

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 11 December to Tuesday 17 December 2024

Summary: It has been a much drier week across England compared to last week. River flow has decreased at most of our reporting sites; however, flow at many sites continues to be classed as normal or higher for the time of year.

Rainfall

It has been a much drier week across England compared to the previous week. Rainfall totals ranged from 2mm in east England to 12mm in the north-west (Table 1, Figure 1). The eastern side of the country has already received more than two-thirds of the long term average (LTA) rainfall for December, compared to the south-west which has received about a third. To date England as a whole has received 51% of December's LTA rainfall (Table 1).

River flow

River flows decreased at almost all of the sites we report on compared to the previous week. Flows at the majority of sites (71%) were classed as [normal](#) for the time of year, with a further 10 sites (18%) classed as [above normal](#). The highest flows were reported in south-east England where 2 sites (4%) were classed as [notably high](#), and a single site (2%) as [exceptionally high](#) for the time of year. The final 3 sites, all located in the south-west of the country were reporting [below normal](#) flows (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday is expected to be cold, with the possibility of frequent wintry showers in the northern and western parts of England. The cold conditions are expected to remain throughout the weekend and will be accompanied by spells of wind and rain. Next week is likely to see a continuation of wintry conditions as cloud, rain, and strong winds move eastwards across the country.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 11 to 17 Dec 2024	Latest month to date: Dec 2024		Last month: Nov 2024		Last 3 months: Sep to Nov 2024		Last 6 months: Jun to Nov 2024		Last 12 months: Dec 2023 to Nov 2024	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	12	78	63	84	68	341	94	641	100	1,551	130
north-east	6	67	81	46	55	238	104	404	94	1,012	121
central	3	42	58	74	112	311	165	437	120	997	138
east	2	39	70	51	89	209	131	327	104	750	125
south-east	4	38	51	83	112	322	155	453	123	1,019	139
south-west	7	37	31	127	119	419	145	591	121	1,417	139
England	5	48	57	76	93	300	131	459	110	1,082	132

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

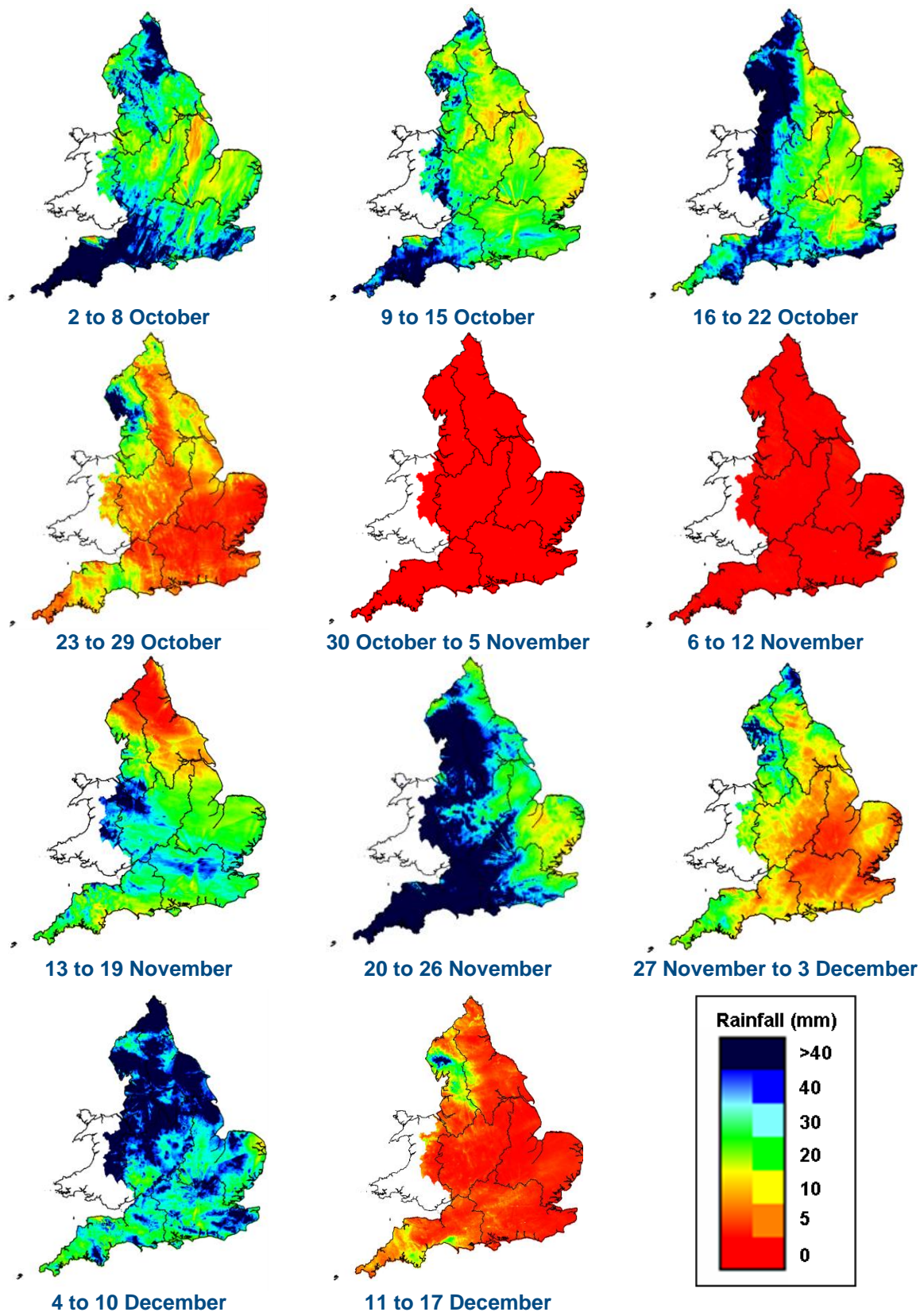
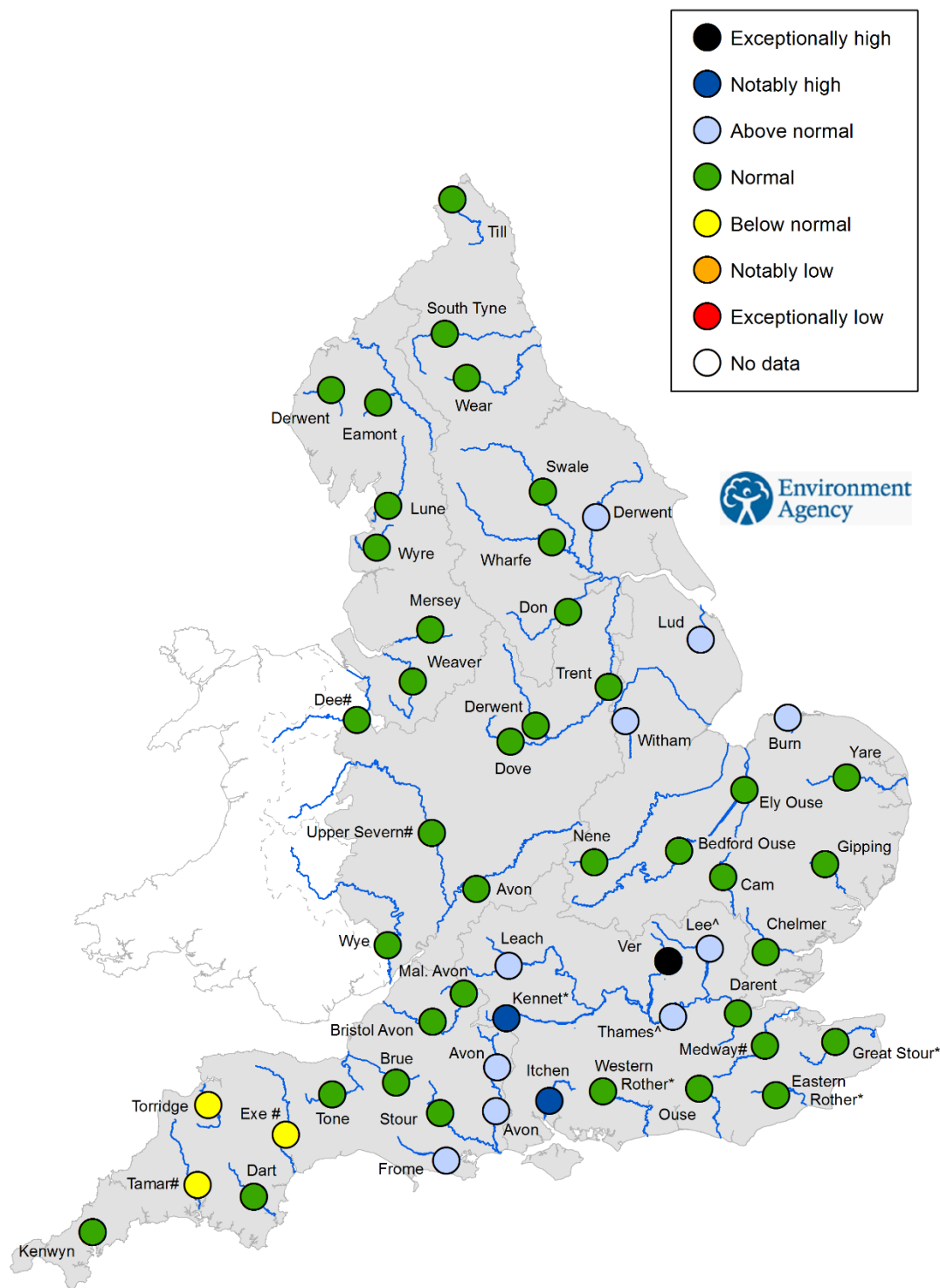


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2024). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation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