

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 20 to Tuesday 26 January 2016

Summary: Another wet week for north and south-west England.

Rainfall

The past week has been wetter again for north and south-west England but remained drier for central and east England. Rainfall totals have ranged from 9mm in east England to 52mm in north-west England (table 1 and figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for January to date are well above the monthly long term average (LTA) in all geographic regions, ranging from 126% of the LTA in east England to 161% in north-east England (table 1).

River flow

River flows have increased this week compared to last week at the majority of sites in north and south-west England and decreased at the majority of indicator sites elsewhere. The latest daily mean flows are [normal](#) or higher for the time of year at all sites, with 4 sites [exceptionally high](#) for the time of year (figure 2).

Outlook

Further rain will arrive in the north-west later on Thursday, with some heavy rain possible over higher ground, this will clear the north of England later on Friday. Friday will see rain arrive into south-west England, with heavy rain again likely over higher ground, this will clear the south-east on Saturday morning. This will be followed by scattered showers, then later on Sunday further rain is expected, with some heavy rainfall possible over higher ground in the west. Monday and Tuesday will see further scattered showers.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 20 to 26 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	52	171	151	346	289	678	187	951	144	1521	131
north-east	30	127	161	198	245	438	187	669	152	1013	124
central	11	84	127	103	143	242	123	422	113	707	99
east	9	65	126	57	103	171	104	364	115	576	96
south-east	18	103	143	81	107	215	98	445	115	725	100
south-west	36	155	135	124	106	312	98	628	117	1042	103
England	24	112	142	137	165	317	133	550	127	882	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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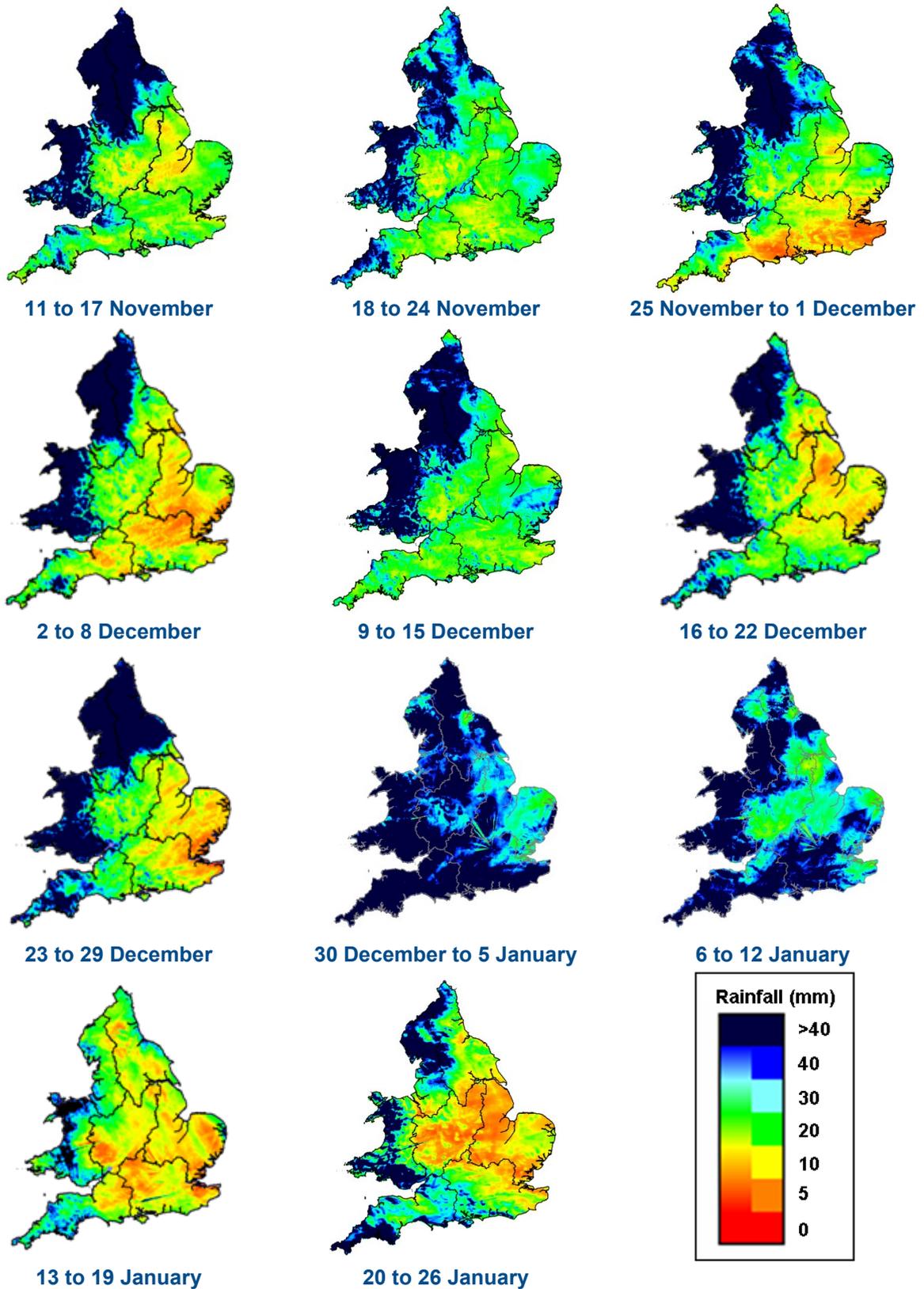
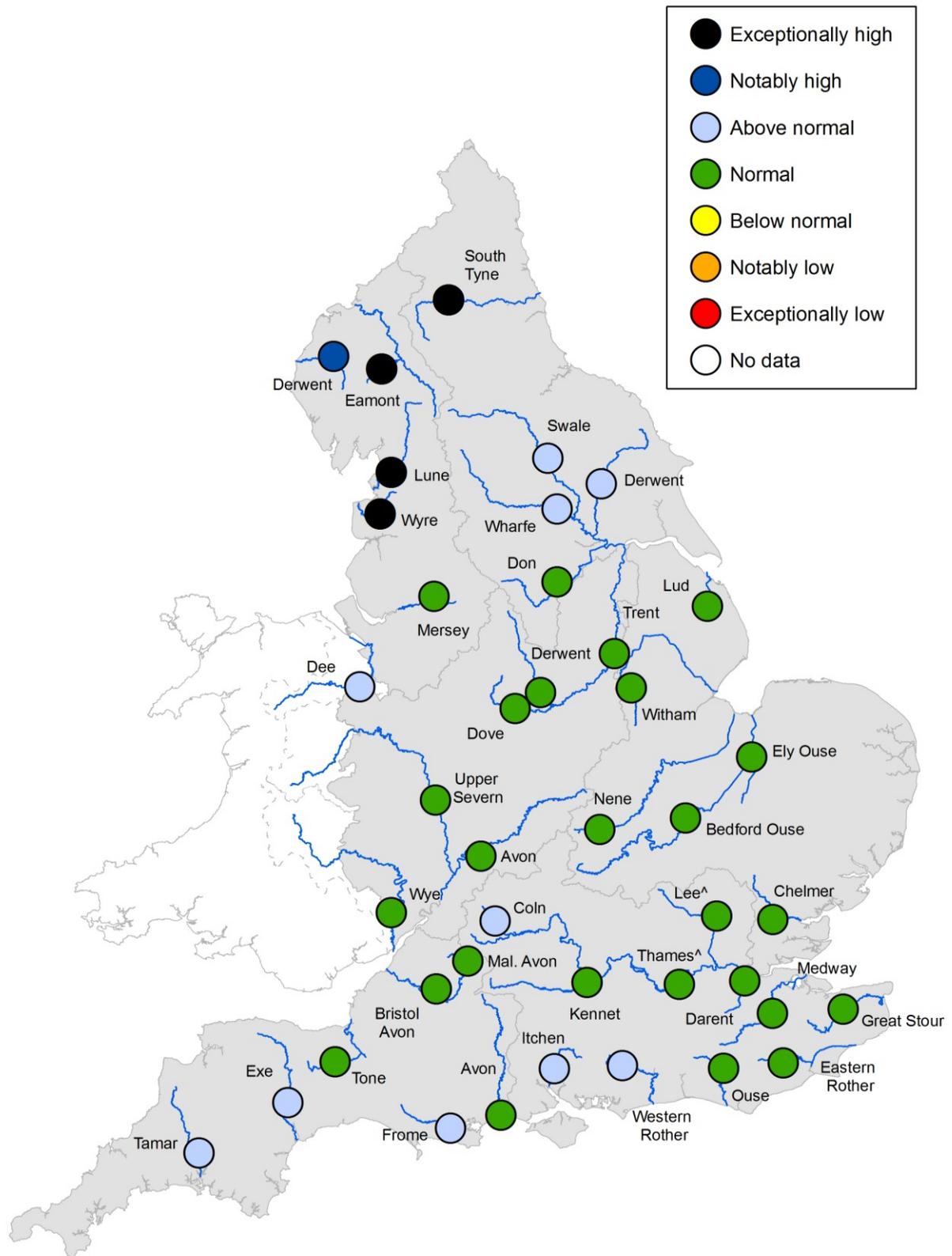


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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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