

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 24 February to Tuesday 1 March 2016

Summary: Rain affected parts of the north and south-west, but elsewhere was drier. Flows are mostly normal for the time of year.

Rainfall

The past week has been wetter in the north and south-west of England compared to east, south-east and central England. Rainfall totals ranged from 6mm in south-east England to 30mm in north-west England (table 1 and figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for February range from 88% of the long term average (LTA) in east England to 187% in north-west England (table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at more than four-fifths of the sites compared to last week. The latest daily mean flows are normal for the time of year at three-quarters of sites, with all but one of the remaining sites being above normal or higher for the time of year (figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday will be generally settled, although a band of rain will arrive in the west of England and move east overnight and continuing into Friday. Some of the rain will be wintry and may fall as snow over high ground. Saturday and Sunday will remain unsettled, with rain, and possibly snow, continuing on Monday and Tuesday.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 24 Feb to 1 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	30	7	8	140	187	682	221	1064	161	1630	140
north-east	13	3	5	70	121	422	195	706	160	1110	135
central	8	3	6	67	131	262	139	442	118	765	107
east	8	5	11	33	88	159	110	322	107	591	99
south-east	6	5	9	53	109	258	131	457	113	753	103
south-west	12	7	8	114	136	414	132	674	112	1115	111
England	12	5	8	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.

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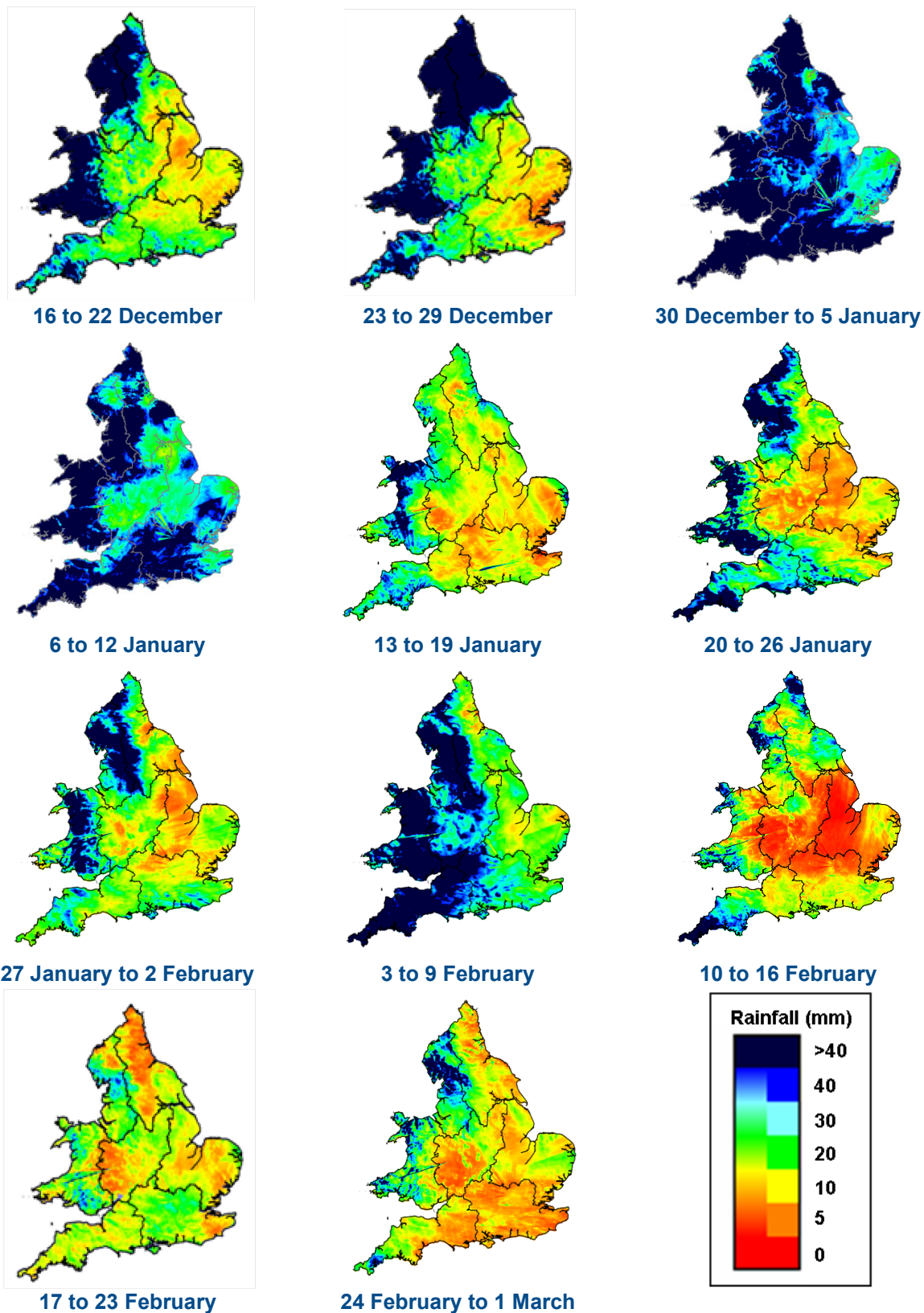
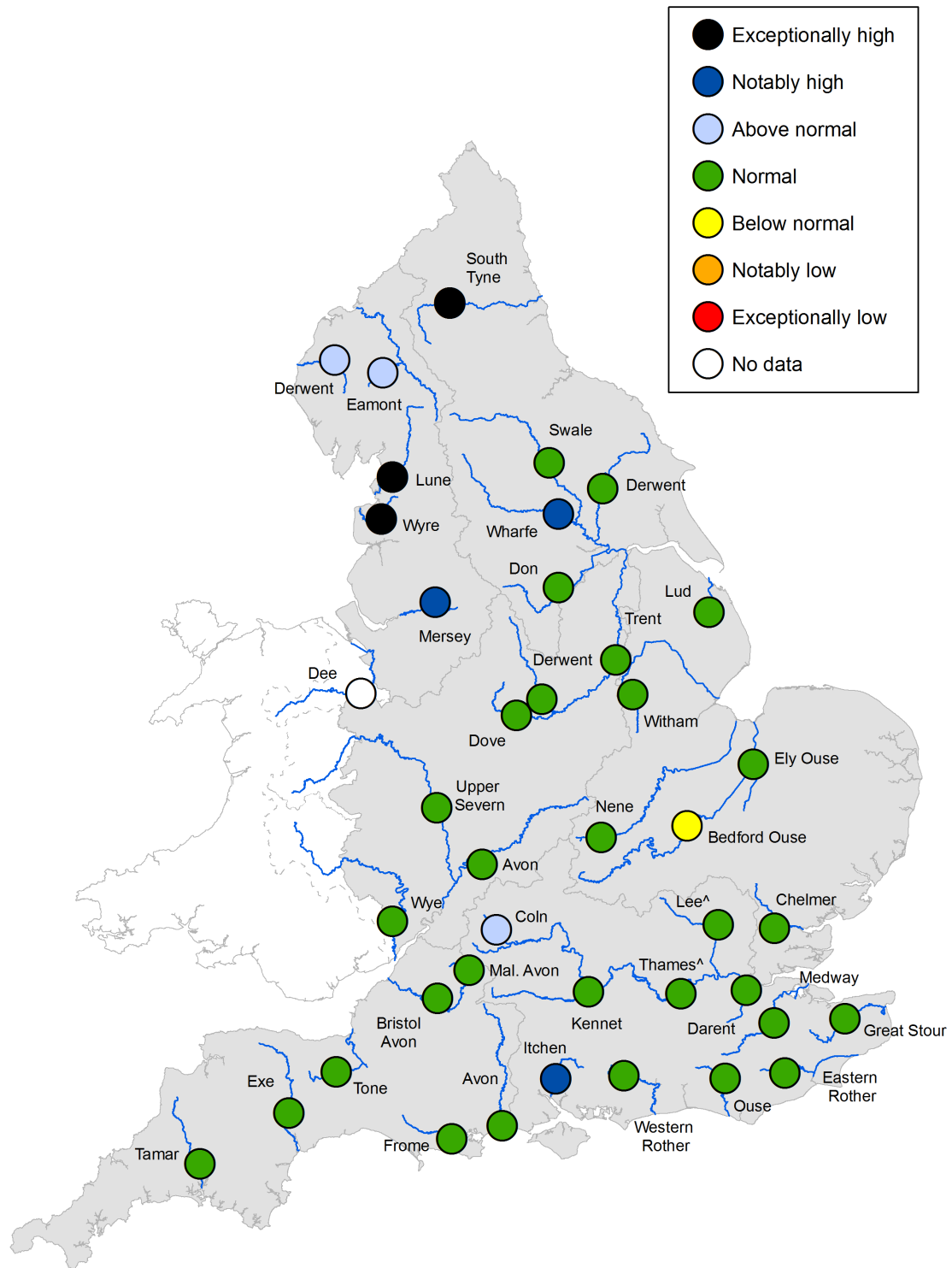


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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 year². (Source: Environment Agency). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

²Flow 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
Notably high
Above normal
Normal
Below normal
Notably low
Exceptionally low

Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time
Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time
Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time
Value likely to fall within this band 44% of the time
Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time
Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time
Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time

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