

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 09 – Tuesday 15 April 2014

Summary

The past week has been dry across the whole of England and river flows have decreased at all our indicator sites.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 2 mm in the northwest to 1 mm or less elsewhere (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Mid-month rainfall totals are less than half the April long term average (LTA) across all regions, ranging from approximately 45% in the northwest and southwest to just 20% in the east (Table 1).
- River flows have decreased at all our indicator sites compared to last week, although the groundwater-fed rivers Itchen and Darent in southern England remain *exceptionally high* and *notably high* respectively for the time of year (Figure 2).
- Elsewhere, the latest daily mean flows are now *normal* for the time of year at nearly three quarters of our indicator sites; flows at a further five sites are *below normal* (Figure 2).

Outlook

Most of England is expected to remain dry on Thursday and Friday, although light rain will push into the northwest early on Thursday. Isolated light showers are possible in places on Saturday. Late on Saturday and into Sunday, outbreaks of rain, heavy at times, will move northwest from southeast England. The unsettled weather will continue on Monday, with the heaviest and most persistent rain expected in the north and west of England. Showers will continue on Tuesday.

Author: [Karen James](#) (Water Resources Technical Services)

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 09 - 15 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	2	31	45	90	98	435	155	870	135	1364	118
North East	1	18	31	58	85	293	144	577	132	916	112
Central	0.2	18	33	44	77	284	163	553	149	850	119
East	0.1	9	20	24	51	186	138	388	130	610	102
South East	0.1	15	30	37	59	372	190	719	174	962	129
South West	0.3	27	44	65	76	470	166	925	154	1247	124
England	0.5	18	33	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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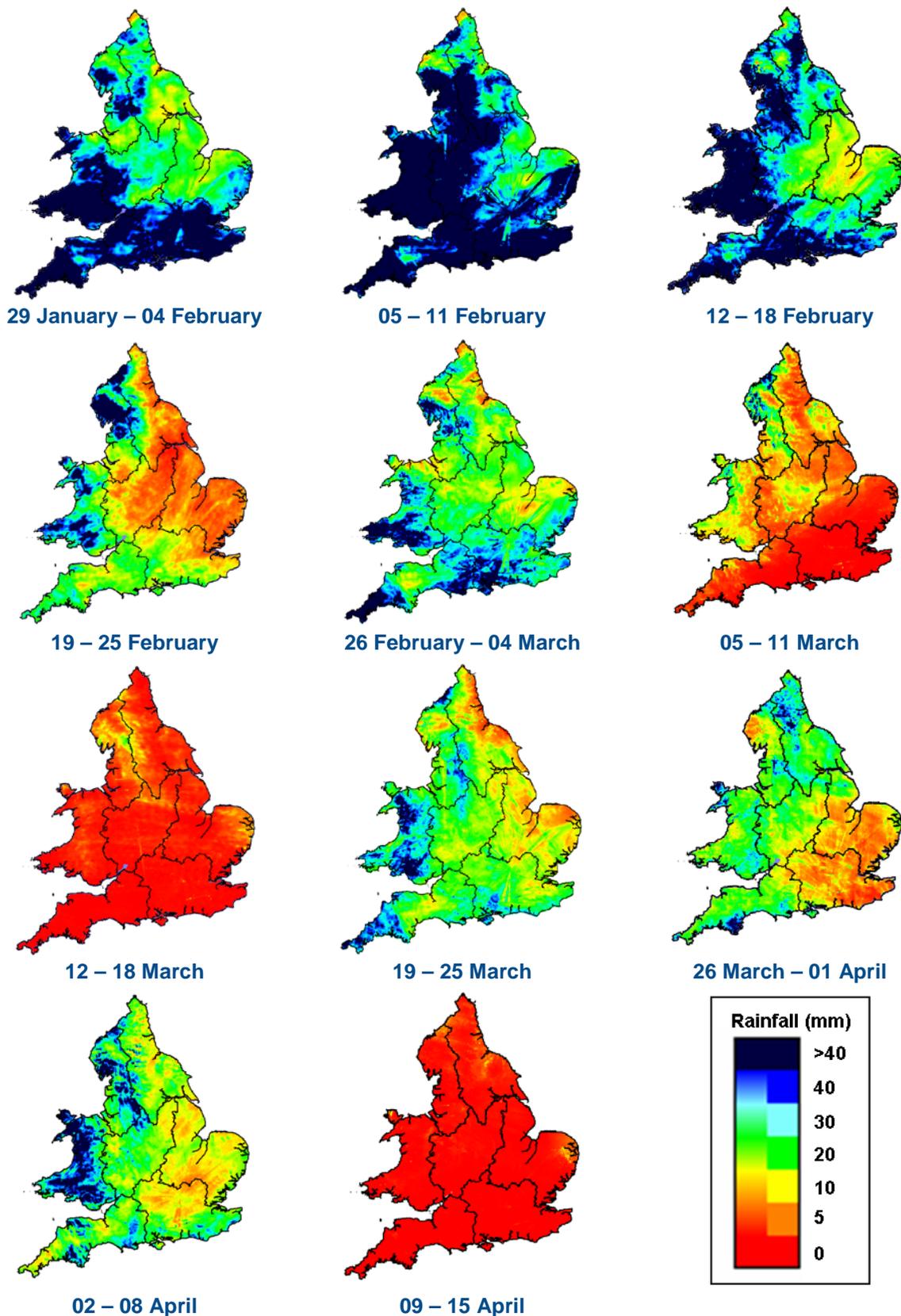
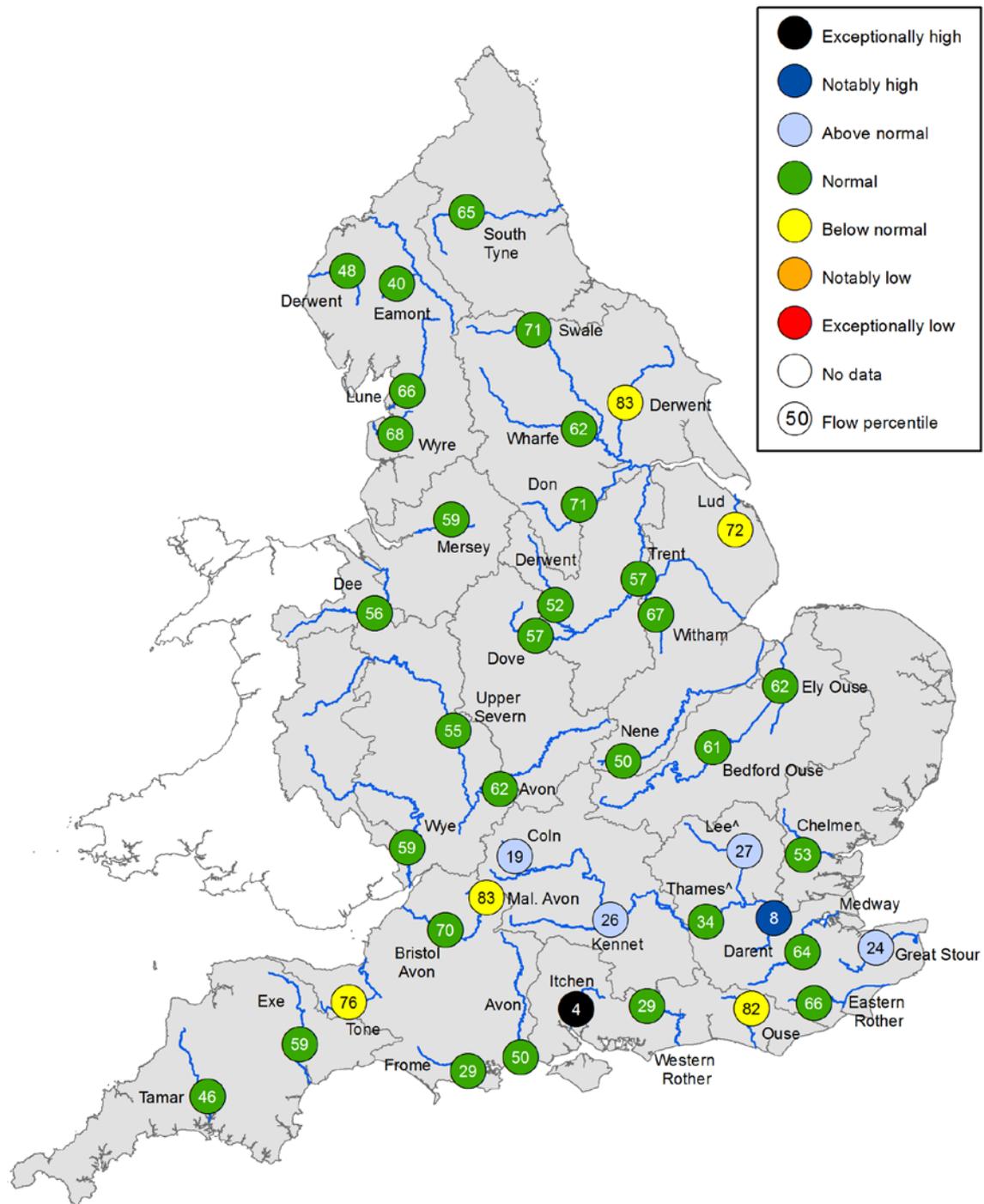


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas.

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.