

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 02 – Tuesday 08 April 2014

Summary

The last seven days have been wet across most of England, with the highest rainfall totals in the north west and south west of England. After the dry weather at the start of March the continued wetter conditions this week have caused river flows to carry on increasing at two thirds of our indicator sites compared to the previous week, with flows at almost all our indicator sites increasing in the areas with the heaviest rainfall.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 9 mm in the east to 29 mm in the north west (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- At just over a week into April cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date range from 20% of the April long term average (LTA) in the east to 43% in the south west (Table 1).
- River flows have increased at two thirds of our indicator sites compared to last week. The latest daily mean flows remain *above normal* or higher for the time of year at two thirds of our indicator sites (Figure 2)
- Flows at two of our indicator sites are now *exceptionally high* for the time of year, up from one last week (Figure 2).

Outlook

Conditions are expected to be mostly settled for the coming days with high pressure dominating the south of England. Weakening bands of rain will move south at times but there is unlikely to be any significant rainfall, with only isolated light showers expected.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 02 - 08 Apr '14	Latest month to date: Apr '14		Last month: Mar '14		Last 3 months: Jan '14 - Mar '14		Last 6 months: Oct '13 - Mar '14		Last 12 months: Apr '13 - Mar '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	29	29	42	90	98	435	155	870	135	1364	118
North East	16	17	29	58	85	293	144	577	132	916	112
Central	17	17	33	44	77	284	163	553	149	850	119
East	9	9	20	24	51	186	138	388	130	610	102
South East	15	15	30	37	59	372	190	719	174	962	129
South West	25	26	43	65	76	470	166	925	154	1247	124
England	17	18	32	49	76	328	163	649	147	954	118

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

¹ Notes:

- LTA = long term average rainfall for 1961 – 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 is 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.

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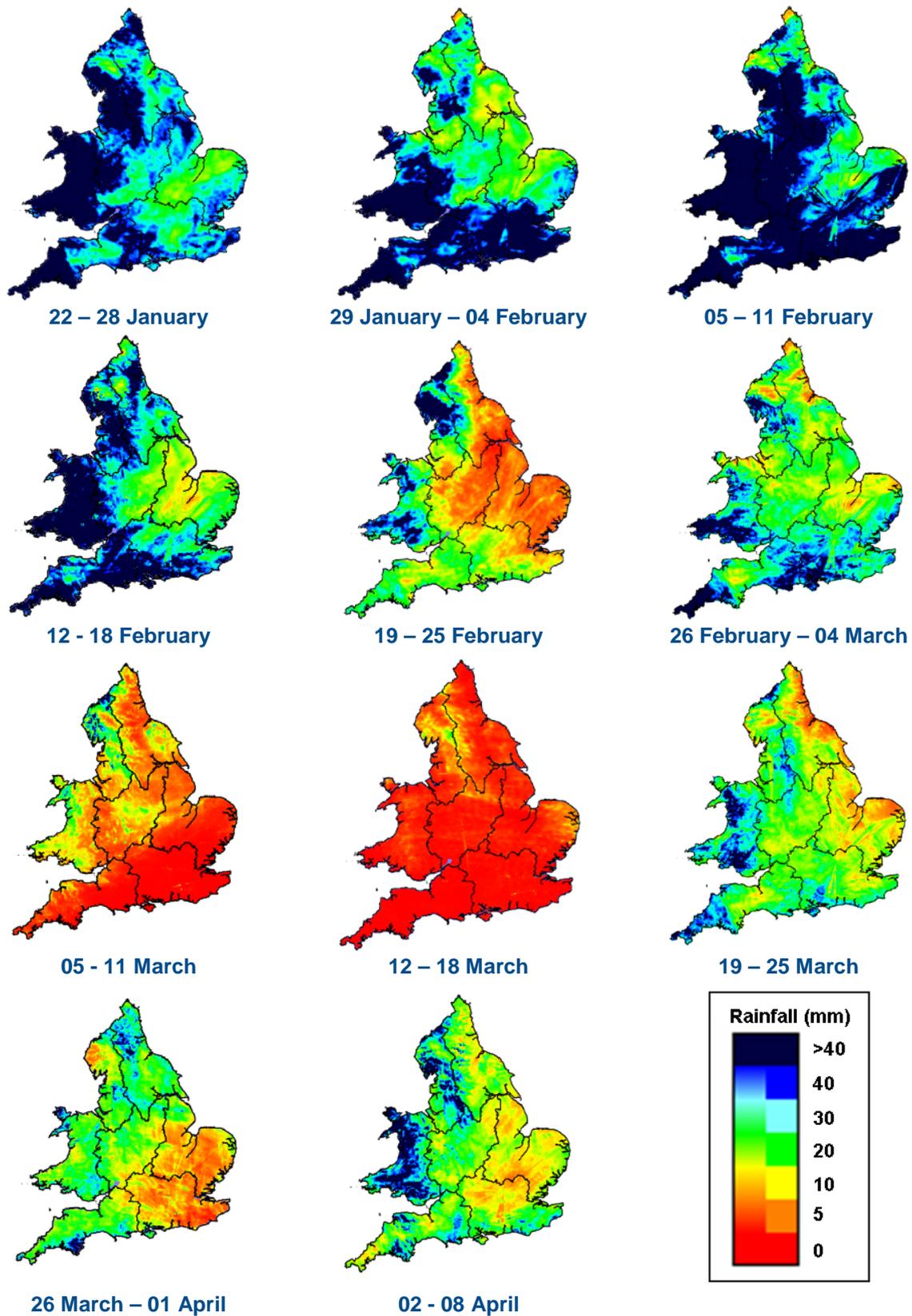
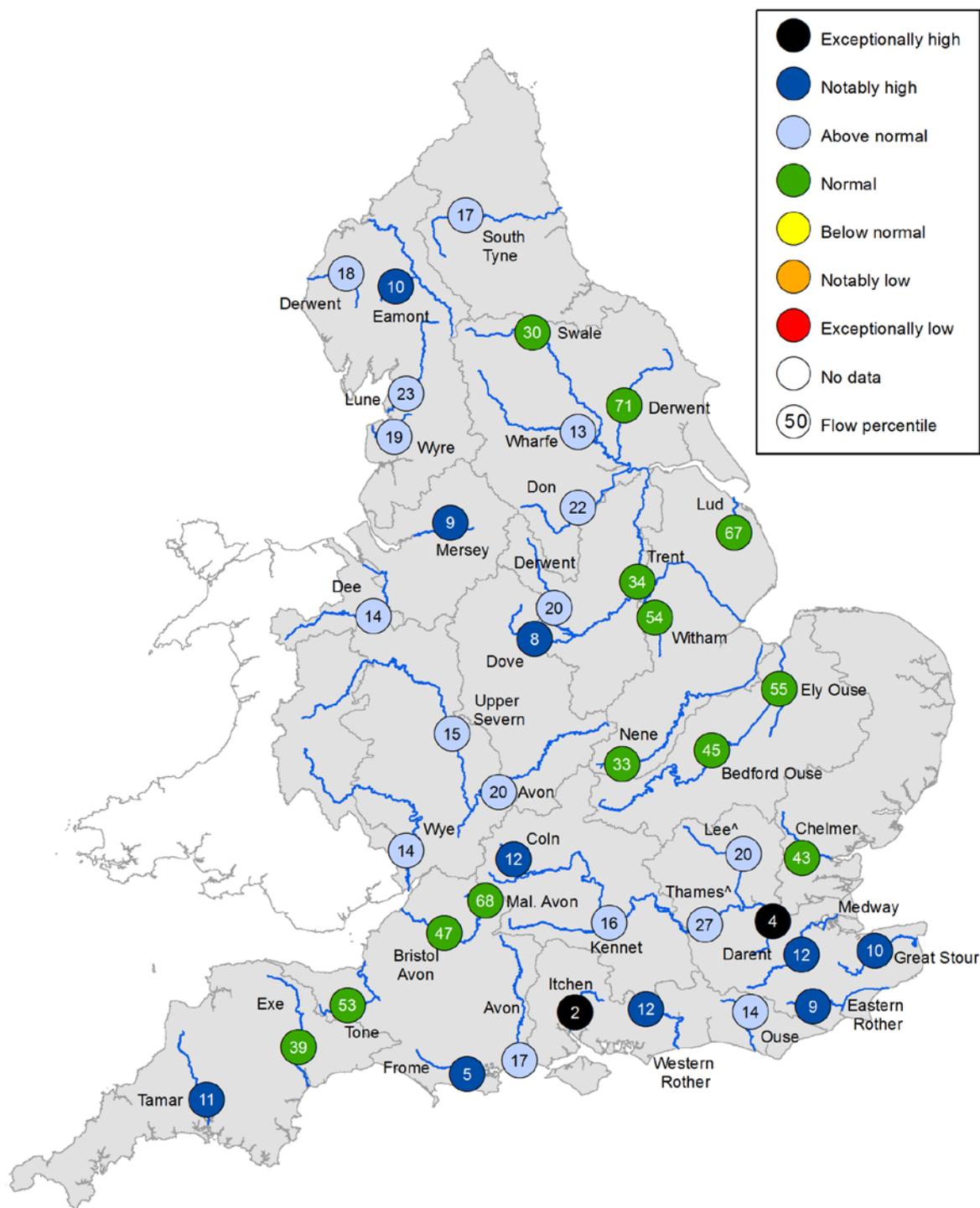


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages in some regions may give anomalous totals in some areas.

River Flow



^ – 'Naturalised' flows are provided for the Thames at Kingston and the Lee at Feildes Weir.

Figure 2: Latest daily mean river flow expressed as a percentile² and classed relative to an analysis of historic daily mean flows for the same time of year (Source: Environment Agency)

² Flow percentiles describe the percentage of time that a particular flow has been equalled or exceeded compared to the historic flow record for that site for the time of year. For example, a flow percentile of 5 indicates that the current flow has only been equalled or exceeded approximately 5% of the time within the historic record for that time of year – i.e. a very high flow. A flow percentile of 95 indicates that the current flow has been equalled or exceeded approximately 95% of the time – i.e. a low flow. Flow percentiles presented relate to an analysis for the time of year and not a whole year.