

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 03 to Tuesday 09 December 2014

Summary

The last week has been mostly dry across England, with the exception of the north-west. River flows have decreased at nearly two-thirds of our indicator sites.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 4 mm in east England to 31 mm in the north-west (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- Cumulative rainfall totals for December to date range from 8% of the Long Term Average in south-west England to 26% in north-west England (Table 1).
- River flows decreased at nearly two thirds of our indicator sites compared to last week. The latest daily mean river flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at three-quarters of our indicator sites. A number of sites in north-east, central and south-west England are **below normal** for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday will be showery and windy in the north, with gales spreading to the south later in the day. Friday will see unsettled weather clearing eastwards followed by intermittent sunny spells into Saturday. Further showers will follow on Sunday, but with clearer, colder conditions by Monday.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 03 - 09 Dec '14	Latest month to date: Dec '14		Last month: Nov '14		Last 3 months: Sep '14 - Nov '14		Last 6 months: Jun '14 - Nov '14		Last 12 months: Dec '13 - Nov '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	31	32	26	99	83	291	82	552	89	1325	114
north-east	13	14	17	94	116	204	92	416	99	959	117
central	7	7	9	92	141	184	99	384	107	895	125
east	4	6	11	80	138	175	111	370	118	737	123
south-east	6	7	9	128	175	248	120	431	117	1081	149
south-west	9	9	8	150	143	294	103	516	107	1384	137
England	10	11	13	107	133	227	101	435	106	1034	128

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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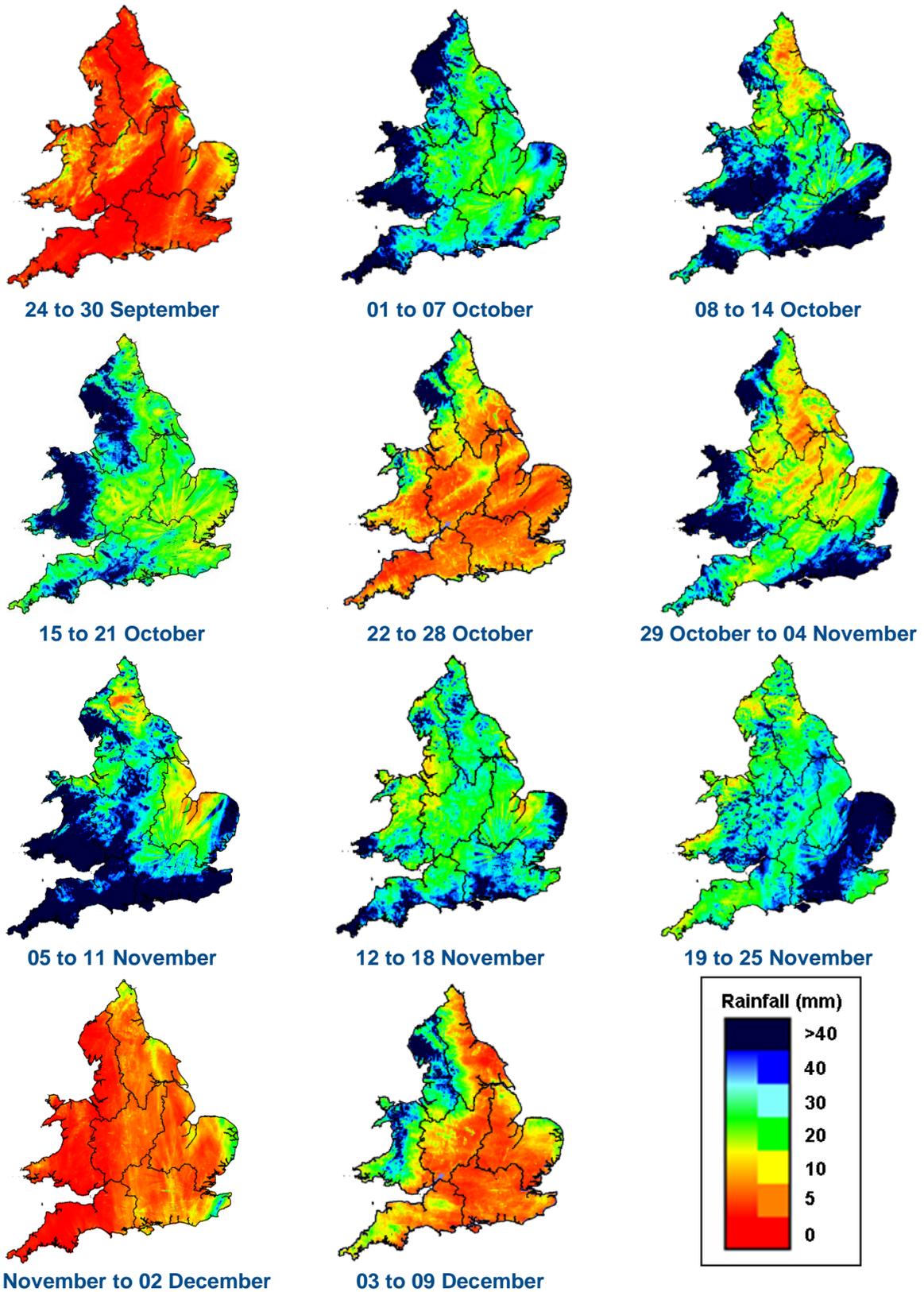
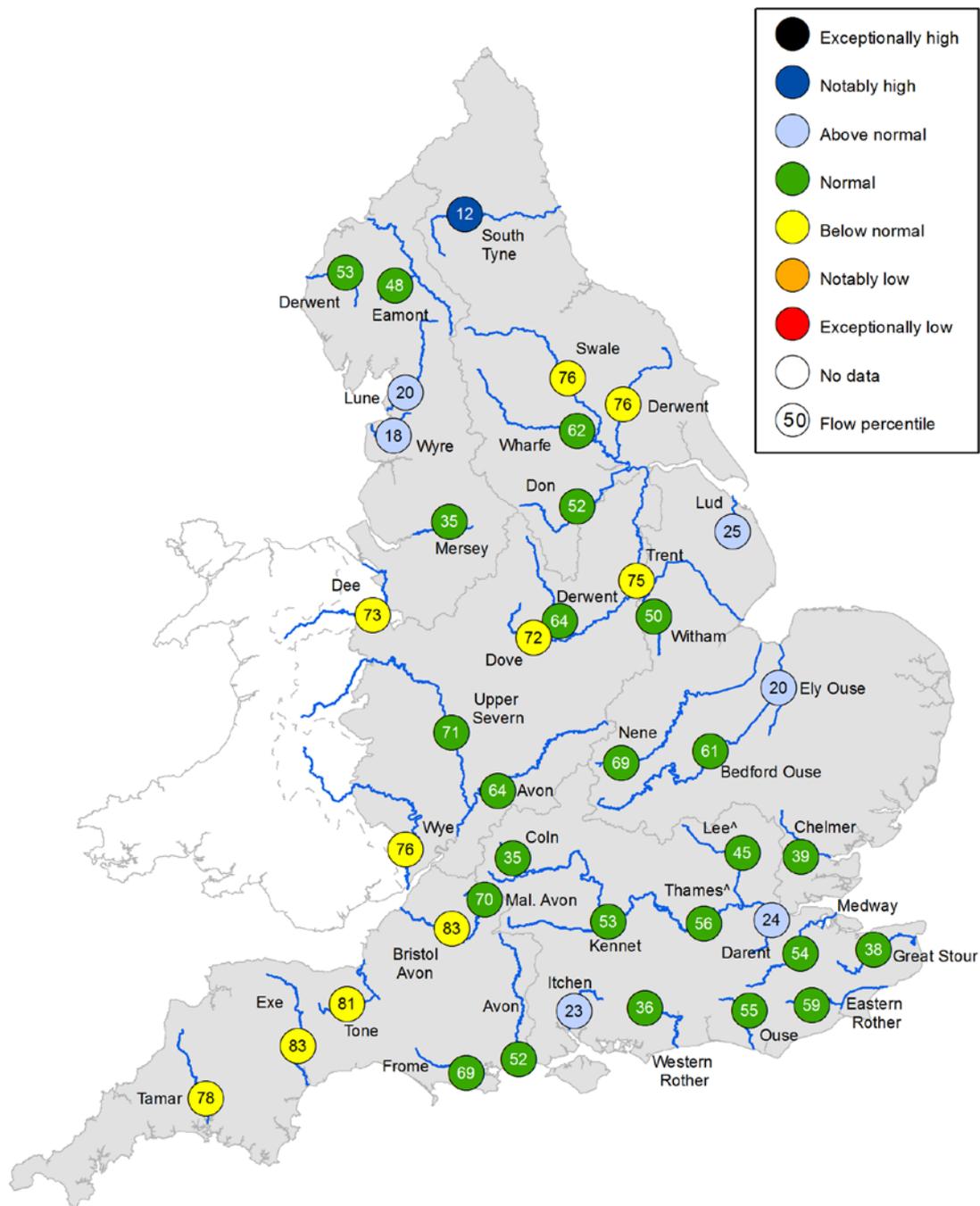


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

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). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

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.