

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 01 to Tuesday 07 April 2015

Summary

The first week of April has been largely dry across most of England, with north-west and central areas receiving the highest rainfall totals. River flows have fallen at almost all of our indicator sites compared to the previous week. Flows at two thirds of our indicator sites are **normal** for the time of year.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 7 mm in north-east England to 12 mm in the north-west (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- The rainfall totals for the first week in the month range from 12% of the April long term average (LTA) in the north-east to 21% in central England (Table 1).
- River flows at two thirds of our indicator sites are classed as **normal** for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Following a dry Thursday, a band of rain will bring moderate rain to the north-west on Friday, with lighter rain elsewhere. Saturday will be dry, but rain may return on Sunday as a band of rain moves in from the west. High pressure is expected to bring dry conditions to the south-east on Monday, with more unsettled conditions in the north-west.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 01 - 07 Apr '15	Latest month to date: Apr '15		Last month: Mar '15		Last 3 months: Jan '15 - Mar '15		Last 6 months: Oct '14 - Mar '15		Last 12 months: Apr '14 - Mar '15	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	12	12	17	111	121	339	121	764	119	1196	103
north-east	7	7	12	63	93	184	90	444	101	825	101
central	11	11	21	50	87	153	88	388	105	745	104
east	8	8	18	25	54	113	83	323	108	653	109
south-east	8	8	16	26	43	174	97	463	116	800	110
south-west	9	9	14	46	55	262	93	616	102	1030	102
England	9	9	16	49	75	192	95	477	108	846	105

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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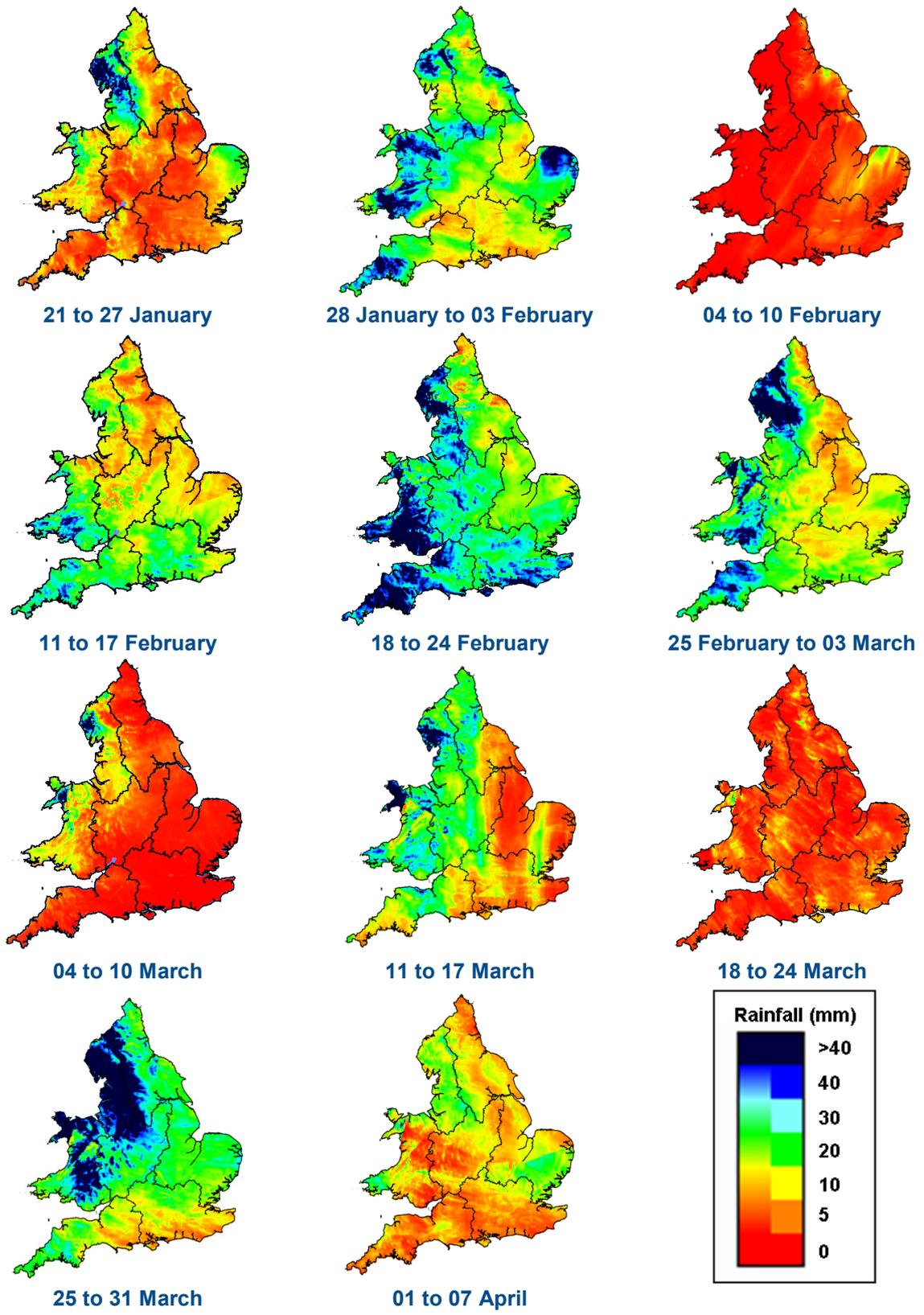
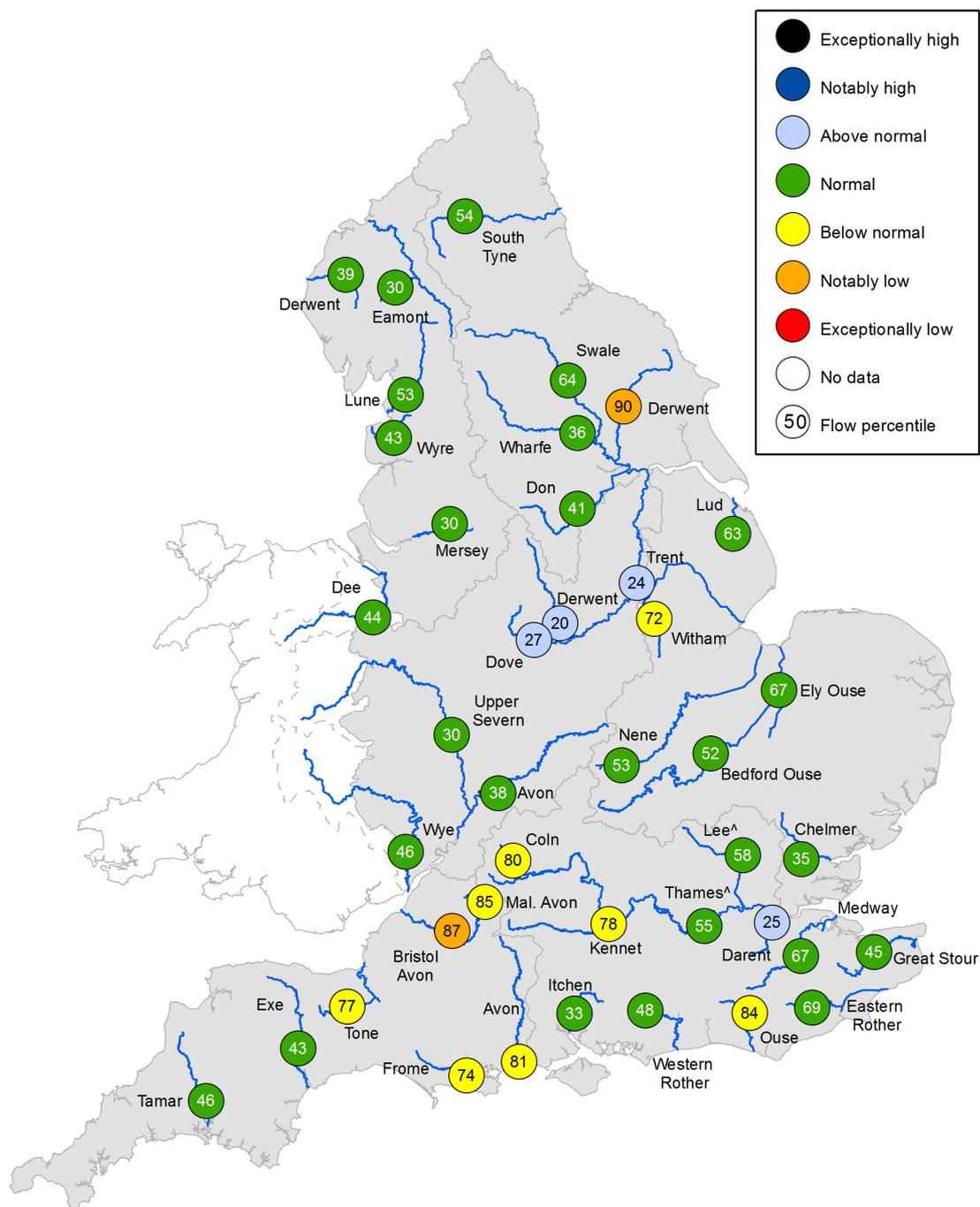


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

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.