

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 22 May to Tuesday 28 May 2024

Summary: It has been another wet week across England, particularly in the north-west and north-east. River flows increased at two-thirds of sites, and most sites are classed as above normal or higher for the time of year.

Rainfall

It has been another very wet week across England. The north-west and north-east received as much rain last week as would be expected for the whole month of May. The rest of England received around half of the long term average (LTA) total rainfall for May. Rainfall totals ranged from 18mm in east England to 75mm in north-west England (Figure 1). Rainfall totals for the month to date ranged from 123% of the LTA in south-east England to 161% in north-west England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows increased at two-thirds of reporting sites compared to the previous week. At almost all reporting sites across England, river flows were classed as [above normal](#) or higher for the time of year. Just 5 sites (9% of the total) were classed as [normal](#) for the time of year. A quarter of sites were classed as [above normal](#), 47% were classed as [notably high](#) and the remaining 20% were [exceptionally high](#) for the time of year. (Figure 2)

Outlook

During Thursday, showers will move south through central England from the north-west, with some heavy and thundery. Friday will bring increasingly dry conditions, with showers confined to east England. Over the weekend, it will be generally dry with sunny spells as high pressure builds and settled conditions set in, it will feel warm in the sunshine. This pattern of weather is likely to continue into Monday and Tuesday.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 22 to 28 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	75	121	161	138	195	400	164	946	156	1,676	140
north-east	60	91	149	99	171	263	142	626	145	1,159	138
central	28	85	146	74	139	286	176	558	152	1,020	141
east	18	68	141	58	124	211	161	423	143	812	135
south-east	21	67	123	75	146	310	193	613	160	1,046	143
south-west	31	101	151	93	151	448	194	900	158	1,464	143
England	36	86	145	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.

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

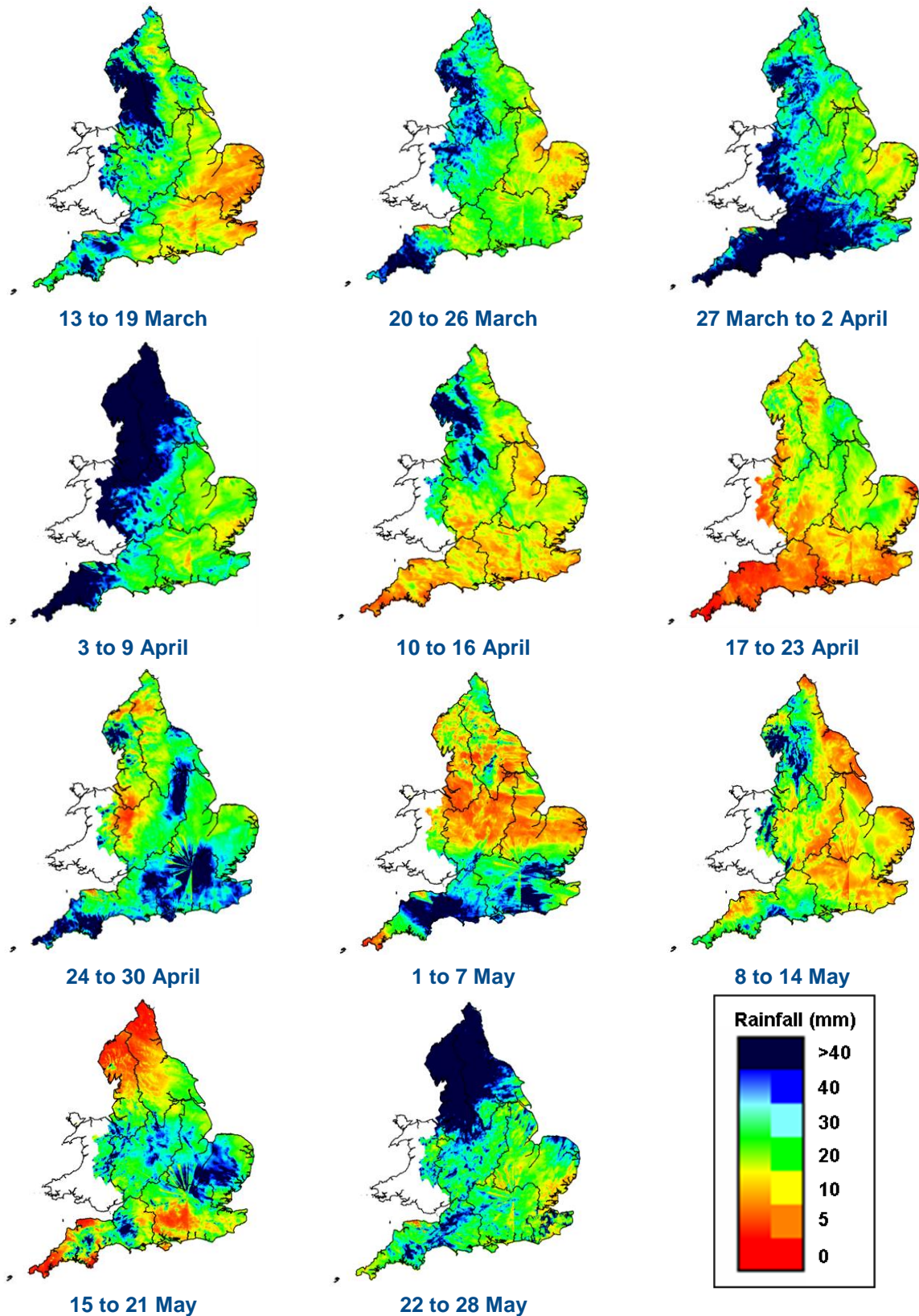
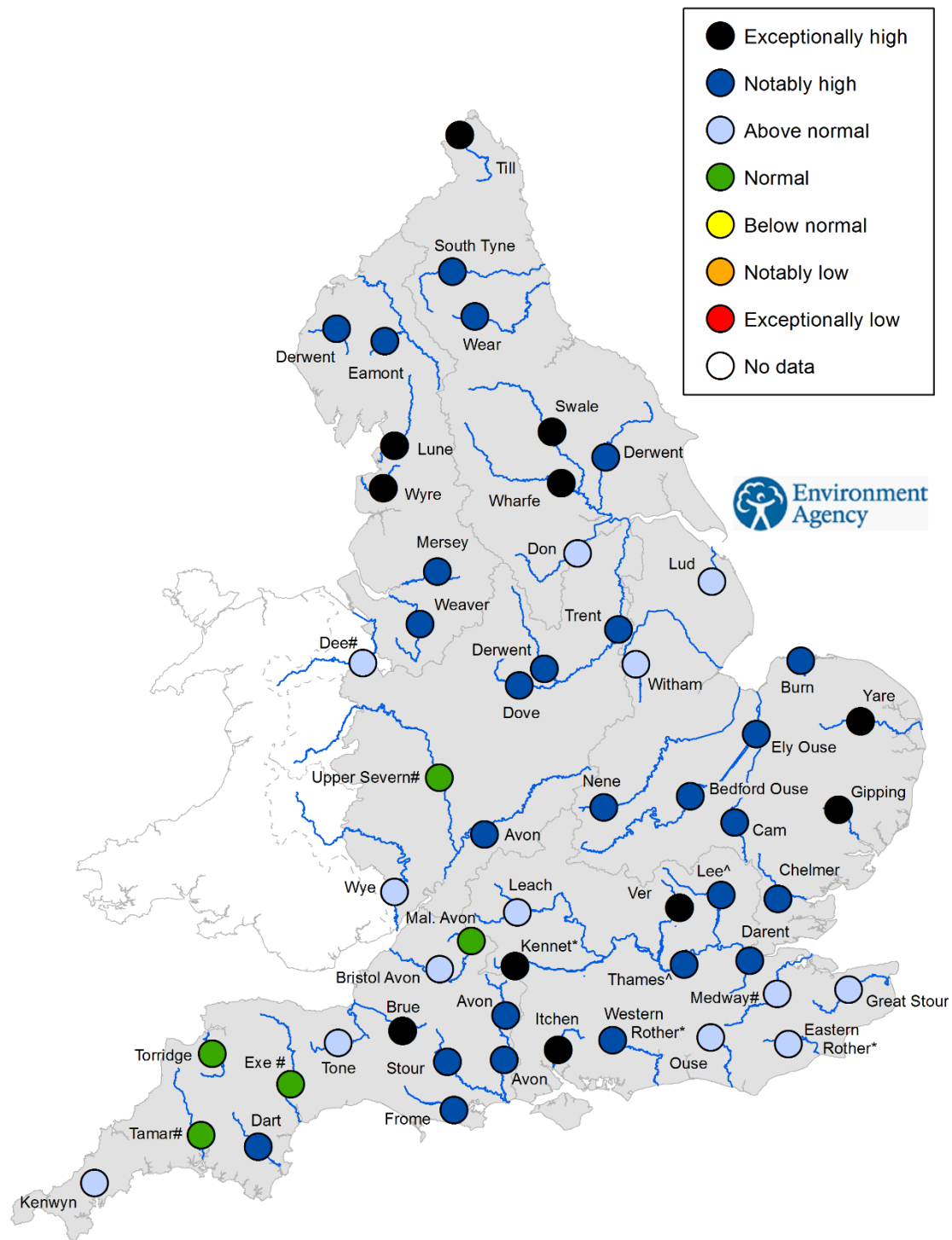


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2024). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation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

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