Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 17 April to Tuesday 23 April 2024

Summary: It has been drier week across most of England. River flows have decreased at all but two of the indicator sites but all sites remain classed as normal or higher for the time of year.

Rainfall

It has been a drier week across most of England compared to last week and the driest since the middle of January. Rainfall totals for the week ranged from 3mm in south-west England to 11mm in north-east England (Table 1, Figure 1). Rainfall totals for April so far range from 80% of the long-term average in south-east England to 185% of the long-term average in north-west England. (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at all but two of the indicator sites however all sites remain normal or higher for the time of year. Flows at majority of reporting sites, 24 sites (44%), across England, were classed as above normal. 6 sites (11%) were classed as exceptionally high, 5 sites (9%) as notably high and 19 sites (35%) as normal for the time of year. (Figure 2).

Outlook

A cold and bright start across is forecast for many areas of England on Thursday with scattered showers for northern and eastern England. The colder conditions continue into Friday with showers, potentially heavy, in eastern England. Conditions across southern England will become more unsettled over the weekend with showers or longer spells of rain at times. The weekend's rain will clear leaving a drier start to the working week, although the chance of showers and even thunderstorms remains.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 17 to 23 Apr 2024	Latest month to date: Apr 2024		Last month: Mar 2024		Last 3 months: Jan to Mar 2024		Last 6 months: Oct 2023 to Mar 2024		Last 12 months: Apr 2023 to Mar 2024	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	8	131	185	125	132	423	146	959	145	1,600	134
north-east	11	94	162	79	114	263	127	684	153	1,115	133
central	8	66	123	96	166	271	155	635	170	1,003	139
east	10	45	96	47	100	203	150	493	165	809	135
south-east	4	41	80	93	157	308	170	686	171	1,043	142
south-west	3	63	102	151	176	455	160	960	158	1,456	143
England	7	68	123	94	142	309	151	712	160	1,129	138

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.

Rainfall

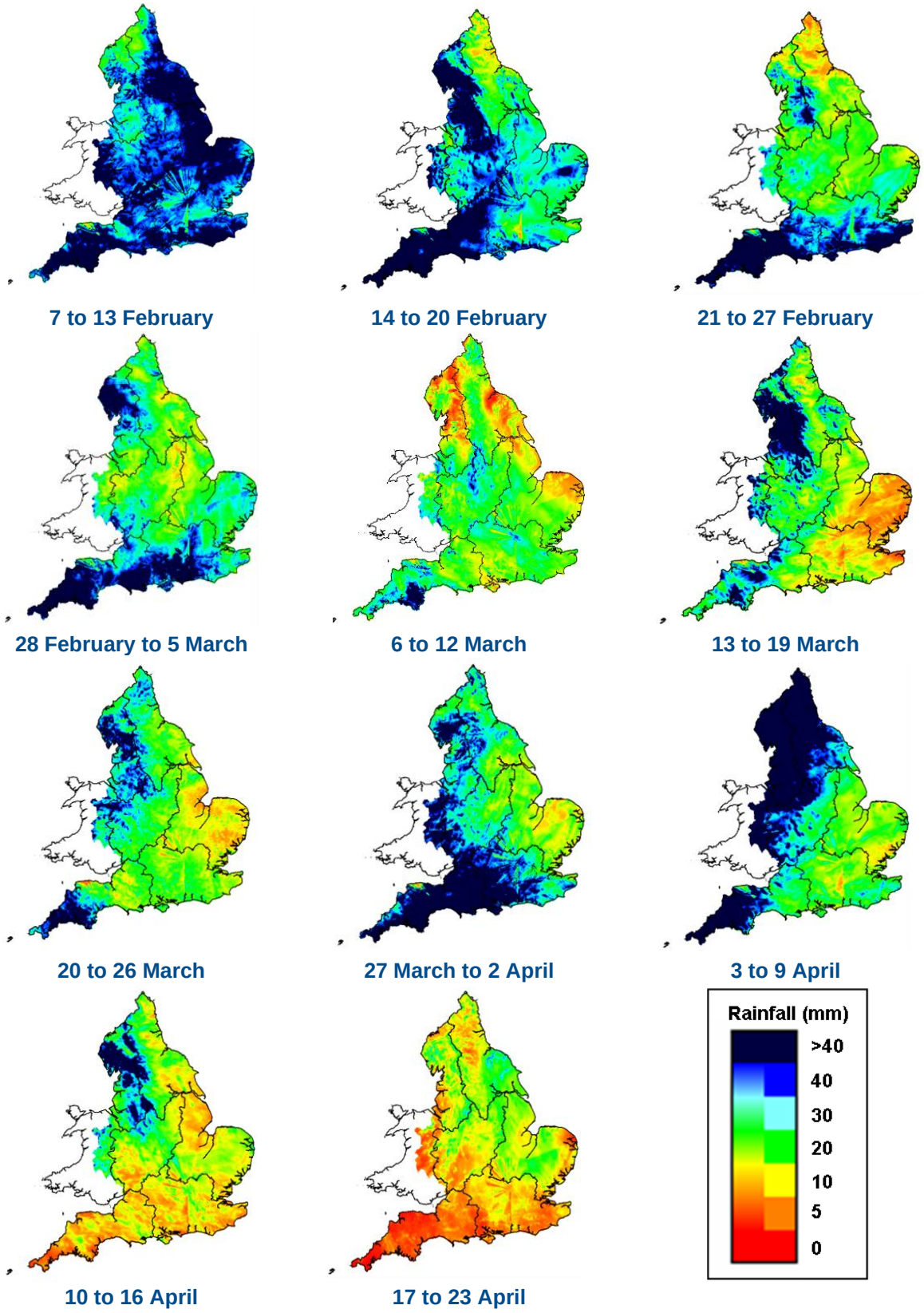
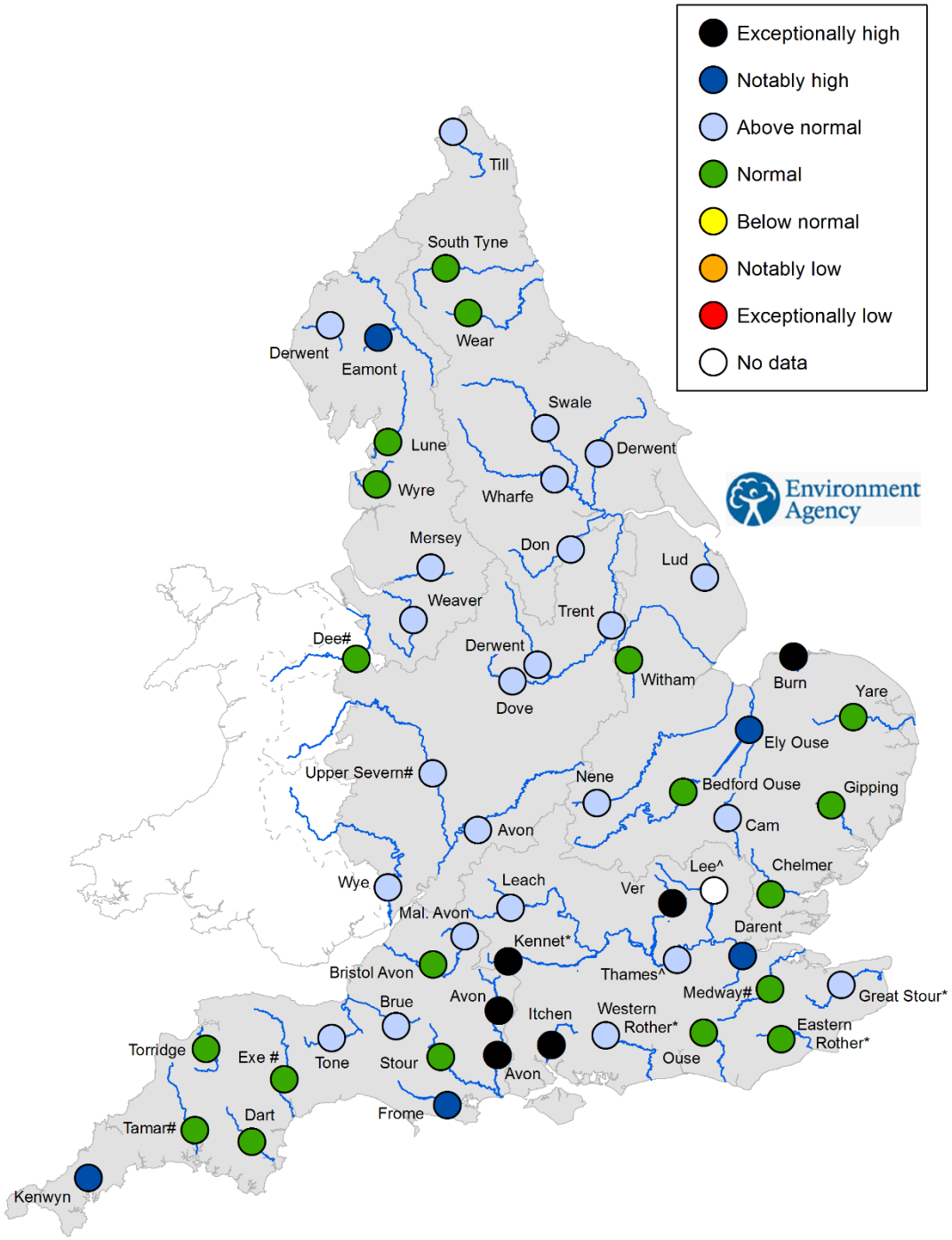


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2024). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation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

All river flows are from 21 April 2024

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, 2024[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

Return to summary page