

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 17 January to Tuesday 23 January 2024

Summary: This week has been significantly wetter than the previous one, particularly in north-west England, where 69mm of rainfall was recorded. River flows have increased at most of the sites we monitor, and the majority of these sites are classified as normal to above normal for this time of year.

Rainfall

It has been a notably wetter week compared to last week, with the wettest conditions in north-west England. Rainfall totals for the week ranged from 11 mm in the east of the country to 69 mm in the north-west (Table 1, Figure 1). January's rainfall totals for England, to date, range from 72% of the long-term average (LTA) in the south-west England to 106% in east England.

River flow

River flows had increased by the end of the week, with over three-quarters of reporting sites indicating a rise in daily mean flow compared to the previous week. Among the reporting sites, 49 sites (44%) were classified as normal; 15 sites (28%) as above normal, 3 sites (6%) as notably high, and 10 sites (19%) were classified as exceptionally high for the time of year. Only 2 sites (4%) were classified as below normal (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday is expected to bring cloudy skies with rain moving north-eastwards and increasing winds. Friday will be drier with some sun but colder temperatures. The weekend is expected to be cloudy and breezy with occasional rain. Monday and Tuesday will bring variable conditions, featuring rain, especially in the north-west, and occasional drier, sunnier periods in the south and east. Overall, temperatures will remain milder than the seasonal average.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 17 to 23 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	69	122	104	228	185	536	144	1,010	148	1,522	127
north-east	39	76	94	158	193	420	176	723	161	1,045	125
central	20	60	91	138	191	364	183	592	157	916	127
east	11	54	106	92	166	290	176	484	152	746	124
south-east	17	68	94	112	147	378	171	592	151	954	130
south-west	27	83	72	187	158	505	156	828	152	1,334	131
England	28	74	92	145	172	403	166	677	153	1,045	127

Table 1 Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2024)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.

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Rainfall

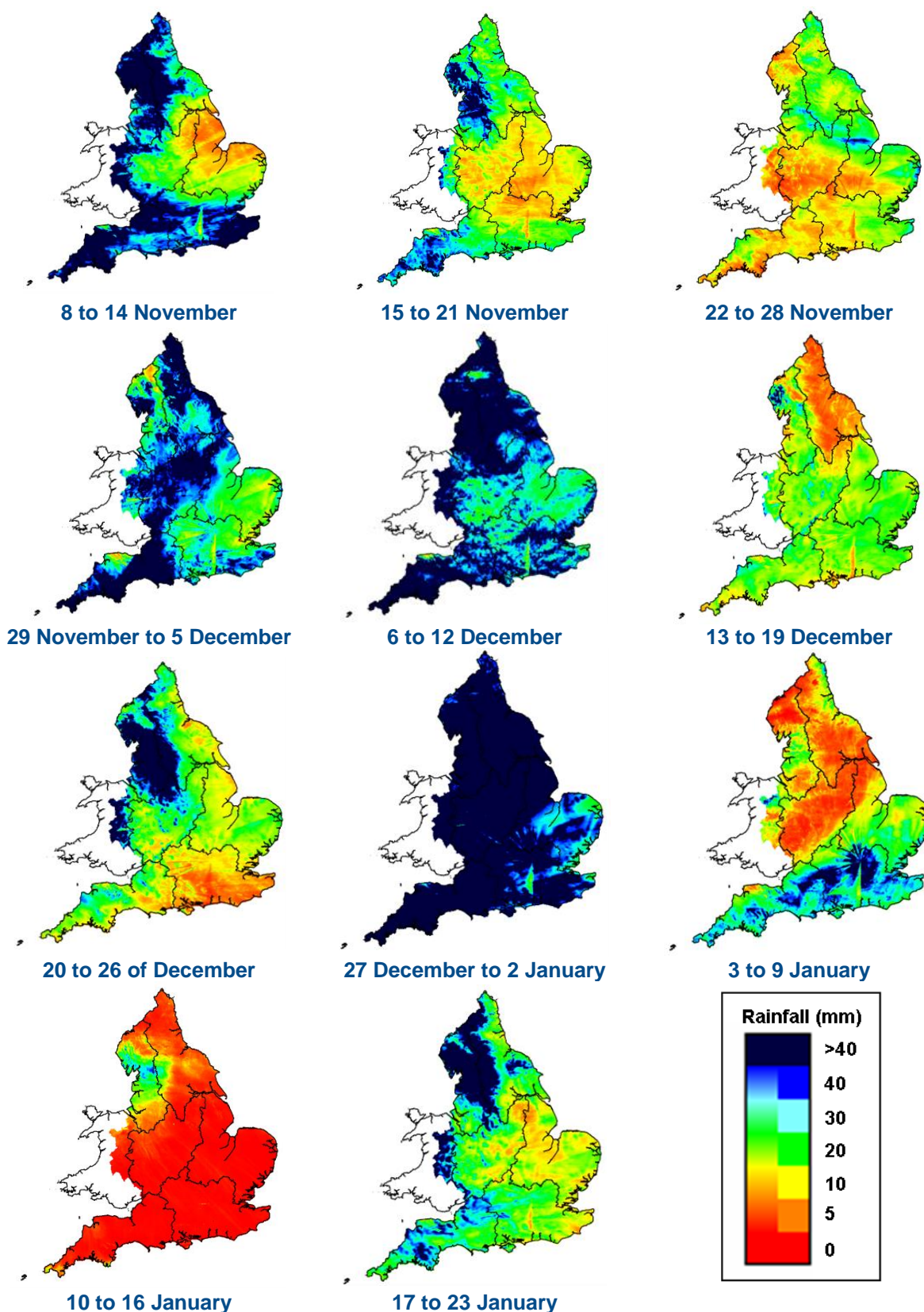
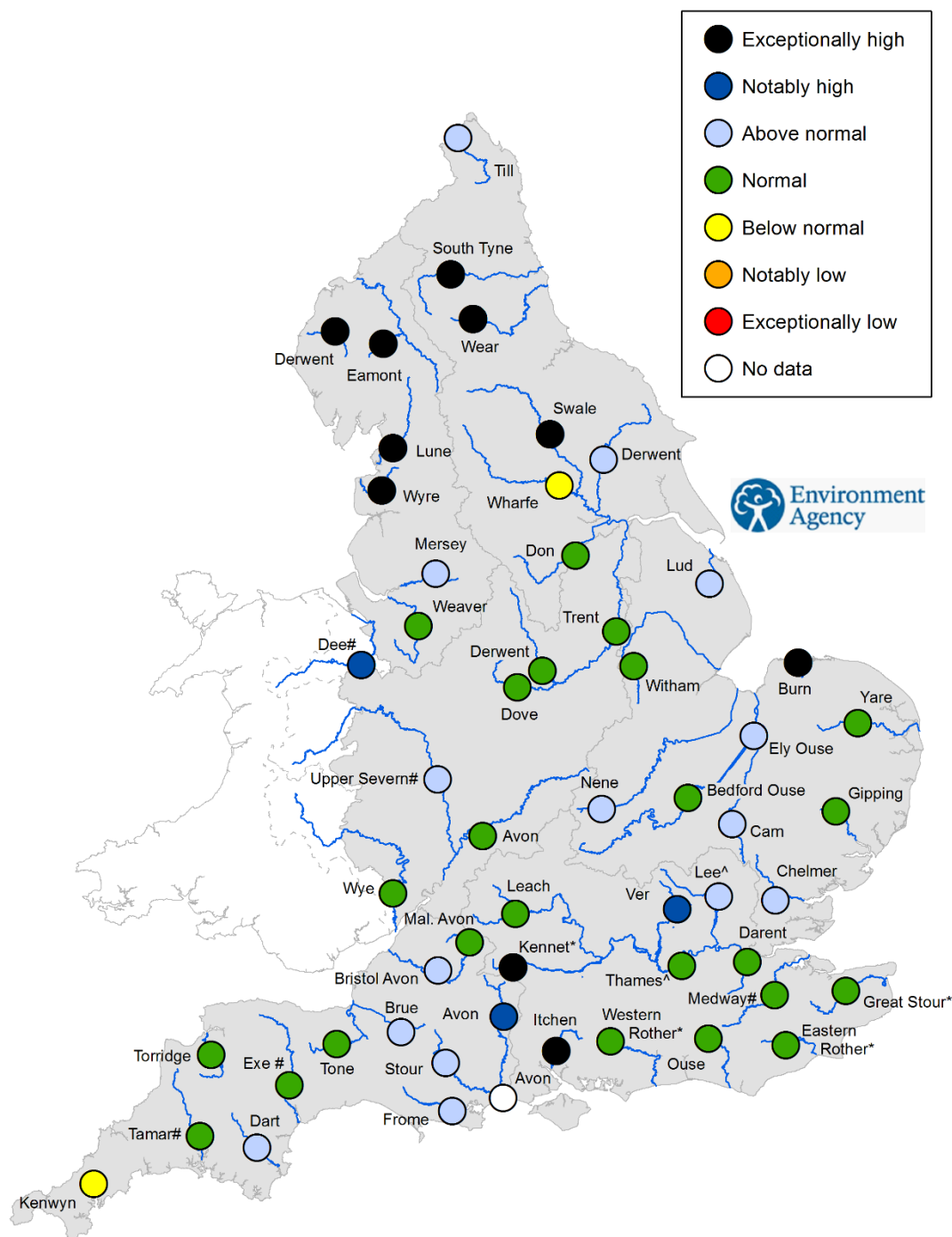


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2024). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation affecting its performance. This does not reflect actual conditions on the ground. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100024198, 2024.

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

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