

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 18 February to Tuesday 24 February 2015

Summary

The past week was wetter than the previous week across England, with the highest weekly rainfall totals since the second week of January. As a result river flows have increased at the majority of our indicator sites, with all our indicator sites now **normal** or higher for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 15 mm in the east of England to 39 mm in the south-west (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- The cumulative rainfall totals for February to date range from 54% of the February long term average (LTA) in north-east England to 94% in the south-east (Table 1).
- River flows have increased at four fifths of our indicator sites compared to the previous week. The latest daily mean river flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at all of our indicator sites, and more than a quarter of sites are **notably high** for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Overnight rain will clear to the east through Thursday to leave a generally dry day on Friday with just a few isolated wintery showers. On Saturday morning a band of light rain will move eastwards across England, this will be followed by a heavier band of rain later on Saturday and into Sunday, followed by further wintery showers. Monday and Tuesday are then likely to remain wet, with wintery showers possible over higher ground and in the north.

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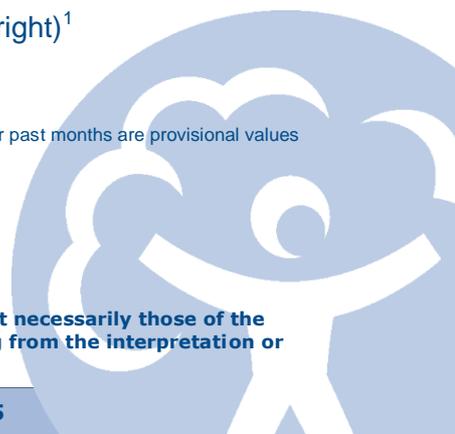
Geographic regions	Latest Week: 18 - 24 Feb '15	Latest month to date: Feb '15		Last month: Jan '15		Last 3 months: Nov '14 - Jan '15		Last 6 months: Aug '14 - Jan '15		Last 12 months: Feb '14 - Jan '15	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	34	46	61	156	137	405	115	741	107	1275	110
north-east	19	31	54	82	104	252	105	468	102	883	108
central	22	35	68	65	99	220	108	408	105	802	112
east	15	31	83	49	97	179	109	369	116	679	114
south-east	27	46	94	91	127	273	124	494	120	890	122
south-west	39	63	75	134	117	359	107	623	105	1160	115
England	25	41	72	91	115	270	111	498	109	917	113

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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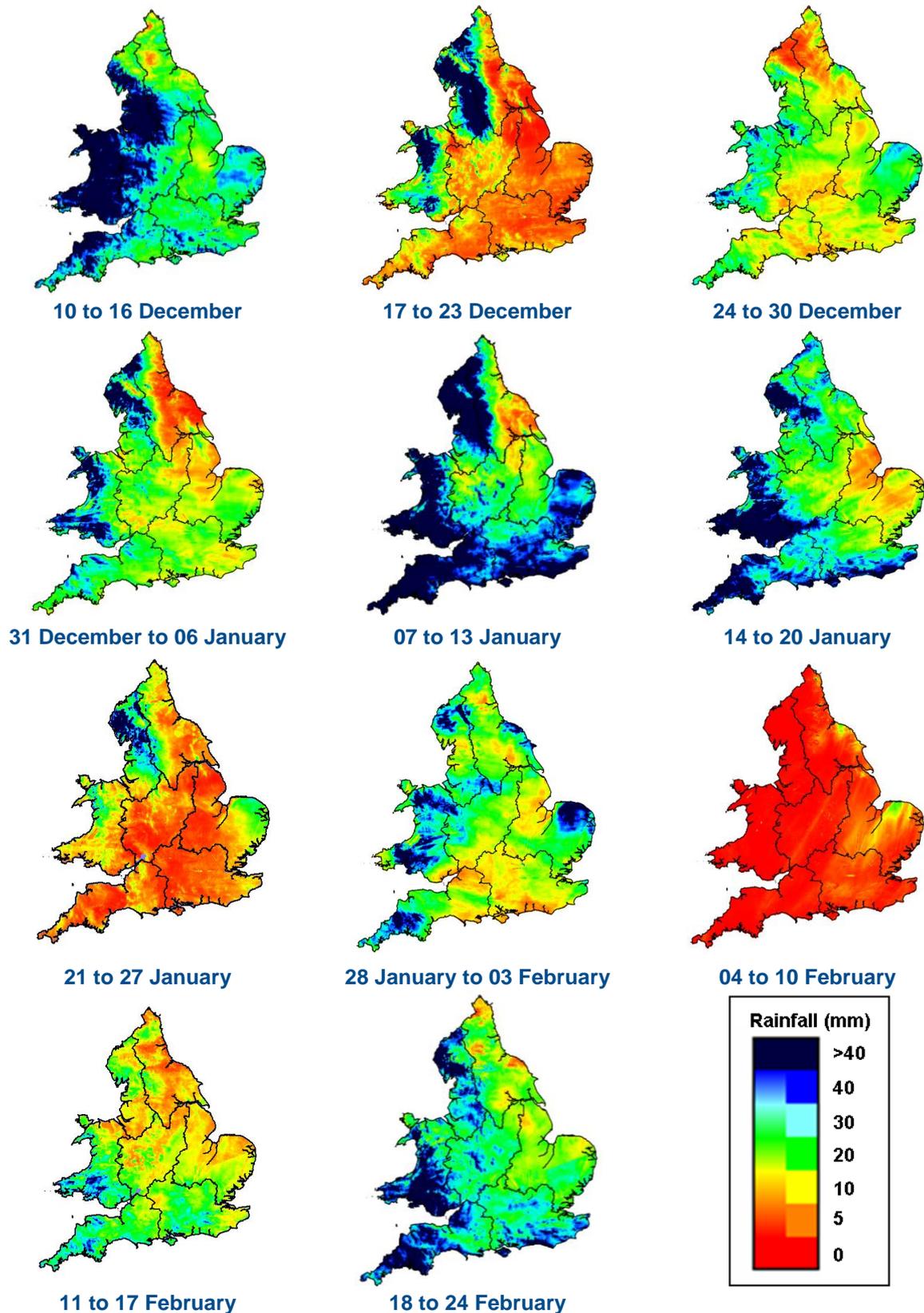
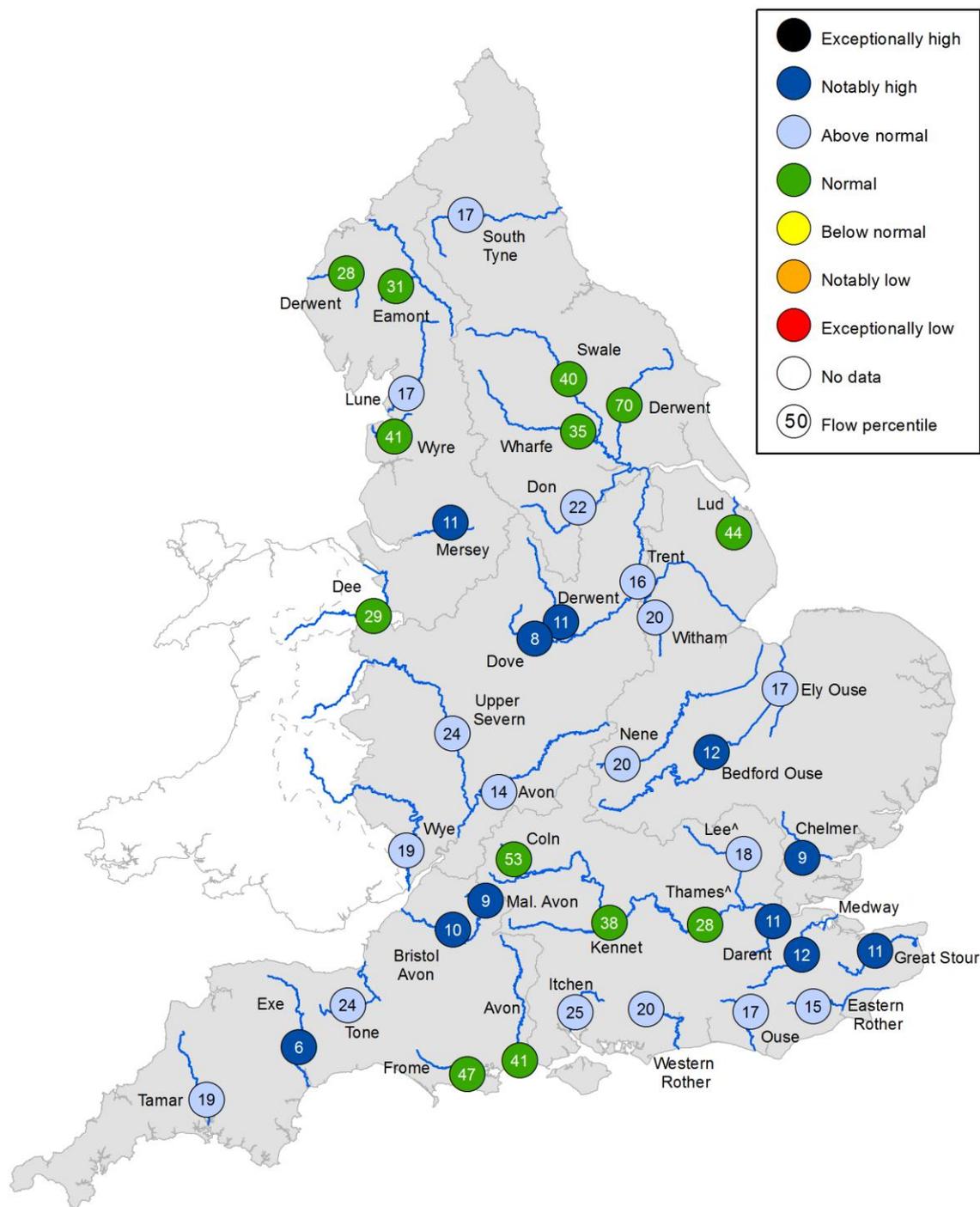


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

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, 2015.

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.