Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 29 May to Tuesday 4 June 2024

Summary: It has been a much drier week across England compared with last week. River flows decreased at all of the sites we report on but remain classed as normal or higher for the time of year.

Rainfall

It has been a much drier week across England compared with last week and the driest since the middle of January. Rainfall totals ranged from 2mm in south-west England to 8mm across northern England (Table 1, Figure 1). Rainfall totals for the month of May ranged from 129% of the long-term average (LTA) in south-east England to 163% of the LTA in north-west England. (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at all reporting sites compared to the previous week. 47% of sites are classed as above normal for the time of year, 33% are classed as normal, 15% are classed as notably high and 5% are classed as exceptionally high for the time of year. (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday and Friday will be largely dry for most with the exception of north-west and central England where some showers are likely. The weekend will generally be dry with sunny spells across the country, though northern England will have some scattered showers. A similar pattern will continue on Monday and Tuesday.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 29 May to 4 Jun 2024	Latest month to date: Jun 2024		Last month: May 2024		Last 3 months: Mar to May 2024		Last 6 months: Dec 2023 to May 2024		Last 12 months: Jun 2023 to May 2024	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	8	5	6	123	163	386	160	911	163	1,766	148
north-east	8	3	4	88	144	266	141	609	149	1,217	145
central	5	3	6	77	133	247	146	560	156	1,063	147
east	7	2	4	71	146	175	124	423	148	841	140
south-east	4	<1	1	71	129	239	144	566	156	1,079	147
south-west	2	<1	1	91	136	335	156	826	155	1,500	147
England	6	2	4	84	141	264	145	623	155	1,196	146

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

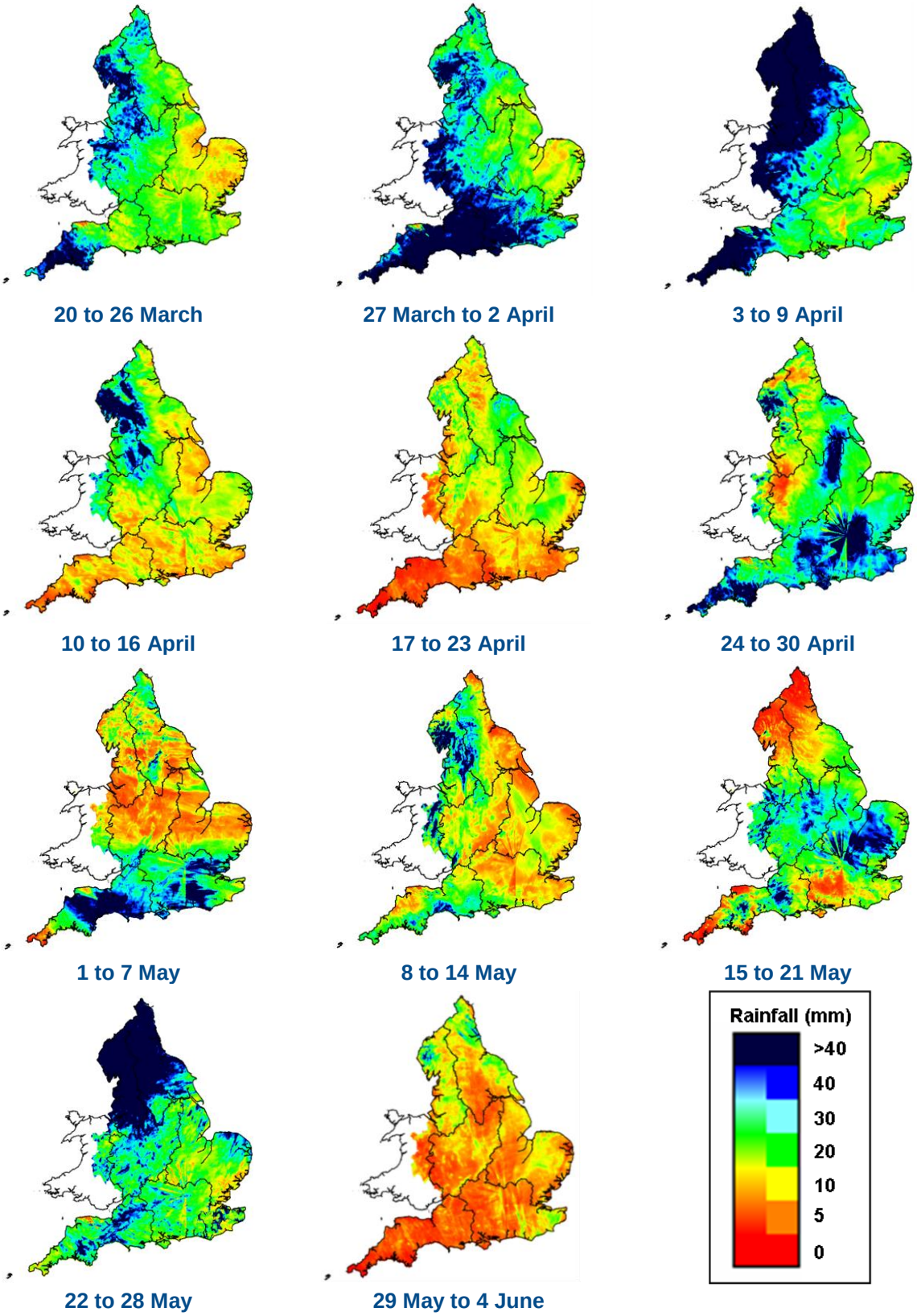
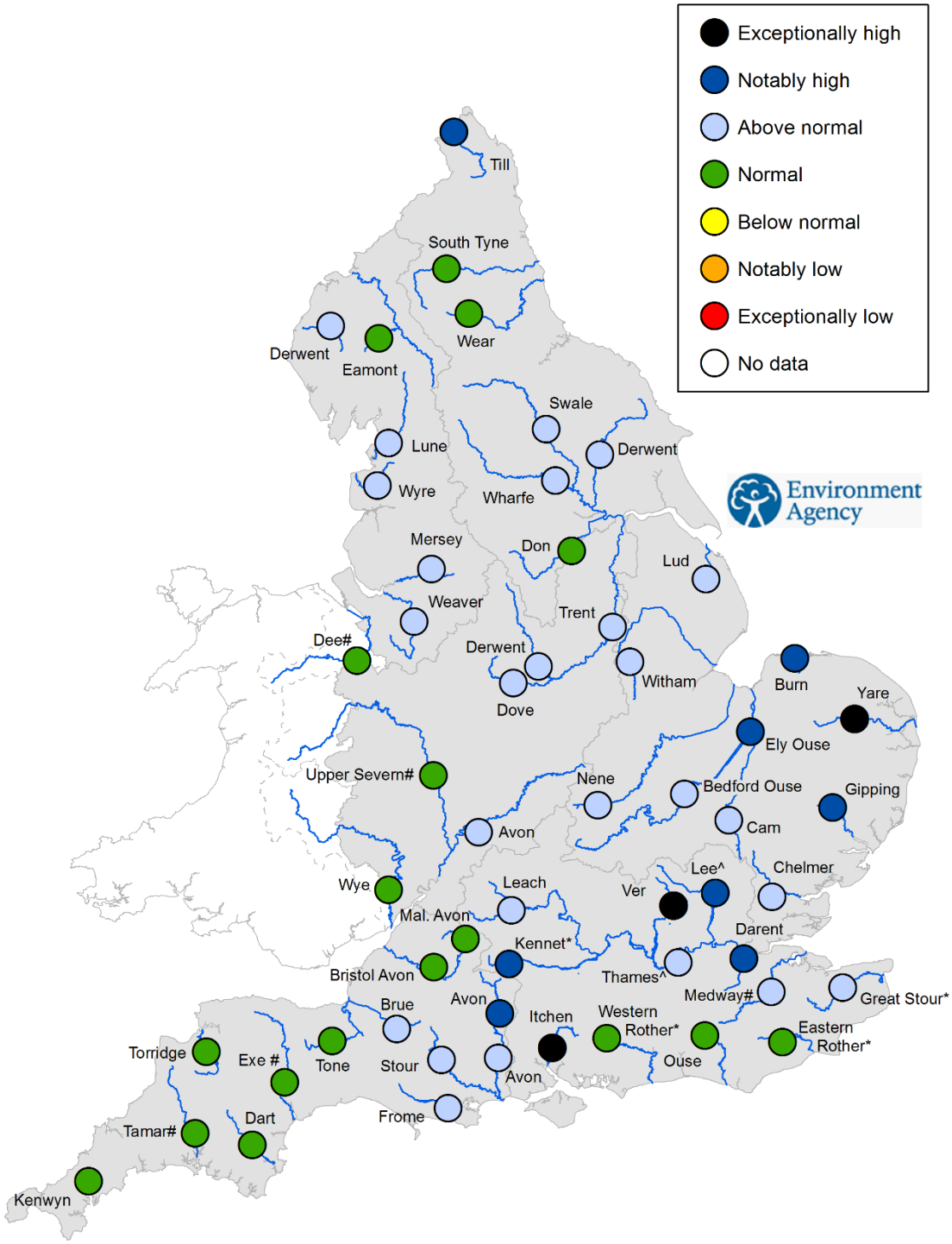


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2024). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation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

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