

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 15 May to Tuesday 21 May 2024

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

Rainfall

Rainfall throughout the week varied across the country with the eastern and central areas receiving the greatest amount. Rainfall totals for the week ranged from 10mm in north-east England, to 33mm in east England and central England (Figure 1). Rainfall totals for the month to date ranged from 50% of the long-term average in north-east England, to 105% of the long-term average in south-west England (Table 1).

River flow

Compared to last week, river flows decreased at 85% of reporting sites, and increased at the remaining 15%. Flows at all of the reporting sites across England, were classed as normal or above for the time of year. 4 reporting sites (7%) were classed as exceptionally high, 10 (18%) as notably high, 16 (29%) as above normal, and 25 (46%) as normal for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday is expected to be drier than Wednesday but pretty wet across the northern half of the country; with some bright sunny skies developing in southern areas. Further rain is expected across the north on Friday with a drier and brighter conditions on Saturday across much of the country. Longer spells of rain are expected to develop on Sunday with more showers likely across eastern parts through the Bank Holiday Monday.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 15 to 21 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	14	46	62	138	195	400	164	946	156	1,676	140
north-east	10	31	50	99	171	263	142	626	145	1,159	138
central	33	57	99	74	139	286	176	558	152	1,020	141
east	33	50	104	58	124	211	161	423	143	812	135
south-east	15	47	85	75	146	310	193	613	160	1,046	143
south-west	14	70	105	93	151	448	194	900	158	1,464	143
England	21	50	84	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

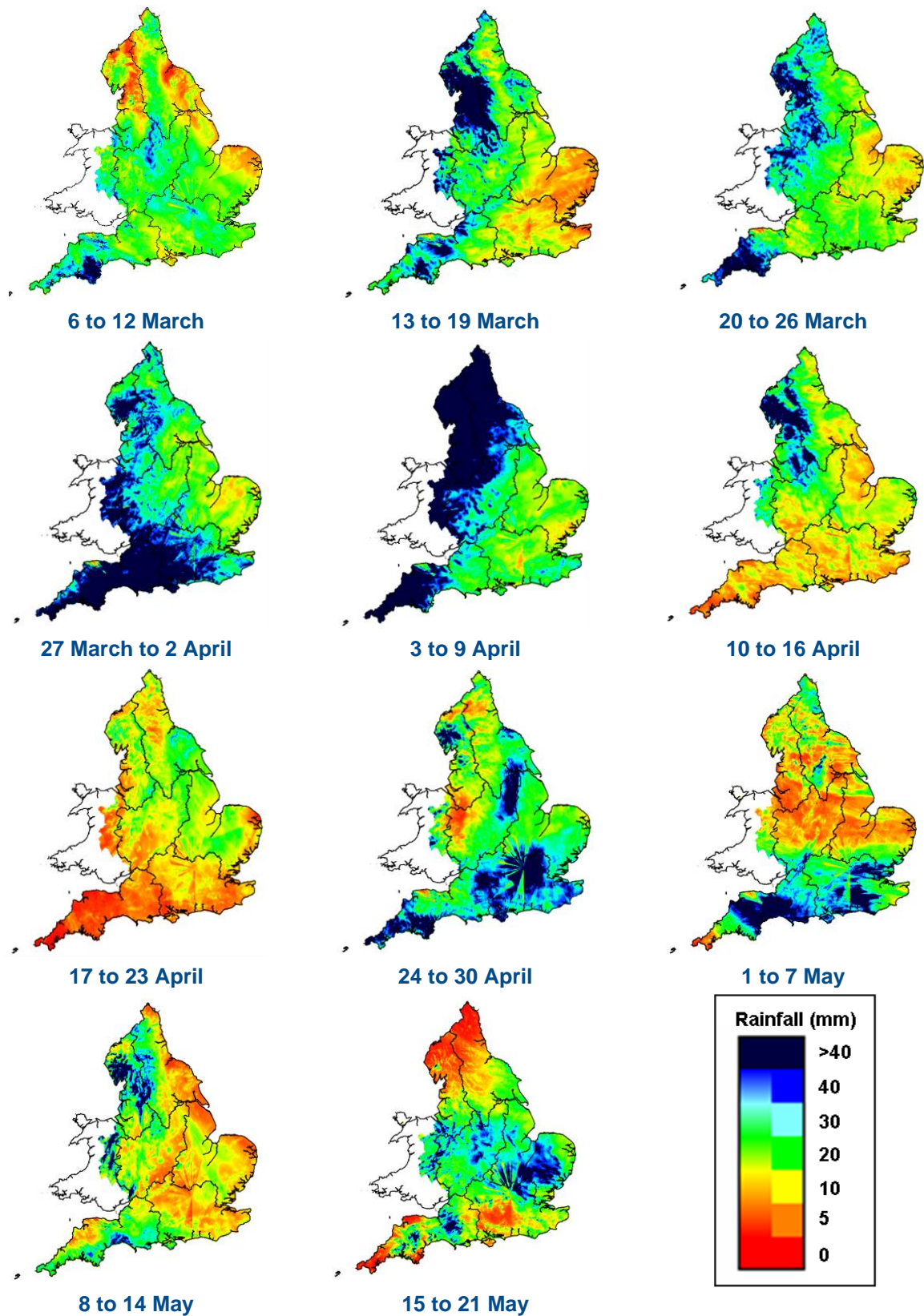


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2024). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation affecting its performance. This does not reflect actual conditions on the ground. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100024198, 2024.

River flow 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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