

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 1 May to Tuesday 7 May 2024

Summary: It has been a wet week across the south of the country, with drier conditions in central and northern parts of England. River flows across the country continue to be classed as above normal or higher for the time of year.

Rainfall

Rainfall throughout the week varied across the country with southern areas receiving the greatest amount. Rainfall totals for the week ranged from 9mm in north-east England, to 33mm in south-west England (Figure 1). Rainfall totals for the month to date ranged from 14% of the long-term average in north-west England, to 49% of the long-term average in south-west England (Table 1).

River flow

River flow increased at a third of reporting sites, and decreased at two-thirds of sites, when compared to the previous week. Flows at three-quarters of the reporting sites across England, were classed as higher than normal for the time of year. The greatest river flows were recorded in south-east England. Rivers across central and northern parts of England showed a regional divide with sites in the east reporting as above normal or greater, and most sites in the west reporting as normal for the time of year. 10 reporting sites (18%) were classed as [exceptionally high](#), 11 (20%) as [notably high](#), 21 (38%) as [above normal](#), and 13 (24%) as [normal](#) for the time of year. No sites reported flows [below normal](#) or lower (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday is likely to experience dry and sunny conditions across England with a chance of rainfall in the north of the country. The dry warm weather is expected to last throughout the weekend; however, western areas may experience light showers on Sunday. Monday is likely to see the return of unsettled conditions with showers expected across the country.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 1 to 7 May 2024	Latest month to date: May 2024		Last month: Apr 2024		Last 3 months: Feb to Apr 2024		Last 6 months: Nov 2023 to Apr 2024		Last 12 months: May 2023 to Apr 2024	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	11	11	14	138	195	400	164	946	156	1,676	140
north-east	9	9	15	99	171	263	142	626	145	1,159	138
central	13	13	22	74	139	286	176	558	152	1,020	141
east	12	12	25	58	124	211	161	423	143	812	135
south-east	24	24	43	75	146	310	193	613	160	1,046	143
south-west	33	33	49	93	151	448	194	900	158	1,464	143
England	17	17	28	86	154	309	172	650	153	1,151	140

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

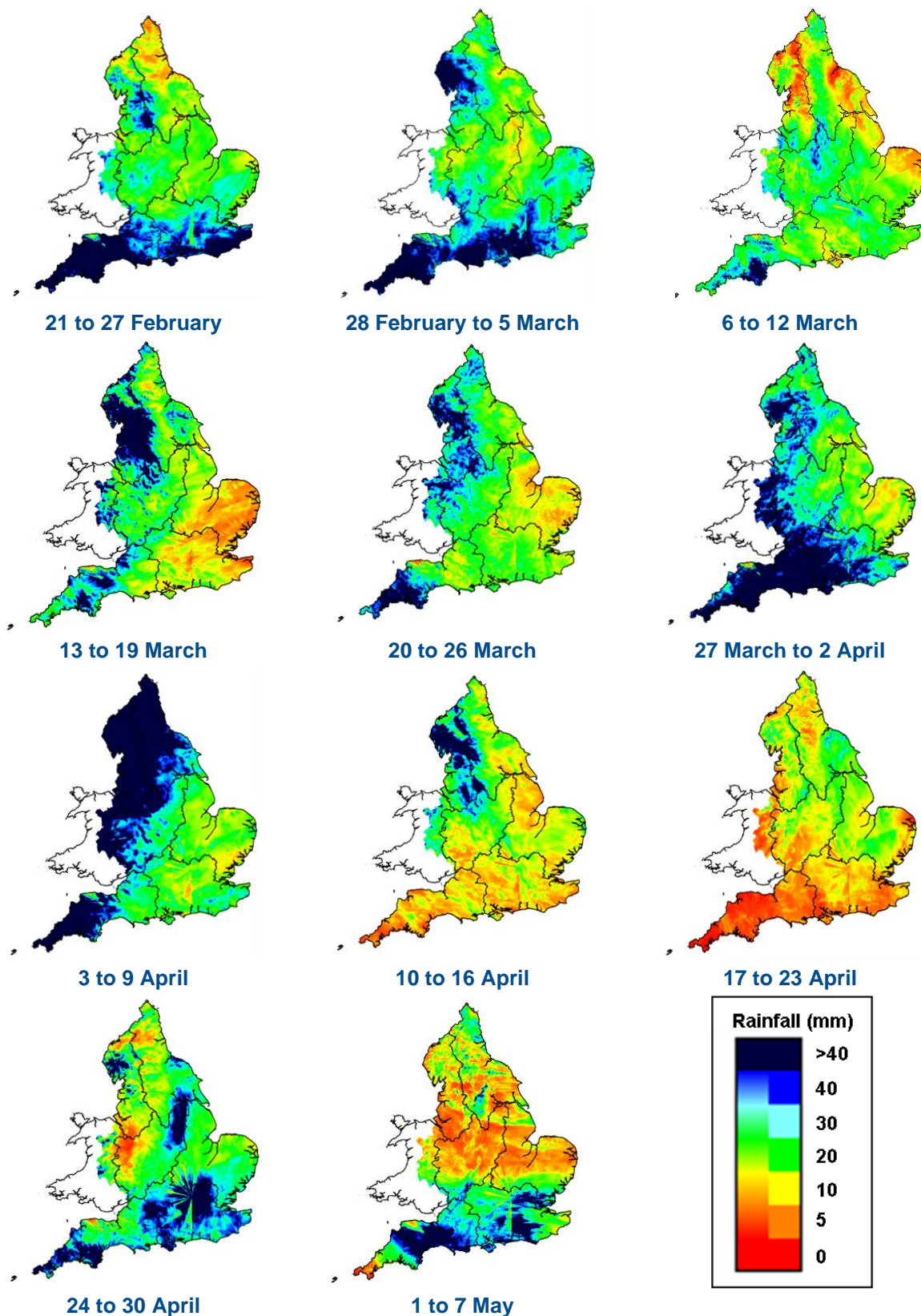
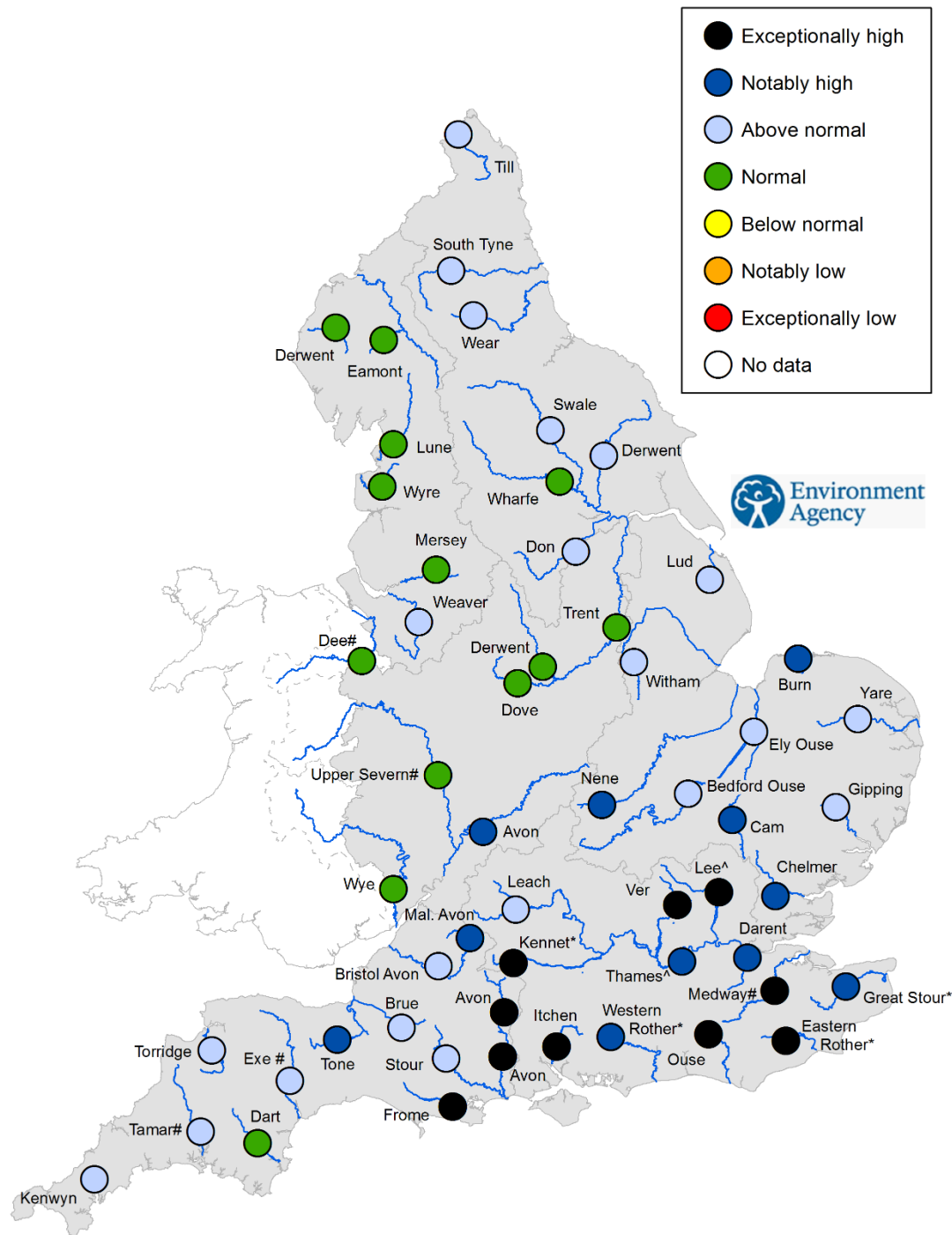


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2024). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation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

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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