

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 9 to Tuesday 15 March 2016

Summary: A dry week across England. Flows are mostly normal for the time of year.

Rainfall

The past week has been generally dry across all of England. Rainfall totals ranged from 1mm in north-west England to 10mm in east England (table 1 and figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for March to date range from 50% of the long term average (LTA) in north-west England to 106% in east England (table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at just over two-thirds of the sites compared to last week. The latest daily mean flows are normal or higher for the time of year at all but one site, with just over three-quarters of the sites being normal for the time of year (figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday and Friday will be mainly dry. The settled weather will continue over the weekend and into Monday and Tuesday, with a slight risk of light showers spreading southwards on Monday.

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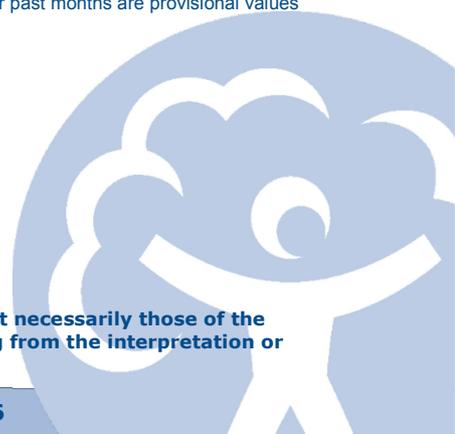
Geographic regions	Latest Week: 9 to 15 Mar 2016	Latest month to date: Mar 2016		Last month: Feb 2016		Last 3 months: Dec 2015 to Feb 2016		Last 6 months: Sep 2015 to Feb 2016		Last 12 months: Mar 2015 to Feb 2016	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	1	46	50	140	187	682	221	1064	161	1630	140
north-east	6	47	70	70	121	422	195	706	160	1110	135
central	3	44	77	67	131	262	139	442	118	765	107
east	10	49	106	33	88	159	110	322	107	591	99
south-east	5	40	68	53	109	258	131	457	113	753	103
south-west	2	48	57	114	136	414	132	674	112	1115	111
England	5	46	70	74	130	339	155	573	129	941	116

Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016)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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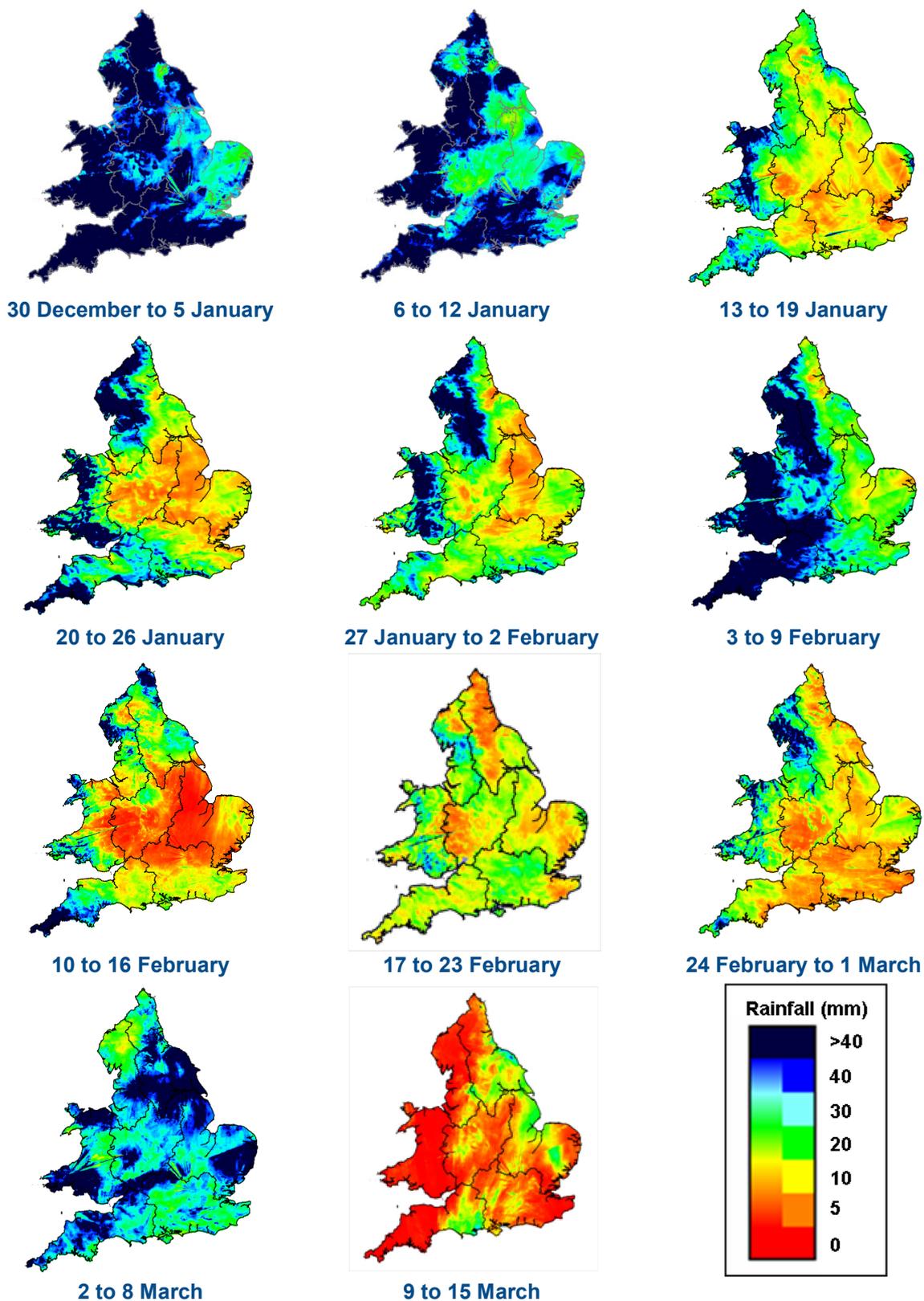
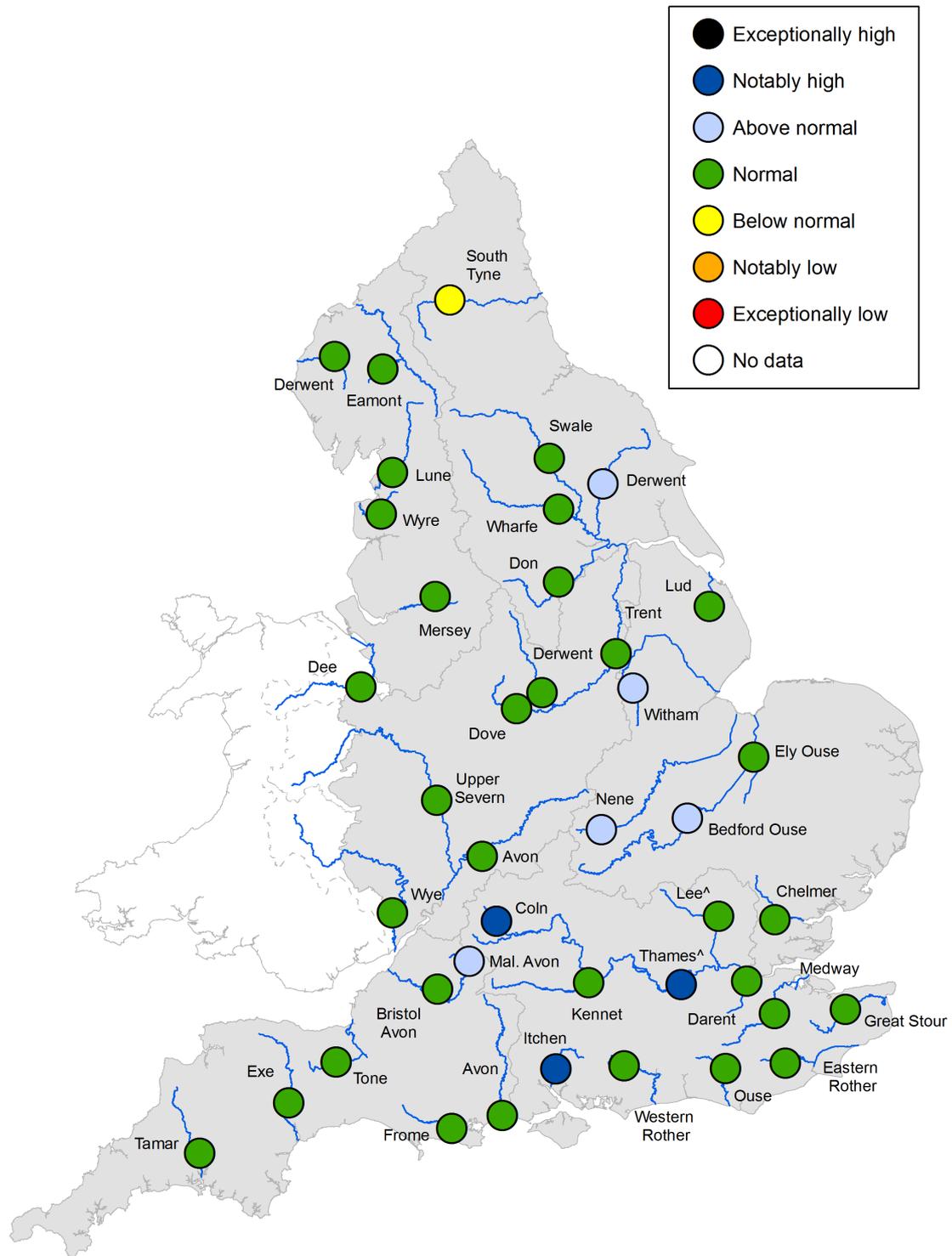


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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 categories 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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