

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 20 March to Tuesday 26 March 2024

Summary: It has been another wet week across most of England but slightly drier compared to the previous week. River flows decreased at more than three-quarters of reporting sites. All sites across England were reporting flows that were normal or higher for the time of year.

Rainfall

It has been another wet week across most of England but slightly drier compared to the previous week. Rainfall totals for the week ranged from 8mm in east England, to 29mm in north-west England (Table 1, Figure 1). Rainfall totals for March to date, range from 94% of the long term average in east England, to 132% of the long term average in central England. (Table 1).

River flow

River flows decreased at more than three-quarters of reporting sites. All sites across England were reporting flows that were normal or higher for the time of year. 7% of sites were classed as being exceptionally high, 24% of sites were reporting notably high flow and 33% were classed as above normal. The remaining 36% of sites were classed as normal for the time of year. (Figure 2).

Outlook

On Thursday there will be heavy and blustery showers along with gusty winds for most parts of the country; with some hail and thunder covering much of the southern coast of England. Unsettled weather will continue on Good Friday with bright spells, but breezy and plenty of showers. More scattered showers and sunny spells with lighter winds are expected on Saturday and Easter Sunday.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 20 to 26 Mar 2024	Latest month to date: Mar 2024		Last month: Feb 2024		Last 3 months: Dec 2023 to Feb 2024		Last 6 months: Sep 2023 to Feb 2024		Last 12 months: Mar 2023 to Feb 2024	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	29	111	117	137	175	525	165	989	145	1,623	136
north-east	18	68	98	85	145	343	155	688	153	1,128	135
central	20	76	132	116	226	313	165	607	161	1,019	141
east	8	44	94	106	283	248	173	503	166	850	142
south-east	16	67	112	141	286	326	165	655	162	1,074	147
south-west	26	103	121	204	243	491	155	905	149	1,476	145
England	18	74	112	130	225	359	162	699	155	1,154	141

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.

All data are provisional and may be subject to revision. The views expressed in this document are not necessarily those of the Environment Agency. Its officers, servants or agents accept no liability for any loss or damage arising from the interpretation or use of the information, or reliance upon views contained herein.

Rainfall

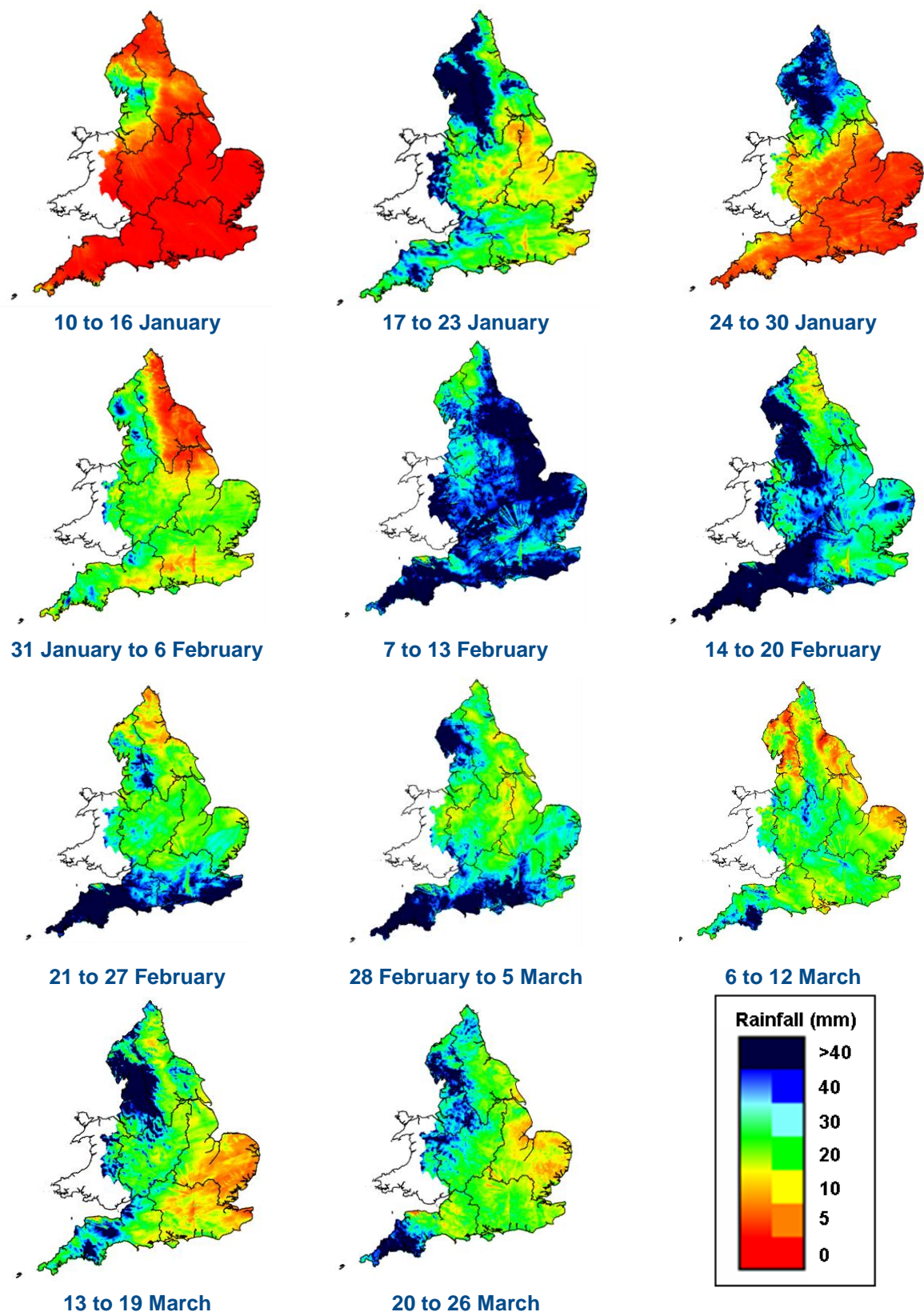
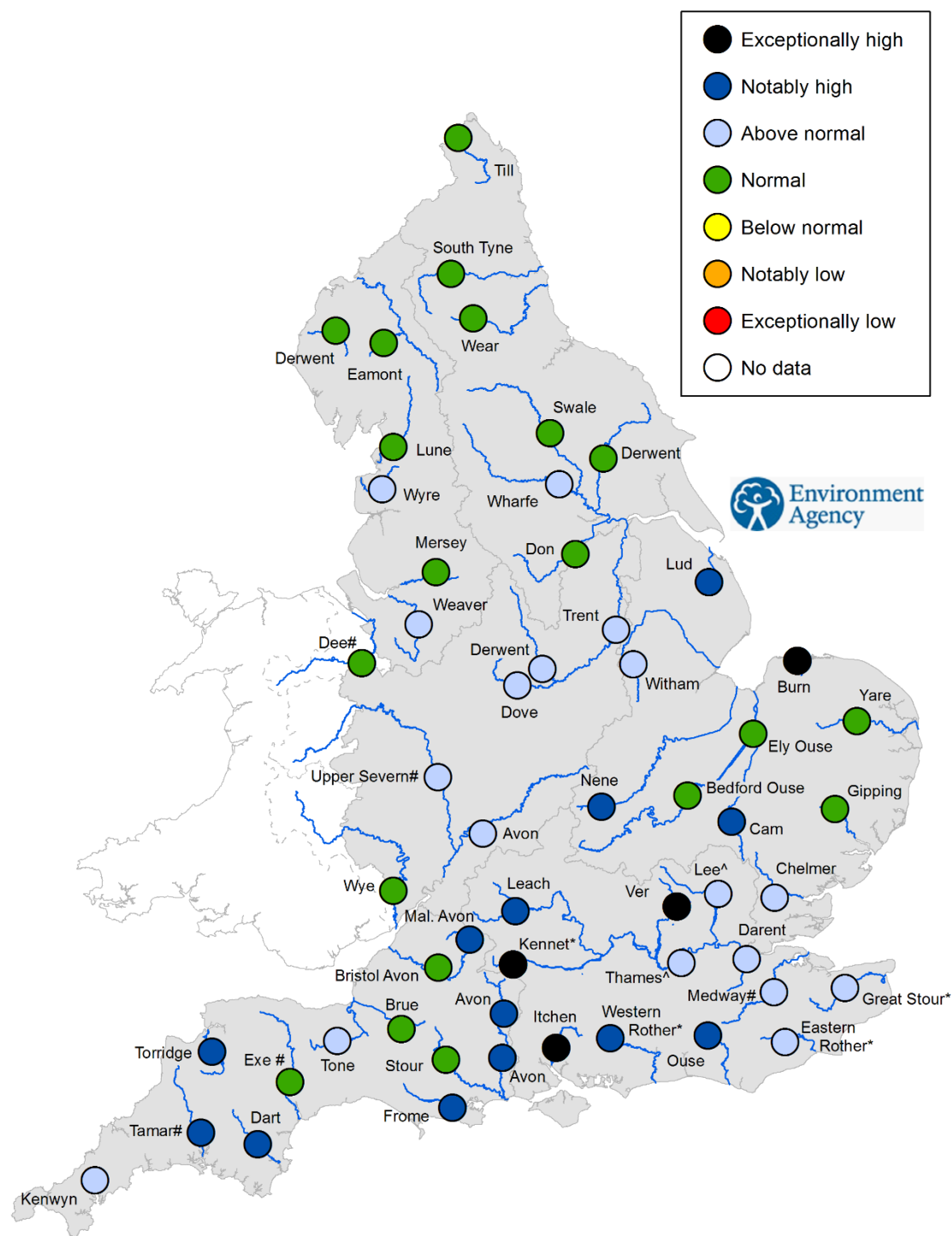


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2024). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation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