

Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 25 to Tuesday 31 May 2016

Summary: a wetter week in east England than the west. Flows remain mostly normal or higher for the time of year.

Rainfall

Rainfall affected some areas over the past week with the most significant totals in the east and south-east. Rainfall totals ranged from 6mm in north-west England to 24mm in east England (Table 1 and Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall totals for May range from 70% of the May long term average (LTA) in north-west England to 118% in south-east England (Table 1).

River flow

River flows have decreased at nearly three quarters of sites compared to last week. Flows increased at over a quarter of sites; mainly in east and south-east England. The latest daily mean flows are [normal](#) or higher for the time of year at the majority of the sites; three sites are now [notably low](#) for the time of year (Figure 2).

Outlook

Thursday is likely to be dry in most areas with some patchy rain in the far south-east. Sunshine and showers for most on Friday will turn to warm weather with heavy, thundery showers in the south on Saturday and Sunday. Monday and Tuesday may see similar weather, but with showers in the west.

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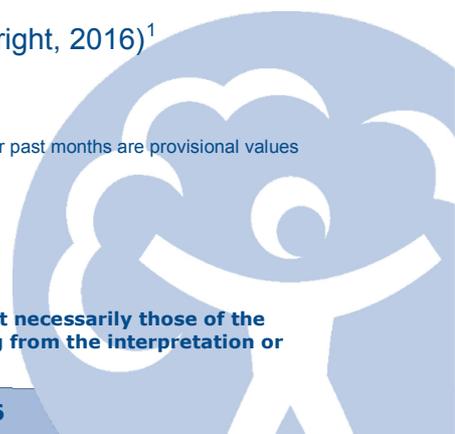
Geographic regions	Latest Week: 25 May to 31 May 2016	Latest month to date: May 2016		Last month: Apr 2016		Last 3 months: Feb 2016 to Apr 2016		Last 6 months: Nov 2015 to Apr 2016		Last 12 months: May 2015 to Apr 2016	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
north-west	6	51	70	98	143	322	137	1,104	188	1,607	138
north-east	11	42	71	82	143	229	126	730	173	1,148	140
central	7	55	96	66	125	213	133	489	135	837	117
east	24	56	115	60	129	164	126	355	121	673	113
south-east	18	64	118	56	110	193	122	472	124	837	115
south-west	9	64	97	52	85	268	117	702	124	1,200	119
England	14	56	96	67	122	223	126	604	144	1,002	124

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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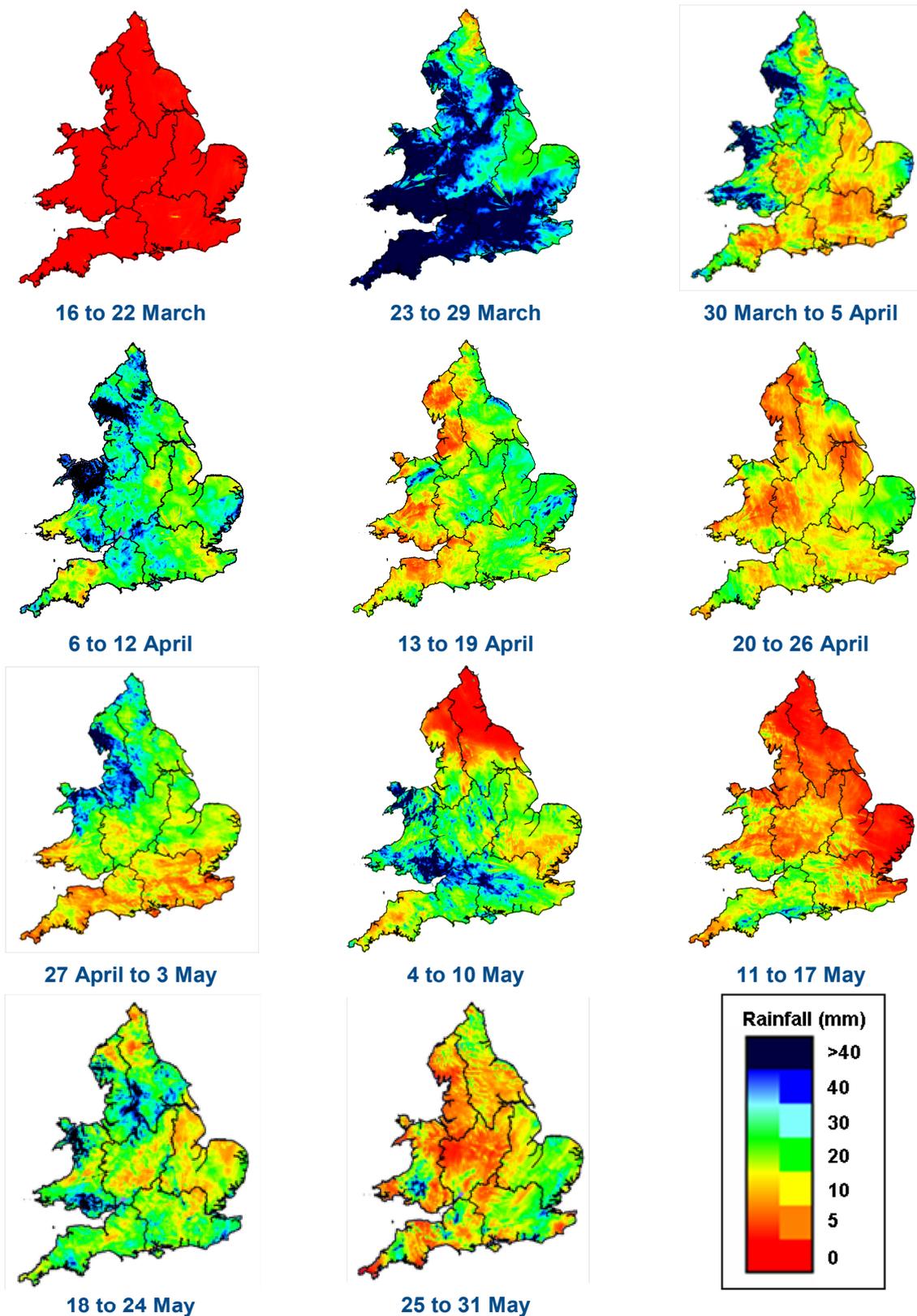
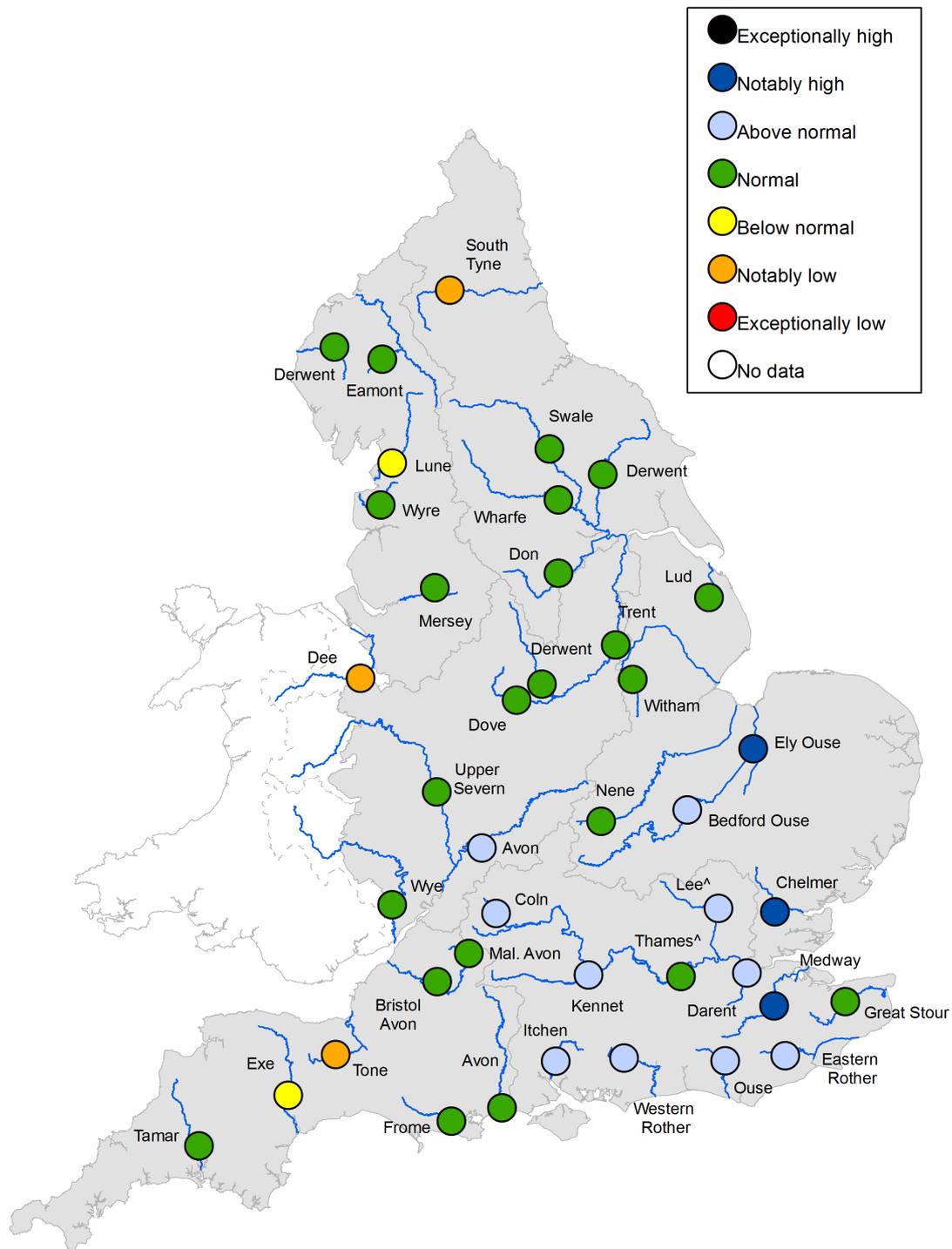


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2016). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2016.

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
Notably high
Above normal
Normal
Below normal
Notably low
Exceptionally low

Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time
Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time
Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time
Value likely to fall within this band 44% of the time
Value likely to fall within this band 15% of the time
Value likely to fall within this band 8% of the time
Value likely to fall within this band 5% of the time

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