Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 3 January to Tuesday 9 January 2024

Summary: It has been a drier week, with the driest conditions in central and north England and the wettest in the south. River flows have decreased at the majority of the sites we report on and most of the sites were classed as normal for the time of year.

Rainfall

It has been a considerably drier week compared with the previous week, with the driest conditions in central and north England and the wettest in southern England. Rainfall totals for the week ranged from 6 mm in central England to 27 mm in the south-east. (Table 1, Figure 1). January rainfall totals to date ranged from 84% of the long term average (LTA) in the east to 38% in the north-west.

River flow

River flows decreased at 48 (91%) of the sites we report on compared to the previous week, with river flows at 56% of the sites classed as normal and the other 44% higher; 11 sites (20%) were classed as above normal, 5 sites (9%) were classed as notably high and 8 sites (15% of the total) were classed as exceptionally high for the time of year, and (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday's outlook indicates abundant sunshine across southern England, gradually tapering towards the southwest, and predominantly cloudy conditions in the rest of the country with intermittent light drizzle. Friday is likely to remain mainly overcast with scattered light rain or drizzle. The weekend will bring a shift towards clearer skies but accompanied by colder temperatures and increased winds spreading from the north, with possibility of snow showers, this will continue into Monday and Tuesday.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 03 to 09 Jan 2024	Latest month to date: Jan 2024		Last month: Dec 2023		Last 3 months: Oct to Dec 2023		Last 6 months: Jul to Dec 2023		Last 12 months: Jan to Dec 2023	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	9	45	38	228	185	536	144	1,010	148	1,522	127
north-east	7	34	43	158	193	420	176	723	161	1,045	125
central	6	40	61	138	191	364	183	592	157	916	127
east	16	43	84	92	166	290	176	484	152	746	124
south-east	27	50	70	112	147	378	171	592	151	954	130
south-west	26	56	48	187	158	505	156	828	152	1,334	131
England	16	44	55	145	172	403	166	677	153	1,045	127

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

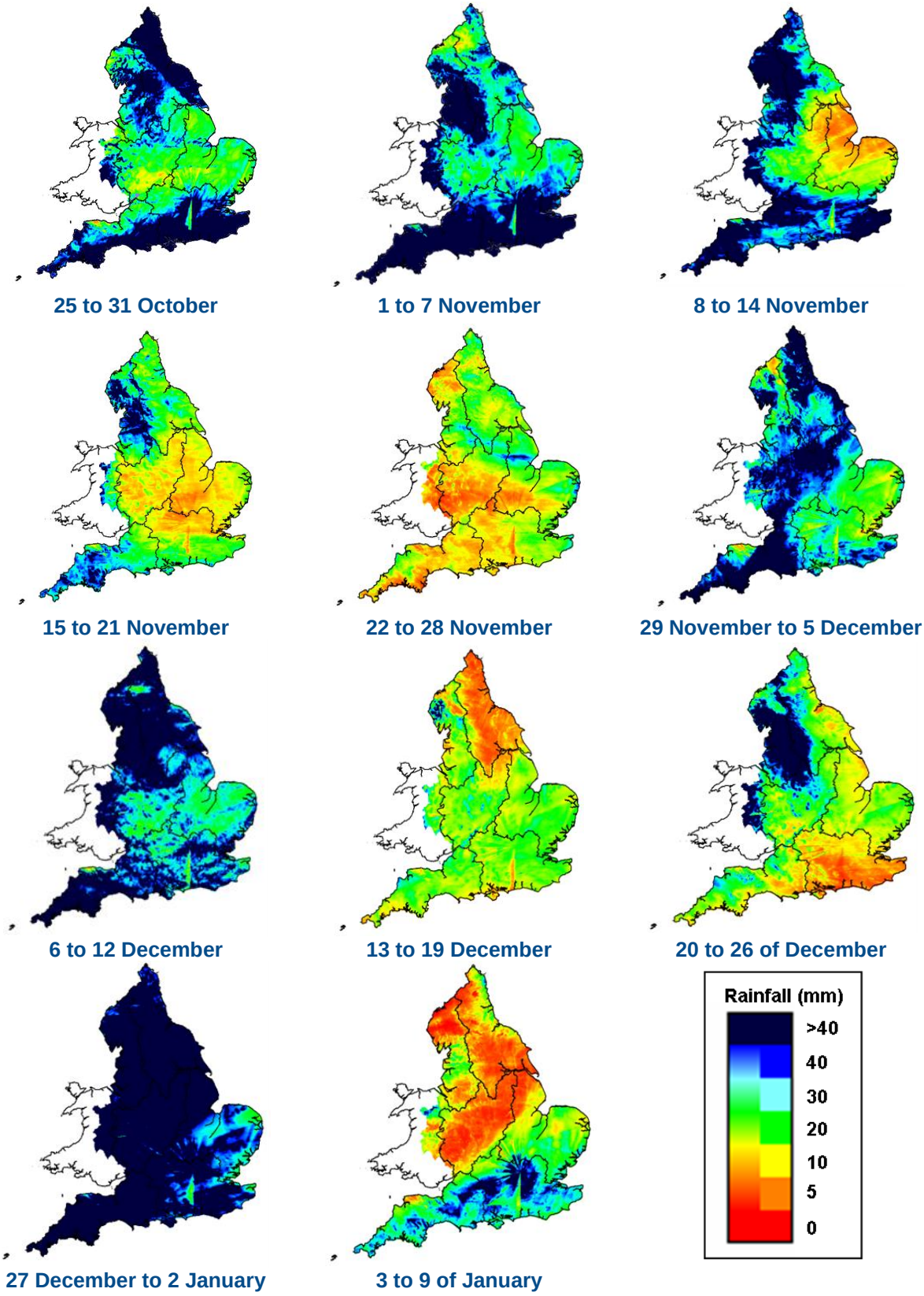
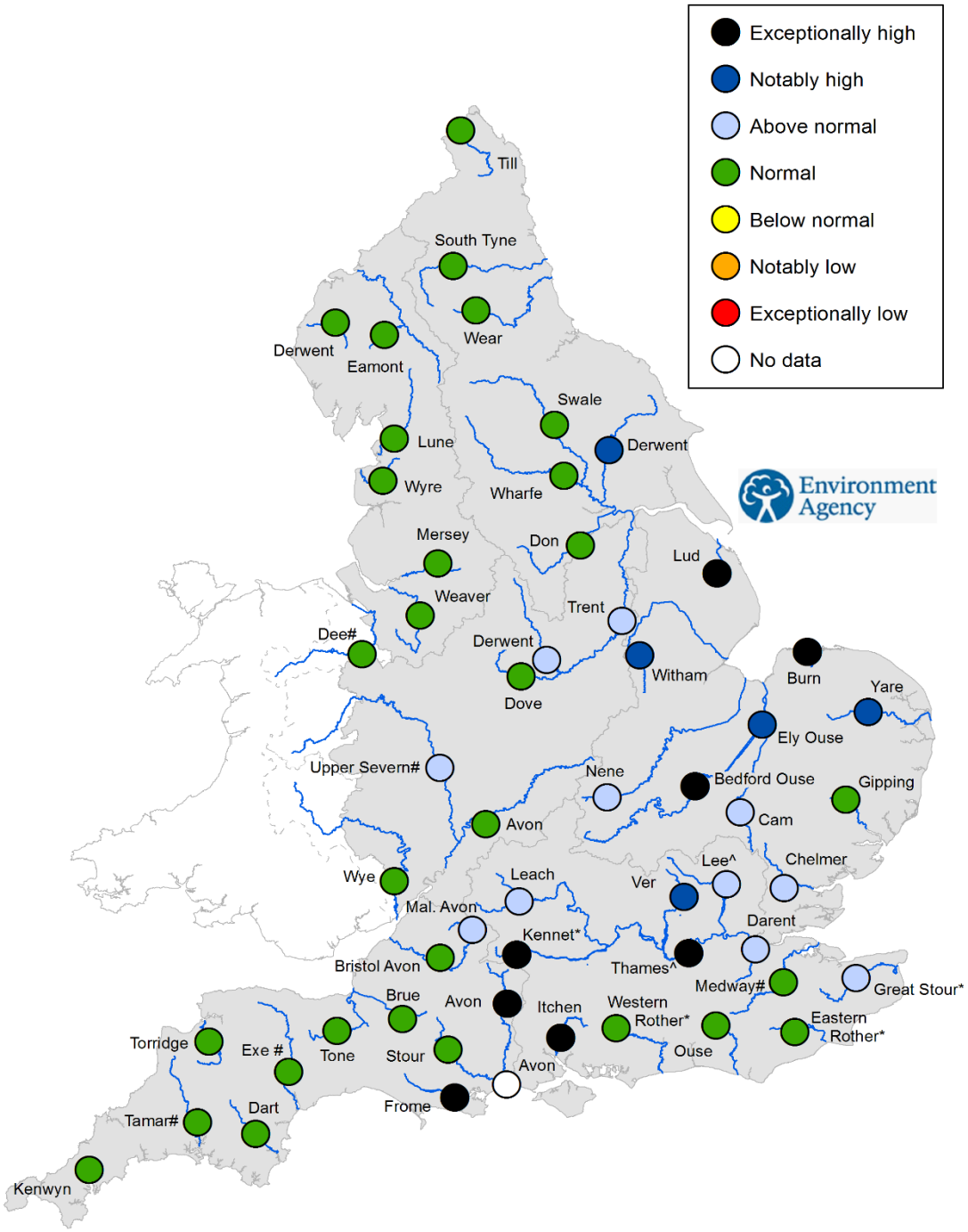


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2023). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation 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 year[2] (Source: Environment Agency). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100024198, 2023[3].

[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.

[3]The 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

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