

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Wednesday 22 April to Tuesday 28 April 2026

1 Summary

It has been a very dry week across England, with rainfall totals below 1mm in all regions. River flows decreased at almost all sites compared with the previous week and are classed as normal or below normal at the majority of sites.

1.1 Rainfall

It has been a very dry week across England, with rainfall totals below 1mm in all regions. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.8mm recorded in north-west and central England to no rainfall recorded in south-west England. Rainfall totals for April to date range from 12% of the long-term average (LTA) in east England to 74% in north-west England. Across England as a whole, April rainfall to date is 21mm, equivalent to 37% of the LTA (Table 1).

1.2 River flows

River flows decreased at almost all of the river flow sites we report on compared with the previous week, with 53 sites (96%) recording decreases. The majority of sites were classed as normal (25 sites, 45%) or as below normal (23 sites, 42%) for the time of year. Five sites (9%) were classed as notably low for the time of year, including Colney on the River Yare (east England) and four sites in south-west England. Two sites (4%) were classed as above normal. (Figure 3.1).

1.3 Outlook

Thursday will be warm and sunny for most of England, although cloud will increase across the south-west later, bringing the risk of a few showers. Breezy conditions will persist across southern areas. On Friday and Saturday conditions will become warmer and more humid, with sunny spells and scattered showers, some of which may be heavy and thundery. It will turn cooler from Sunday into Monday and Tuesday, with sunny spells and showers continuing, particularly across western and southern England.

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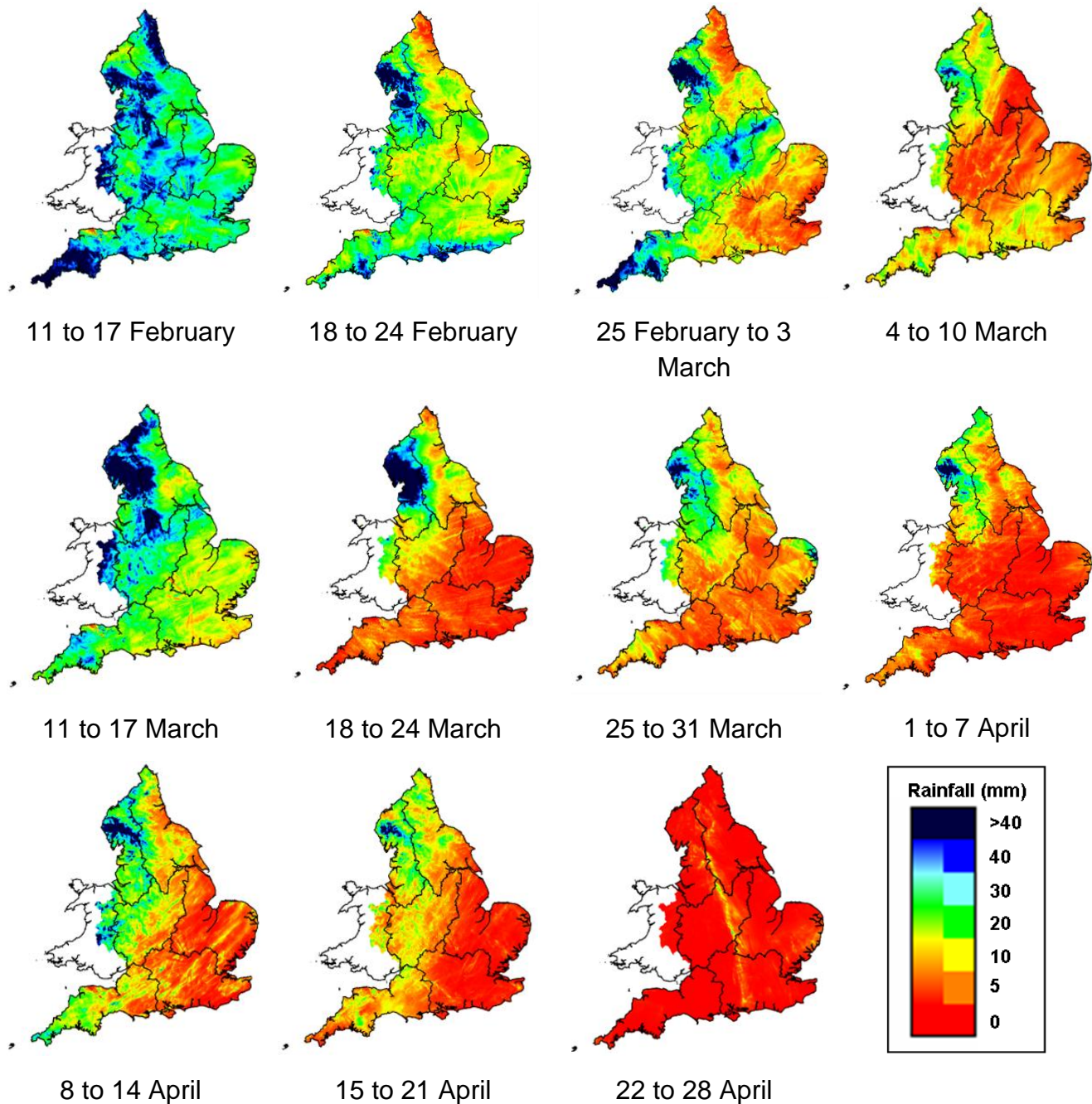
Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2026)

Geographic regions	22 to 28 Apr 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Apr 2026 to date total rainfall (mm)	Apr 2026 to date rainfall % of LTA	Mar 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Mar 2026 rainfall % of LTA	Last 3 months Jan to Mar 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Last 3 months Jan to Mar 2026 rainfall % of LTA	Last 6 months Oct 2025 to Mar 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Last 6 months Oct 2025 to Mar 2026 rainfall % of LTA	Last 12 months Apr 2025 to Mar 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Last 12 months Apr 2025 to Mar 2026 rainfall % of LTA
north-west	<1	52	74	122	136	337	106	841	116	1,431	113
north-east	<1	29	50	60	98	257	122	581	121	892	101
central	<1	21	39	39	76	270	158	565	142	803	105
east	<1	5	12	24	62	184	137	399	125	594	94
south-east	<1	8	15	29	59	280	151	543	123	783	101
south-west	<1	24	35	48	62	432	153	869	133	1,251	114
England	<1	21	37	49	83	285	137	609	126	914	105

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.

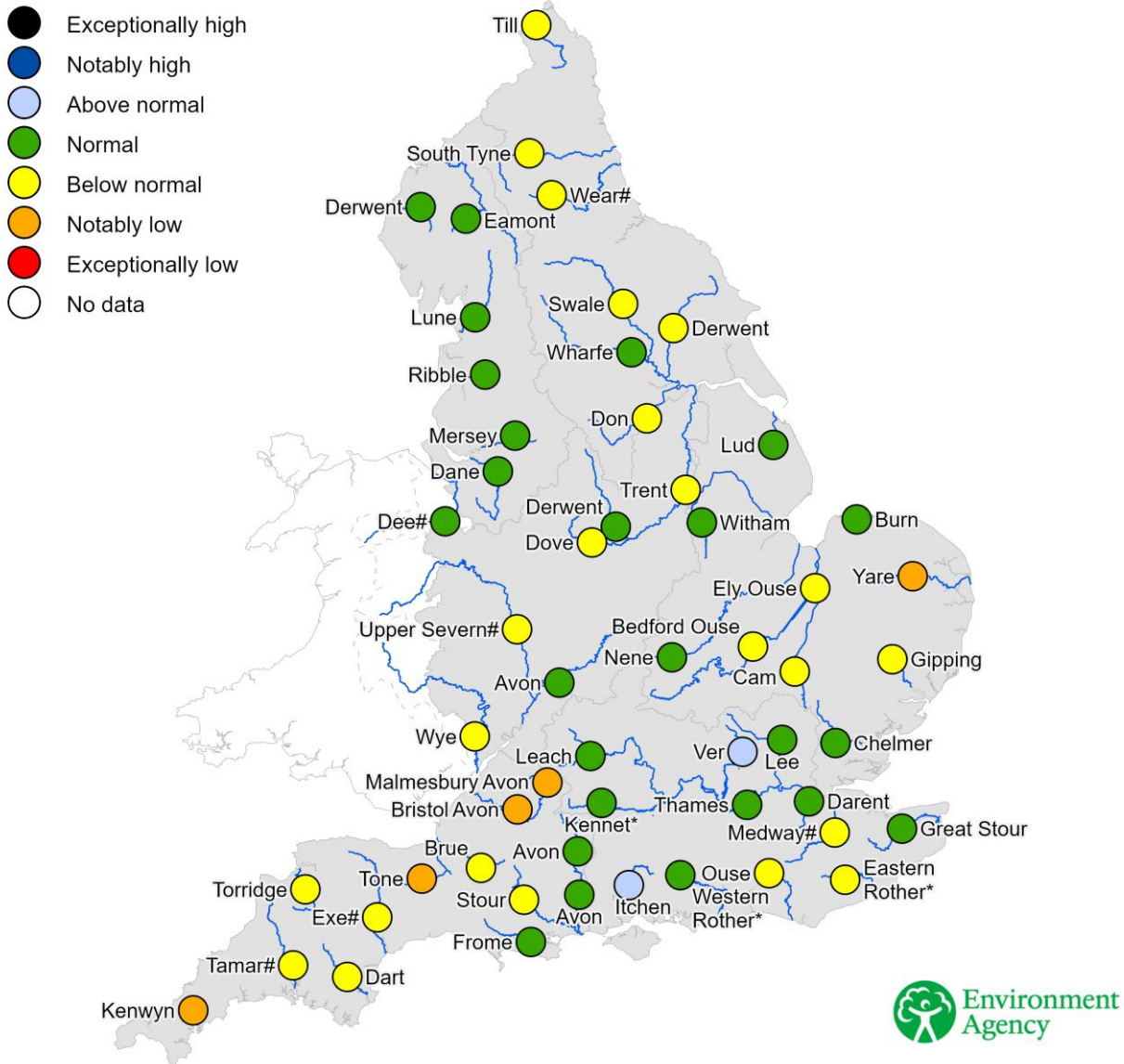


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3 River flows

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