

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 25 December to Tuesday 31 December 2024

Summary: It has been a wet week across north-west England but dry across the east and south-east. River flows decreased at almost all of our reporting sites; however, flow at the majority of sites continues to be classed as normal or higher for the time of year.

Rainfall

It has been a wet week across north-west England but much drier elsewhere particularly in the east and south-east. Rainfall totals ranged from 2mm in east and south-east England to 51mm in the north-west (Table 1, Figure 1). In December, the southern areas have received rainfall total lower than the LTA while the northern, central and eastern England have received above LTA rainfall (Table 1).

River flow

River flows decreased at almost all of the sites (93%) we report on compared to the previous week. Flows at the majority of sites were classed as [normal](#) or higher for the time of year. Five sites (9% of the total) were classed as [exceptionally high](#) while 3 sites (5%) were classed as [above normal](#) and 34 sites (62%) classed as [normal](#) for the time of year. Further 12 sites (22%) were classed as [below normal](#), and a single site (2%) in the far north-east classed as [exceptionally low](#) for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Friday is expected to be cold with plenty of sunshine mostly in the southern and eastern part of England. The northern part may experience some showers, icy conditions and gentle winds. Through the weekend, it will be windy with rain and snow likely to spread across the northeast while the southern part is expected to turn milder on Sunday. Monday and Tuesday are likely to be colder but drier for much of England with wintery or snow showers at times.

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 25 to 31 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	51	171	139	84	68	341	94	641	100	1,551	130
north-east	25	100	123	46	55	238	104	404	94	1,012	121
central	12	81	112	74	112	311	165	437	120	997	138
east	2	56	102	51	89	209	131	327	104	750	125
south-east	2	52	69	83	112	322	155	453	123	1,019	139
south-west	4	68	58	127	119	419	145	591	121	1,417	139
England	14	82	98	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

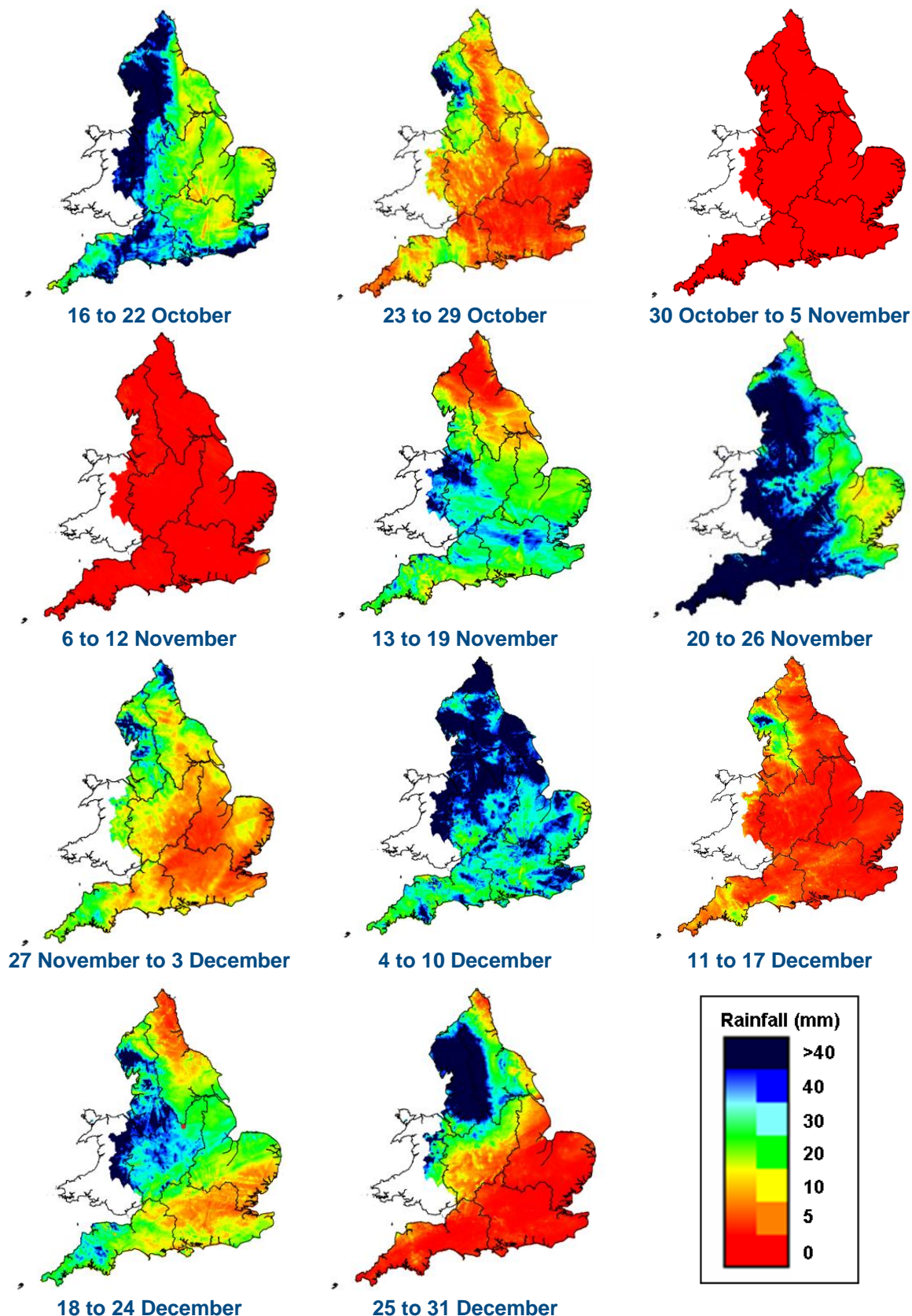
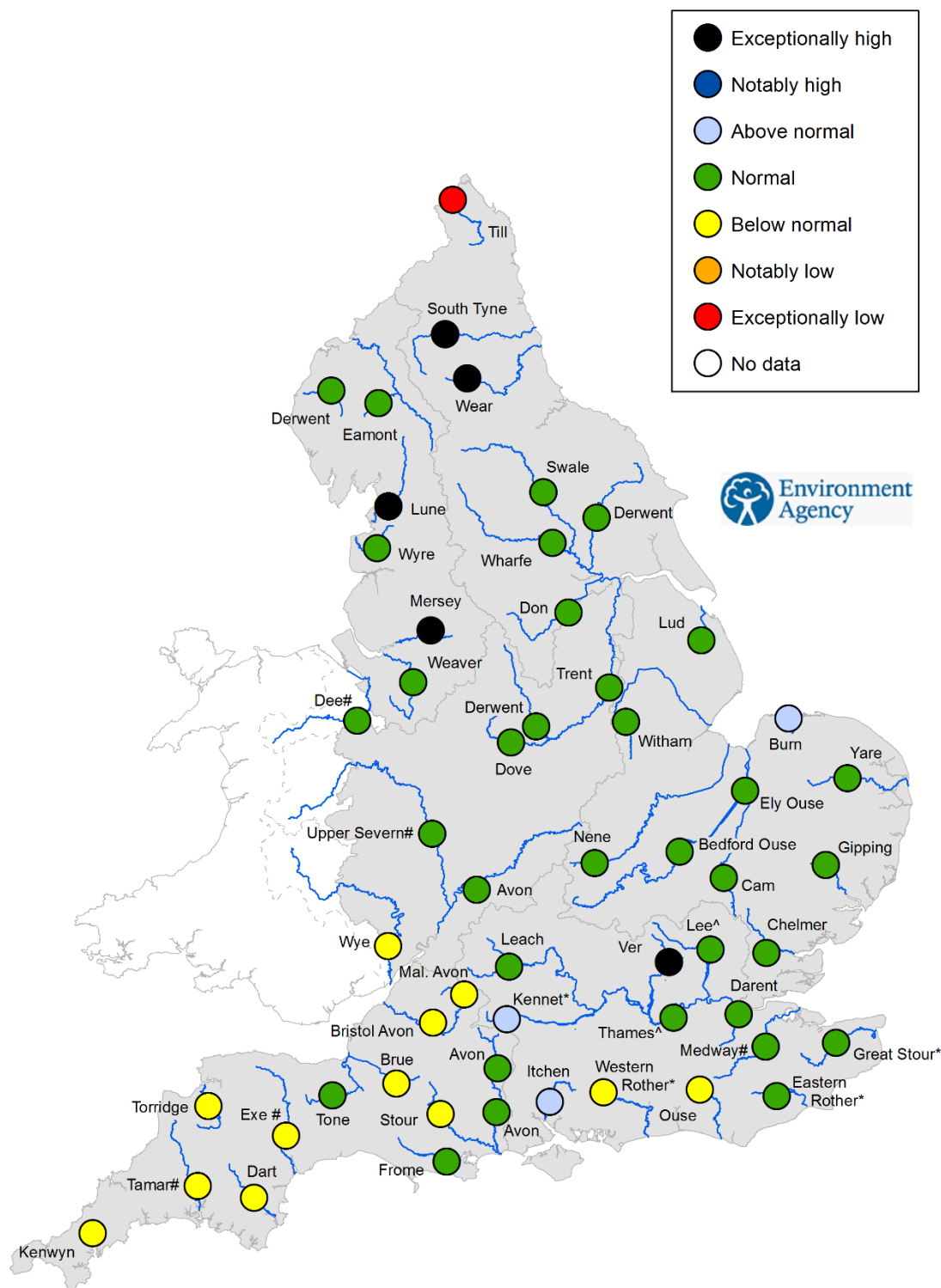


Figure 1 Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2024). Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation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