

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 21 February to Tuesday 27 February 2024

Summary: It has been a drier week across most of England, with the wettest conditions in south-west and south-east England. River flows decreased at nearly two-thirds of the sites we report on.

Rainfall

It has been a drier week across most of England, with the wettest conditions in south-east and south-west England. Rainfall totals for the week ranged from 16mm in north-east England to 43mm in south-west England (Table 1, Figure 1). Rainfall totals for February to date are already larger than the long term average (LTA) for the month across the country, ranging from 145% of the LTA in north-west England, to 281% of the LTA in east England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows decreased at nearly two-thirds of our reporting sites and all sites are classed as [normal](#) or higher for the time of year. 20% of sites were classed as being [exceptionally high](#), 27% were classed as [notably high](#) and 31% were classed as [above normal](#). The remaining 22%, predominantly in northern England, were classed as [normal](#) for the time of year. (Figure 2).

Outlook

On Thursday rain, heavy at times, is forecast in the south-east with drier conditions in northern England. Conditions will be turning colder and more unsettled on Friday and Saturday, with heavy rain in some places and a risk of sleet and hill snow, possibly reaching lower levels. Sunday is forecast to see a drier more settled day however the unsettled showery conditions return on Monday and Tuesday especially in the south where a spell of persistent rain and strong winds are possible.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 21 to 27 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	24	113	145	161	137	546	150	964	135	1,522	127
north-east	16	85	146	99	124	362	148	688	147	1,067	127
central	21	120	234	60	90	273	134	543	139	912	126
east	21	105	281	50	99	212	129	449	140	752	125
south-east	35	115	234	74	102	303	137	579	140	939	128
south-west	43	171	204	100	87	452	133	785	131	1,289	126
England	26	117	203	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

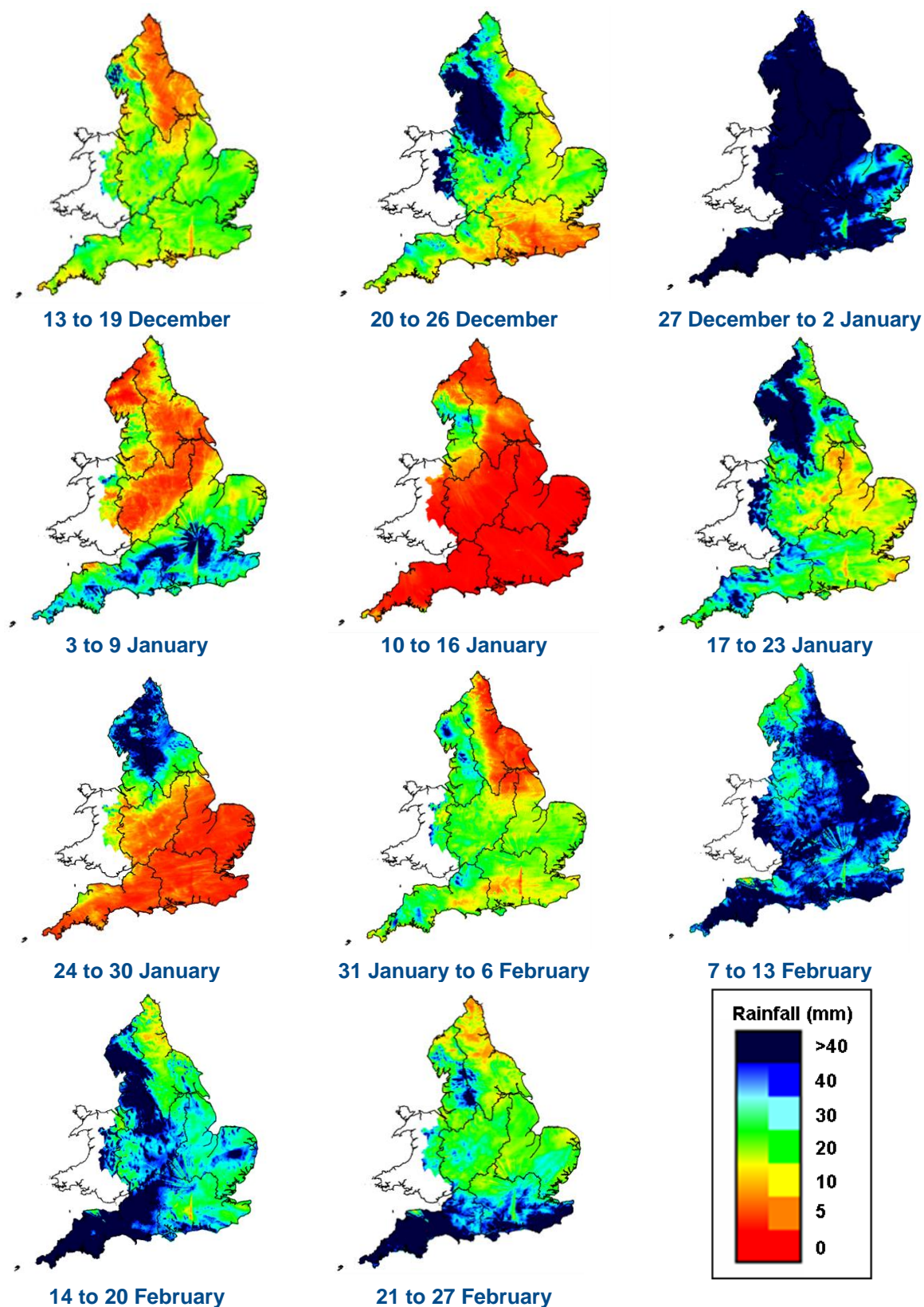
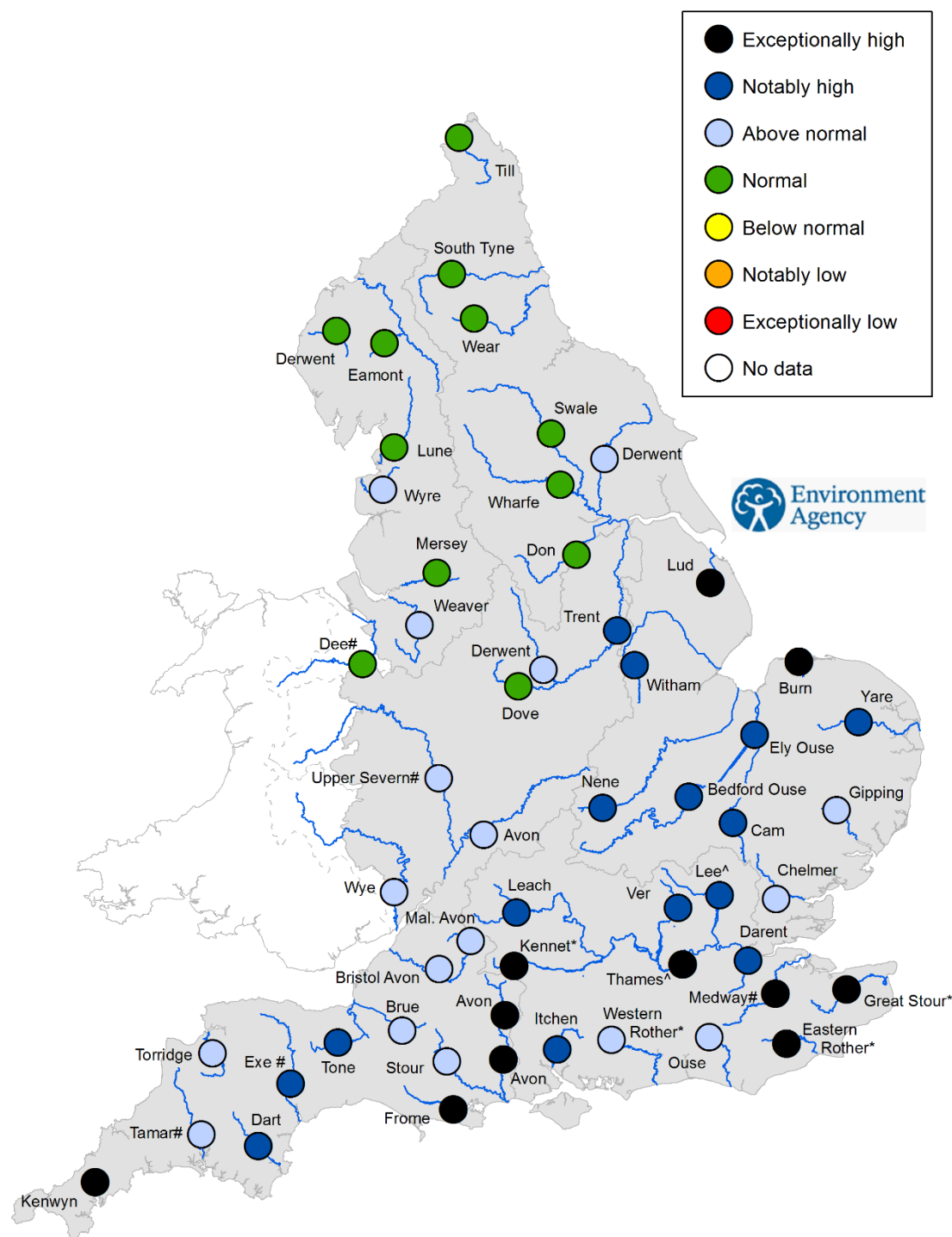


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2024). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation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

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