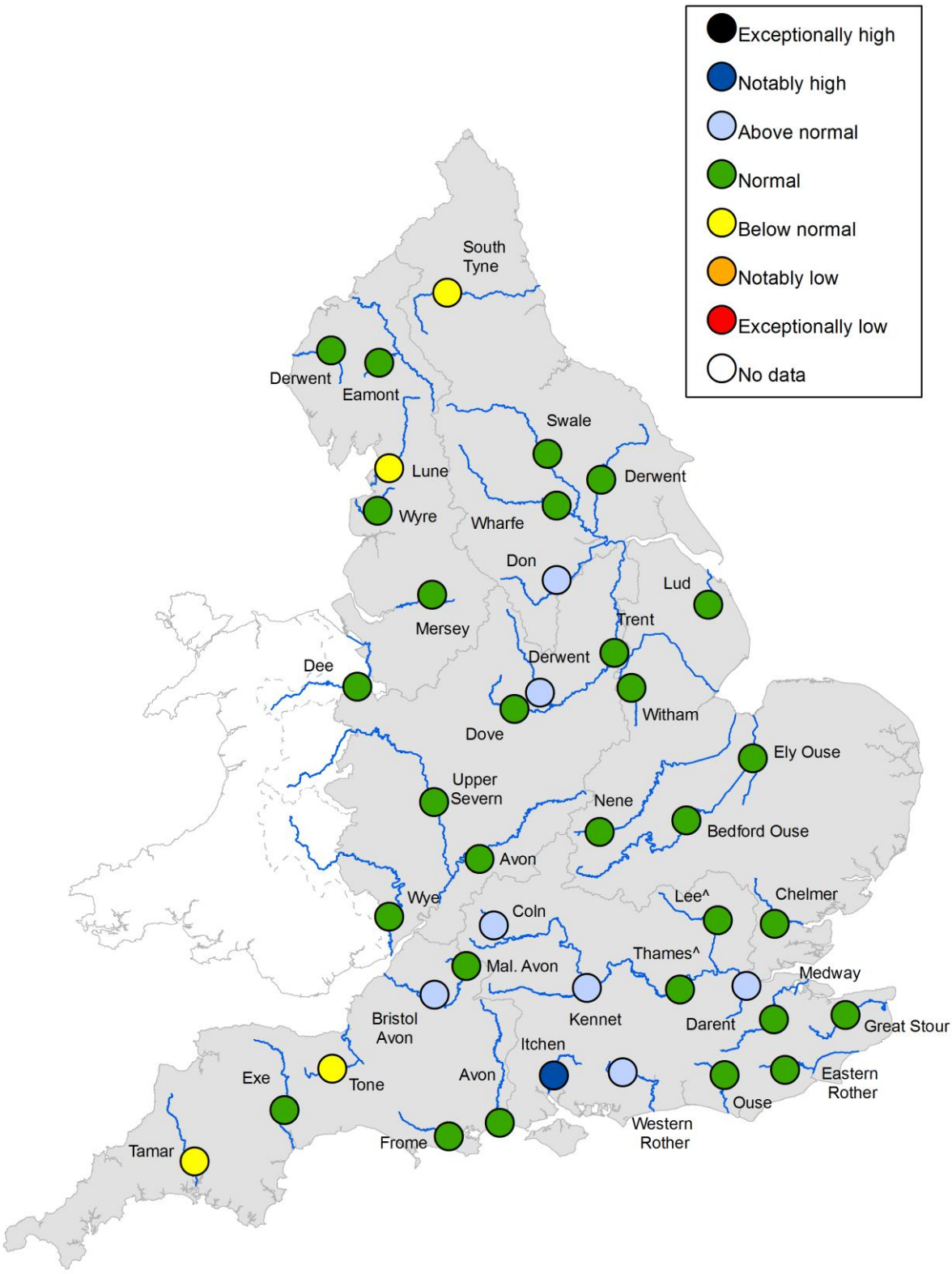


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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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