

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 20 to Tuesday 26 April 2016

Summary: With the weather slightly drier than last week in most parts, river flows decreased across England.

Rainfall

The past week has been drier than the previous week across most of England, with the exception of south-west England. Rainfall totals ranged from 4 mm in north-west England to 12 mm in south-west England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for April to date range from 83% of the April long term average (LTA) in south-west England to 116% in north-east England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at all sites compared to last week. The latest daily mean flows are [normal](#) or higher for the time of year at all but three of the sites, with four fifths of the sites being [normal](#) for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday and Friday will see a band of showery rain across England, heaviest in the north, with wintry showers over higher ground. Saturday will be a largely settled day, with a risk of isolated showers in western parts. Sunday and in to Monday, rainfall will move in from the west affecting many parts of England but likely to be heaviest in the north-west. Tuesday will see showers and longer spells of rain in the north-west but south-east England will be mainly dry.

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

Geographic regions	Latest Week: 20 to 26 Apr 2016	Latest month to date: Apr 2016		Last month: Mar 2016		Last 3 months: Jan 2016 to Mar 2016		Last 6 months: Oct 2015 to Mar 2016		Last 12 months: Apr 2015 to Mar 2016	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	4	79	115	84	92	420	150	1076	167	1562	135
north-east	6	66	116	78	116	302	148	722	165	1097	134
central	5	54	103	81	142	240	138	475	128	790	111
east	7	50	109	72	154	174	129	341	114	633	106
south-east	8	51	101	84	142	261	145	472	118	801	110
south-west	12	51	83	102	121	392	139	723	120	1171	116
England	7	57	105	83	127	286	142	597	136	961	119

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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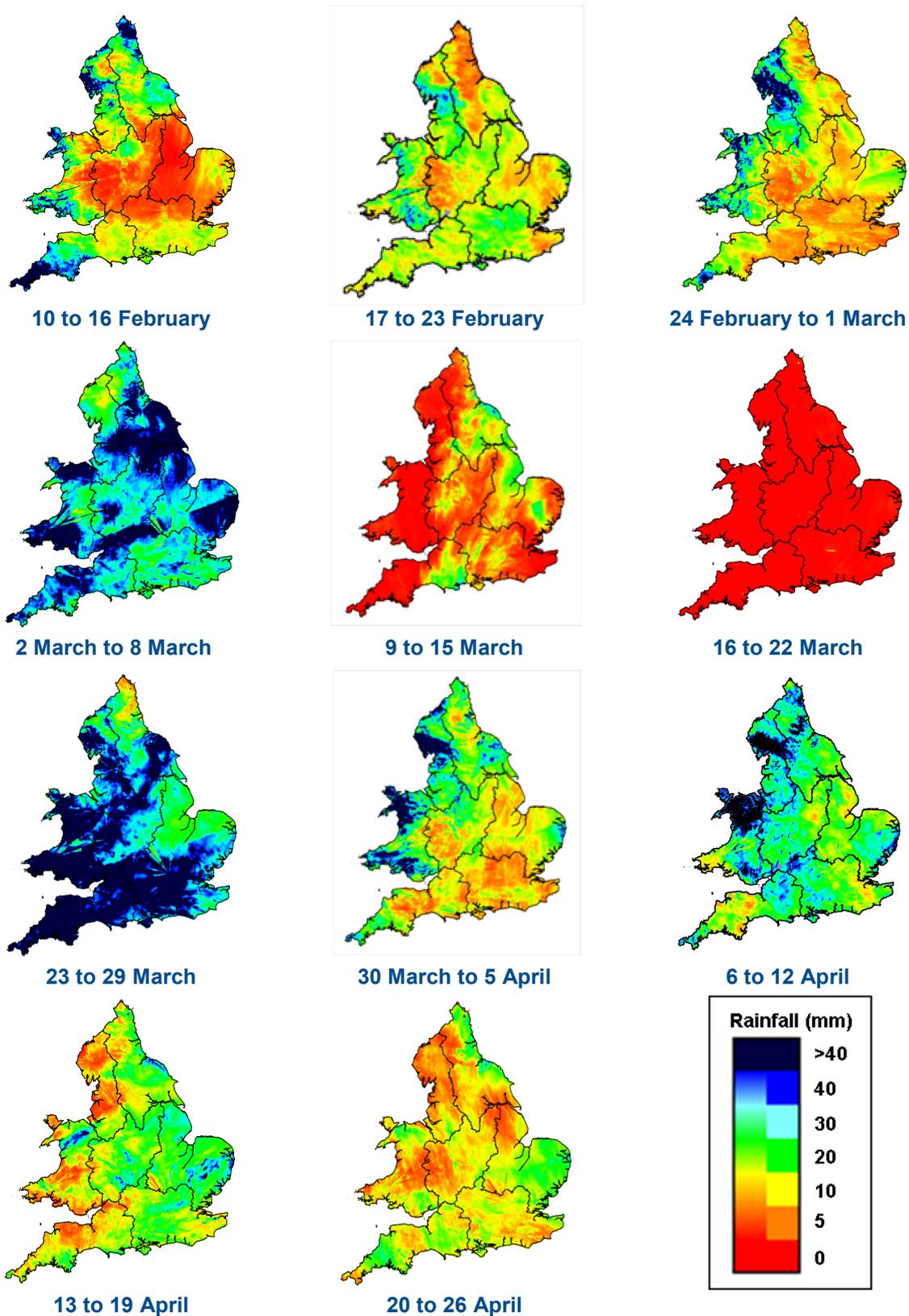
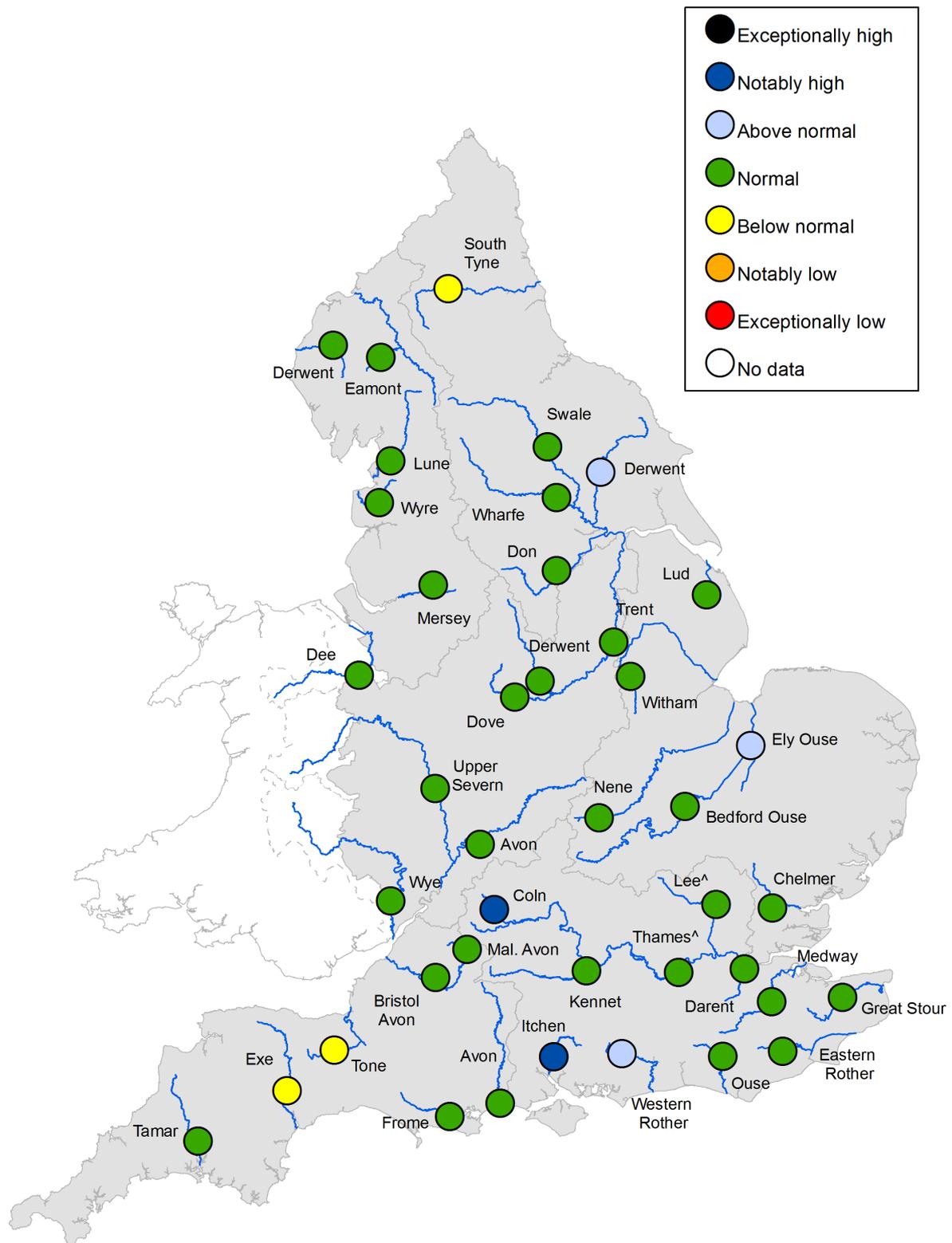


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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 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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