Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 30 April – Tuesday 06 May 2014

Summary

The past week was drier than the previous week across much of England, with the highest rainfall being in the northwest and southwest of England. River flows have decreased at the majority of our indicator sites compared to last week, although river flows continue to be high for the time of year in southern England. Six sites in central and eastern England and one in southeast England are now *below normal* for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 6 mm in eastern England to 17 mm in the southwest and northwest (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- The cumulative rainfall totals for the first six days of May range from 11% of the long term average (LTA) for May in eastern England to 20% in southwest England (Table 1).
- River flows have decreased since last week at four fifths of our indicator sites (Figure 2).
- The latest daily mean flows are *above normal* or higher for the time of year at almost a third of our indicator sites, particularly in southern England. Half the sites are *normal* for the time of year, but seven sites are now *below normal* for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Outbreaks of rain will affect many parts on Thursday, some of which may be locally heavy. Friday will see a mixture of sunny spells and showers, some of which may become thundery. More persistent rain will spread on Saturday, but the rain will ease of Sunday. Showers on Monday will ease, becoming drier and more settled on Tuesday.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 30 - 06 May '14	Latest month to date: May '14		Last month: Apr '14		Last 3 months: Feb '14 - Apr '14		Last 6 months: Nov '13 - Apr '14		Last 12 months: May '13 - Apr '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	17	10	14	54	79	307	130	752	128	1359	117
North East	16	8	14	50	88	212	117	501	119	933	114
Central	11	9	15	47	89	189	118	464	128	881	123
East	6	5	11	22	47	108	83	308	105	611	102
South East	12	7	13	69	137	245	154	654	173	988	136
South West	17	13	20	95	156	344	150	851	151	1319	131
England	13	8	14	55	100	225	127	567	135	978	121

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.

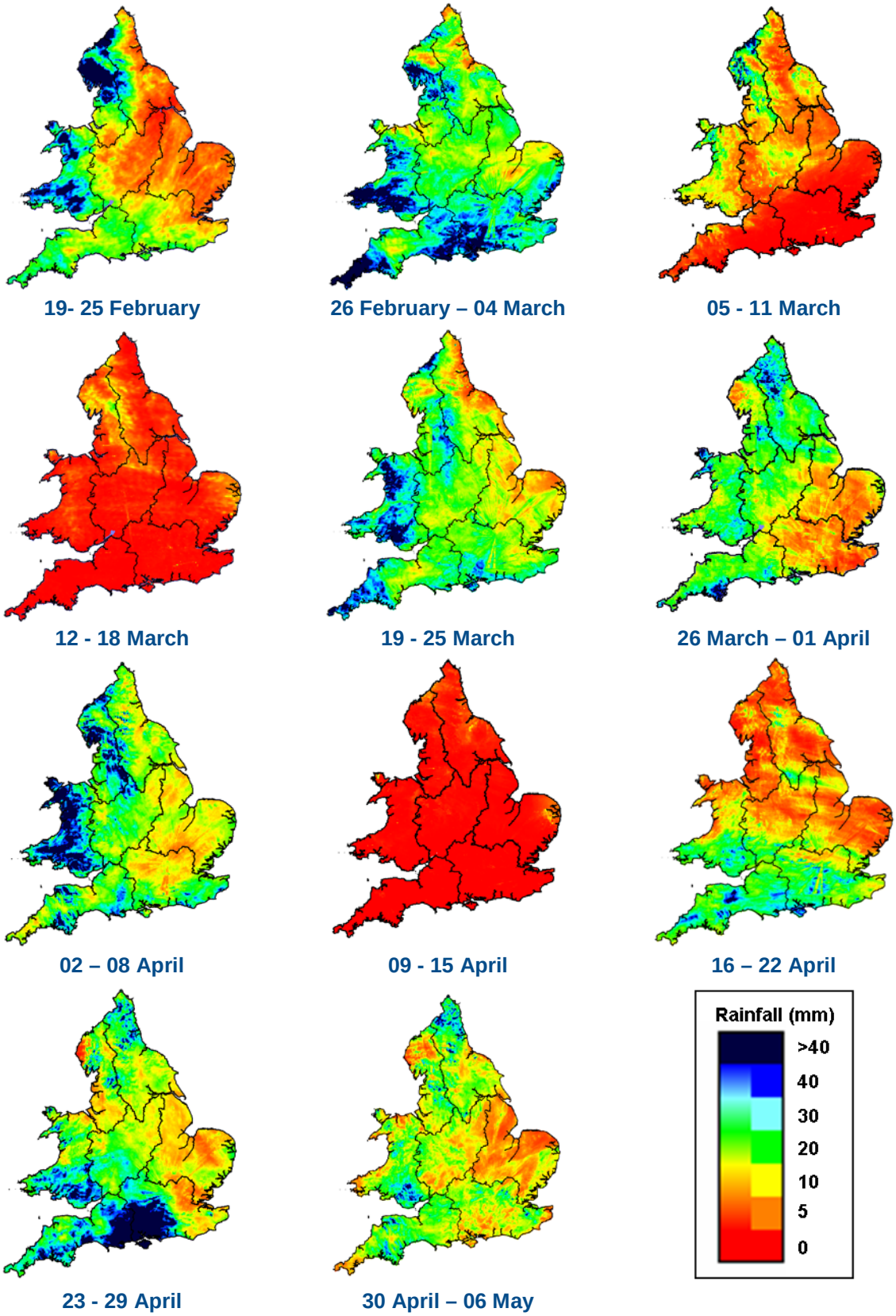
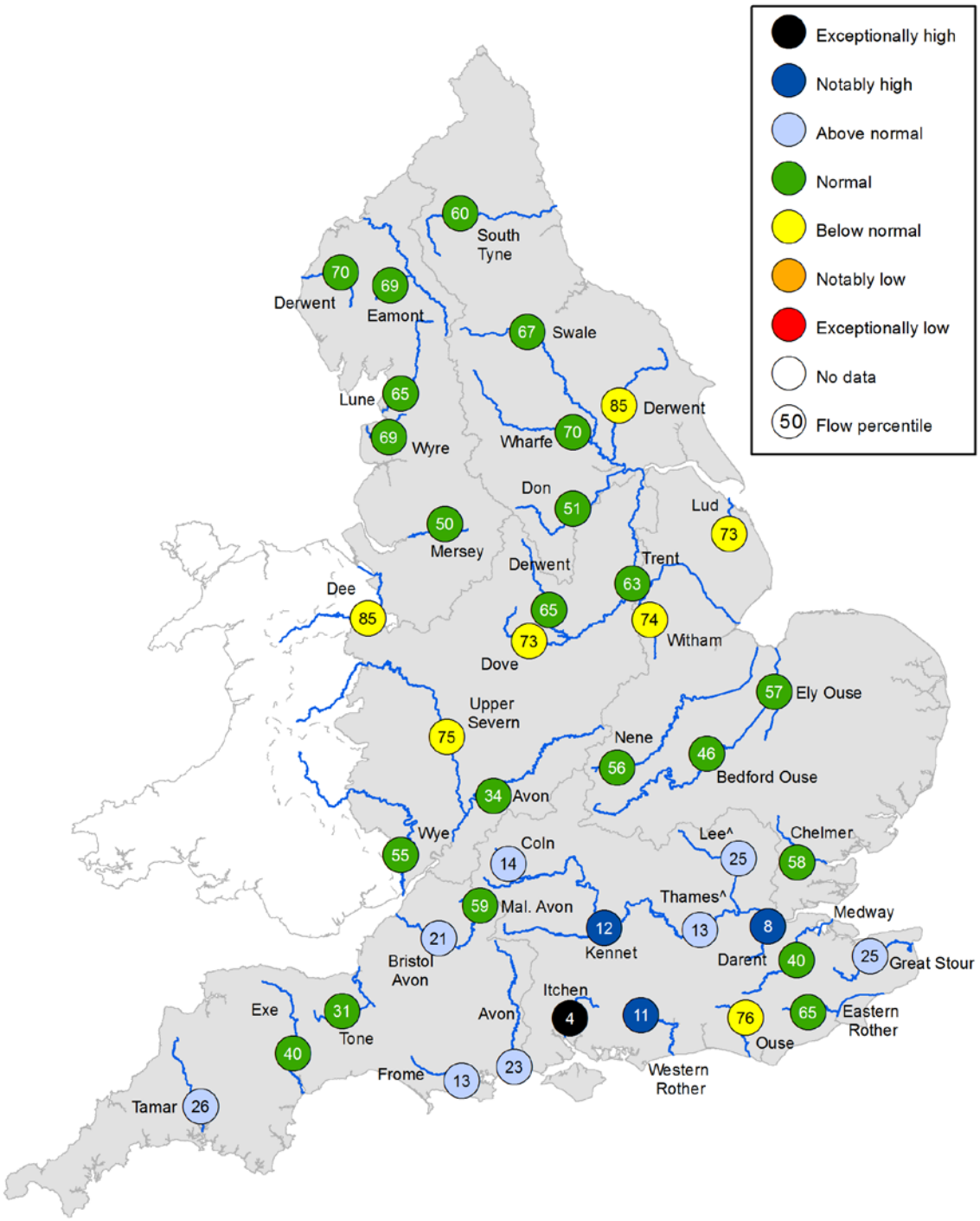


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas.

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 percentile[2] 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.