Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Wednesday 31 December to Tuesday 6 January 2026

1 Summary

It has been largely dry since Christmas Eve for all of England as high pressure settled over the country, with the north-west seeing the highest rainfall totals in the last week. River flows have decreased at almost all sites in response to this dry weather, and more than three-quarters were classed as below normal or lower for the time of year.

1.1 Rainfall

It has been a dry week across much of England, with any precipitation generally falling as snow rather than rain. Rainfall totals ranged from 5mm in north-east and east England, to 12mm in north-west England. The week from December 24 to 30 was also very dry, with less than 1mm of rainfall received across England. December rainfall totals were near or above average across most of the country, and for England as a whole 114% of the long term average (LTA) rainfall for December was received. So far in January, England has received 8% of the LTA rainfall for the month. (Table 1)

1.2 River flows

Following two weeks of dry weather, river flows decreased at almost all of the sites we report on, and more than three-quarters of sites were classed as below normal or lower for the time of year. Ten sites (18% of the total), were classed as normal, most of which were in south-east and south-west England. Only the River Lud in east England was classed as above normal for the time of year. Twenty-four sites classed as below normal were spread across the country, and accounted for 44% of all sites. Sixteen sites (29%) were classed as notably low, including most of the sites in north-west and south-west England. Four sites (7%) were classed as exceptionally low, including the Rivers Till, Swale and Wharfe in north-east England, and the River Exe in the south-west. (Figure 3.1)

1.3 Outlook

Thursday is expected to become wet and windy as Storm Goretti (named by Météo-France) develops off the coast of Cornwall and begins to move inland. Through Thursday night and into Friday it will bring rain and strong winds to much of southern and central England. As it meets colder air in the east, this precipitation is expected to fall as snow, particularly on higher ground. On Saturday and Sunday, conditions are expected to be drier, with cold mornings bringing frosts. Forecasts become less certain for Monday onwards, as mild Atlantic air clashes with cold air over the UK.

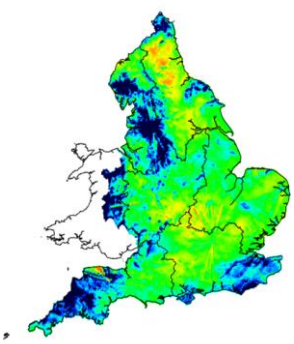
Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2026)

Geographic regions	31 Dec to 6 Jan 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Jan 2026 to date total rainfall (mm)	Jan 2026 to date rainfall % of LTA	Dec 2025 total rainfall (mm)	Dec 2025 rainfall % of LTA	Last 3 months Oct to Dec 2025 total rainfall (mm)	Last 3 months Oct to Dec 2025 rainfall % of LTA	Last 6 months Jul to Dec 2025 total rainfall (mm)	Last 6 months Jul to Dec 2025 rainfall % of LTA	Last 12 months Jan to Dec 2025 total rainfall (mm)	Last 12 months Jan to Dec 2025 rainfall % of LTA
north-west	12	11	8	171	118	504	124	861	119	1,285	101
north-east	5	5	6	90	100	324	121	541	111	771	87
central	8	8	12	92	122	295	130	450	108	667	87
east	5	5	10	55	94	215	117	341	96	509	81
south-east	8	8	10	89	107	263	102	425	99	673	87
south-west	8	8	6	174	136	438	117	643	106	1,078	99
England	7	7	8	105	114	324	118	516	107	789	91

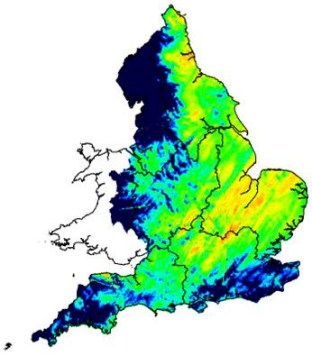
Notes: Long term average (LTA) rainfall for 1991 to 2020. Data for the current month are calculated using MORECS (Met Office Rainfall and Evaporation Calculation System); data for past months are provisional values from the National Climate Information Centre (NCIC). The data are rounded to the nearest millimetre or percent except when values are less than 1. Recorded amounts of rainfall are likely to be underestimated during snow events.

2 Rainfall

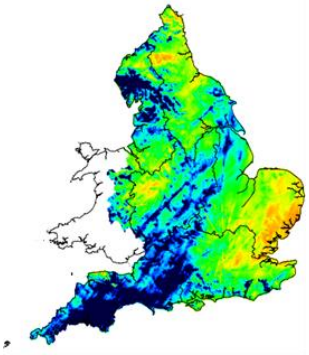
Figure 2: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar. Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation affecting its performance. This does not reflect actual conditions on the ground.



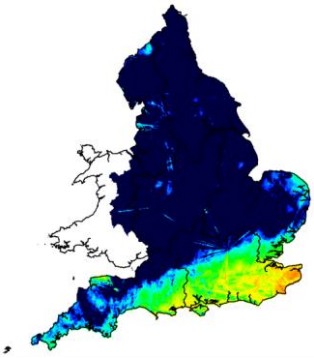
22 to 28 October



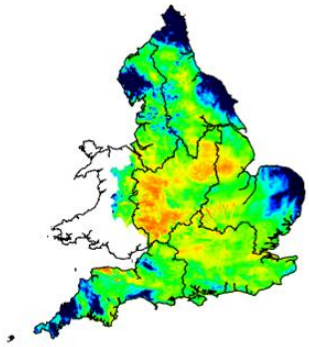
29 October to 4 November



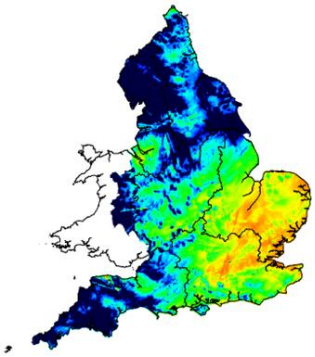
5 to 11 November



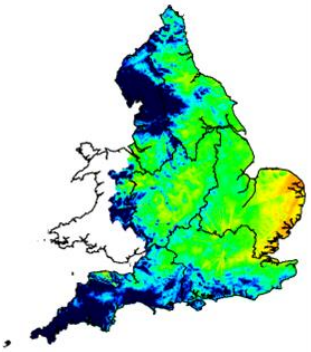
12 to 18 November



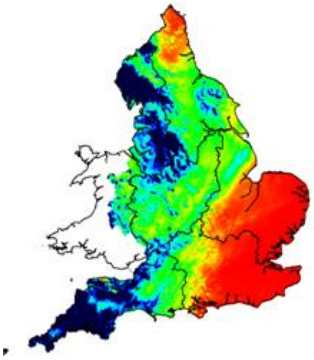
19 to 25 November



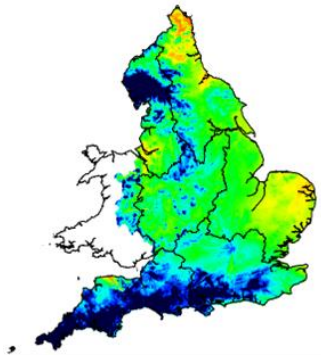
26 November to 2 December



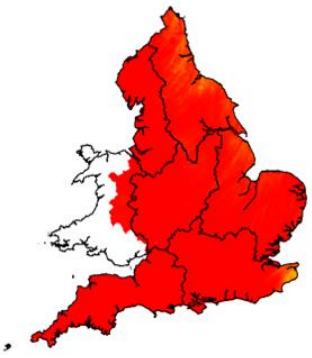
3 to 9 December



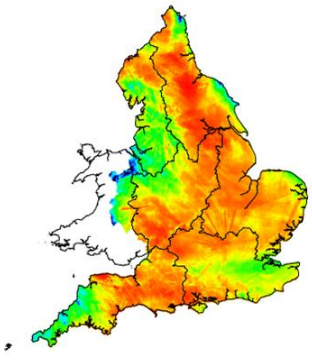
10 to 16 December



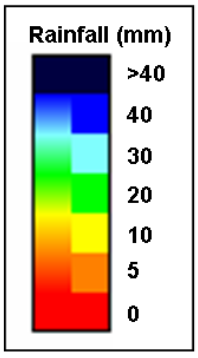
17 to 23 December



24 to 30 December



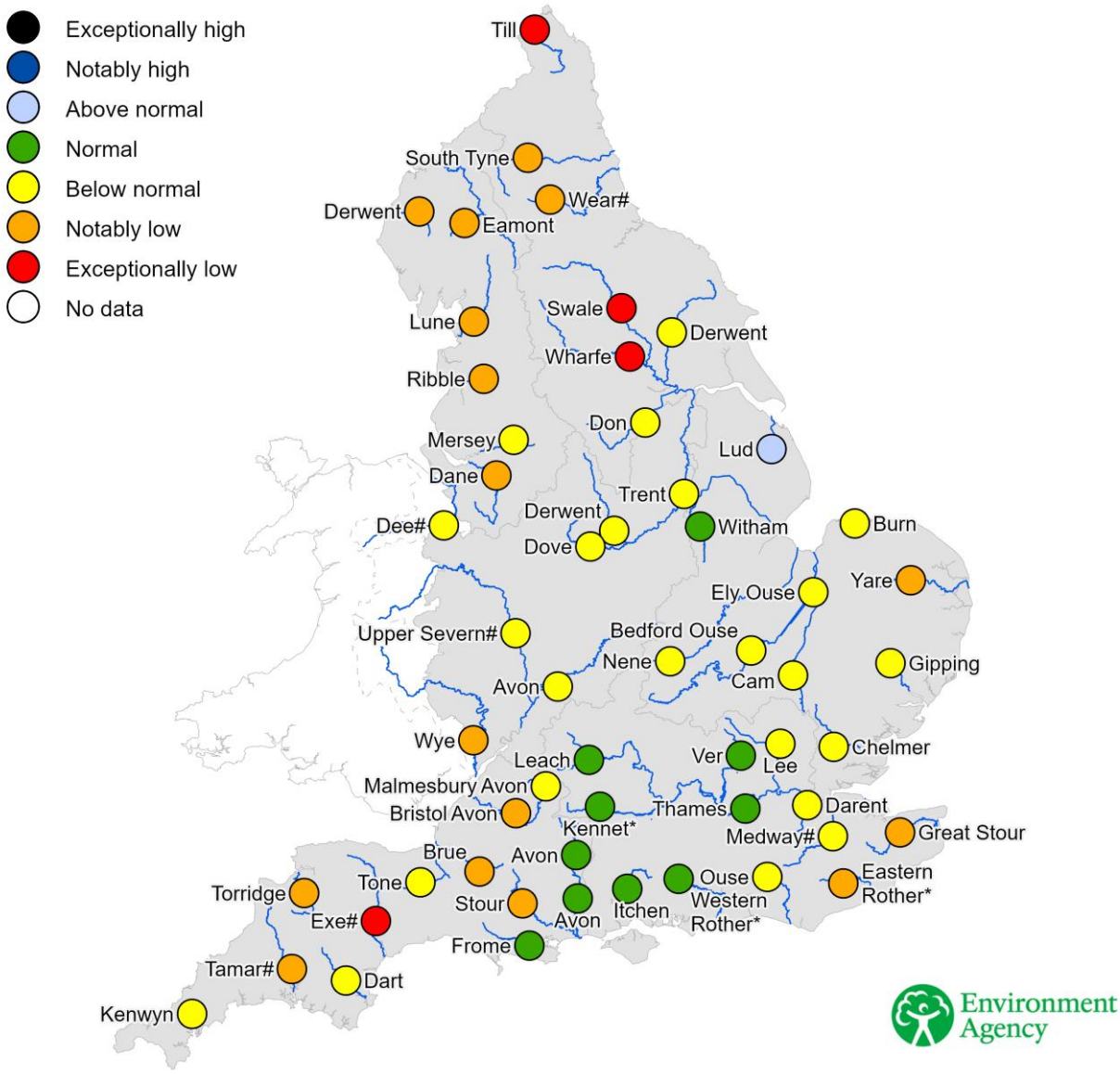
31 December to 6 January



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