

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Wednesday 14 May to Tuesday 20 May 2025

1 Summary

It has been another very dry week across the whole of England. River flows decreased at most of the sites we report on compared to the previous week.

1.1 Rainfall

It has been another very dry week across the whole of England. Rainfall totals ranged from less than 1mm in east, north-west and north-east England to 4mm in south-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Rainfall totals for the month of May range from only 2% of the long-term average (LTA) in north-west England to 17% of the LTA in south-west England (Figure 1). The rainfall total for England for May to date was 5mm, 9% of the May LTA (Figure 1).

1.2 River flows

River flows decreased at over four-fifths of the sites we report on compared to the previous week with more than three-quarters of sites classed as below normal or lower for the time of year. One site (2%) was classed as above normal, 8 sites (15%) were classed as normal, another 19 sites (35%) were classed as below normal, 10 sites (17%) were classed as notably low. Seventeen sites (31%), predominately across central, north-west and north-east England were classed as exceptionally low for the time of year (Figure 2).

1.3 Outlook

Dry weather will continue across England throughout Thursday and Friday with many areas seeing sunny spells. Saturday will see outbreaks of rain as a weather front moves eastwards across the country. Rain and scattered showers are forecast to continue throughout Sunday. Conditions for Bank Holiday Monday and Tuesday are likely to be a mixture of sunshine and showers. The showers will be heavier and more frequent in the west where it may also be windy, especially across the north-west. The east, especially the south-east may well see drier weather.

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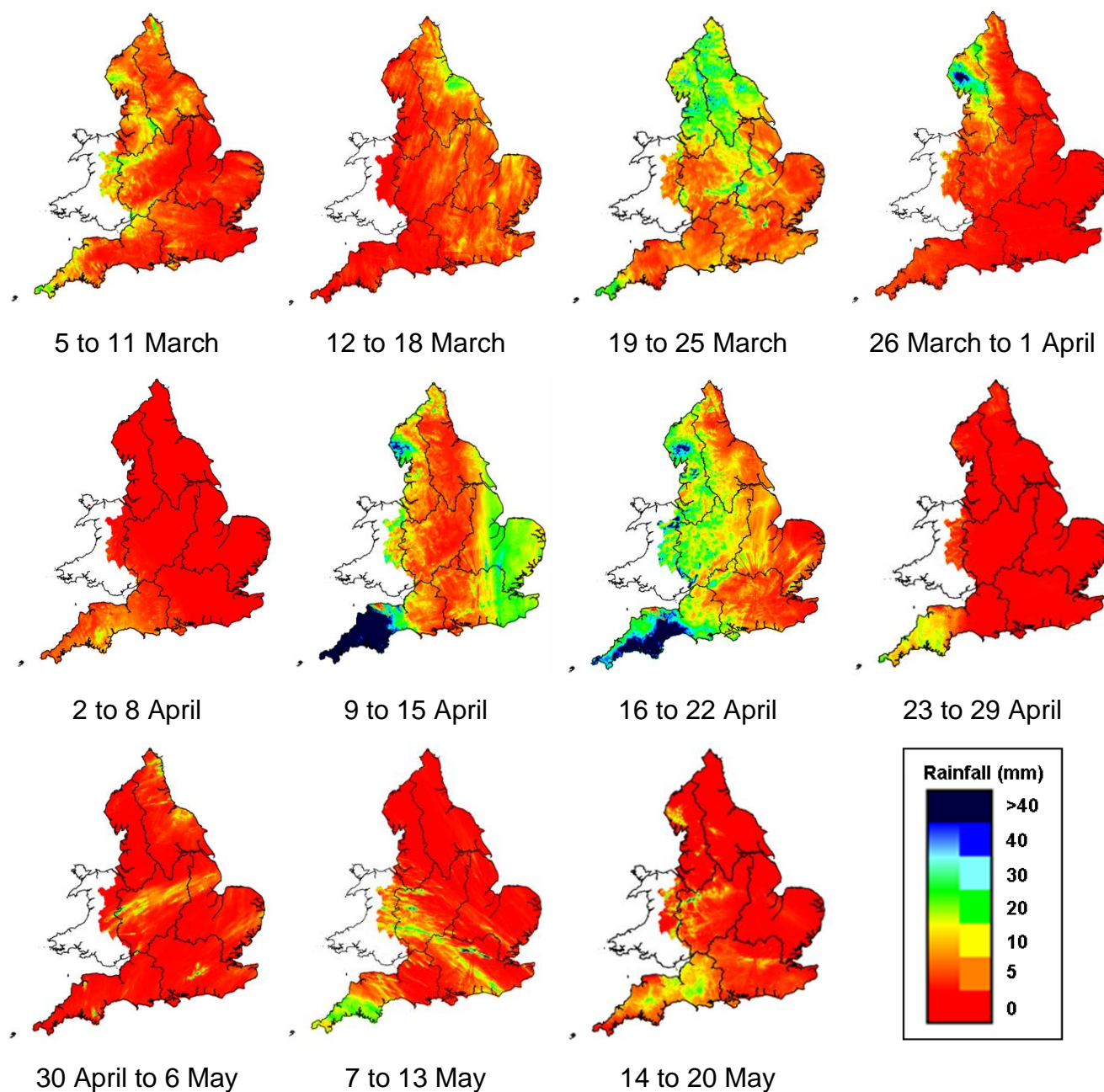
Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2025)

Geographic regions	14 to 20 May 2025 total rainfall (mm)	May 2025 to date total rainfall (mm)	May 2025 to date rainfall % of LTA	Apr 2025 total rainfall (mm)	Apr 2025 rainfall % of LTA	Last 3 months Feb to Apr 2025 total rainfall (mm)	Last 3 months Feb to Apr 2025 rainfall % of LTA	Last 6 months Nov 2024 to Apr 2025 total rainfall (mm)	Last 6 months Nov 2024 to Apr 2025 rainfall % of LTA	Last 12 months May 2024 to Apr 2025 total rainfall (mm)	Last 12 months May 2024 to Apr 2025 rainfall % of LTA
north-west	<1	1	2	24	34	115	47	470	77	1,149	96
north-east	<1	2	4	10	17	74	40	293	68	738	88
central	1	6	10	21	39	72	44	308	84	749	104
east	<1	3	6	20	43	62	47	226	77	572	95
south-east	2	6	10	25	49	92	57	330	86	771	105
south-west	4	11	17	74	120	177	76	528	92	1,084	106
England	1	5	9	28	51	95	53	346	81	813	99

Notes: Long term average (LTA) rainfall for 1961 to 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.

2 Rainfall

Figure 2: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar
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.

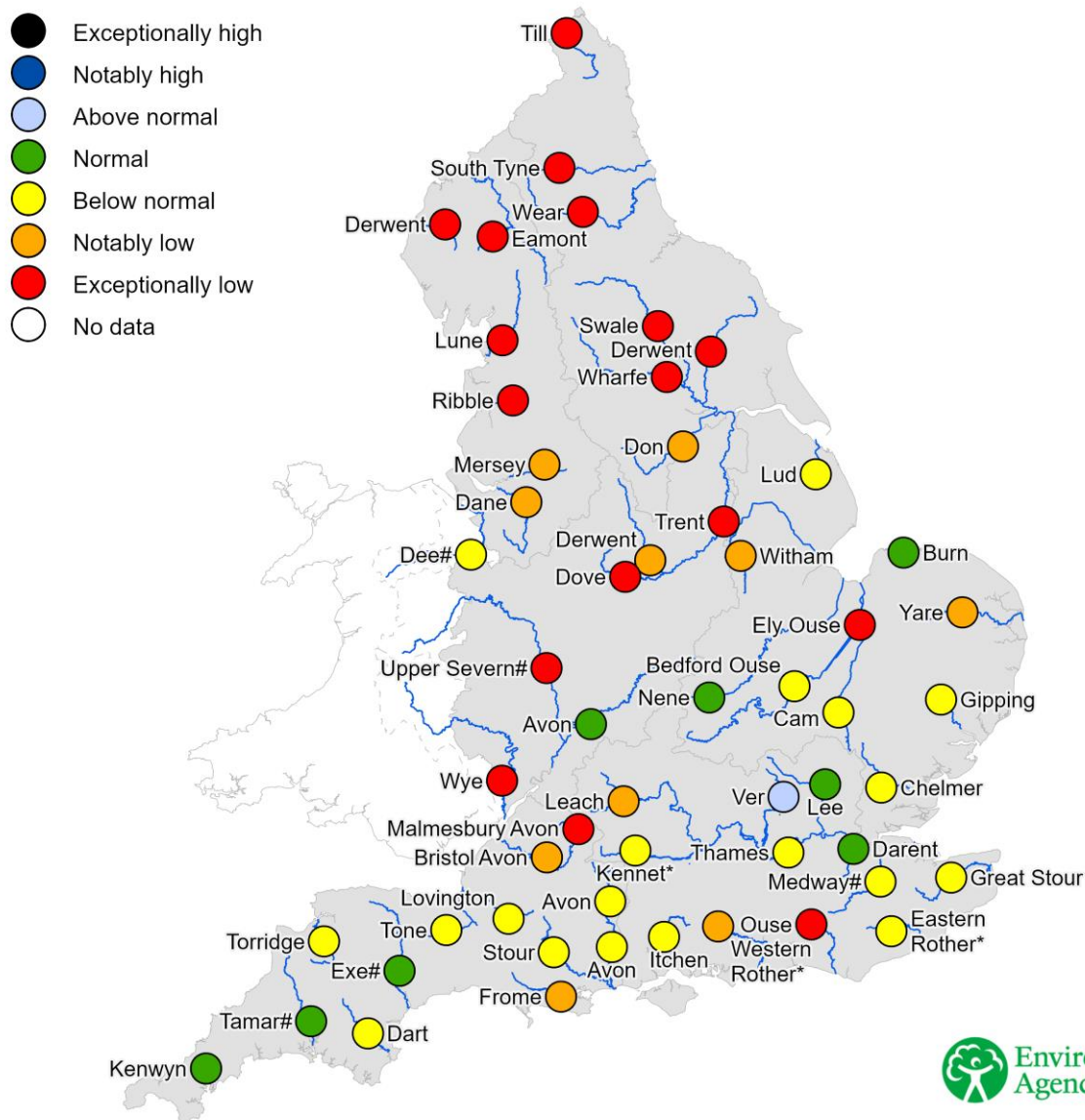


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3 River flows

3.1 River flows map

Figure 3.1: Latest daily mean river flow, relative to an analysis of historic daily mean flows, classed by flow percentile for the same time of year. River flows for the River Thames at Kingston and the River Lee at Feildes Weir are naturalised. * Flows may be overestimated and data should be treated with caution. # Flows may be impacted by upstream reservoir releases.



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3.2 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