Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Wednesday 6 May to Tuesday 12 May 2026

1 Summary

Rainfall has decreased this week across most of the country compared with last week. Correspondingly, river flows receded at all but one of our sites compared with the previous week and are classed as normal or below normal at the majority of sites.

1.1 Rainfall

Rainfall totals this week ranged from 2mm recorded in east England to 9mm recorded in north-west and north-east England. Rainfall totals for May to date range from 14% of the long-term average (LTA) in east England to 37% LTA in north-east England. (Table 1).

1.2 River flows

River flows decreased at all but one site that we report on compared with the previous week, with 54 sites (98%) recording decreases. The majority of sites were classed as below normal (26 sites, 47%) or as normal (19 sites, 35%) for the time of year. Eight sites (15%) were classed as notably low for the time of year. One site (2%) was classed as above normal and one (2%) exceptionally low in east England. (Figure 3.1).

1.3 Outlook

Thursday will be breezy with showery outbreaks of rain which could be more prolonged in the west. It should be drier on Friday and Saturday with fewer showers. On Sunday, a band of rain is likely to move in from the west. Monday should be a drier interlude before it turns unsettled on Tuesday.

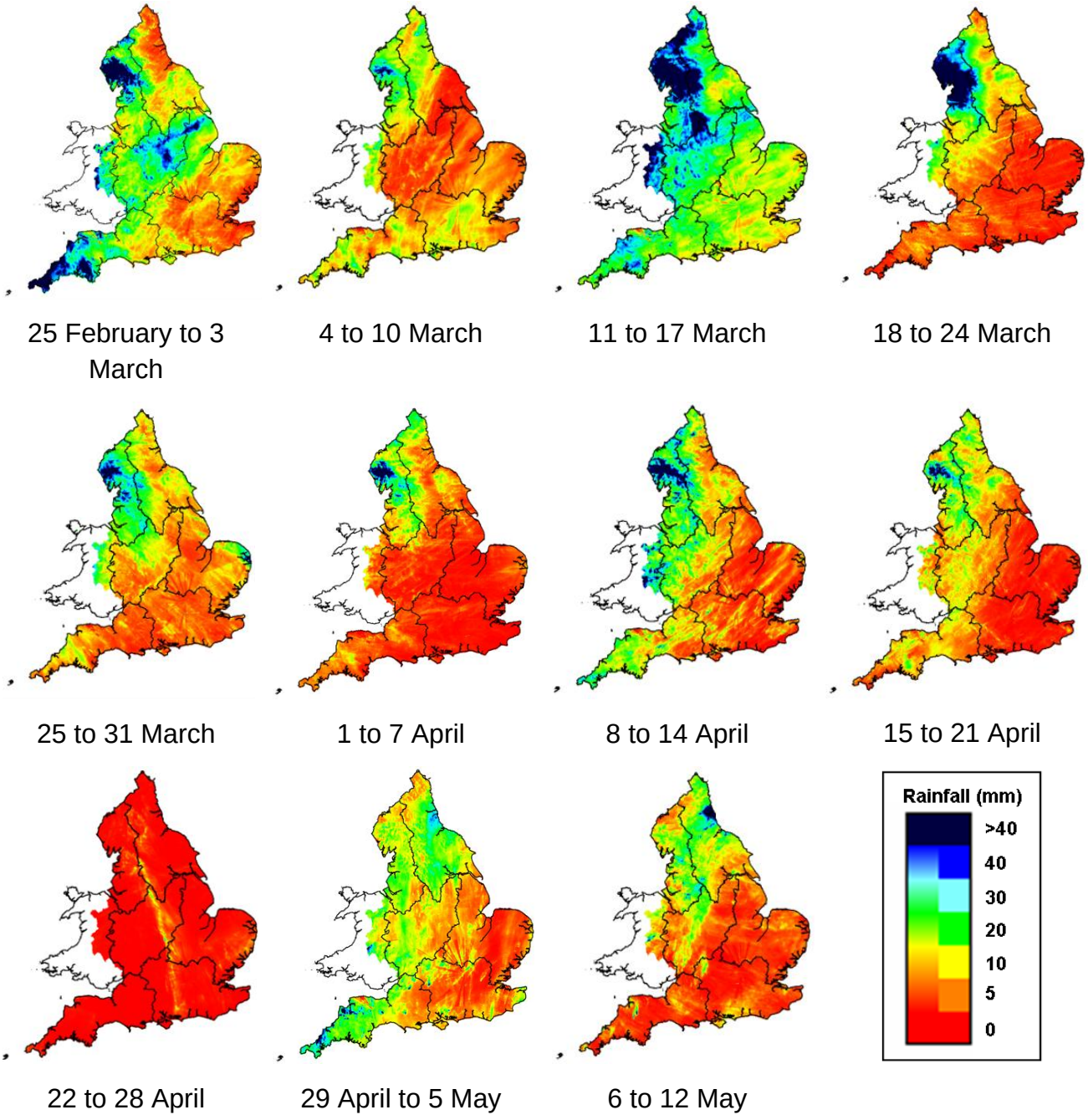
Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2026)

Geographic regions	6 to 12 May 2026 total rainfall (mm)	May 2026 to date total rainfall (mm)	May 2026 to date rainfall % of LTA	Apr 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Apr 2026 rainfall % of LTA	Last 3 months Feb to Apr 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Last 3 months Feb to Apr 2026 rainfall % of LTA	Last 6 months Nov 2025 to Apr 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Last 6 months Nov 2025 to Apr 2026 rainfall % of LTA	Last 12 months May 2025 to Apr 2026 total rainfall (mm)	Last 12 months May 2025 to Apr 2026 rainfall % of LTA
north-west	9	24	32	55	78	292	110	774	116	1,462	115
north-east	9	21	37	28	47	184	98	532	118	909	103
central	3	14	25	20	38	181	115	521	140	803	105
east	2	7	14	5	12	107	87	351	118	580	92
south-east	3	9	18	8	16	146	92	465	114	766	99
south-west	4	17	26	27	39	243	103	792	131	1,204	110
England	5	15	25	21	38	182	101	549	123	907	104

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

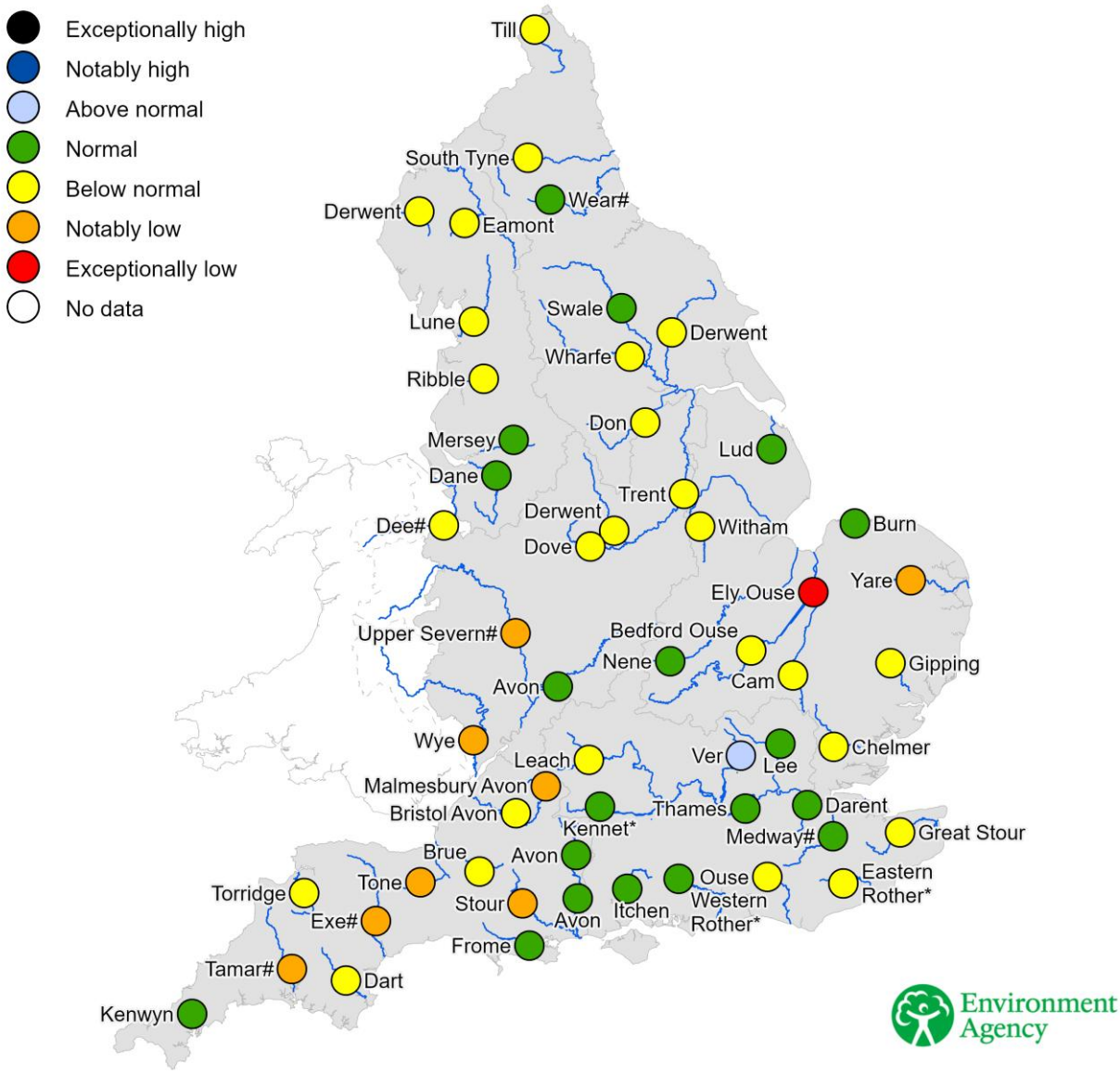
Figure 2: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar. Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation affecting its performance. This does not reflect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