

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 31 January to Tuesday 6 February 2024

Summary: It was a wetter week for much of England, although the north-west and north-east were drier following a particularly wet week at the end of January. River flows decreased at around half of the sites we monitor in comparison to the week before, two thirds of sites were classed as normal for the time of year.

Rainfall

It has been a slightly wetter week in much of England with more rainfall compared to last week, but in north-west and north-east England it was a drier week than the last. Rainfall totals for the week ranged from 9 mm in the north-east to 22 mm in the south-west (Table 1, Figure 1). Rainfall totals to date in February range from 9% of the long term average (LTA) in north-east England, to 36% of the LTA in east England. England overall has so far received 23% of the LTA for February.

River flow

River flows decreased at just over half of our reporting sites compared to the previous week, with increases seen mainly in south-west and east England following recent rainfall. Two thirds of reporting sites were classified as having [normal](#) flows for the time of year. Three sites, all of which are in the south-east and south-west, were [below normal](#). A quarter of sites were classified as [above normal](#) for the time of year, and the River Burn at Burnham was [exceptionally high](#) for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday will bring cold temperatures for many, with rain and snow in the north, particularly on higher ground. On Friday, and through the weekend, conditions are expected to be largely cloudy, with rain in the south, and wintry showers in the north. Sunday may bring drier conditions although cloud will remain in the west. On Monday and Tuesday, it will continue to be unsettled with sunny intervals and rain showers, with some snow on higher ground.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 31 Jan to 06 Feb 2024	Latest month to date: Feb 2024		Last month: Jan 2024		Last 3 months: Nov 2023 to Jan 2024		Last 6 months: Aug 2023 to Jan 2024		Last 12 months: Feb 2023 to Jan 2024	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	19	10	13	161	137	546	150	964	135	1,522	127
north-east	9	5	9	99	124	362	148	688	147	1,067	127
central	18	17	33	60	90	273	134	543	139	912	126
east	14	14	36	50	99	212	129	449	140	752	125
south-east	15	15	29	74	102	303	137	579	140	939	128
south-west	22	21	25	100	87	452	133	785	131	1,289	126
England	16	13	23	85	106	341	139	642	138	1,040	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

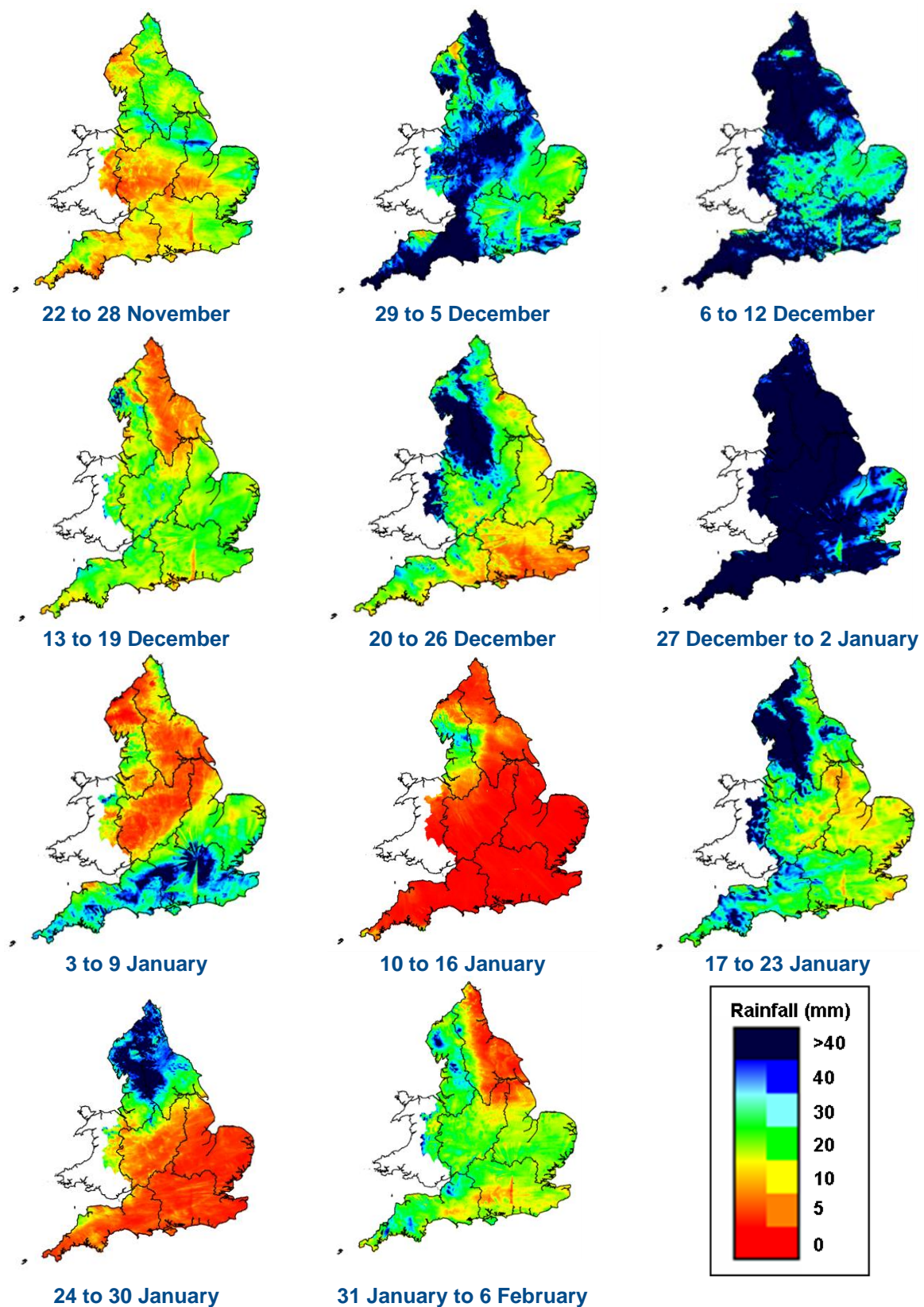
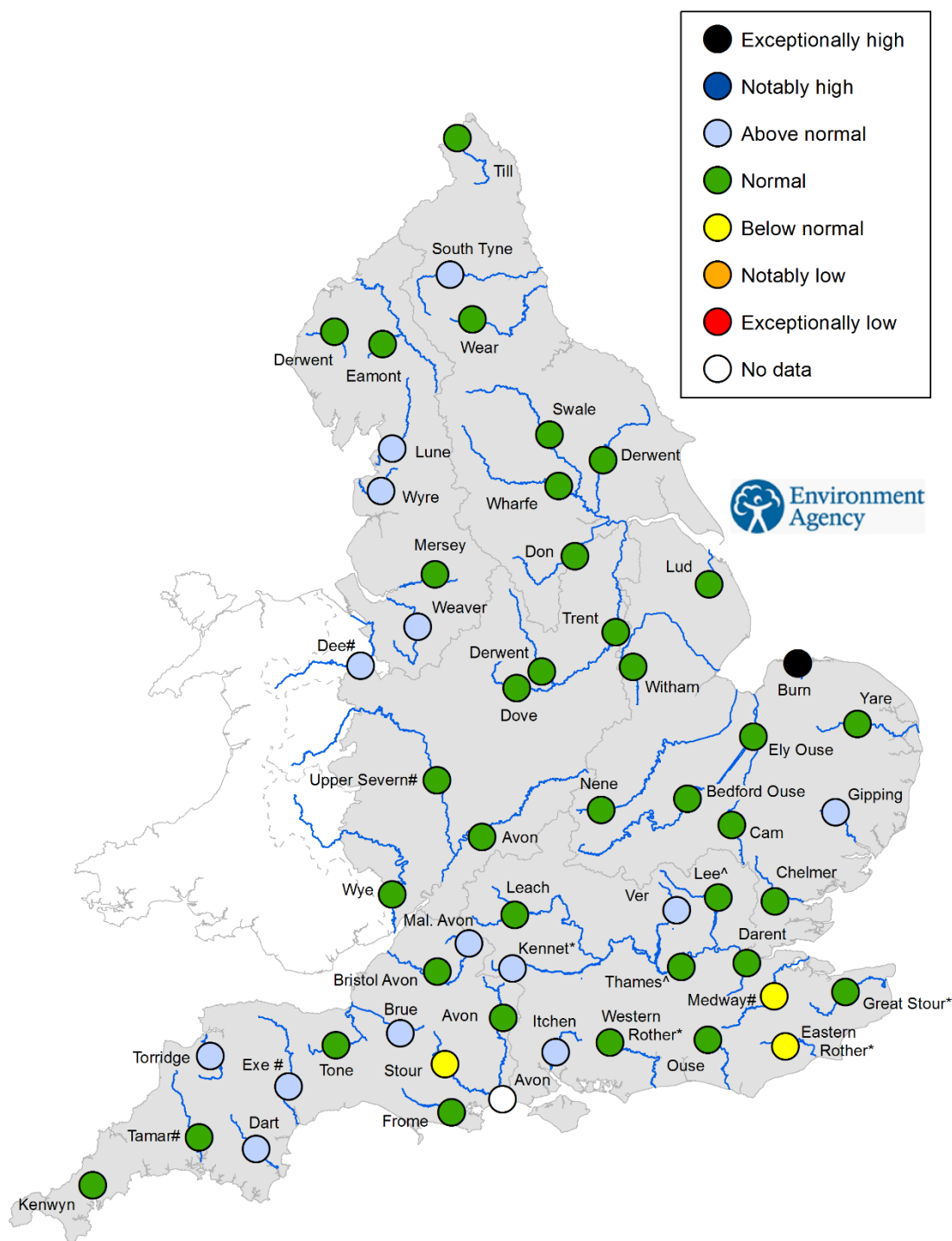


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2024). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation 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, 2024³.

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](#)