Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Wednesday 21 January to Tuesday 27 January 2026

1 Summary

It has been a wetter week across England, particularly in the south-west. River flows increased at almost all sites we report on and all sites are now classed as normal or higher for the time of year.

1.1 Rainfall

It has been a wetter week across most of England, particularly in south-west due to heavy rainfall from Storm Chandra on Tuesday (27 January 2026). Rainfall totals for the week ranged from 23 mm in east England to 87 mm in south-west England (Table 1, Figure 1). Rainfall totals for January to date ranged from 76% of the long-term average (LTA) in north-west England to 156% and 159% of the LTA in south-east and south-west England respectively (Table 1). For England as a whole, January to date, has received 132% of the LTA.

1.2 River flows

River flows increased at all but 2 sites we report on this week. River flows were classed as exceptionally high at 24 sites (44%), and a further 13 sites (24%) were classed as above normal for the time of year. Above normal flows were recorded at 9 sites (16%), and a further 9 sites (16%) were classed as normal. (Figure 2)

1.3 Outlook

Thursday is expected to be rather cloudy and breezy with rain and hill snow in north-east England, whilst showers give way to more persistent rain in the south-west. Friday will remain unsettled with brisk winds and outbreaks of rain for many areas of the country. Brighter and less breezy conditions are forecast for most over the weekend, although the chance of scattered showers, potentially heavy at times, remains. Monday and Tuesday will start off in a similar vein with largely unsettled weather expected, with showers or longer spells of rain for many parts of England.

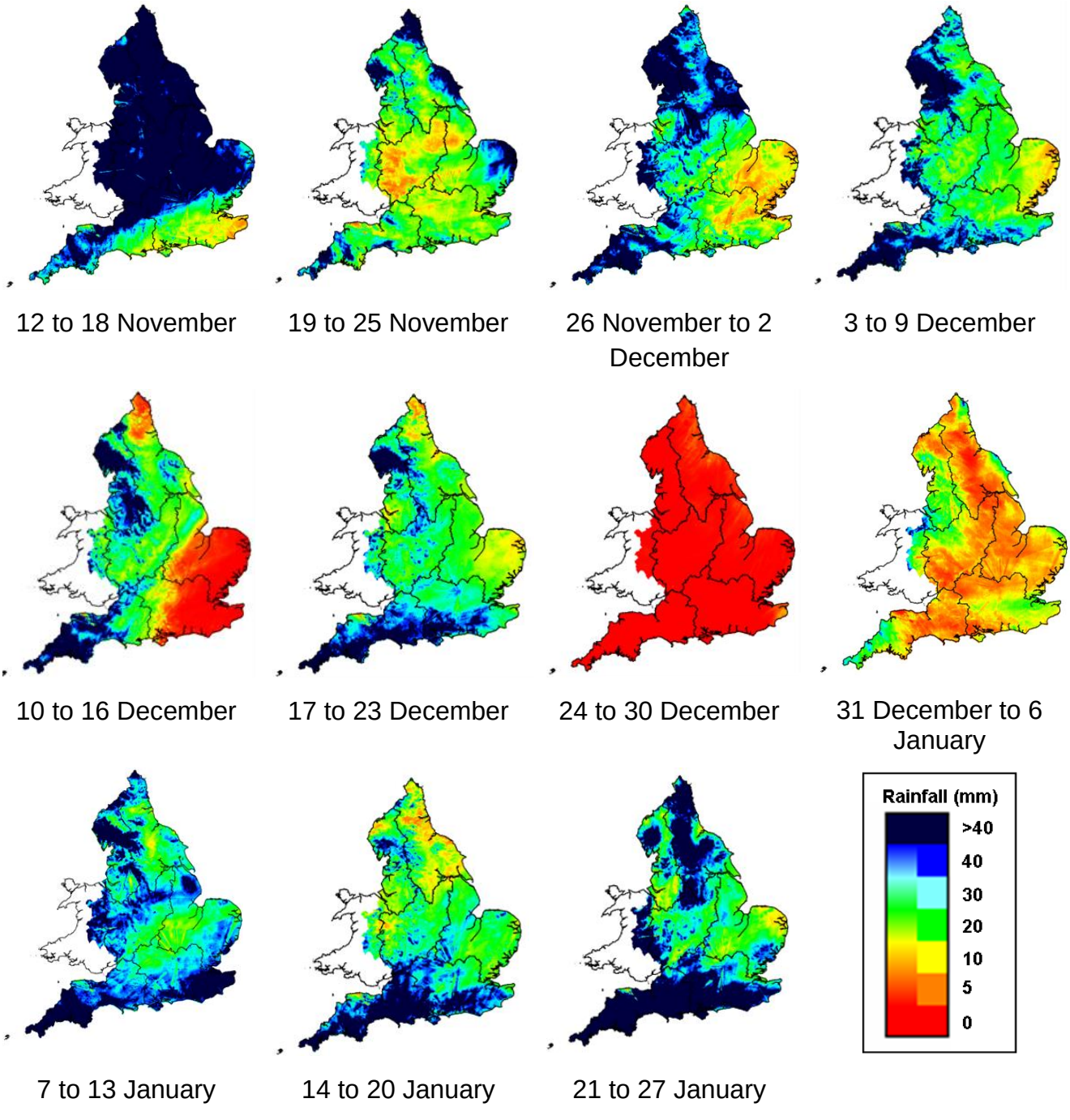
Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2026)

Geographic regions	21 to 27 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	29	95	76	171	118	504	124	861	119	1,285	101
north-east	40	86	107	90	100	324	121	541	111	771	87
central	29	96	145	92	122	295	130	450	108	667	87
east	23	79	150	55	94	215	117	341	96	509	81
south-east	43	123	156	89	107	263	102	425	99	673	87
south-west	87	187	159	174	136	438	117	643	106	1,078	99
England	41	110	132	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

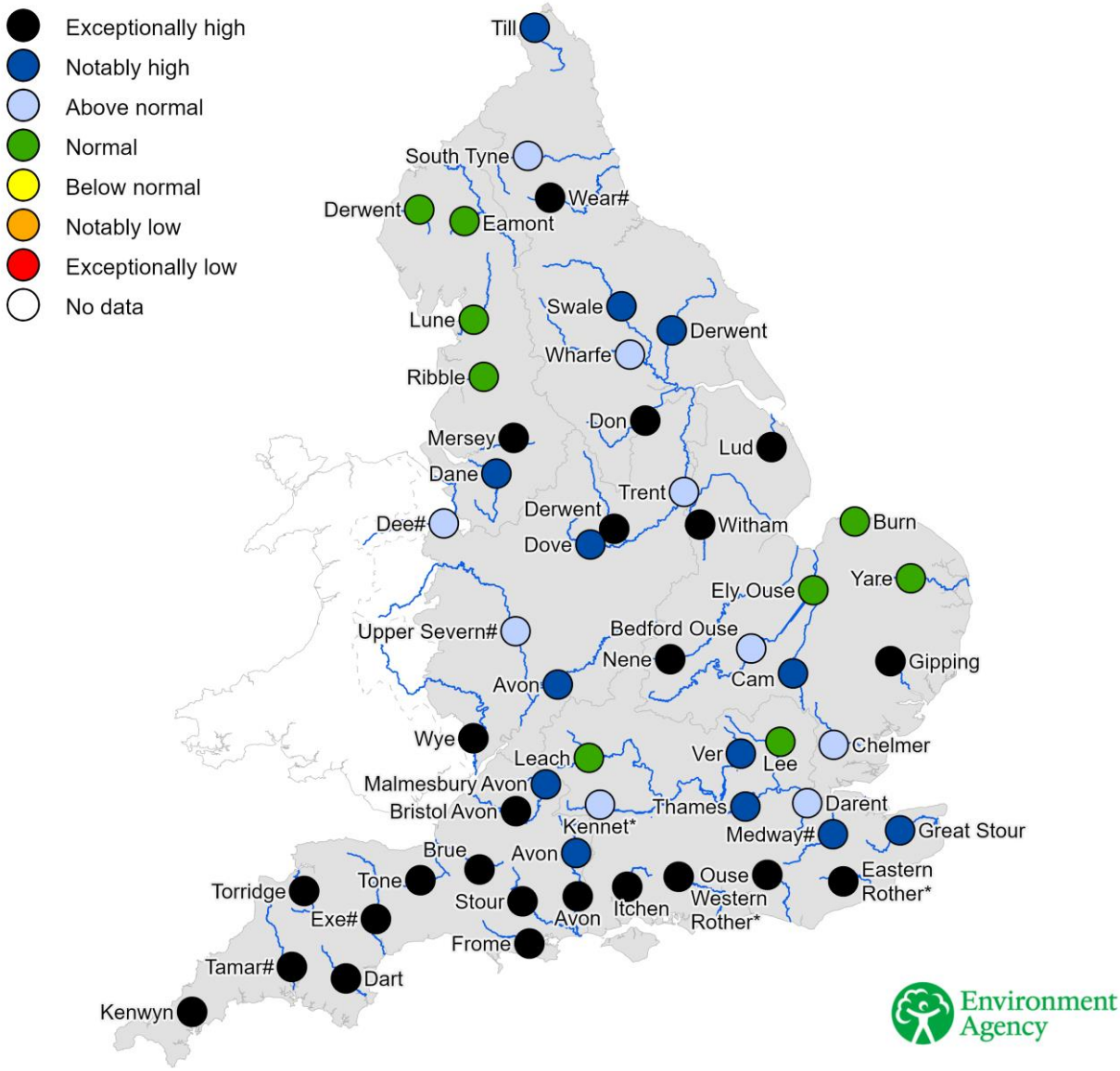
Figure 2: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar. Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation affecting its performance. This does not reflect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



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. * Lower flows may be overestimated and data should be treated with caution. # Flows may be impacted by upstream reservoir releases.



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