

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 30 December 2015 to Tuesday 5 January 2016

Summary: Significant rain and high river flows have affected much of England this week

Rainfall

Significant rainfall totals have affected all parts of England during the past week, ranging from 31mm in east England to 79mm in south-west England (table 1 and figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for the first 5 days of January range from 33% of the long term average (LTA) in north-west England to 56% in north-east England (table 1).

River flow

River flows have increased at four-fifths of indicator sites this week compared to the previous week. The latest daily mean flows are [notably high](#) or [exceptionally high](#) for the time of year at two-thirds of sites, with all remaining sites being [normal](#) or [above normal](#) (figure 2).

Outlook

A band of rain moving north-east across England overnight on Wednesday will clear from the west by Thursday afternoon. Much of England will be dry overnight on Thursday, although there may be a few isolated showers. Friday will see further showers, but the rain will move quickly eastwards. Heavy showers may affect some areas over the weekend. Monday and Tuesday will continue to be unsettled.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 30 Dec 2015 to 5 Jan 2016	Latest month to date: Jan 2016		Last month: Dec 2015		Last 3 months: Oct 2015 to Dec 2015		Last 6 months: Jul 2015 to Dec 2015		Last 12 months: Jan 2015 to Dec 2015	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	60	37	33	336	281	668	184	941	143	1511	130
north-east	58	44	56	196	243	436	186	667	151	1011	123
central	47	28	43	108	151	247	126	427	114	712	100
east	31	19	38	61	110	175	107	368	116	580	97
south-east	52	35	49	74	98	209	95	438	113	719	99
south-west	79	52	46	126	108	314	98	631	117	1044	104
England	53	35	45	136	164	316	133	549	126	881	109

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.

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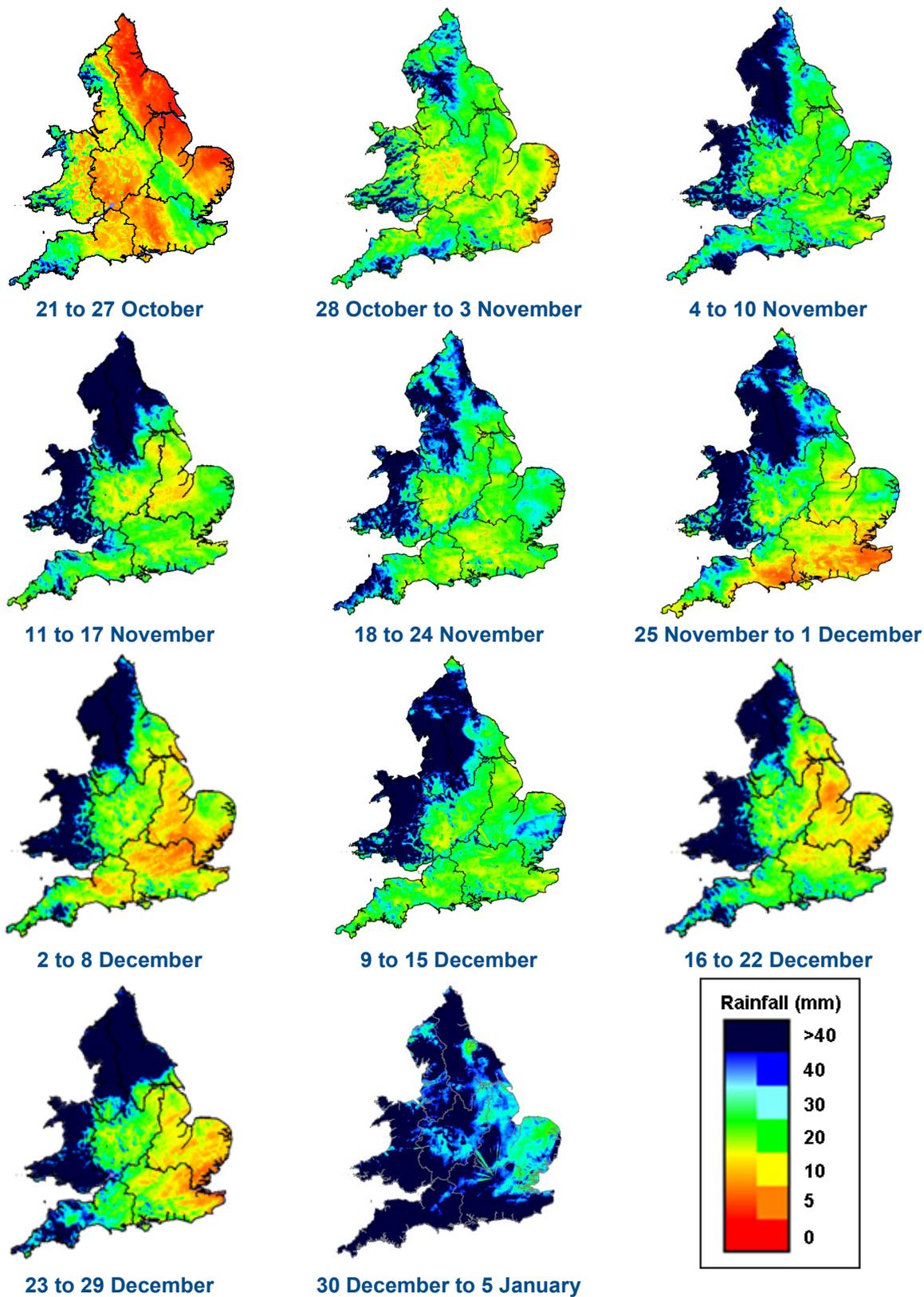
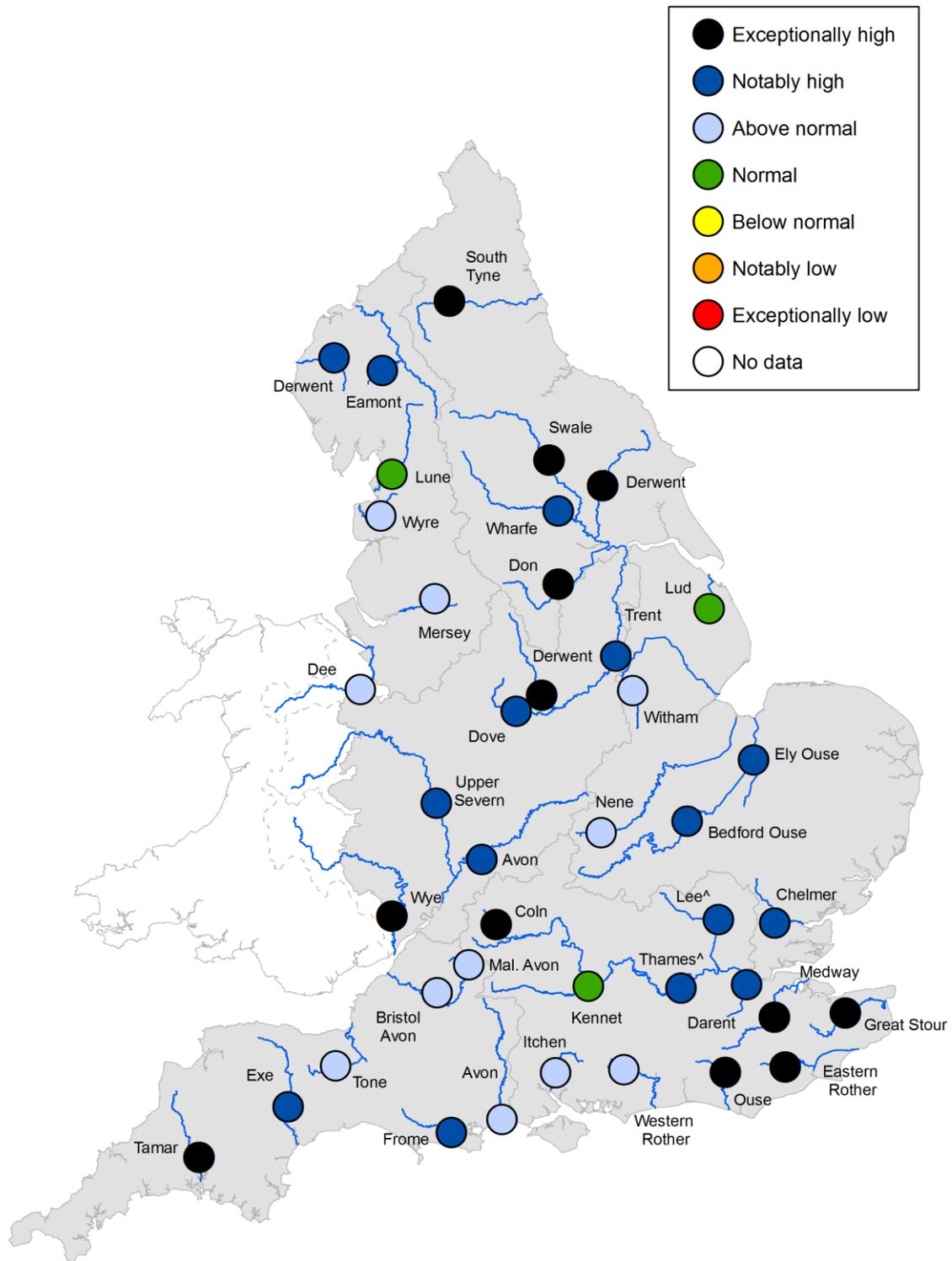


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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, 2016.

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

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