

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 9 to Tuesday 15 December 2015

Summary: A wet week across England, especially in north England.

Rainfall

It has been another very wet week for the north of England, although not as wet as the previous week. The rest of England has also been wet, with these areas having higher rainfall totals than last week. Rainfall totals ranged from 19mm in east England to 61mm in north-west England (table 1 and figure 1).

At half way through the month cumulative rainfall totals for the month to date range from 38% of the long term average (LTA) in south-west England to 131% in north-west England (table 1).

River flow

River flows have increased at over two-thirds of indicator sites this week, however the majority of indicator sites in the north of England have decreased compared to the previous week. The latest daily mean flows are [normal](#) or higher for the time of year at all but one indicator site, however no sites remain [exceptionally high](#) for the time of year (figure 2).

Outlook

During Thursday a band of rain will move into the west of England, moving eastwards through the day. Friday is expected to be dry for most of England, although rain will move in from the west to affect parts of Cumbria, again clearing to the east later in the day. On Saturday another band of rain will move in from the west this is expected to last until Sunday before clearing to the east to with showers following behind. Further bands of frontal rain are expected to arrive from the west on Monday and Tuesday.

Author: [E&B Hydrology Team](#)

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 9 to 15 Dec 2015	Latest month to date: Dec 2015		Last month: Nov 2015		Last 3 months: Sep 2015 to Nov 2015		Last 6 months: Jun 2015 to Nov 2015		Last 12 months: Dec 2014 to Nov 2015	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	61	157	131	257	215	382	108	650	105	1333	115
north-east	39	85	106	161	198	284	127	505	120	892	109
central	27	46	65	88	135	180	97	358	100	668	93
east	19	28	50	67	117	164	104	332	106	571	96
south-east	20	32	42	78	107	200	96	391	107	697	96
south-west	25	45	38	117	111	260	91	547	113	998	99
England	30	59	71	118	147	234	104	447	109	820	101

Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015)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.

All data are provisional and may be subject to revision. The views expressed in this document are not necessarily those of the Environment Agency. Its officers, servants or agents accept no liability for any loss or damage arising from the interpretation or use of the information, or reliance upon views contained herein.

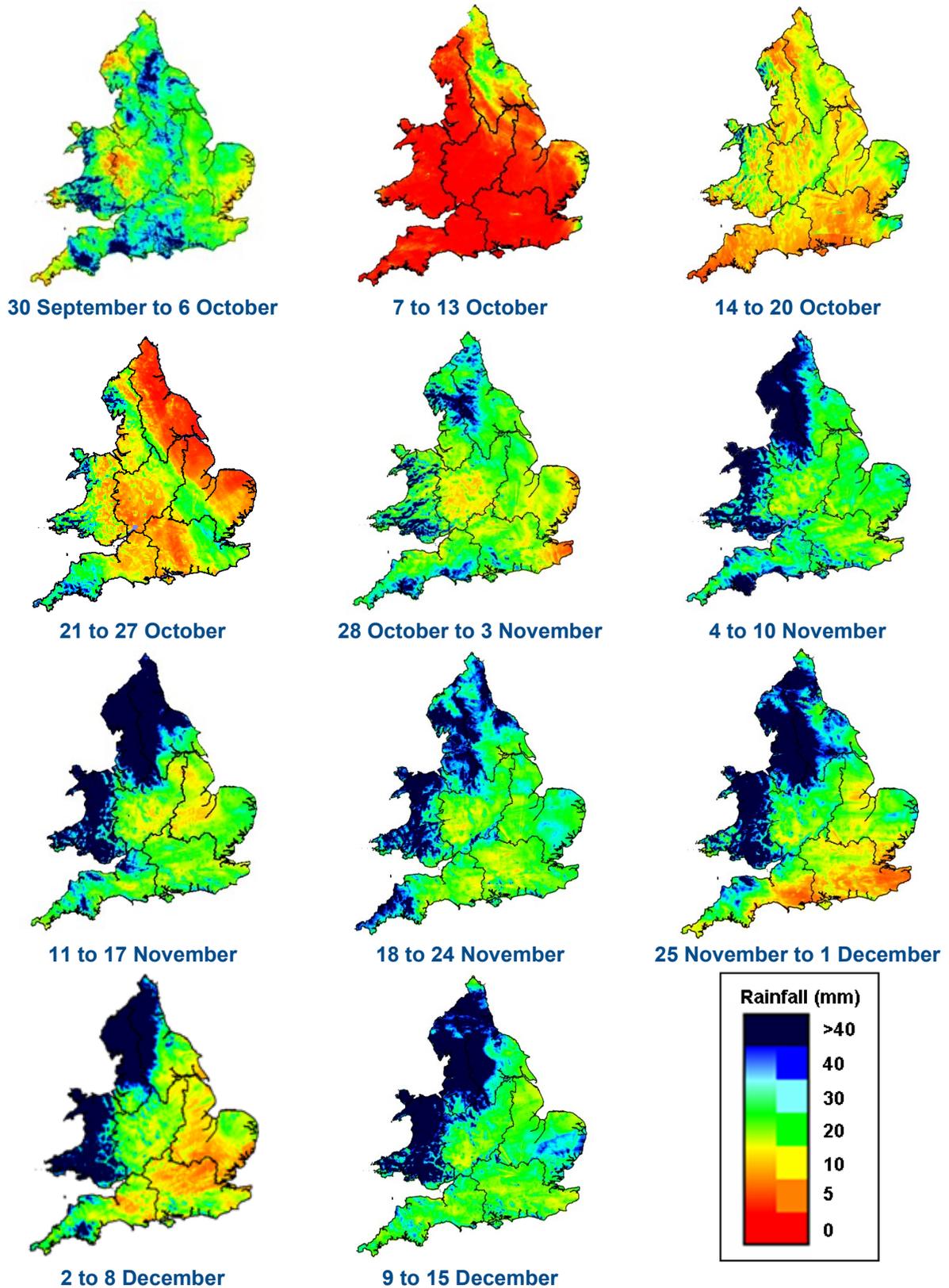
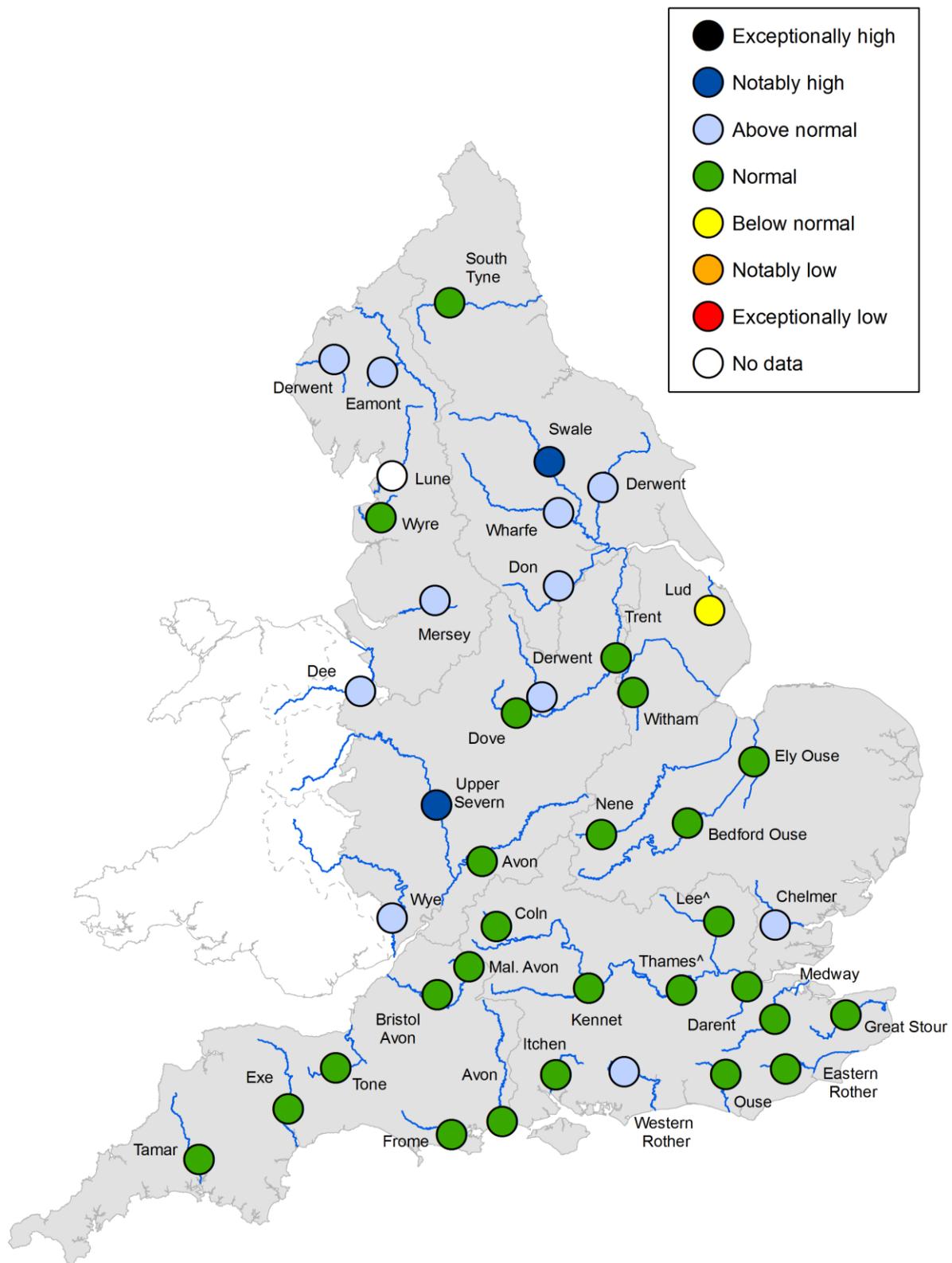


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2015). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

River flow



^ – 'Naturalised' flows are provided for the Thames at Kingston and the Lee at Feildes Weir.

Figure 2: Latest daily mean river flow, relative to an analysis of historic daily mean flows, classed by flow percentile for the same time of year². (Source: Environment Agency). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2015.

²Flow 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. Flow percentiles presented relate to an analysis for the time of year and not a whole year.

River flow categories

Exceptionally high	Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time
Notably high	Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time
Above normal	Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time
Normal	Value likely to fall within this band 44% of the time
Below normal	Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time
Notably low	Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time
Exceptionally low	Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time

[Return to summary page](#)