

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 13 December to Tuesday 19 December 2023

Summary: It has been a drier week across England, with the driest conditions in the north-east. River flows decreased at four-fifths of sites we report on and all sites were classed as normal or higher for the time of year.

Rainfall

It has been a drier week across England, with the central and north-east England seeing the driest conditions. Rainfall totals for the week ranged from 7mm in north-east England to 16mm in north-west and south-west England. (Table 1, Figure 1). Rainfall totals for December to date ranged from 94% in north-west and south-west England to 119% in east England. (Table 1).

River flow

River flows decreased at over four-fifths of the sites we report on compared to the previous week, with river flows at all sites classed as [normal](#) or higher. 22 sites (41% of the total) were classed as [above normal](#) for the time of year, while 18 sites (33% of the total) were classed as [normal](#). 6 sites (11%) were classed as [notably high](#) and 8 sites (15%) were classed as [exceptionally high](#) for the time of year. (Figure 2).

Outlook

Wet and windy conditions are forecast on Thursday, particularly across northern England. Showers will continue across northern and central England on Friday. Conditions remain unsettled across the weekend with further rain forecast. The unsettled conditions are likely to continue into Christmas Day (Monday) and Boxing Day (Tuesday) with further spells of rain and strong winds at times across much of England.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 13 to 19 Dec 2023	Latest month to date: Dec 2023		Last month: Nov 2023		Last 3 months: Sep to Nov 2023		Last 6 months: Jun to Nov 2023		Last 12 months: Dec 2022 to Nov 2023	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	16	116	94	158	128	464	127	856	134	1,423	119
north-east	7	89	109	105	126	345	151	609	142	973	116
central	11	80	111	76	115	294	157	504	139	839	116
east	15	66	119	70	121	255	161	418	132	703	117
south-east	15	75	100	118	160	329	158	514	139	937	128
south-west	16	111	94	165	156	414	144	674	138	1,288	126
England	13	87	103	111	136	340	149	573	137	990	121

Table 1 Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2023)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 are 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.

Rainfall

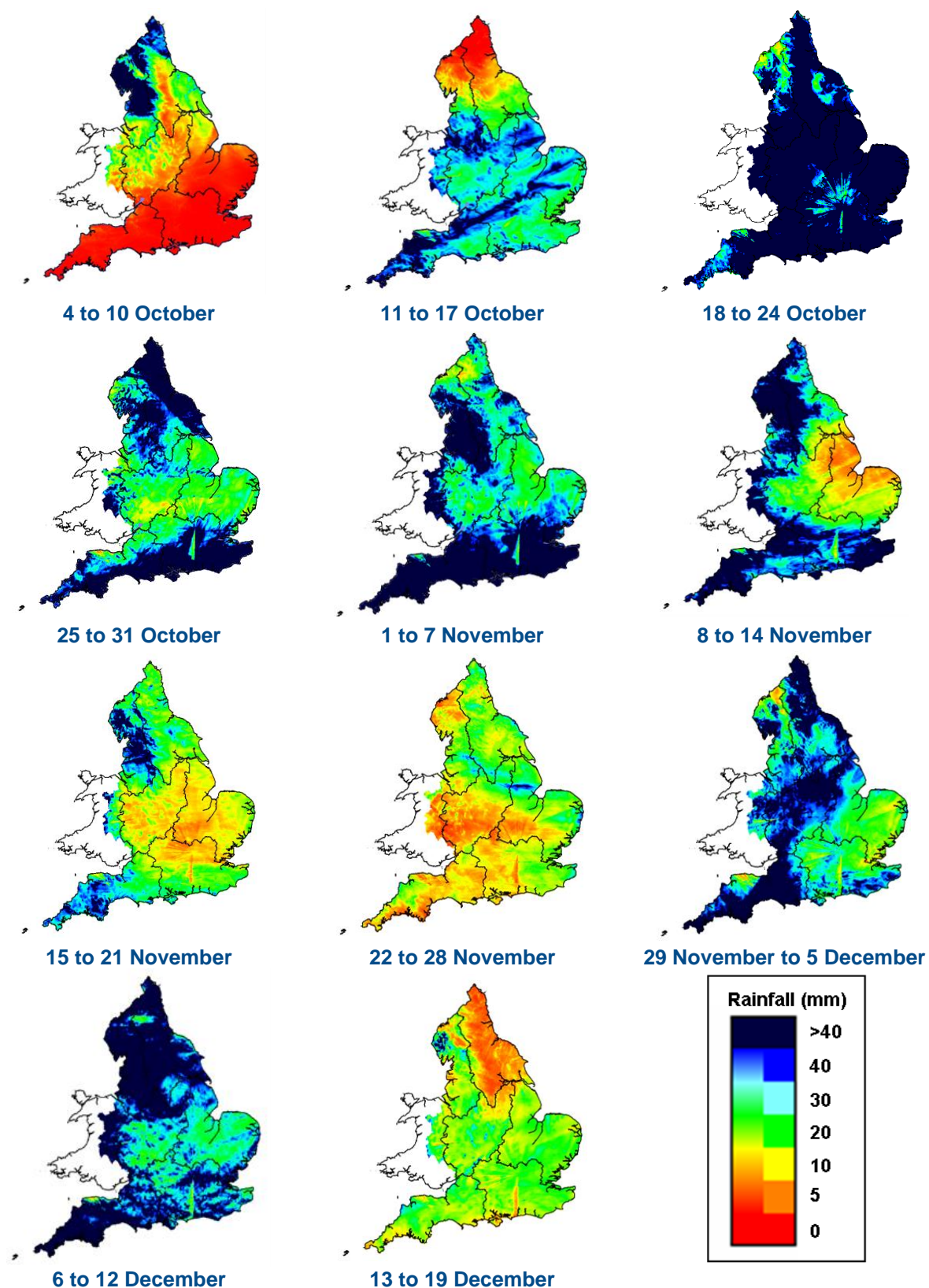
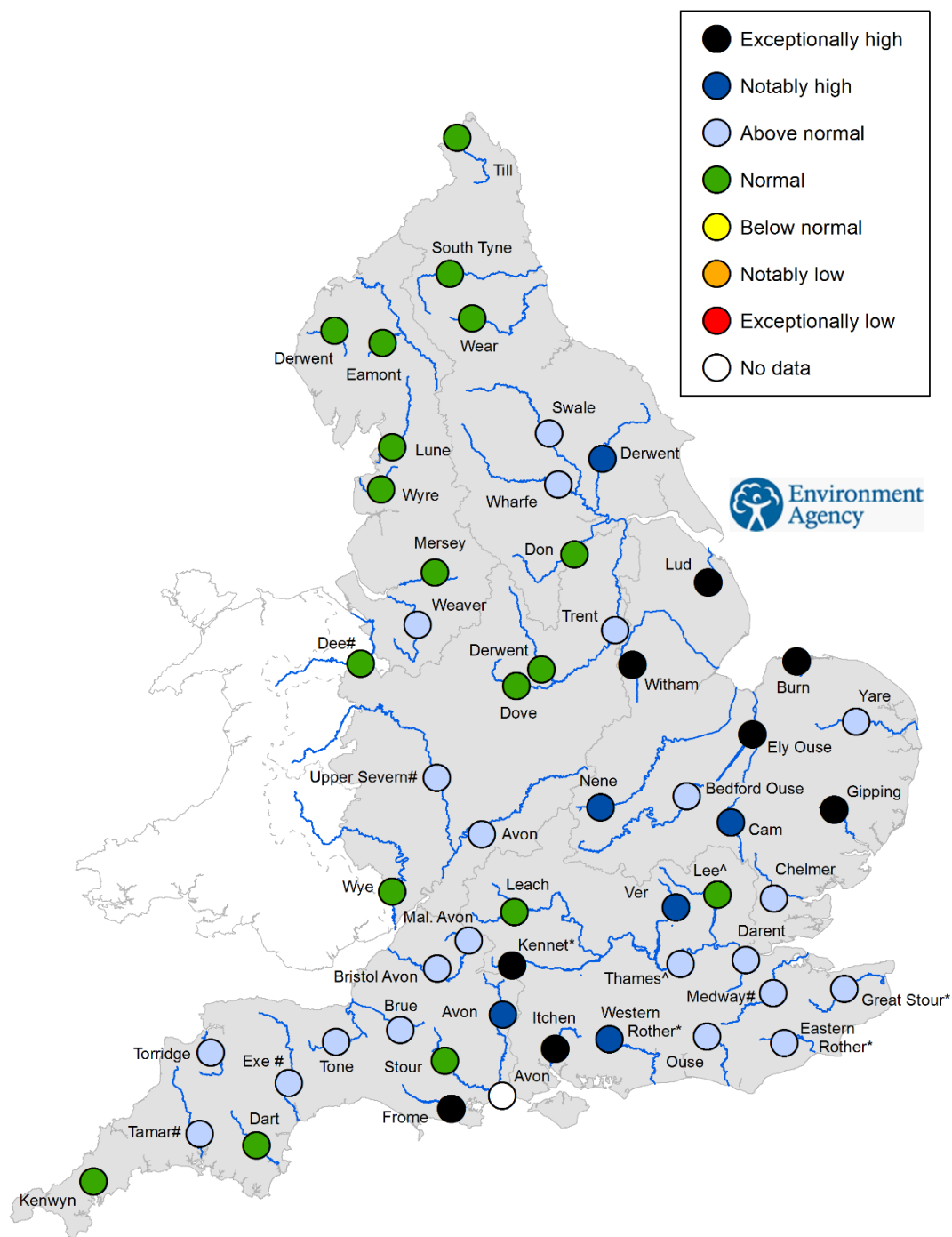


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2023). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation affecting its performance. This does not reflect actual conditions on the ground. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100024198, 2023.

River flow



^ 'Naturalised' flows are provided for the River Thames at Kingston and the River Lee at Feildes Weir.

* Flows may be currently overestimated at these sites so the data should be treated with caution

Flows may be impacted at these sites by water releases from upstream reservoirs.

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, 100024198, 2023³.

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.

³The flow sites in this report are indicator sites providing a National overview and a subset of a wider flow monitoring network.

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](#)